

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 24, No. 3

November 2013

Officers:

Dan Moore, Chairman, Board of Directors; Dan Moore, President;
Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;
Jerry Craig, 2014 Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Gary Baker, Web Master;
Cyndi Johansen, Ships Store



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our reunion in Long Beach is now behind us and we look forward to going to Savanna, Georgia in 2014.

Ruth Judge and her "team" did a great job in making all the arrangements. It's a lot of work to host an event like this. The attendance was much higher than expected and there were a few little wrinkles as expected as all the contracts must be signed well in advance of the event.

It was 47 years since Sharon and I had left Long Beach. It was amazing to see how the city had transitioned from a Navy town to a beautiful and unique city.

Thought one of the high lights of our banquet was the color guard from Narbonne High School (Navy ROTC) in Harbor City under the direction of Master Chief Alex Gardner. Were they ever sharp? Chief Gardner has 188 students in his NROTC program. Isn't that encouraging.

If you didn't catch today's news, a Georgia man rushed back into his burning house to save his beer. I was in shock because I thought for sure it was Jerry Craig, but it wasn't.

Keep in mind our Ship's Store has numerous items that would make good Christmas presents. Check out the website or contact Cindi.

A long time Board member and webmaster for many years, Ken Noble, has stepped down from the Board. Ken and Sandi have had some serious family issues and it's been difficult for Ken to attend reunions in recent years. We wish them the best and hopefully we will see them again at a reunion in the near future

Harold Jackson was been elected to fill the open position on the Board.

Hope everyone has a wonderful holiday season!!!!!!!!!!

Dan

NEW MEMBERS (since June 2013)

Thomas J. Powell SN 65-66
Gilbert E. Reyes RM2 63-65
William E. Hilliard CPL 65-66 (posthumous)

TAPS

Dennis M. Martin MM3 64-65
Robert L. Peden LTJG 67-69
David P. Dilsaver BTFN 59-60
William E. Hilliard CPL 65-66
Robert D. Pace CDR 65-66
Steve Manley MM3 66 - 68



SHIPS STORE

I would like to thank everyone again for supporting the ship's store. I have event tee shirts left over showing the USS Topeka when she was in Long Beach on the shirts which I thought appropriate for the event. Unfortunately they did not go over as well as I expected and am willing to sell them for \$5 plus \$5 shipping and handling if anyone would like one. Next year will be our 25th reunion anniversary and I am working on a cool event shirt for that. I will be taking pre-orders for them to avoid having too many left over; I will need to know how many you will want and what sizes you need. I will try to get something online for a design once it has been completed. I will only be ordering shirts for those who pre-order; therefore if you do not get your order in, you will NOT be able to purchase one at the reunion. The navy blue tees with the 4 patch emblems were a big hit so I may duplicate that order in larger sizes for the big guys. I will no longer order the white tee shirts as most of you preferred the darker colors. I welcome any ideas you may have but keep in mind there are minimum quantities on everything. There were some positive responses to the travel mugs, so I may look at purchasing some of those as well. I might have Gary put some items on the website to vote on and that way we know there is interest before I order anything. Looking forward to Savannah and seeing you all there!

Sincerely,

Cyndi Johansen

New
Lapel Pin 1 1/2"
\$5.00
+ \$1.50 S&H (1-5)
or
\$3.00 S&H (5-10)
Stock #3006



Mike Giampetro and Leanne Saucedo
Kelley and Vince Gomez
Catherine and Al Gustafson
Peggy and Jim Henslee
Susan and Harvey Hershkovitz
Michael Hight
Marion and Arnold Hoel
Yvonne and Peter Houseknecht
Diane and Harold Jackson
Cyndi and Daniel Johansen
Patty and Terry Jones
Ruth Judge, Barbara Jensen, Gilby Steele, and
Claudia Hedrick
Jean and Ernest Kershaw
Irene and Ken Kucin
Joan and Cal Ladd
Roger Lauer
Lewis Louden and Donna Wolf
Suzanne and Steve Manley
Sharon and Dan Moore
Eileen and Donald Nelson
Betty and Irad Parkhurst
Leanne and Jerry Pennington
Rose and Joe Ripley
Bell and Robbie Robins
Mimi and Courtney Rudin
Diane and Joe Rutter
Julia and Austin Schroeder
Diane and Richard Schuder
Charles Shields and Barbara Callahan
Joyce and Paul Stein
Jean Timmons
Tricia and Ted Van Hintum
Lilibeth and Felix Vasallo
Jack Walkins and Virlee Chesebro
Susi and Mike Wanderschneider
Lora and Douglas Weeks
Bridgett and John Woolston
Ellen and Weldon Zimmerman

