

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 13, No. 3

August 2002

Officers:

Dudley Cass, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President; Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; Ken Noble, Reunion 02 Chairman; Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



FROM THE PRESIDENT

What's the secret of a long and happy marriage?

I have always thought that Navy marriages have some advantages. During the first couple of decades, Navy couples plow through the usual problems of life like everyone else, and as some of the tensions begin to build, and life starts getting tedious, it's time for a WestPac or Med cruise. Then, as we sail farther and farther from home "absence makes the heart grow fonder," and six months later the family is reunited and then there is another short, but great honeymoon.

So married life for the typical Navy family becomes a series of great honeymoons. The real test of the marriage then comes upon retirement when there are no more deployments to interrupt our life, and we are faced with the usual ups and downs of life "for better or worse." It was a privilege recently to share with Ruth and Dudley Cass in their 50th wedding anniversary celebration. (Their anniversary is not until August 17 so we can celebrate again in Denver.) It was a grand affair and their children and grandchildren did them real proud.

Also, Don and Pat Nellis celebrated their 50th in this past month. Unfortunately, they will not be in Denver, but we can drink a toast to them anyway.

Congratulations Ruth and Dudley, and Pat and Don. May your next 50 years be another great honeymoon.

John Reynolds

TAPS

Henry Fisher, SF1 (60-62), March 15, 2002, Memphis, TN.

BINNACLE LIST

Michael Thomas, SN (62-65), Sherman IL, cancer surgery.

Irye Couch, BM1 (60-65), Grand Junction, CO, cancer surgery.

NEW MEMBERS (SINCE MAY)

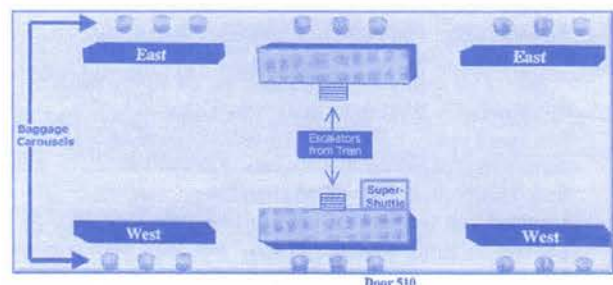
Francis Maloney MR3 (60-62) Verona, NJ
Tim Winking EM 2 (67-69) Snellville, GA
Dennis Martin MM 3 (64-65) Mount Pleasant, UT
Larry Gaddy QM2 (66-68) Bakersfield, CA
Marvin Olauson BMSN (60-61) Sunnyside, UT
Sam Judd, Jr. FTG 3 (63-65) Chula Vista, CA
Montie Stunkard SN (59-61) Everett, PA.

DENVER AIRPORT TRANSPORTATION

The Super Shuttle of Denver offers Topeka sailors round-trip transportation from Denver International to the hotel for \$28.00, or \$18.00 one way. If you have not received a coupon, cut out and use the one below. Also below is the shuttle desk location in the airport. There should be a sign at the desk welcoming Topeka sailors.



Super Shuttle Coupon



Shuttle Desk Location

WHO'S COMING TO DENVER

Here's the muster list of those going on a long 72 in the Mile High City Aug 21-25. They gather once again to rekindle old friendships.

