

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 25, No. 2

June 2014

### 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

It is said if you want to see time fly, take out a 90 day loan, or have to write an article for a news letter. Seems like I just wrote one yesterday.

I'm writing this article on June 6<sup>th</sup>, the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day. Sadly, I would wager more people would know all the Kardashians' birthdays than know what this date means.

September is just around the corner. Need to get your reservations made for the Savannah reunion. We are really looking forward to the visit. It is an exceptionally beautiful city.

You must join us for grits & hushpuppies and a heck of a good time. Hoping we have a good turnout. I know it gets harder as we grow older.

Encourage everyone to take advantage of the Ships Store. Cyndi looks forward to working with everyone.

Thanks to Kathy Spatz and Gary Baker for assembling and publishing our newsletter. They are always a step ahead of me.

Does this sound familiar? Master Chief walks out and on the deck and says: "I need two volunteers, you and you, come with me."

Hope to see you in Savannah....

Dan

### NEW MEMBERS (since March 2014)

William Raymond LTJG 62-62 (Posthumous)

### TAPS

Jack K Ahart BT3 59-63

Douglas A. Olson MM2 63-66

William Raymond LTJG 62-62

Ralph D. Lohr BMC 64-66



**SAVANNAH, GA FOR 2014**

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 contract for the room rates and room block has been signed. Room rates range from \$104.00 per night for a double room to \$126.00 for a king suite, plus 13% tax, and a city charge of \$1.00. Parking at the hotel is \$13.00 per day. A complimentary deluxe continental breakfast is included. The group rate will apply for two days before and two days after the reunion.

**Reservations must be made no later than August 24, 2014 to receive the group rate.** For reservations call 1-912-236-4440, or toll free 1-877-542-7666, and ask for extension 147. Be sure to ask for USS Topeka group rate.

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



The reunion registration form is provided on the Reunion webpage in two PDF formats. If you want to fill it out on your computer, select Fillable Form. The fillable form must be opened with Adobe Acrobat Reader to work properly. The completed form can be printed out, and if you wish, a copy saved to your computer.

If you want to print it out and fill it out by hand, select Blank Form.

**GROUND TRANSPORTATION**

Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport (SAV) is the major airport for the Savannah area. Five airlines serve the airport: American, Delta, Jet Blue, United, and US Airways. The airport is about 17 road miles from downtown Savannah

Inn at Ellis Square does not have a courtesy shuttle to and from the airport. K-Shuttle operates an hourly shuttle between the airport and hotels in the Historic District. The cost is \$20.00 one-way or \$30 round trip. Advance reservations are required you can make reservations over the phone at 1-877-243-2050, or on-line here: <http://kshuttle.com>

In either case you will need your arrival and departure flight information.

Taxi fares to and from the airport to the hotels in the Savannah Historic District are a flat rate of \$33.00 (including surcharges), plus \$5.00 for each

**WHO'S COMING TO SAVANNAH?**

Updated 06/07/2014

Name	Spouse/Guest	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
Gary Baker	Pat	2	2	2	2	2
Patrick Cain	Judith				2	2
Jerry Craig		1	1	1	1	1
Jay Davis	Tana	2	2	2	2	2
Marvin Davis	Trudy					2
Al Gustafson	Catherine	2	2	2	2	2
Mike Hight			2	2	2	2
John Mays	Judy			2	2	2
Daniel Moore	Sharon	2	2	2	2	2
Robby Robins	Bell	2	2	2	2	2
Courtney Rudin	Mimi		2	2	2	2
Ray Spatz	Kathy	2	2	2	2	2
Paul Stein	Joyce	2	2	2	2	2
Felix Vasallo	Lilibeth	2	2	2	2	2
Jack Walkins	Virlee	2	2	2	2	2
Douglas Weeks	Lora	2	2	2	2	2

**GET AROUND**, with these helpful hints:

**NORTH VS. SOUTH:**

In the National Landmark District, the Savannah River is located to the north and Victory Drive is located to the South.

