



**Officers:**

**Al Gustafson, Chairman Board of Directors and President**

**Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer**

**Staff:**

**Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor**

**Gary Baker, Webmaster**

**Pat Baker, Ship's Store and 2023 Reunion Coordinator**

Greetings Shipmates

I hope this message finds everyone well. Cathy and I are fine and enjoying great summer weather here in Western New York. This week it was 90 degrees and dry almost every day. It has never been 100 degrees in Buffalo, but I am wondering if we might get there this year!

I hope that everyone is making their final plans to attend the Spokane Reunion hosted by Pat Baker. Once again, (just like Portland) I have never visited this part of our country. So, I have been doing some research and am really excited about visiting. The scenery looks spectacular and the hotel looks great.

Cathy and I have made our travel plans and are all set to go. I encourage everyone to make their arrangements as soon as possible. Join shipmates and old friends at another great Topeka reunion. Remember all are welcome, bring a friend! If you have any questions please E-mail or give me a call.

As some of you may remember, the "USS The Sullivan DD 537", a World War 2 Destroyer on display at the Buffalo Naval Park sank during the spring of 2022. Since then, the ship has been refloated, had temporary repairs, and is open for visitation (topside only). A marine survey has been completed and it looks like the ship will be moved to a drydock in Erie Pa. for permanent repairs. This will probably involve total hull replacement. The move itself will be difficult as the other two ships on display will need to be

relocated in order to get the Sullivans out. I hope all goes well as the loss of this historic ship would be a shame. For those who may not know The Sullivan is the first US Navy ship to be named after more than one person. They are the 5 Sullivan brothers who were lost when the USS Juneau was sunk during WW2. DDG 68 homeported in Mayport Florida is the second and is also named for the Sullivan brothers.

On a lighter note, here is the answer to the last newsletters riddle.

Riddle: A man leaves home and makes three left turns. He comes home again and sees two masked men waiting for him, but he jogs straight toward them with a smile as others cheer. Why is this man so unafraid?

Answer: He is a baseball player who has just hit a home run. The masked men are the umpire and opposing team's catcher.

This new riddle is:

Name 3 consecutive days without using the words Monday, Wednesday, Friday, or Sunday.

For the answer see me at the reunion in Spokane.

As always, a special thanks to Pat Baker, Gary Baker and Kathy Spatz for all the work they do for the organization.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Gus

## New Members (Since March 2023)

None

## Taps

Robert Maclean EN3 65-67

Frank Fasone LI3 64-66

Robert Strouss MM2 64-67

Douglas Weeks RD2 59-63

David Ritter EM2 59-63

## **Reunion Dates:**

**September 18<sup>th</sup> – September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023**

## **2023 Spokane Reunion**

We'll be staying at the Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center in Spokane Valley, Washington.

Everything is ready and we are very excited for the Spokane reunion. The weather should be in the low 70's in the daytime and dropping to 50's in the evening.

For reservations call the Mirabeau Park Hotel directly at 509-924-9000. Be sure to ask for USS Topeka CLG-8 Reunion group rate. Our block of rooms are located close to the restaurant, banquet room and hospitality room

The Mirabeau Hotel does not have a shuttle from the airport but does provide a shuttle for the local area.

Tours include a dinner cruise on beautiful Lake Coeur d'Alene, a trip to the silver-mining town of Wallace, Idaho which includes a trolley ride and an underground tour of the Sierra Silver Mine, and a visit to a bordello museum in Wallace. A tour of some of the wineries around Spokane, including the most beautiful one, Arbor Crest Winery, which overlooks the Spokane Valley. Even people who don't drink wine will love the great scenery.

For complete tour information please go to our website: [usstopekaclg8.org](http://usstopekaclg8.org).

## **Tour "A" Silver Valley and Historic Wallace Idaho**

**Tuesday, September 19**

Our first stop on this tour will be the Cataldo Mission.

The Cataldo Mission was completed from 1850-1853 by Jesuit missionaries and their native converts. Father Pierre Jean De Smet was the chief of the "Blackrobes," as the Indians called the priests. Under his command was Father Ravalli, an Italian-born religious leader who supervised the Coeur d'Alene men who with a few simple tools constructed this marvelous structure.

