

## USS TOPEKA CLG-8

### Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 29, No. 3

November 2018



#### **Officers:**

**Dan Moore, Chairman, Board of Directors; Dan Moore, President;  
Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;  
Gary and Pat Baker 2019 Reunion Chairman;  
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Gary Baker, Web Master;  
Pat Baker, Ships Store**

### **FROM THE PRESIDENT**

If you missed Philadelphia, you missed another good reunion. So much history in short walking distances or a free bus ride around many other historical sites. Hats off to the Spatz's & Baker's who put a tremendous amount of time and effort into this very successful reunion. It's nearly impossible to cover all you would want to see in the 4 or 5 days there. Many of us stayed around a couple of extra days and toured a couple places in the near area such as Gettysburg, Valley Forge and Longwood Gardens. Some really neat sites

That brings me to the 2019 reunion in Rapid City, SD. Pat and Gary Baker has some very nice tours lined up. Check them out here or on the Topeka web site. Again, it's impossible to fit everything in. Sharon & I have done several of these venues and believe me that area is fabulous. I would recommend expanding your trip and trying other side trips that may include Yellowstone Natl' Park, Little Bighorn Battle Field and Devils Tower to name a few.

Keeping our fingers crossed that the Senate will soon pass the Blue water Vietnam Veterans Act. Please feel free to contact your Senator. We need to put a little pressure on them.

For those who did the interviews for The Navy Memorial Services Program, Matt is beginning the second phase of editing. If you have any pictures you want to add to your interview

e-mail them to him as quickly as possible to:  
[mfash@navymemorial.org](mailto:mfash@navymemorial.org)

Happy holidays to all .....

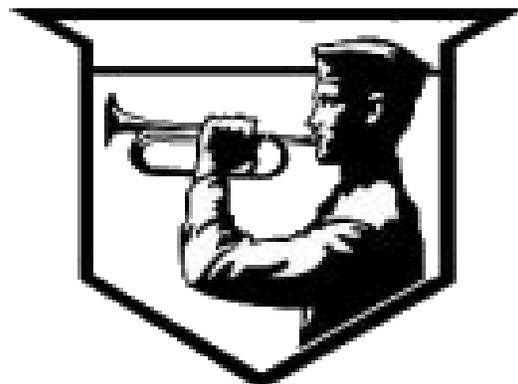
Dan

### **New Members (Since March 2018)**

Larry Roberts, SN 60-63  
Herbert Williams, SN 60-63

### **Taps**

Marshall H. Robinson SN 62-65  
James W. Willis HM1 61-63  
Freddy L. Bruce BTFN 64-67



## **USS TOPEKA 31<sup>st</sup> ANNUAL REUNION**

### **Rapid City, South Dakota**

#### **Reunion Dates:**

Monday, August September 16, 2019 through  
Friday, September 20, 2019

Pat and Gary Baker are our hosts for the Rapid City reunion. They have hosted in the past, and will do their best to make this a memorable reunion. E-mail them

[gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org) or call them at 406-252-4546 for any questions or information.

Our hotel is newly refurbished Best Western Ramkota Hotel.

The hotel is located just off Interstate 90 and next door to Rushmore Mall. There are several eateries in the mall, and other restaurants within a short walk. The hotel offers a courtesy shuttle from Rapid City Regional Airport. The hotel is two stories, but has no elevators. We requested that our room block be on the ground floor. To make certain you get a ground floor room, specify that when making reservations. Breakfast is not included in the room rate, but prices in the hotel restaurant, Minerva's, are very reasonable, and we will be given a 10% discount on breakfast.

Reservations must be made no later than August 16, 2019. After that date the room block will be released and there is no guarantee you will be able to book a room. Group rates are \$113.17 (tax included) for single King or double Queen rooms. King Suite rooms are also available for \$145.87 (tax included). They are not part of our room block, so make your reservation very early for them. Also the King Suites are quite a ways from the lobby, restaurant, and hospitality room, and may be on the second floor.

The group rate is effective for 3 days before and after the reunion. Reservations can be made by calling the hotel directly at 605-343-8550. Be sure to ask for the USS Topeka CLG-8 group rate.

