

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 18, No. 2

June 2007

### Officers:

Jerry Judge, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;  
Jack Timmons, Secretary-Treasurer; Dan Moore 2007 Reunion Chairman;  
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



### FROM THE PRESIDENT

Since our last reunion we have lost two of our board members to cancer, Don Anderson and Jerry Judge.

Don was an exciting guy that enjoyed life to the fullest. We will miss him greatly in the coming years as we meet to plan and discuss plans for future reunions. His wisdom, and together with his sense of humor, will be absent from our meetings. However, we can all be thankful to God for the times we were able to spend with Don while he was among us. We will always remember this fine shipmate.

The loss of Jerry also rocked the board, as I am sure it did many of you. We thought he had licked "the big C" only to see it come back with a vengeance. Jerry was one of the founders of this association, and he gave us yeoman service as Chairman of The Board of Directors, and the M.C. at all of our reunions over the years. He loved people and they loved him. He never failed to bring his wisdom and sense of humor to every gathering of his Topeka shipmates. Like Don Anderson we will always be thankful for him and for the many years of happiness and enjoyment he brought to all of us.

We will never forget these two guys and hope they are together now sharing their new life with those around them.

Fair winds shipmates.

### New Members

(SINCE MARCH 2007)

Phil Young EN3 (59 -63) Morganton, NC  
John Bistrow FN (68-69) Independence, MO  
Richard Collins FT2 (61-63) Danville, CA  
Frank Terry EM3 (65-67) Florence, AZ  
David VanNewKirk MM3 (60-62) Corona, CA  
James Henslee BT3 (65-68) Ceres, CA  
James Youngblood BT3 (67-69) Buda, TX  
Albert Gustafson BTFN (67-69) Hamburg, NY  
Wesley Hefner EM3 (64-67) Superior, WI  
Joe McEachern MMFM (60-62) Waltham, MA  
James Marsiglia, SN (59 -61) Breaus Bridge, LA

### TAPS

Richard G. Martin FTCS (61-64) 2/16/07  
James D. Whisennand SF3 (65-67) 5/01/07  
Jerry Judge FTCS (63-66) 5/17/07  
George Grupe LTJG (62-65) 6/01/07





## **ABOUT INDY: What's a Hoosier?**

That's the question most asked by Indiana visitors. No one seems to know exactly where the word "Hoosier" came from but there are plenty of stories on its origin. Here are some of the more popular theories:

- Hoosiers are well-known for their questioning and it is possible the nickname originated because they could not pass a house without pulling the latchstring and crying out "Who's yere (here)?"
- Indiana poet James Witcomb Riley said the origin of the title "Hoosier" came from the pugnacious habits of the early settlers. "They were vicious fighters... {and} frequently bit off noses and ears. This happened so often that a settler coming into the barroom after a fight would see an ear on the floor and ask, "Whose ear?"
- That Indian river men were so spectacularly successful in trouncing or "hushing" their adversaries in the brawling that was then common that they became known as "hushers," and eventually Hoosiers.
- A theory attributed to Gov. Joseph Wright derived Hoosier from an Indian word for corn, "hoosa." Indiana flatboat men taking corn or maize to New Orleans came to be known as "hoosa men" or Hoosiers. Unfortunately, a careful search of Indian vocabularies failed to reveal any such word for corn.

Today the word is used to denote an Indiana native or resident. Although the origin is uncertain, one thing is clear about the word – "Hoosier" and hospitality go hand in hand.

## **FAMOUSE HOOSIERS WITH INDIANAPOLIS CONNECTIONS**

- Larry Bird, President of Basketball Operations and former coach of the Indiana Pacers
- David Letterman, late night talk show host
- Jane Pauley, news personality
- Oscar Robertson, basketball legend
- Kenneth "Babyface" Edmonds, Grammy-winning songwriter
- James Witcomb Riley, poet
- Michael Graves, architect
- Benjamin Harrison, 23<sup>rd</sup> President of the United States



## **BRENDA WILLIAMS**

Brenda will be performing for our listening and dancing pleasure on Thursday evening during this year's reunion. The performance will be in the Hall of Champions Room at the Adams Mark Hotel (reunion hotel) beginning at 7pm. Brenda brings a variety of music from the 50's, 60's and 70's. This show should prove to be one of the highlights of this year's reunion, hope to see everyone there!

## **EDITORIAL**

Reunion 2007 in Indianapolis looks to be another great one. I know, from experience, the time and work that Dan and Sharon are putting in to make sure of that. Due to the 9/11 ceremonies here in New York, Ray and I will be arriving on September 12<sup>th</sup> and plan on enjoying every minute of the reunion activities.

