

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 29, No. 2

June 2018

Officers:

Dan Moore, Chairman, Board of Directors; Dan Moore, President;
Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;
Ray and Kathy Spatz 2018 Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Gary Baker, Web Master
Pat Baker, Ships Store



From the President

Summer is here and our Philadelphia reunion is just a couple of months away. Hoping for a good turnout. Did you know that Philly was home to the first general purpose computer? Get this, it weighed 27 tons. One of the first businesses there was beer. A brewery was started in 1683.

For you sports fans, the Eagles do not have a preseason game while we are there. The Phillies are only home on Friday and Saturday the 17th and 18th.

Gary is providing an update on the "Blue Water" bill. Encourage everyone to check out our web site on a regular basis. If you don't have a computer, visit your local library.

As a child, I always had a fear of someone under the bed at night. So I went to a shrink and told him: "I've got problems. Every time I go to bed I think there's somebody under it. I'm scared. I think I'm going crazy." "Just put yourself in my hands for one year," said the shrink.... "Come talk to me three times a week and we should be able to get rid of those fears." "How much do you charge?" "One hundred fifty dollars per visit," replied the doctor." "I'll sleep on it," I said. Six months later the doctor met me on the street. "Why didn't you come to see me about those fears you were having?" he asked." "Well, \$150 a visit, three times a week for a year, is \$23,400.00. A bartender cured me for \$10.00. I was so happy to have saved all that money that I went and bought a new pickup truck." "Is that so?" With a bit of an attitude he said, "And how, may I ask, did a bartender cure you?" "He told me to cut the legs off the bed. Ain't nobody under there now." **It's always better to get a second opinion!**

Sharon & I are looking forward to seeing you in Philadelphia.

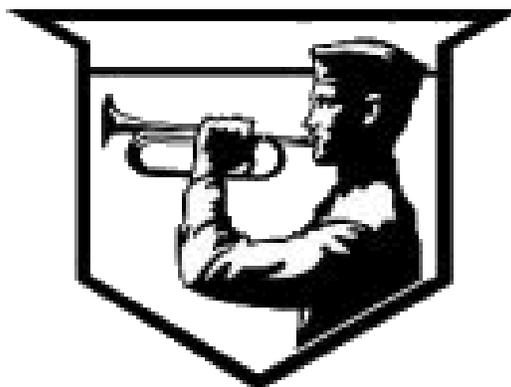
Dan

New Members (Since November 2017)

Don E. Ford MM3 66-68
(Posthumous registration)
Leonard E. Brown LTJG 66-68
(Posthumous registration)

Taps

Robert Krim SH3 66-69
Leonard H. Brown LTJG 66-68
Don E. Ford MM3 66-68
Freddy L. Bruce BTFN 64-67
James W. Willis HM1 61-63



USS Topeka 30th Annual Reunion

Reunion Dates:

**Monday, August 20, 2018 through Thursday,
August 23, 2018**

[Kathy and Ray Spatz](#) are our hosts for the 2018 reunion. Kathy and Ray may be contacted at kathleenspatz@gmail.com or 516-697-8274 for any questions or information.

Our hotel is the beautiful newly-renovated Wyndham Philadelphia Historic District, 400 Arch Street, Philadelphia, PA 19106.

The Wyndham is surrounded by all the best that Philadelphia has to offer. The Liberty Bell, National Constitution Center, Independence Hall, Ben Franklin Museum, US Mint and Betsy Ross house are within 1-2 blocks of the hotel. The Wyndham is also within blocks of numerous restaurants, from fine dining to the famous "Philly Cheesesteak".

Reservations must be made no later than July 19th, 2018. After that date the room block will be released and there is no guarantee you will be able to book a room.

Please make your reservations as soon as you can. We have to let the hotel know 60 days before our arrival date if we can't make our room night commitment. Otherwise we'll be liable for penalties.

Reservations can be made by calling the hotel reservation line at **1-877-999-3223**. Be sure to ask for the USS Topeka Reunion group rate. For early arrivals the hospitality room will be opened Sunday afternoon, August 19th, at no extra charge.

Indoor garage parking is available adjacent to the hotel at a discounted rate of \$10.00 plus 22.5% city tax per night.