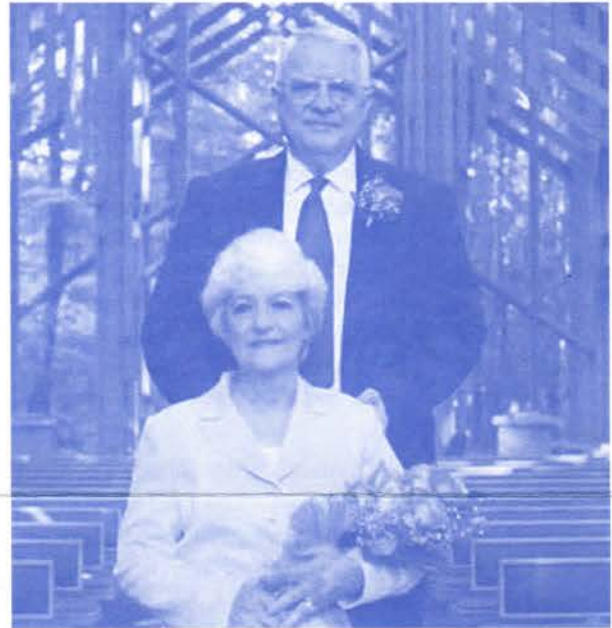
Donald Altamirano, MM3 (63 65) La Verne, CA
Don Anderson, ET2 (62 64) Woodbridge, VA
Jesse Aragon, BM1 (59 62) Anaheim, CA
James Ayres, RD2 (60 62) Necedah, WI
Gary Baker, FT2 63 65 Billings, MT
James Bennett, RDSN (60 61) Bella Vista, AR
Jack Bock Jr., LTJG (62 65) Rancho Palos Verdes, CA
Phillip Brooks, MR2 (63 65) Cloverdale, CA
Bill Bundy, ENC (60 62) Moorpark, CA
Parker Butcher, FTM2 (63 66) Shenandoah, IA
Bill Carver, BM3 (60 63) Toms River, NJ
Dudley Cass, LTJG (61 64) Bonita, CA
Jack Connery, LCDR (64 66) Tulsa, OK
Jerry Craig, FTM2 (66 69) Cartersville, GA
Walter Crane, RD3 (63 66) Goleta, CA
Richard "Bud" Eichelber, SKSN (61 63) Denver, CO
Chester Goodwin, BTC (63 65) Arvada, CO
Paul Gorham, BM3 (64 66) Calabasas Hills, CA
George Grupe, LTJG (62 65) Sacramento, CA
Harvey Hershkowitz, CYNSN (64 66) San Diego, CA
Michael Hight, RD2 (60 62) Avon Park, FL
Norbert Howe, SDC (60 60) Lakewood, CA
Terry Jones, GMG3 (67 69) Golden, CO
Gerald "Jerry" Judge, FTCS (63 66) Chula Vista, CA
John Keith, RD1 (59 60) Portland, OR
Calvin Ladd, MM3 (63 66) Minnetonka, MN
Roger Lauer, PH3 (61 65) Denver, CO
Don McFarland, PC3 (63 66) Winchester, VA
Roy McLain, EN3 (59 61) Mechanicsburg, PA
Loy Nix, GMM1 (59 62) Flowery Branch, GA
Kenneth Noble, RD2 (59 63) Broomfield, CO
"Parky" Parkhurst, FTCM (63 66) Granada Hills, CA
Jerry Pennington, RD3 (63 64) Fallbrook, CA
Gale Pfund, LTJG (62 64) Ukiah, CA
Robert Plake, HT1 (59 61) Indianapolis, IN
Dick Ramsey, GMCM (62-64) Lutz, FL
John Reynolds, FTM1 (61 66) Redondo Beach, CA
Robby Robbins, FTC (60 65) Milton-Freewater, OR
Paul Ruby, LTJG (62 65) San Francisco, CA
LeRoy Servin, BM3 (62 64) Apache Junction, AZ
Sam Sheehan II, LTJG (63 65) Ponca City, OK
Alonzo Simmerman, BT2 (67 68) Stockton, CA
Ronald Smart, RD3 (59 62) Turlock, CA
Paul Smith, BM3 (64 66) Crystal Lake, IA
"Hank" Henry Snyder, BT3 (60 62) Basking Ridge, NJ
Jon Sorensen, BM3 (63 65) Arvada, CO
Raymond Spatz, CS3 (67 69) South Hempstead, NY
Jimmy Starr, GS2 (60 61) Topeka, KS
Jack Timmons, LTJG (64 65) San Diego, CA
Leonard Van Gemert, ET1 (63 65) Myakka City, FL
Ernesto Villamil, DKCM (63 65) Annapolis, MD
Mike Wallace, RD3 (65 67) Rome, GA
Richard Wallace, SMSN (60 63) Halifax, MA
Egon Werdelman, CDR (60 61) San Diego, CA
"Bud" Zimmerman, GMT1 (59 62) Bremerton, WA

PAUL HULETTE WON'T BE IN DENVER

Paul Hulette (66-68) won't be in Denver this year.

Paul emailed coordinator Ken Noble last April and said, "Where can I get married in Denver? Would like a chapel in the woods with a Baptist Preacher. I've already checked out the license requirements."

For two years, Paul had been seeing an old high school classmate and the decision had been made. Paul had just about talked Georgie into marrying in Denver at the reunion.



Paul and Georgie

Again in April: "It really doesn't have to be a chapel in the woods. Just the right church and a willing minister." Georgie was married to Paul's classmate 38 years, and raised a family. He died of cancer five years ago. "It just happened that we got together again. I had a date with her all those years ago, and got back to college late because of it. She had kept a letter I had written to her postmarked 1948.

She cooled somewhat about Denver when it was mentioned that the wedding might be in front of 100 old sailors.

Mid July: "Skip the wedding planning. I was in Alabama helping her pack and she got an offer on her house. I packed her off to Rogers, Arkansas and we were married in Eureka Springs July 5. Now we are in the process of buying a house, and we won't make the reunion. We'll settle in the Rogers area, just one hour from where we grew up in northeast Oklahoma. I'll get back on track soon."