**GET ON YOUR FEET:**

Savannah is truly a walking city. Ditch the car as much as possible and stroll the beautiful streets.

**HOT TIP:**

Yes, it's legal to sip alcoholic beverages in a plastic or paper cup measuring 16 ounces or smaller while strolling historic Savannah streets and squares (north of Jones Street).

**TOUR "B" OLD TOWN TROLLEY TOUR**

**THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 25**

Old Town Trolley has been entertaining visitors to Savannah for over 30 years, and while you're aboard their open-air trolley, the breezes keep you cool. Plus, you're not driving around in your car, looking for parking and getting in and out of your car at dozens of different attractions. The tour is one of the most comprehensive sightseeing excursions available, showing you more than 100 of Savannah's best points of interest including The Andrew Low House, the Cathedral of St. John, and the Kehoe House, Forsyth Park, River Street and more. The onboard guides are funny and knowledgeable so you learn a lot about the city's history while being entertained. The tour also allows you to get off and on and linger at any of its 16 stops as long and as much as you want.



Trolley Stop 2 is at The Inn At Ellis Square!

Immerse yourself in the rich history of Savannah at the Inn at Ellis Square, a grand historic hotel steps away from City Market. Located in the Guckenheimer Building, built in 1851, The Inn at Ellis Square exudes southern tradition and charm. It has been restored to its original magnificence and offers guests a meaningful and memorable stay in the heart of Savannah. Original hard-wood floors and warm red brick walls blend beautifully with gracious modern amenities. Its idyllic setting is just a short walk to galleries and horse drawn carriage tours, fine dining and outdoor cafes and a wonderful variety of live music.

**Agent Orange Updates:**

The following information was received from Janet Heaton of the Washington State Department of Ecology:

"The USS Topeka CLG-8 has been added to the list of ships in Vietnam Waters and crew members that went ashore on April 20, 1966 when the Topeka sent whale boats ashore are now eligible for presumption of Agent Orange exposure. We have been fighting for this for the past three years and our congresswoman, Cathy McMorris-Rogers, finally got the ship added to the list. I hope this will help others get approved."

Also, Dennis Franklin, DK3 65-66, is gathering support for House Bill H.R.543. The house bill H.R.543 "The Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2013" has been presented and is currently under review. This bill is to clarify presumptions relating to the exposure of the "Blue Water Navy" veterans who served in the **Territorial Waters** of the Republic of Vietnam to Agent Orange. There's a link on the Home Page of the website for more information on how to support passage of this very important bill.

**NEWS ITEM:**

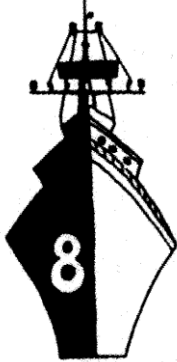
In order to assist shipmates with VA claims, the association has obtained the deck logs for January through May of the '65 - '66 WestPac cruise.

These logs cover the period that Topeka was off the coast of Vietnam providing gunfire support for military operations ashore. The logs have been put on the website and can be viewed and downloaded and saved, (or printed) from there

## 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](mailto:Dan56619@aol.com)

#### Board Members:

Gary Baker, Dudley Cass, Jerry Craig,  
Harold Jackson, Dan Moore, John Reynolds, Ray Spatz

#### President

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574-295-5156 [Dan56619@aol.com](mailto:Dan56619@aol.com)

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Ln., Billings, MT 59105;  
406-252-4546 [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)

#### 2014 Reunion Coordinator

Jerry Craig, 115 South Ave., Cartersville, GA 30120;  
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#### Ships Store

Cyndi Johansen, 7225 Kit Fox Drive, Wellington, CO 80549;  
970-568-7742; [cjohansen@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:cjohansen@usstopekaclg8.org)

**2014 REUNION REGISTRATION**  
**USS Topeka CLG-8 Association**  
**25th Annual Reunion, Savannah, GA September 23-27, 2014**