I hope to see a lot of regular reunion attendees and perhaps some new faces will be joining us. Unfortunately, this year will see some changes, due to the loss of many of the Topeka shipmates. These losses give even more reason to come to Indianapolis and visit and reminisce on reunions past and share in the plans for the future.

Please make your reservations and send in your reunion registration form to Jack Timmons as soon as possible, deadline is August 13<sup>th</sup>.

Looking forward to seeing you all and enjoying another terrific reunion.

Regards,  
Kathy

## GOLF

Golfing information will be available on arrival at the reunion hotel.

## LETTER AND EMAILS

I got an Email from Ida Martin (FTCS Richard Martin 1961-64) a day or so ago.

Dick passed away on 16 February 2007. He has been sick for several years. He and Ida had been married 59 years.

Sorry to say we won't be able to make the reunion in Indianapolis. I'll be in Spokane for a routine visit to my cardiologist. No problems, just an annual check-up. We had hoped to visit a couple of old Navy friends on that trip as well.

There are 25 on this group and I'm sure I don't have all the FT's or WEPS people who might have known him. They will get the notice when it comes out in the next newsletter. Dick and Sid McLin really did a number on me when I made chief. I was the youngest chief, least time-in-service, and the only one in the increment not in Engineering.

The Baby Chief. What a kaleidoscope of memories at the chief's mess at Hunters Point.

All the best for now,  
Robby and Bell Robbins  
robby@valint.net

This is one of the most difficult messages I've ever had to forward. George was a special person. It was clear he was failing when we saw him last year in San Diego, but I had no idea he was failing this fast.

Jack Bock LTJG (62-65)

Dear Friends,

I am so sorry to have to tell you but I received a call from Mary Ann that George passed away this morning at 3 a.m. I think all of us knew that George and Mary Ann always had something special together and, of course, George had to be one of the all-time bestest, sweetest guys around. Mary Ann, being the super gal she is, kept him at home and comfortable with Hospice help. One of the caretaking magazines I get had a quote "you can scream at the sky all you want and it is still going to rain." Well, we can still scream. And, for me, who would have known such an early farewell would happen when we started on our journeys with our own Navy heroes so long ago. As of now, Mary Ann thought that she would wait until the fall to have a Celebration of George's Life - and it was an exceptionally kind and loving one....who can ever forget his chuckle, smile and twinkle in his eye.

I don't have email address for all of his Navy buddies and I wonder if Jack and B-52 (my name for Ruth) would let everyone know.

Take care and love,  
Loretta Ruby

## DISPLAYING OUR FLAG

The Flag Code, which formalizes and unifies the traditional ways in which we give respect to the flag, also contains specific instructions on how the flag is not to be used. They are:

The flag should never be dipped to any person or thing. It is flown upside down only as a distress signal.

The flag should not be used as a drapery, or for covering a speaker's desk, draping a platform or for any decoration in general. Bunting of blue, white and red stripes is available for these purposes. The blue stripe of the bunting should be on the top.

The flag should never be used for any advertising purposes.

The flag should not be used as part of a costume or athletic uniform, except that a flag patch may be used on the uniform of military personnel, firemen, policemen and members of patriotic organizations.

The flag must be taken down at dusk or illuminated at night.

When the flag is lowered, no part of it should touch the ground or any other object; it should be received by waiting hands and arms. To store the flag it should be folded neatly and ceremoniously.

When a flag is so worn it is no longer fit to serve as a symbol of our country, it should be destroyed by burning in a dignified manner. Most veteran's organizations regularly conduct a dignified flag burning ceremony.

***"ONE FLAG, ONE LAND, ONE HEART, ONE NATION, EVERMORE!"***

-Oliver Wendell Holmes



**USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION**  
**C/O KATHY SPATZ**  
**503 OLIVE BLVD.**  
**SOUTH HEMPSTEAD, NY 11550-8012**

First Class Prst.  
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**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](mailto:RAJTR@cox.net)

Board Members: Dudley Cass, Jerry Craig, Jack Connery,  
 Ken Noble, Ray Spatz

President  
 John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade #107, Redondo Beach, CA  
 90277; 310-540-7817; Email [canrc@verizon.net](mailto:canrc@verizon.net)

Secretary-Treasurer  
 Jack Timmons, 2661 Poinsettia Dr., San Diego, CA 92106-1121;  
 619-224-8928; Email [JETimmons@aol.com](mailto:JETimmons@aol.com)

