

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 16, No. 3

November 2005

Officers:

Jerry Judge, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; Dudley Cass 2006 Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



FROM THE PRESIDENT

Kudos to Ray and Kathy Spatz for a wonderful and exciting New York reunion. Thanks to them, and the hard work of Jack Timmons, things ran very smoothly. We were also blessed to have a group of fireman from the South Hempstead Fire Department (of which our own Ray Spatz is a member) who joined our Saturday night bash and acted as our color guards for the evening's festivities. Our speaker for the evening was Mr. Tom Gwynn from the Cradle of Aviation Aero Space Museum. He had a wonderful PowerPoint presentation on the history of Aviation, which everyone enjoyed. And to really make the evening delightful was our Master of Ceremonies Jerry Judge who did a great job at the podium as he always does at every reunion. Thanks, Jerry, for sharing your talents with us year after year.

One of the highlights of the reunion was the harbor cruise. We have had a lot of good dinner cruises before, but this was exceptional. They hosted the bar, which made everyone happy right off the bat. The DJ was exceptionally good and some of us actually danced with our wives. Miracles never cease. The weather was good for NY at that time of year. The harbor was lit up by a beautiful moon and as we came around the beautiful Statue of Liberty; it was an awesome sight to behold. Jerry Judge leaned over to me and said, Boy this is worth the whole trip, and I had to agree with him. It was goose bump time. There were so many wonderful moments that we shared at the Big Apple that I could go on for pages. The most memorable times, of course, are the times we spent just renewing old friendships and just enjoying each others company. Next Year it's back to San Diego. I hope you can all make it. The good Lord willing we will see you all in Aug.2006.

John Reynolds

NEW MEMBERS (since May 2005)

James Wiley BT3 (59-62) Toledo, OH
Jim Reynaud (66-68) Midland, TX
Michael Soinski HM3 (64-66) Grand Junction, CO
Maurice Delancy SM1 (59-60) Virginia Beach, VA
Robert L. Middleton RMC (66-69) Columbia, SC (D)
Michael Doyle SN (67-69) Sherman, WV
Michael Scott SN (59-63) Woodland Hills, CA
Jerry Humphrey CPL (62-64) Newburgh, IN
Bruce O'Brien FN (65-66) Roseboro, NJ
Dorman Lee MM1 (62-65) Baytown, TX
Larry Hodge SK3 (62-63) Round Rock, TX
Marvin Mendenhall PR3 (1964) Liberty, MO
Ray Stoman RM2 (67-69) Montana City, MO
Larry Swingler GMM3 (63-66) Tucson, AZ
E. J. "Skip" Pellegrin BM3 (61-63) Houma, LA

TAPS

Isaac "Ike" J. Roberts IC3 (65-68) 10/29/05
Bob Kershner LCDR (63-66) 11/10/05
Walter Michlanski SN (59-6?) 08/02/05
Andre M Seaton RD2 (59-62) 7/10/05
Doyne R. Wills, Jr. LCDR (65-67)
Robert L. Middleton RMC (66-69) 12/01/01



LETTERS

Kathy and Ray, Thank you for the wonderful reunion. We had a great time, the tours, the dinner cruise, the picnic, and the final dinner. You two did a terrific job. It was the best reunion that we have attended. New York will long be remembered, and the hotel did a terrific job for the sailors and families of the Topeka.

Thanks...

Carol and Mike Hight
(See you next year)

Hello Ray and Kathy, enclosed is a CD of some of the photo's I took on Cloud 9. Sure enjoyed our Reunion and the whole get together. Sure got some nice shipmates that I never knew before. I want to thank you for all that you did to make this the best Topeka reunion ever. We hope to see you in San Diego next year

Best,

John and Bridget Woolston

Kathy,

Ray and you put on a spectacular reunion. The patriotic theme for the Saturday Banquet was wonderful. Anyone who did not get a lump in their throat when the magnificent Firemen Color Guard in the dress uniforms paraded the colors simply was not alive. Your table centerpieces with the red, white, blue, and flag balloons were perfect. I really liked your dinner programs. Nice touch having beer for the firemen.

Again, what a great job the two of you did. There's a certain amount of stress doing these reunions. I have no idea when you and Ray had any time to sleep. But you had one grateful group of really nice folks attend your reunion.