WHO CAME TO LONG BEACH

Joan Anderson
Pat and Gary Baker
Sharon and James Bennet
Gail and John Blaeser
Susan and Phil Brooks
Parker Butcher and Jean Bredensteiner
Ruth and Dudley Cass
Jerry Craig and Sheila Norman
Walter Crane
William Crum
Tana and Jay Davis
Gloria and Bill Dorsey
Martha and Jessie Dupre
Barbara and Erin Endicott



MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Clare Smart was dearly missed at the reunion. Clare attended every reunion since the beginning. She held the position of Secretary/Treasurer for a number of years. Clare was a vibrant and friendly face at all reunion events.



This photo of Joan Anderson, Clare Smart and Joan Ladd is one of my favorites. Taken at one of the Mission tours in San Antonio, TX in 2008.

ANNUAL DUES

Annual dues, for the calendar year, are \$20 or \$80 for five years. Although dues are requested, they are not mandatory. The dues, however, are used to cover expenses such as the preparation and mailing of letters, newsletters and directories, and the cost of maintaining the TOPEKA website on the internet. Dues should be sent to: Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, MT 59105.

Your dues status is shown on the newsletter and member's directory mailing label. If you haven't received the newsletter or directory and want to check on your dues status, E-Mail Gary at gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org.

MRS. WILKES DINING ROOM

A line gathers each morning at 107 West Jones Street, Savannah, GA. At 11 o'clock, the doors of 107 open and the lunch crowd finds seats at one of the large tables-for-ten shared by strangers. Tabletops are crowded with platters of fried chicken and cornbread dressing, sweet potato soufflé, black-eyed peas, okra gumbo, corn muffins and biscuits. The menu changes daily so regulars can have something different every day. Stop by and enjoy the special pleasure of a meal shared with neighbors and strangers.

SAVANNAH, GA FOR 2014

Reunion Dates:

Wednesday, September 24, 2014 to Saturday, September 27, 2014

The personable Jerry Craig is our host for the 2014 reunion at the historic Inn at Ellis Square in downtown Savannah, Georgia.



The Inn at Ellis Square is located in the heart of Savannah's Historic Riverfront District. It is located in the Guckenhimer Building which was built in 1851. The building was renovated in 2006, and won the Historic Preservation Award from the Savannah Historic Foundation.

THINGS TO DO IN SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

Few cities in America rival the historic significance or the elegant beauty of Savannah. And one of the best things about our city is that most attractions of interest can be visited simply by walking among the stately Savannah, Georgia squares. In fact, the Savannah, GA Historic District lies right outside the doors of the Inn at Ellis Square. From horse-and-carriage rides to walking and ghost tours, one of our nation's richest historic troves is waiting for you to discover it. Here are some highlights:

[The Ellis Square Project](#)

Adjacent to the hotel

Redevelopment of one of the six original squares laid out by Georgia founder James Oglethorpe

[The Shops at Ellis Square](#)

Adjacent to the hotel

Home to some of the finest shops, restaurants, and galleries in the area

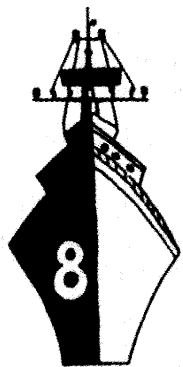
[Paula Deen's The Lady & Sons](#)

2 blocks from the hotel

Famous for down-home Southern cuisine

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O Gary Baker
1240 Lonesome Pine Lane
Billings, MT 59105



TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Directors

Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;

574-295-5156 Dan56619@aol.com

Board Members:

Gary Baker, Dudley Cass, Jerry Craig,

Harold Jackson, Dan Moore, John Reynolds, Ray Spatz

President

Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;

574-295-5156 Dan56619@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Ln., Billings, MT 59105;

406-252-4546 gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org







I hope you enjoy the photo pages from the 2013 Long Beach Reunion. I received tons of pictures and have tried to show a sample of attendees and events. Check out the website for more.