How to get to Philadelphia

Philadelphia International Airport is just seven miles from Center City. SEPTA's R1 line directly links the airport to Philadelphia's downtown for a fast, hassle-free connection. Philadelphia taxis charge a flat rate of \$25 for travel between Center City and the airport. PHL is served by all major domestic carriers and is a major hub for American Airlines.

Philadelphia is served by Amtrak, which operates rail service along the Northeast Corridor stretching from Boston to Washington, and other major cities in the United States and Canada. Amtrak's 30th Street Station is minutes from the Pennsylvania Convention Center and Center City hotels.

By car, the city is just two hours from New York City, 90 minutes from Baltimore, three hours from Washington D.C. and about an hour from Lancaster County, Atlantic City and the New Jersey shore via major highways.

Philadelphia PHLASH

It's quick with service every 15 minutes.

It's easy with 22 stops in Philadelphia including stops near Penn's Landing, National Museum of Jewish American History, The Barnes Foundation, the Philadelphia Museum of Art, the Rodin Museum, the Perelman Building, Eastern State Penitentiary, The Franklin Institute, National Constitution Center, Pennsylvania Convention Center, Reading Terminal Market, the Shops at Liberty Place, the Please Touch Museum, the Philadelphia Zoo, One Liberty Observation Deck and the Museum of the American Revolution.

It's inexpensive at only \$2 per person per ride or \$5 for an all-day pass. Children 4 and under and **seniors are always FREE.**

All PHLASH vehicles are temperature-controlled and wheelchair-accessible.

Tours for Philadelphia

Independence after hours:

Monday 8/20 \$75 depart @ 5pm

Ticket prices include dinner, entertainment, exclusive tour, and gratuity.

Independence After Hours takes you on a realistic journey back to 1776. After an 18th-century-inspired dinner at historic City Tavern, and a visit by Thomas Jefferson, the group sneaks into Independence Hall where they eavesdrop on Jefferson, John Adams, and Benjamin Franklin discussing the Declaration of Independence.

First Course

- Country Salad
Julienned carrots, cucumber, tomato, field greens, raspberry shrub, and extra virgin olive oil

Choice of Entrée

- Colonial Turkey Pot Pie
Tender chunks of turkey, mushrooms, early peas, red potatoes, sherry cream sauce, and flaky pastry crust baked in a pewter casserole
- Beef Pie
Twice cooked beef, simmered with mushrooms and herbs, rich red wine sauce, baked in puff pastry
- Paillard of Salmon
Citrus marinated, pan-seared, sauce Béarnaise, mashed potatoes & vegetable of the season

Dessert

A freshly prepared dessert is created daily in City Tavern's on-premise bakery by their Pastry Chef.

Beverages

- Colonial Raspberry Shrub
- Full bar available (not included in ticket price)

Independence Seaport Museum

Tuesday 8/21 \$28 (boxed lunch from Campo's included)

Depart @ 10am to walk to Phlash stop.

Self-Guided Visit for Museum



Accessibility

The main building of Independence Seaport Museum is wheelchair and stroller accessible, including the store and restrooms. The historic ships, Cruiser *Olympia* and Submarine *Becuna*, are not currently ADA accessible.

Guided Historic Ships Tour

Cruiser USS Olympia C-6

Launched in 1892, Cruiser *Olympia* (C-6) is the oldest steel warship afloat in the world.

Submarine USS Becuna SS-319

Crew: 8 commissioned officers, 5 chief petty officers, 67 enlisted men

Top Speed after Guppy refit: 15 knots (17mph) submerged, 18 knots (21mph) surfaced

Launched in 1944, Submarine *Becuna* (SS-319) completed five wartime patrols in the Pacific Ocean. Submarine *Becuna* is similar to many submarines built in Philadelphia for the U.S. Navy.

Campo's

Each of our boxed lunches are prepared fresh daily, using the best local ingredients available.



Sandwich (9 inch)

Drink

Bag of Herr's Potato Chips

Freshly-baked Cookie

Pick Your Sandwich

- Philly Cheese Steak optional fried onions
- Turkey, ham, roast beef, corned beef, tuna, chicken salad
-
- Pick Your Drink
- Coke, Diet coke, Sprite, bottled water

Here in Philly, cheesesteaks are a civic icon, a tourist draw and a cultural obsession. Often imitated around the world, the cheesesteak is rarely duplicated successfully outside of Philadelphia.

