

**USS TOPEKA CLG-8**

**Reunion Association Newsletter**

**Volume 30, No. 3**

**November 2019**



**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**

Fall greetings to all our Topeka friends. Every year I have to tell you how great the reunion was that was just held. Rapid City, SD was no exception. The Bakers were fabulous hosts. The accommodations at the Best Western were very good. We had an excellent tour guide and bus driver. Seriously if you weren't able to make it, you missed another good one.

Reserve the dates September 20 through September 25, 2020. We're taking a little trip down the "Mighty Miss-i-ss-i-pp". New Orleans is our destination. There are some great things lined up for you in the Big Easy. Included will be a City Tour, Mardi Gras World, Swamp Tour, River Boat dinner cruise, World War 2 museum with movie and a plantation tour. I am including web sites for most of the venues for your convenience.

Hotel: \$99.00 plus 14.2 % Tax **Free** American Breakfast buffet (2 tickets per room) 50 rooms blocked. Good 3 days before & after event. 2.4 miles from airport w/ shuttle.

Registration information, when finalized, will be on our web site and in the next two newsletters. PLEASE plan on joining us!!!!!!

Gary will keep us posted on the Blue Water bill that was passed.

Sharon and I always learn a lot of new "stuff" at each reunion. Did you know Wall Drugs gives free ice water? Yep, they really do.

If anyone calls me, I probably won't answer. Too darn many annoying robo calls. Leave me a message and I will return your call.

Best regards to all.

Dan

New Orleans Websites:

[www.cpneworleansairport.com](http://www.cpneworleansairport.com)

Hotel : [CrownePlazaAirport, Kenner, LA](http://CrownePlazaAirport, Kenner, LA)

[www.pelicanneworleans.com](http://www.pelicanneworleans.com)

[Travel & Tours](#)

<https://houmashouse.com/> Plantation & lunch

<https://www.nationalww2museum.org>  
[WW2 Museum](#)

[www.coterienola.com](http://www.coterienola.com)

[Lunch on Thursday](#)

<https://www.creolequeen.com>

[River Boat](#)

<https://www.cajunencounters.com/tours/swamp-tour-new-orleans/> Swamp Tour

<https://www.mardigrasworld.com> Tour

Dan Moore [Dan56619@aol.com](mailto:Dan56619@aol.com)

Ph. (H) 574-295-5156 (C) 574-849-4656

## New Members (Since March 2019)

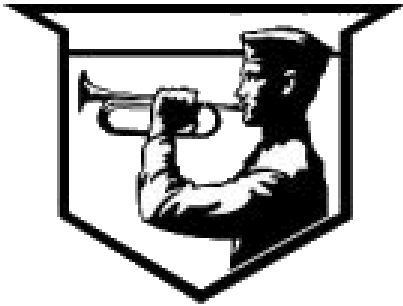
No New Members

### Taps

Jimmy L. Starr GS2 60-61

Ray L. Billings SFM1 63-65

John M. Attey RD2 62-65



## USS TOPEKA 31st ANNUAL REUNION

### New Orleans, LA

#### Reunion Dates:

Monday, September 21, 2020 through Friday,  
September 20, 2020

Dan and Sharon Moore are our hosts for the New Orleans reunion. Dan and Sharon hosted the very successful Indianapolis reunion several years ago, and will make the New Orleans reunion just as great.

There are so many things to see and do in New Orleans that Dan has added an extra day and tour to this year's reunion.

E-mail them [Here](#) or call them at 574-295-5156 for any questions or information.

The Crowne Plaza New Orleans Airport hotel in Kenner is located just 2.5 miles from the Louis Armstrong International Airport and 12 miles from downtown New Orleans. Daily breakfast buffet is included with the room rate.

Reservations must be made no later than August 21, 2020. After that date the room block will be released and there is no guarantee you will be able

to book a room. Group rates for standard rooms are \$113 for single or double occupancy, \$124.50 for triple occupancy, and \$136 for quad occupancy. All rates are tax included. The group rate is effective for 3 days before and after the reunion. Reservations can be made by calling 877-666-3243. Be sure to ask for the USS Topeka CLG-8 group rate.

For early arrivals the hospitality room will be opened Sunday afternoon, September 20, at no extra charge.



### Agent Orange Update

Blue Water Navy Veterans are now entitled to a presumption of Agent Orange exposure. This extension of the presumption is a result of Public Law 116-23, the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, signed into law on June 25, 2019. The law takes effect January 1, 2020.