2007 Reunion Coordinator  
 Dan Moore, 56619 Wedgwood N., Elkhart, IN 46516  
 574-295-5712; Email [dan56619@aol.com](mailto:dan56619@aol.com)

Newsletter Editor  
 Kathy Spatz, 503 Olive Blvd., So. Hempstead, NY 11550  
 516-385-5712; Email [kspatz@optonline.net](mailto:kspatz@optonline.net)

Webmaster  
 Ken Noble, 14019 Summer Bay Lane, Broomfield, CO 80020;  
 303-410-7150; Email [kwnoble@usstopekaig8.org](mailto:kwnoble@usstopekaig8.org)

Ships Store  
 Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207;  
 423-842-5147; Email [jlrob@aol.com](mailto:jlrob@aol.com)

**SHIPS STORE**

Most of the merchandise will be available in Indianapolis. 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.

**Ladies White Shirts**

Small, large	\$19.00
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**Polo 2003**

Navy/White XL, XXL	\$20.00
White/Navy XL, XXL	20.00
Navy w/pocket XXL	20.00

**Polo 2005**

Navy M, L	\$19.00
Med Blue L	19.00
Navy w/pocket M	19.00

**Jackets**

Old style	
Navy M – 1 left	\$30.00
2003 Micro Fiber	
Navy XL, XXL	\$36.00
Beige XL, XXL	36.00

**Assorted items available**

Ball Caps	\$12.00
Key Chains	1.00
Cold Drink Holders	4.00
Coffee mugs w/Topeka emblem	5.00
Topeka Note pads (5 pack)	4.00
License Plate Holder	3.00
Ship's Plaque(new design, w/name)	25.00

## INDIANAPOLIS, IN 2007 Reunion Highlights (Rev 2)

**Reunion Dates:** Wednesday, September 12, 2007 through Saturday, September 15, 2007, with most folks departing on Sunday, September 16, 2007. Eleven Airlines fly into Indianapolis. Try booking airlines early to get the best guaranteed rates.

**Hotel: Adam's Mark Indianapolis.** 2554 Executive Drive, Indianapolis, IN 46241. Sleeping Room Rates for Deluxe /Double, Handicapped Double or Deluxe King are \$79.00 Single, Double or Triple. The quoted rates are quoted exclusive of prevailing local lodging tax, currently 15%. Quoted rates are offered, based on availability, to our attendees Sunday, September 09, 2007 through Tuesday, September 18, 2007.

**Make Your Own Hotel Reservations.** Hotel Reservation **Deadline is August 13, 2007.** Please make reservations much earlier. Phone Number for Registrations: **317-248-2481 or toll free 1-800-444-2326.** Identify yourself as being a member of the USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association to receive the contracted rates. **If you use the toll free number, you will have to identify which hotel you are making reservations for. Reservations received after 30 days prior to the Reunion Start date will be on a space available basis and at the prevailing rates. Check-in time is 4 PM hotel time; checkout is 12 noon hotel time.** All reservations will be guaranteed with individual credit cards. In the event of a no show, one night's room and tax will be posted to that credit card. Adam's Mark Indianapolis is perfectly located, ¼ Mile from Indianapolis International Airport and eight minutes away from downtown Indy. The hotel has 407 Deluxe guest rooms and suites, which feature complimentary high speed internet access, plus top sleeping systems, voice mail, iron/ironing boards, hair dryer, room service and more.. There is a fitness center, and outdoor pool with sundeck. On the lobby level you can shop for unique gifts, local novelties and travel necessities at the gift shop. **Parking is free for registered guests.**

**Airport Transportation:** The hotel's web site says there is a Complimentary Airport Shuttle which can also be used for service to the immediate local area.

**Reunion Schedule:** We recommend you plan to arrive on Tuesday, because there are plenty of things you will want to do on Wednesday through Saturday. Most will plan a Sunday departure.

**Tours:** All tours leave from the Adam's Mark Indianapolis.

**Wednesday - September 12, 2007-Tour "A" Cost \$30 per person including bus transportation.**

**War Monuments Tour:** A tour of downtown Indianapolis' historic monuments. Some of the sites are: Soldiers and Sailors Monument including the Colonel Eli Lilly Civil War Museum, the American Legion Mall, USS Indianapolis, and the Congressional Medal of Honor Memorial which represents 3459 recipients of the Medal of Honor in 15 different conflicts from the Civil War through Somalia. Leave at 1 pm, return at 5 pm.

