



**Officers:**

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

Hello again from “fly-over” country.  
Our Winter here was not great, but fortunately  
Spring has now arrived. Looking forward to  
September when we can finally gather again for  
another reunion. (so glad 2020 is behind us &  
hearing many of our shipmates, spouses & friends  
are getting their Covid shots.....)

New Orleans is located on the Mississippi River  
and is a very popular vacation destination. We  
have some great tours lined up for all of you.  
Hoping for a large turnout. I’ll soon be posting the  
web sites of our tour destinations.

The reunion registration forms are now available.  
Get them into Gary asap.  
(A great way to spend your stimulus checks.....  
Ha Ha)  
A reminder to all is that we have a web-site and  
Face Book page. They are:

<http://www.usstopekaclg8.org/>

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/USS-Topeka-Clg-8-Association/288604944574666>

If you have dues due, please contact Gary Baker.  
Reminder, we’re always on the lookout for our  
former shipmates.

Thanks to Gary Baker & Kathy Spatz for all they  
do for your Association.

Hope to see you in New Orleans.

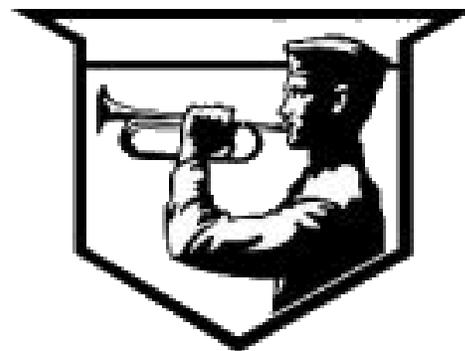
Dan

**NEW MEMBERS (SINCE NOVEMBER 2020)**

Gary Hobson RD3 67-69  
William Childress ETR2 59-62  
Phillip Norris SN 60-64 (Posthumous  
Registration)

**Taps**

Robert J. Oddman BM3 64-67  
Phillip M. Norris SN 60-64  
Ed Walkup SN 60-64  
Jack D. Connery LCDR 64-66  
Kenneth Barnett BT3 63-67  
Gale Pfund LTJG 62-64  
Waymon Minor FTM2 60-62



## **New Orleans, LA**

Sunday, September, 19th 2021 through Friday, September, 24th 2021

### **DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel New Orleans Airport**



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 at [dan56619@aol.com](mailto:dan56619@aol.com), or call them at 574-295-5156 for any questions or information.



## **Some Facts about New Orleans**

### **Where is New Orleans?**

The city of New Orleans is located in the southern US state of Louisiana, on the banks of the Mississippi River. Straddling Lake Pontchartrain to the west and Lake Borgne to the east, New Orleans is approximately 80 miles south-west of the Louisiana capital, Baton Rouge.

### **What is New Orleans famous for?**

A true melting pot of cultures, New Orleans has a wealth of unique heritage and proud traditions. It is best known for its music, vibrant nightlife, numerous festivals, Creole and Cajun food, and colonial architecture.

### **How old is New Orleans?**

The city of New Orleans was founded in 1718 by Jean-Baptiste Le Moyne, the governor of French Louisiana. Louisiana had been under French control since 1682, and the new city was of great strategic importance due to its position close to the mouth of the Mississippi River.

### **How do you pronounce New Orleans?**

The correct way to pronounce New Orleans is New Or-lins. Popular mispronunciations include N'awlins and New Or-lee-ans.

### **Is New Orleans safe?**

Generally, the tourist spots in New Orleans are considered very safe, but it's still best not to wander around alone at night (especially after a few cocktails). Unfortunately, overall New Orleans hasn't got the best reputation in terms of safety, with violent crime being well above the national average.

### **What is New Orleans' nickname?**

The most popular nickname for New Orleans is the Big Easy, which was coined as early as the mid-19th century. Other common monikers include the Crescent City and simply NOLA.

### **What does NOLA mean?**

Quite simply, NOLA is an acronym for New Orleans.



**Honey Island Swamp Tour**

Honey Island earned its name because of the honeybees once seen on a nearby island. A tract of bottomland timber lying between the East Pearl and West Pearl rivers, Honey Island is between three and seven miles wide and 15 to 20 miles long. It is located 50 minutes from New Orleans in Southeast Louisiana.

You can now enjoy some of the richest wildlife stretches of the river and of Honey Island... all from the comfort of a tour boat! You may see the alligator, red wolf, deer.....there have even been sightings of the Florida cougar! Many species of exotic birds also make their homes in this swamp....an active bald eagle nest has occupied the swamp dating back to 1910!

"There are about 1,000,000 alligators in Louisiana, and the population is still growing," a guide explains. Our tour guides make certain sounds that attract any gators in the area. Almost as if on cue, alligators glide toward them for their reward---a few marshmallows.

**The National WWII Museum**

The National WWII Museum tells the story of the American experience in *the war that changed the world*—why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today—so that all generations can understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. Through exhibits, multimedia experiences, and thousands of personal accounts, the Museum takes visitors on an immersive tour of World War II in every theater of war.



**Paddlewheeler Creole Queen Riverboat Cruises**

The 880 passenger Paddlewheeler Creole Queen is New Orleans’ most luxurious daily excursions riverboat on the Mississippi River. The Creole Queen is a traditional riverboat powered by a 24-ft diameter paddlewheel. She has three private dining rooms giving her the largest indoor capacity available on excursion vessels in New Orleans. Enjoy a Dinner Jazz Cruise, a Historical Cruise, or even one of our Special Event Cruises.

**2021 YTD Financial Report**

A brief summary of our finances year to date. The association finances are looking good, no need to increase dues for the foreseeable future. If you would like a more detailed report e-mail Gary Baker at [gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekaclg8.org)

<b>Account</b>	<b>12/31/2020</b>	<b>2021 YTD</b>
Operating Fund	\$15,028.30	\$15,608.30
Reunion Fund	\$4,291.12	\$4,291.12
Ship’s Store	<u>\$2,316.52</u>	<u>\$2,342.52</u>
Total	\$21,635.94	\$21,701.94

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: Al Gustafson, 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@usstopekacg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekacg8.org)

**2020 Reunion Coordinator**

Sharon and Dan Moore, , 56619 Wedgwood Ct N, Elkhart, IN 46516;  
574-295-5156; [Dan56619@aol.com](mailto:Dan56619@aol.com)

**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@usstopekacg8.org](mailto:gbaker@usstopekacg8.org)

**Ships Store**

Pat Baker, 20 Heather Drive, Billings, MT 59105  
406-252-4546; [pbaker@usstopekacg8.org](mailto:pbaker@usstopekacg8.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 2020' (or higher) you'll be dropped from the mailing list and won't receive the annual directory or any further newsletters.