For the most part, the early Jesuits were tolerant of the Indian traditions, and allowed a blend of the two cultures to develop.. Initially, the Native Americans dedicated themselves to trying to learn what the white man's book had to offer them, but at the same time retained many native beliefs and practices, sometimes in secret.

In 1924, after nearly fifty years of occupation by the Oregon Province Jesuits, the then-dilapidated mission was deeded to the Diocese of Boise. Today it is run as a state park, and each year members of the Coeur d'Alene tribe make a pilgrimage to the Old Mission to commemorate the "Coming of the Blackrobes." In 2015, the Mission was deeded to the Coeur d'Alene tribe as part of the Diocese of Boise agreement.

Then we will continue on to Wallace Idaho for stops at the Sierra Silver Mine, Oasis Rooms Bordello Museum, and lunch.

## **Tour "B" Historic Spokane**

**Wednesday, September 20**

One of the many sights we will see today is Manito Park

Manito Park is a public park located in beautiful Spokane Washington's South Hill neighborhood. Manito Park has five gardens, a conservatory and duck pond that are toured by over 150,000 visitors each year.

The 90-acre park includes spacious manicured lawns, playgrounds, walking and biking paths, flowers, topiary shrubs, a greenhouse conservatory and multiple picturesque gardens.

Manito Park's large trees and well-tended landscaping make for a great place to visit in Spokane.

Manito Park was originally named, "Montrose Park" and to this day the primary garden showplace in Spokane.

Montrose Park was changed to Manito Park in 1903 and originally played host to a zoo among other family friendly activities. Manito means, "spirit of nature".

We will also see many other sights on this tour.



**Tour "C" Lake Coeur d'Alene Dinner Cruise**

**Wednesday, September 20**

Travel to North Idaho where you'll board the cruise boat for a 2-hour private dinner cruise on Lake Coeur d'Alene. National Geographic reports this as one of the most beautiful lakes in the world.



**Tour "D" Spokane Winery Tour**

**Thursday, September 21**

We will ravel to Latah Creek Wine Cellars. Heralded by Wine Spectator as one of the "Top Merlot's in Washington State", taste their merlot, huckleberry and other award-winning wines. Tour the production area and learn the process of making wine. This family-owned winery also boasts a great gift shop, with something for every wine lover and great local products to take home. Then on to Barrister Winery at their tasting room in Downtown Spokane. Next, to Arbor Crest Wine Cellars, perched 450 feet above the Spokane River. Built by inventor Royal Newton Riblet in 1924, the grounds have some of Riblet's unique inventions, a 16' by 16' checkerboard a small vineyard, and the mansion. Taste their wines and tour the grounds learning some interesting stories about the inventor Royal Newton Riblet. This is one of the "must see" in Spokane.

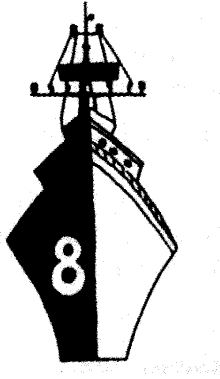
**2023 YTD Financial Report**

A brief summary of our finance's year to date. The association finances are looking good. There is quite a bit more money in the Operating account than is needed to fund the day-to-day expenses of the association. With the consent of our president, Al Gustafson, and the board of directors, as we wind down our association over the next few years the excess will be used to offset the fixed costs of our annual reunions.

<u>Account</u>	<u>12/31/2022</u>	<u>2023 YTD</u>
Operating Fund	\$16,283.88	\$17,183.46
Reunion Fund	\$5,588.65	\$9,504.16
Ship's Store	\$2,266.37	\$2,360.66
Total	\$24,138.90	\$29,048.28

USS TOPEKA CLG-8 ASSOCIATION  
C/O Gary Baker  
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TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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Dan Moore, Ray Spatz, and Jay Davis.

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### Ship's Store

The store has USS Topeka ball caps, lapel pins, jacket patches, coffee cups, and 6th and 7th Fleet and Vietnam bumper stickers. A generic Navy ball cap "We Own the Seas" has been added to the inventory. 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. For this issue only the newsletter will be mailed to all members whose dues have been paid at least through 2018 or higher.