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Number in party \_\_\_\_\_  
 Staying at the reunion hotel: Inn at Ellis Square? \_\_\_\_\_  
 What nights? Check: Tue \_\_\_ Wed \_\_\_ Thu \_\_\_ Fri \_\_\_ Sat \_\_\_  
 Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? \_\_\_\_\_  
 Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone ( ) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Your E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_ (Confirmation will be sent by E-mail)  
 Name(s) for nametag(s) (Name tags are provided free for first time attendees. For replacement name tags there will be a charge of \$4.00 per tag, payable at the reunion): Initial \_\_\_ Replacement \_\_\_

(Older pin-on and clip-on type name tags can be upgraded with magnetic clasps at no charge – contact Gary Baker at the reunion)

**Reunion Fee:** The Reunion Fee includes the fixed costs of the reunion (e.g. Event liability insurance, banquet guests (Speaker and Color Guard), buffet and banquet bartenders, and the costs of snacks and beverages in the Hospitality Room.

Tuesday is the setup day for the hospitality room which will be available in the afternoon and evening for those checking in on/or before Tuesday. No charge for Tuesday.

	<b>Number Attending</b>	<b>Price</b> (Per Person)	<b>Cost</b>
<b><u>Members and Adult-Guests, All four days</u></b> (Includes Buffet and Banquet)	_____	\$134	_____
<b><u>Members and Adult-Guests, Not all four days</u></b>			
Wednesday	_____	\$14	_____
Thursday	_____	\$14	_____
Friday (Includes Buffet )	_____	\$37	_____
Saturday (Includes Banquet)	_____	\$69	_____
<b><u>Guests (Not already included above) for only the Thursday Buffet and/or Friday Banquet</u></b>			
Friday Buffet:	_____	\$23	_____
Saturday Banquet:	_____	\$55	_____
		<b>Total Reunion Fee</b>	_____

**Banquet Entrée Choices (give number for each)**

Sliced Prime Rib \_\_\_\_\_  
 Baked Marinated Salmon Fillet \_\_\_\_\_  
 Vegetarian Plate \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on Reverse Side)

**Topeka 2014 Savannah, GA Reunion Registration (continued)**

<b><u>Tour</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>Price</u></b>	<b><u>Cost</u></b>
<b>“A” 8<sup>th</sup> Air Force Museum, Tybee Island, Fort Pulaski</b> Wed 9 AM – 4 PM	_____	\$38	_____
<b>“B” Old Town Trolley</b> Thu (9 AM – 3 PM )	_____	\$30	_____
<b>“C” Riverboat Dinner Cruise</b> Thu 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM	_____	\$64.	_____
<b>“D” Daufuskie Island</b> Fri 9:00 AM – 4 PM	_____	\$78	_____
		Tour Cost	_____
		Reunion Fee (From First Page)	_____
		<b>Total Cost</b>	_____

Tours A & D are limited to 55 persons due to the size of the bus, so make your reservations early.

Deadline for payment and receipt of above costs is August 22, 2014, but please make your arrangements as soon as possible.

Make checks payable to USS Topeka Association. and mail to:  
Gary Baker, 1240 Lonesome Pine Lane, Billings, MT 59105-1646

**HOTEL AND RESERVATION INFORMATION**

Hotel: Inn at Ellis Square

Address: 201 W Bay Street, Savannah, GA 31401 Telephone: 912-236-4440

For Reservations, call the hotel room reservation department at **1-912-236-4440**, or toll free at **1-877-542-7666**, and ask for extension 147. Request the group rate for **USS Topeka Reunion**. Deadline for reservations is August 14, 2014, but please make reservations as soon as possible.

Your will be asked for Arrival Date, Departure Date, Your Full Name, Number in your party, and Credit Card #.

Our group room rates are \$104/day for a king double, and \$126/day for a king suite (Plus room tax of 13 % and a city charge of \$1.00/day)

The above group room rates will also be honored 2 days before and 2 days after the contracted dates (Sept 22 thru Sept 29).

If you have problems with reservations (e.g., rates, availability, etc.), call Gary Baker at 406-252-4546, or email him at [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)