Regards,

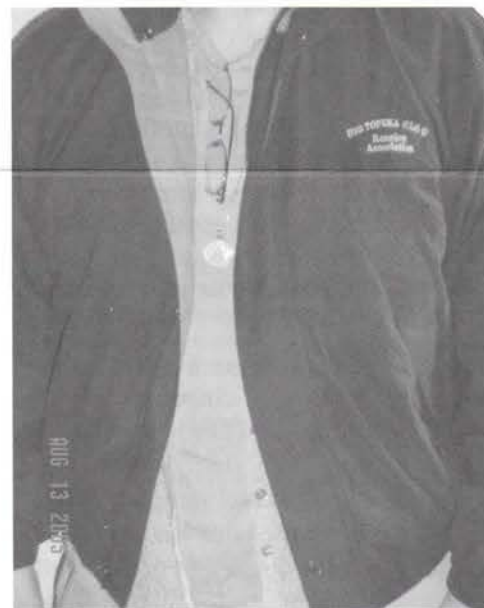
Jack Timmons

SHIPS STORE

The ships store has some new jackets



Men's Jacket navy with beige, \$42.00 each.



Ladies Jacket navy with white, \$20.00
Sizes small through X-large.

Please send your dues to Jack Timmons

REUNION 2006

The USS Topeka CLG-8 2006 reunion will be hosted by Ruth and Dudley Cass in San Diego, CA. The reunion hotel is the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, 500 Hotel Circle North, San Diego, CA 92108. The dates for 2006 are Wednesday, August 16th through Saturday, August 19th. Room rates are \$99.00 single or double plus applicable tax. We will have a hospitality suite in the Regency Tower. This site is the same as our 2000 reunion. Please plan on coming and enjoying in 2006! More details in the February 2006 newsletter.



Wishing everyone a joyous and peaceful holiday season.

EDITORIAL

Where do I begin? The reunion is just an awesome memory as I write this message. Ray and I have received numerous accolades from members that were at the New York Reunion. When we first agreed to do the reunion the doubts were numerous, will we get a decent turnout, will the cost be too heavy, how will we get around in the "Big Apple", just to mention a few. Well, as you all know we overcame these hurdles and had a terrific time. Briggs tour company was just wonderful, the tour guides full of information and they sincerely cared about the success of the tours we took. The dinner cruise, I feel the highlight of the reunion, was a great time for all. The ship was beautiful with an attentive and accommodating staff. The evening skyline of Manhattan and the breathtaking view of the Statue of Liberty brought tears to many. Personally, I have not danced that much in a long time!! The DJ's kept a lot of us on our feet the entire evening, it was difficult to take a break to enjoy the delicious buffet that was available. As always the hospitality suite was the place to gather and rekindle the friendships established over the years of the reunions. Ray did an amazing job of keeping the refreshments and libations available at all times. The Banquet was the final success. My thanks to Tom Gwynn and the South Hempstead Fire Department for contributing to the Patriotic theme. Ray and I are looking forward to returning to a status of guest at the future reunions. Thanks to all that attended and we are thrilled at the success.



Seated, Bea Sadler, Ray & Kathy, Joseph Spatz, Guest Speaker Tom Gwynn, Standing, Charles Sadler, Donald Spatz, Gio & Gail Baustista.

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O KATHY SPATZ

503 OLIVE BLVD.

SOUTH HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550-8012

First Class Prst.
U.S. Postage Paid
Tulsa, OK
Permit # 2146



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Board of Directors

Jerry Judge, Chairman 68 E. Sierra Way, Chula Vista, CA
91911; 619-422-0761; Email RAJTR@cox.net

Board Members: Dudley Cass, Don Anderson, Jack Connery,
Ken Noble, Tom Victory

President

John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade #107, Redondo Beach, CA
90277; 310-540-7817; Email Canrc@hotmail.com

Secretary-Treasurer

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

2005 Reunion Coordinator

Raymond Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550;
516-385-5712; Email kspatz@optonline.net

Newsletter Editor

Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550;
516-385-5712; Email kspatz@optonline.net

Webmaster

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

Ships Store

Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TX 36743-2207;
423-842-5147; Email ILJRob@aol.com

SHIPS STORE

These items are available from the Ship's Store, order now and come to the reunion already dressed out. Most of the merchandise will be available in New York. All orders should be sent to Linda Roberts at 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207. Linda's phone number is 423-842-5147. Include \$5.00 shipping with each order and make checks or money order payable to the Reunion Association and send to Linda with your order.

Polo Shirts 2000

Grey 2M, Beige 1M \$25.00

Polo Shirts 2002

Yellow XL only, Blue XL and XXL \$25.00

Ivory with pocket, XL only \$25.00

Polo Shirts 2003

Navy M, XXL, White/Navy M, XXL \$26.00

Navy/Tan with pocket XL, XXL \$26.00

New style Nylon Jackets

Navy 2XL; Hunter green 1 M or
Royal blue 1 L \$35.00

Micro fiber 2003 Jackets

Navy/Beige and Beige/Black \$36.00

Assorted items available

Ball Caps \$12.00

Key Chains 3.00

Cold Drink Holders 5.00

Coffee mugs w/Topeka emblem 6.00

Topeka Note pads (5 pack) 5.00

License Plate Holder 4.00



DINNER CRUISE



BANQUET