For early arrivals the hospitality room will be opened Monday afternoon, September 16, at no extra charge.

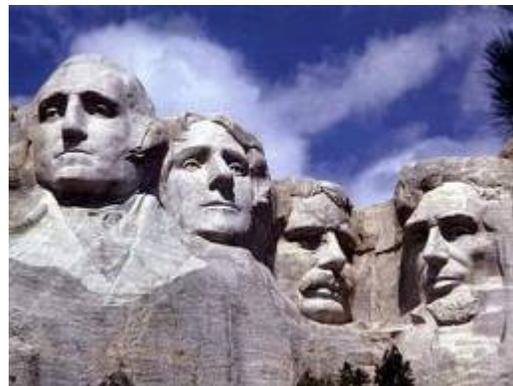
#### **Proposed Tours**

Tuesday we'll drive to Crazy Horse Memorial and then on to Mount Rushmore National Monument where we'll have dinner, and then stay for the evening lighting of the faces ceremony.

On Wednesday we will visit the South Dakota Air and Space Museum and tour Ellsworth Air Force Base. Then on to Wall Drug for lunch and shopping. Our return trip will take us through Badlands National Park with a stop at Ben Reifel Visitor Center.

Thursday is a drive to Black Hills National Cemetery and 1878 Fort Meade. Then we'll drive through Spearfish Canyon and on to the towns of Lead and Deadwood. At Deadwood we'll have a couple of hours to have lunch, explore the historical sites, and/or gamble.

We could do so much more, but these are all "must sees". Be sure to bring your camera!



## MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

In addition to our members whose dues are current, this newsletter is also being sent to members whose dues are in arrears, in hopes of regaining them as 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 are applied to 2019.

## USS Topeka and Facebook

We're now up to 131 members in the Topeka Facebook group. It's a great way to re-connect and stay in touch with your former shipmates and share memories of our travels, liberty experiences, and shipboard life. It's also where notices are posted to welcome new members and to offer condolences when we have the passing of a shipmate.

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. Here's the link to the group:  
<https://facebook.com/groups/825655290949203>.  
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

HR229 Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act was passed by House of Representatives on June 25, 2018, and was referred to the Senate on June 26, 2018. A hearing on the Senate version was held by the Senate Committee on Veterans Affairs on August 1, 2018. Paul Lawrence, Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs, testified against approval of the bill, stating that there was no scientific evidence of Agent Orange exposure for Blue Water Navy veterans. Representatives from American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Fleet Reserve Association, and Vietnam Veterans of America all disputed this and spoke in favor of passing the bill. No action was taken. The transcript of the hearing can be

found here:

<https://www.veterans.senate.gov/hearings/pending-legislation-08012018>.

## Who Came to Philadelphia

Gary Baker	Pat
Jack Connery	Juliet
Jerry Craig	
Jay Davis	Tana
Albert Gustafson	Catherine
Harvey Hershkowitz	Susan
Arnold Hoel	Marion
Daniel Johansen	Cyndi
Terry Jones	Patty
Ruth Judge	Her 'Posse'
Cal Ladd	Joan
Don McFarland	Sue
Daniel Moore	Sharon
Jerome Pennington	Leanne
Ray Spatz	Kathy
Paul Stein	Joyce
Tom Stumpf	
Thomas Swink	Wanda
Jean Timmons	
Sandi Calabough	
Douglas Weeks	Lora
Herbert Williams	







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

#### Secretary-Treasurer

Gary Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105;  
406-252-4546; [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)

#### 2019 Reunion Coordinator

Pat & Gary Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105;  
406-252-4546; [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)

#### Newsletter Editor

Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550;  
516-697-8274; [kathleenspatz@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenspatz@gmail.com)

#### Webmaster

Gary Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105;  
406-252-4546; [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)

#### Ships Store

Pat Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105  
406-252-4546; [pbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:pbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)

### SHIP'S STORE

All clothing items have been discontinued. The store will continue to stock ball caps, lapel pins, jacket patches, license plate frames, and coffee mugs.

The ship's store is managed by Pat Baker. Her contact information is on the ship's store page of the website and the address page of the newsletter.