The law states that Veterans aboard a vessel operating not more than 12 nautical miles seaward from the demarcation line of the waters of Vietnam and Cambodia as defined in Public Law 116-23, between January 9, 1962, and May 7, 1975, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides such as Agent Orange and may be entitled to service connection for conditions related to that exposure.

More information may be obtained from the VA website here: <https://www.va.gov/BWN-one-pager-7-5-2019-V4.pdf>



Pat and Gary Baker were our hosts for the Rapid City reunion. A big 'Thank You' to Ray and Kathy Spatz who also helped make this reunion a success.

The weather cooperated beautifully, with warm days and cool nights.

We had a great hospitality room with a bar, huge refrigerator, and abundant space to spread out in.

Tuesday morning and early afternoon were free time, and many people walked the streets of downtown Rapid City, visiting the shops and having their pictures taken with the life-size statues of US presidents that were on every street corner. We boarded our buses at 3:00 to begin our journey into the Black Hills to the Crazy Horse Monument and then on to Mount Rushmore National Monument. We had dinner at Mount Rushmore and, after dark, watched the beautiful and moving Lighting of the Faces ceremony.

Wednesday began with a tour of the Air and Space Museum at Ellsworth Air Force Base. After that we traveled on to the famous Wall Drug in Wall South Dakota for lunch and shopping and more picture taking of people taking a ride on the Jackalope that was on display. Then we boarded our bus for a drive on the Loop Road through the spectacular scenery of Badlands National Park. Thursday was a bus tour to Sturgis SD, world famous for its annual motorcycle rally, through Fort Meade National Cemetery, then through beautiful Spearfish Canyon. We stopped at the historical old gold mining town of Deadwood for lunch, shopping, and wandering the quaint streets.

Our guest speaker at our Friday evening banquet was Colonel R. Allen Barksdale commander of the 28th Operations Group at Ellsworth Air Force Base. He commands two squadrons of B1B Lancer bombers and related support units. Colonel

Barksdale spoke about the mission, strategy, and what the future holds for the B1B bomber.

Reunion photos are on the website.

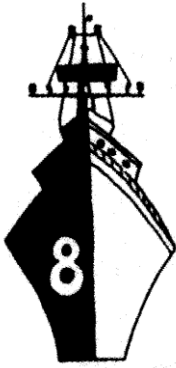
### Who Came to Rapid City?

Don Altamarino and Jean Wood  
Pat and Gary Baker  
Sharon and James Bennett  
Susan and Phil Brooks  
Jerry Craig and Sheila Norman  
Marilyn and Ken Cushman  
Tana and Jay Davis  
Jill and Charlie Deering  
Barbara Endicott  
Cathy and Al Gustafson  
Will Hays  
Jean Henrichs  
Marion and Arnold Hoel and Kathy Cook  
Susan and Harvey Hershkowitz  
Daniel Johansen  
Patty and Terry Jones  
Sylvia and Dave Kloosterman  
Joan and Cal Ladd  
Lewis Loudon and Marilyn Wade  
Sue and Don McFarland  
Sharon and Dan Moore  
Leanne and Jerry Pennington  
Larry Roberts  
Marlys and Gerald Schiefert  
Kathy and Ray Spatz  
Wanda and Thomas Swink  
Pat and Gerald Tanner  
Chris and Mike Thompson  
Jean Timmons and Sandi Calabough



USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION  
C/O Gary Baker  
20 Heather Drive  
Billings, MT 59105

TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



### NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Board Members: Al Gustafson, Arnold Hoel, Jerry Craig, Harold Jackson, Dan Moore, Ray Spatz, Jay Davis

President

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406-252-4546; [pbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:pbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)

### Ship's Store

The store has USS Topeka ball caps, lapel pins, jacket patches, coffee cups, and license plate frames as well as 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet and Vietnam bumper stickers. Order forms and illustrations of items are on the Ship's Store page of the website.

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

### Membership and Dues

Dues fund the day-to-day operation of the association. This includes the costs of publishing and distributing the newsletter and members directory, maintaining the website, and office expenses. Dues are \$20.00 per year or \$80.00 for five years. Your dues status is indicated on the address page of the newsletter. If it doesn't say 'Dues Exempt' or 'Dues Paid Thu 2019' (or higher) you'll be dropped from the mailing list and won't receive the annual directory or any further newsletters. This late in the year any dues received now will be applied to 2020.