**Thursday - September 13, 2007 - Tour "B" Cost \$35 per person including bus transportation.**

**Indianapolis Motor Speedway & Museum Tour:** See one of the world's largest, most varied collections of racing, classic and antique cars, featuring more than 30 Indianapolis 500 winning cars. The Tony Holman Theatre presents a 20-minute film depicting the history of the track and race highlights. The tour includes the entrance fee to the museum and a bus tour around the track. Leave at 9 am, return at 1:30 pm.

**Thursday-September 13, 2007- Tour C. Cost: \$20 per person.**

Join us for a relaxing evening of live music, entertainment and dancing (If you so desire) in the Hall of Champions Room located on the main floor of the Adams Mark Hotel.

**Brenda Williams** is a jazz vocalist in the Indianapolis area and has performed everywhere from singing the National Anthem for the President of the United States and many professional sports teams to

## **Indianapolis IN 2007 Reunion Highlights (continued) (Rev 2)**

the American Cabaret Theatre. Brenda has been an opening act for other great performers such as Ray Charles, The Beach Boys, Lee Greenwood, and Chuck Mangione. Brenda has been spotlighted in the Indianapolis Woman Magazine, and has been slated to be one of the top people to watch in 2003 by the Indianapolis Star newspaper. She was also the second runner-up for Mrs. America, along with being noted with awards from the Actors Equity Association. Brenda brings a variety of music, entertainment and energy to the stage that will have you begging for more. She will be performing a number of songs from the 50's, 60's and 70's per our request. She will be performing from 7:00 until 10:00 pm.

**Friday – September 14, 2007 - Tour “D”.** Cost \$65 per person including bus transportation, and lunch. **Connor Prairie Visit.** Journey back to long ago and experience how life has changed. Travel to Indian camp, 1836 pioneer village, Victorian farm, hands-on discovery area, historic house and gardens. Connor Prairie is a fabulous outdoor living history experience. Workers and guides are dressed in early 1800 attire. A tram is available to move to and from attraction areas. The tour includes the entrance fee to Connor Prairie and a 19<sup>th</sup> century lunch prepared with a commentary. All dishes included in the buffet style lunch are made from early 1800 recipes. The included lunch menu includes: Fine bean soup, Roast pork & Sauerkraut, Corn pudding, Stewed apples, Corn bread & butter, Vinegar pie, Mint tea, coffee & water  
Leave at 9:30 am, return at 4:30 pm.

**Friday Evening - September 14:** No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM. - Friday Buffet Dinner 7:00 PM. Featuring Mid West Hoosier Barbeque with three entrees including Tri colored pasta salad, Pulled Pork Bar B queue served with buns, Deep Fried Catfish with hushpuppies, Beef Burgundy with Mushrooms. Also serving chilled watermelon on ice, mixed green salad with 3 choices of dressing, corn cobettes, Chuck wagon beans, Roasted New potatoes, Buttermilk biscuits, Corn muffins, Chef's dessert table, Coffee, Decaf, Tea and Iced tea. Hospitality Suite will be closed from 6:00 PM until after the dinner.

**Saturday Morning - September 15: 9:00 AM Reunion Association Business Meeting** in the Hospitality Suite. We have no members of the Board intending to retire, so current board members may/will be nominated for reelection. Presenters for the previously proposed site for the 2008 Reunion (East Coast Reunion) should be prepared to make a good presentation. Nominations will be accepted for the 2009 Reunion which should be another West Coast Reunion.

**Board of Directors Meeting: To be held as the Chairman of the Board Directs** to elect the President and replacement Secretary/Treasurer and to conduct what ever other business needs to be brought before the Board.

**Saturday Morning** – Time to be determined: Group Photos. Rest of the day on your own.

**Saturday Evening, September 15:** No Host Cocktail Hour 6:00 PM. Banquet Dinner 7:00 PM. The dinner menu includes Mixed Green Salad (With choice of dressings), Entrée: Choice of 10 Oz. Prime Rib Or Grilled Salmon with a Citrus Sauce Or Vegetarian Plate choices of Ratatouille in Phyla Cup, Served with a Couscous Salad Or Wild Mushroom & Goat Cheese Strudel, and Chef's Selection of Market Fresh Vegetables, and Baked Potato (Condiments include Butter & Sour Cream on the side), and Seasonal Vegetables. Dessert is Cheesecake with Strawberry Sauce. There will be freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee & Assorted Hot Teas. Wine choices (served at table) include Chardonnay, Cabernet Sauvignon, Merlot or White Zinfandel.