TAKING TIME TO REMEMBER

It was raining "cats and dogs" and I was late for physical training. Traffic was backed up at Fort Campbell, Ky., and was moving way too slowly. I was going to be late and was growing impatient. The pace slowed almost to a standstill as I passed Memorial Grove, the site built to honor the soldiers who died in the Gander airplane crash, the worst redeployment accident in the history of the 101st Airborne Division.

It was close to Memorial Day, and a small American flag had been placed in the ground next to each soldier's memorial plaque. My concern at the time, however, was getting past the bottleneck, getting out of the rain and getting to PT on time. All of a sudden, just as the traffic was getting started again, the car in front of me stopped. A private jumped out in the pouring rain and ran over toward the grove. I couldn't believe it! This knucklehead was holding up everyone for who knows what kind of prank.

Horns were honking. I waited to see the butt-chewing that I wanted him to get for making me late. He was getting soaked to the skin. His BDUs were plastered to his frame. I watched-as he ran up to one of the memorial plaques, picked up the small American flag that had fallen to the ground in the wind and the rain, and set it upright again. Then, slowly, he came to attention, saluted, ran back to his car, and drove off.

I'll never forget that incident. That soldier, whose name I will never know, taught me more about duty, honor, and respect than a hundred books or a thousand lectures. That simple salute - - that single act of honoring his fallen brother and his flag - - encapsulated all the Army values in one gesture for me. It said, "I will never forget. I will keep the faith. I will finish the mission. I am an American soldier."

I thank God for examples like that. And on this Memorial Day, I will remember all those who paid the ultimate price for my freedom, and one private, soaked to the skin, who honored them.

Captain John Rasmussen, AUS
in Army Link News, May 22, 02

WANNA BE ON THE RADIO?

The Rick Crandall talk radio show broadcasts from the reunion hotel in Denver during morning drive time (6-10 a.m.). Crandall has expressed an interest in interviewing two or three old sailors live on Friday morning.

The interview would be less than 15 minutes and all would be done at the same time. Crandall is known for his spearheading of memorials to our veterans.

If interested, contact Ken Noble as soon as possible.

DIRECTIONS TO HILTON DENVER TECH



USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association
C/O Jack Connery
9814 E. 83rd Pl.
Tulsa, OK 74133

PRESORT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
TULSA, OK
#418



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Directors

Dudley Cass, Chairman, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita, Cal., 91902; 619-267-3123. Members Don Anderson, Jack Connery, Jerry Judge, Ken Noble, Jerry Pennington.

President

John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade, # 107, Redondo Beach, Cal., 90277; Telephone 310-540-7817.

Secretary-Treasurer

Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, Ca, 92106-1121; 619-224-8928; Email JETimmons@aol.com

2002 Reunion Coordinator

Ken Noble, 14019 Summer Bay Lane, Broomfield, CO 80020; 303-410-7150; Email Kennoble@usstopekaclg8.org

Newsletter Editor

Jack Connery, 9814 E. 83rd Pl., Tulsa, Ok., 74133; 918-459-8918; Fax 918-459-9758; E-mail JJConn@AOL.com.

WebMaster

Ken Noble, 14019 Summer Bay Lane, Broomfield, CO 80020; 303-410-7150; Email Topeka@usstopekaclg8.org

Ship's Store

Jill Connery, 9814 E. 83rd Pl., Tulsa, Ok., 74133; 918-459-8918; Fax 918-459-9758; E-mail JJConn@AOL.com.

SHIP'S STORE REPORT

The following items are available in the ships store.

Old Style Shirts:

Adult shirts
 Green and red, sizes 2XL \$22.00

2000 Polo Shirts

White or Gray w/Navy trim, Beige w/Black trim; Sizes M, L, 28.00

2002 Polo Shirts

Beige w/pocket, Sizes M,L,XL,XXL 30.00
 Yellow, Blue w/o pocket, M,L,XL, XXL 30.00

Ball caps 10.00

Key Chains 3.00

Ships Plaque (with name) 30.00

New Style Nylon Jackets

Navy w/Burgundy trim; Hunter Green or Royal Blue, both w/Navy trim; sizes M, L, XL, 2XL 46.00

Cold Drink Holders 5.00

Coffee Mugs w/Topeka emblem 6.00

Topeka Note Pads (5-pack) 5.00

License Plate Holders 4.00

Include \$5.00 shipping with each order. Make checks out to the Reunion Association and send check or money order to Jill Connery.