A cheesesteak is a long, crusty roll filled with thinly sliced sautéed ribeye beef and melted cheese. Generally, the cheese of choice is Cheez Whiz, but American and provolone are also common choices. The art of cheesesteak preparation lies in the balance of flavors, textures and what is often referred to as the “drip” factor.

Museum of the American Revolution

Wednesday 8/22 \$12 Depart @ 9:15am

Enjoy a journey through the remarkable story of America's founding and gain a deeper understanding of the people, events, and ideals that gave birth to the nation. Located just steps from Independence Hall in the heart of Historic Philadelphia, the Museum brings the stories of our nation's founding to life in exciting and unique ways.

Lunch on your own.

Enjoy the onsite café and Museum shop during your visit! Located on the first floor of the Museum, both the café and shop are open to the public during the Museum's regular hours. Grab lunch or a snack at the Cross Keys Café, which features a colonial-era inspired menu of salads, sandwiches, entrees, and desserts. Discover unique gifts, books, and artifact reproductions in the shop at the Museum or online.



Additional Tour Option:

I was asked about the possibility of visiting the Chapel of Four Chaplains. My investigation discovered that there is the following shuttle to the Navy Yard with a stop also close to the chapel. I feel we can arrange this for possible Thursday following our business meeting.

The Navy Yard Shuttle

The Navy Yard offers two free shuttle routes that allow employees and visitors easy access to the Navy Yard from Center City, and AT&T Station on the Broad Street Subway Line.

Riders, please board the Center City Express Shuttle on the northwest corner of 10th & Filbert Streets (Greyhound Bus Station side/facing 7-Eleven).

The Chapel of Four Chaplains

1201 Constitution Avenue,

The Navy Yard – Bldg. 649

Philadelphia, PA 19112-1307

Main: 215-218-1943

Fax: 215-218-1949

Website: www.fourchaplains.org

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Monday – Friday: 9:00am-5:00pm



Membership and Dues

Please help keep our association solvent. The only source of income for the operation of the USS Topeka Association is through the generosity of our dues-paying members. Your dues status is on the address page of the newsletter. Dues are \$20.00 per year, or \$80.00 for five years. Past dues are forgiven, and any dues received now will be applied to 2018 dues.

USS Topeka and Facebook

We're up to 114 members in the Topeka Facebook group. It's a great way to re-connect stay in touch with your former shipmates and share memories of our travels, liberty experiences, and shipboard life.

It has been set up as a closed group, meaning that permission has to be granted by the group administrator to join. Permission will be given to all crewmembers, their families, and friends. To join enter USS Topeka CLG-8 in your Facebook search field and follow the instructions. The group is monitored several times daily by the administrator and permission is granted to those who qualify, usually within a just few hours of receipt.

Agent Orange Update

A little bit of good news. On May 8th, 2018 the House Committee of Veterans Affairs voted to issue a report to the full chamber of the House of Representatives recommending that The Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Act of 2017 (HR299) be considered further. It now has 330 co-sponsors, up from 322 since the last newsletter.

The bad news is there has been no action on the Senate version (S422) since it was referred to the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on February 16, 2017. It now has 50 co-sponsors, up from 45 since the last newsletter. Hopefully, with the House version now being considered by the full House, it will stir some action in the Senate.

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O Gary Baker
20 Heather Drive
Billings, MT 59105

TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chairman, Board of Directors

Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;
574-295-5156; Dan56619@aol.com

Board Members:

Dudley Cass, Arnold Hoel, Jerry Craig, Harold Jackson, Dan Moore,
Ray Spatz, Jay Davis

President

Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;
574-295-5156; Dan56619@aol.com

Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105;
406-252-4546; gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

2018 Reunion Coordinator

Kathy & Ray Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550;
516-697-8274; kathleenspatz@gmail.com

Newsletter Editor

Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550;
516-697-8274; kathleenspatz@gmail.com

Webmaster

Gary Baker, 20 Heather Dr., Billings, MT 59105;
406-252-4546; gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

Ships Store

Pat Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105
406-252-4546; pbaker@usstopekaclg8.org

SHIP'S STORE

A few new items added to the Ship's Store inventory. A camouflage ball cap, a ceramic coffee mug, and a new lapel pin are now available. Check them out on the Ship's Store page of the website.

The Ship's Store is managed by Pat Baker. Her contact information is on the Ship's Store page of the website and on the Names and Telephone Numbers section of this newsletter.