The Hospitality Suite will be closed from prior to 6:00 PM until after the dinner. Please come to the 2007 Indianapolis, IN Reunion and have a good time with our shipmates and other long term friends.

# USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Form

Indianapolis, Indiana – September 12 thru 15, 2007 (Sept 16, 2007 departure for most)

(Rev 2)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Plankowner? \_\_\_\_\_ Number in Party \_\_\_\_\_  
**Staying at the Adam's Mark Indianapolis (Yes/No)** \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact: Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_.

Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? \_\_\_\_\_

Names for Nametag(s) (if you have not previously received permanent nametags):

**Reunion Fee:** The Reunion Fee includes the cost of the Hospitality Suite, the Friday Night Buffet Dinner, the Saturday Night Banquet, and all other fixed costs of the reunion. Reunion Fee for adults attending all four days Wednesday thru Saturday: \$120. For those not attending all four days, \$10 for Wednesday, \$10 for Thursday, \$45 for Friday, and \$55 for Saturday. Children age 2 and under free. Children (3 to 12) \$20 for Friday and/or Saturday if attending the Buffet and/or Dinner Banquet, if the child's plate is selected. Otherwise, if the child elects to eat adult food, Teenager prices (defined below) apply. For Teenagers and children who eat adult food: \$35 for the Friday Buffet Dinner and \$45 for the Saturday Banquet. No charge for children or teenagers unless attending the Friday Buffet Dinner or Saturday Banquet. There are provisions for Guests for the dinners only, and no use of the hospitality room. Adult guests are \$40 for Friday Buffet dinner and \$50 for the Saturday Banquet and Program. These Adult guest prices are for your added guests, not for you and your spouse. Members and spouses who intend to use the Hospitality Suite pay regular prices.

Days Attending	Number Attending	Price	Cost
All Four Days	_____	\$120	_____
Not All Four Days			
Wednesday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Thursday	_____	\$ 10	_____
Friday	_____	\$ 45	_____
Saturday	_____	\$ 55	_____
Adult guest Friday @Buffet Only	_____	\$ 40	_____
Adult guest Saturday @Dinner Only	_____	\$ 50	_____
Children at Fri Buffet (child's plate)	_____	\$ 20	_____
Children at Sat Banquet (child plate)	_____	\$ 20	_____
Teenagers at Fri Buffet dinner	_____	\$ 35	_____
Teenagers at Banquet	_____	\$ 45	_____

Reunion Fee Total \_\_\_\_\_

Banquet Entrée Choices (Give Number(s))

Prime Rib of Beef \_\_\_\_\_ Grilled Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian \_\_\_\_\_

Child's Plate (ages 3 to 12) \_\_\_\_\_ Children under 2 Free \_\_\_\_\_

(Continued on Reverse Side)

**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Registration Indianapolis, IN 2007 (continued) (Rev 2)**

<b><u>Group Events:</u></b>	<b><u>Number</u></b>	<b><u>PRICE</u></b>	<b><u>COST</u></b>
<u>September 12, 2007-Wednesday-Tour "A"</u> - War Monument Tour: afternoon tour 1 pm to 5 pm. Bus and tour guide included.	_____	<b>\$30</b>	_____
<u>September 13, 2007-Thursday - Tour "B"</u> – Indianapolis Motor Speedway & Museum Tour departing at 9 am returning approximately 1:30pm. Museum and track tour included.	_____	<b>\$35</b>	_____
<u>September 13, 2007-Thursday-Tour "C"</u> – Music, Dancing and Entertainment in the Hall of Champions Room in the Adams Mark Hotel.	_____	<b>\$20</b>	_____
<u>September 14, 2007- Friday - Tour "D"</u> – Connor Prairie visit. Depart at 9:30 am, return at 4:30 pm. Includes a 19 <sup>th</sup> century lunch.	_____	<b>\$65</b>	_____
Tours Cost Total			_____
Add: Reunion Fees from other side:			_____
Reunion fees and Tours Cost: <b>Total Cost</b>			_____

**Deadline for payment of the above costs is August 13, 2007**

While we want you to come, any registrations received past August 13, 2007 will be more difficult. There are deadlines that have to be met for the tours and payments have to be made to the hotel and tour company. Do the best you can. We will work with you to make your reunion a success.

Please make checks payable to: **USS Topeka (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc.** Please make a copy of the completed form for your files. Mail this form and the check for payment to:

**Jack E. Timmons  
2661 POINSETTIA DR.  
SAN DIEGO, CA 92106-1121**