

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 18, No. 3

November 2007

Officers:

John Reynolds, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Clare Smart, Secretary-Treasurer; Ray Spatz, 2008 Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master



FROM THE PRESIDENT

While cleaning out some of my old files I came across a commendation that our skipper Capt. Buell had sent to the crew. I thought you might be interested in reading about some of the things we did in our deployments.

1. The USS Topeka (CLG 8) has recently concluded a six-month deployment to the Western Pacific. Assigned to the U.S. SEVENTH FLEET during this period, she successfully completed various assignments and operations, including "Operation Double Eagle" in support of United States and Allied forces in Vietnam.
2. The success with which Topeka has completed her assignments and operations is attributable to the individual and team efforts of officers and men. This was expressed by Rear Admiral T.S. King, jr., Commander Cruiser-Destroyer Group, Seventh Fleet, in the following message on the occasion of Topeka's departure from the Western Pacific:

A CRUISER IS MORE THAN
JUST ANOTHER SHIP IN
WESTPAC. FOR
THE PAST FIVE MONTHS
TOPEKA HAS BEEN CALLED
ON TO PERFORM MANY
TASKS: NAVAL GUNFIRE
SUPPORT, SEARCH AND
RESCUE, GUIDED MISSILE
SHIP, FLAGSHIP FOR TWO
STAFFS, RADAR
SURVEILLANCE,

COMMUNICATIONS
PLATFORM, HELICOPTER
PLATFORM, AND A HOME
AWAY FROM HOME FOR A
THOUSND OF THE NATION'S
FIGHTING MEN.

IN ALL OF THESE TASKS,
YOUR OFFICERS AND MEN
HAVE PERFORMED SUPERBLY,
WITH HIGH MORALE. THE
TREMENDOUS CONTRIBUTION
TOPEKA HAS MADE TO THE
NAVY'S OPERATIONS IS THE
RESULT OF THE TEAMWORK,
SKILL, AND SACRIFICE OF
EVERY MAN ON BOARD.

WE WISH YOU A PLEASANT
TRIP HOME TO A WELL
DESERVED REUNION WITH
LOVED ONES.

3. The manner in which you have performed you duties has materially contributed to this effort. Your performance, professional skill, perseverance, and devotion to duty have been in keeping with the highest traditions of the naval service. You have served your ship, your Navy, and your country well. I take pleasure in commending you for a job 'well done.'
T.C.
Buell



WHO CAME TO INDIANAPOLIS

ARAGON, Jesse J.	L. Catherine
ARPS, Kenneth L.	Jean M.
BAKER, Gary P.	Patricia Ann
BENNETT, James M.	Sharon J.
BLAESER, John J.	
BOND, Robert A.	
BROOKS, Phillip J.	Susan
BUTCHER, Parker L.	Connie K.
CAMPBELL, Gary	Lana A.
CASS, Dudley E.	Ruth E. Cass
CRAIG, Jerry D.	Judy G.
CRANE, Walter J.	
DAVIDOVICH, Walter L.	
DWORZNIK, Paul J.	
GUSTAFSON, Albert H.	
HALL, Steven D.	Sandra A. (Sandy)
HENSLEE, "Jim" (James) T.	Peggy
HIGHT, Michael L.	Carol A.
JONES, Terry L.	Pat
JUDGE, Mrs. Ruth A..	
KASTER, Max J.	Linda R.
KEEPPER, John H.	
LADD, Calvin E.	Joan M.
LAUER, Roger E.	
LEE, Thomas W.	Martha A.
LEWIS, Roger V.	Elizabeth L. Shaw
LOUDEN, Lewis E.	Alva M.
LUEVANO, Eddie	Irma
MINKS, Charles E.	
MOORE, Dan Daniel B.	Sharon B.
NIX, Loy V.	
OHM, Robert "Bob" L.	
PFLIEGER, "Jim" James E.	
RAMSEY, Richard W.	
REYNOLDS, John D.	Mary V.
ROBERTS, Mrs. Linda	
SERVIN, LeRoy H.	Pauline
SMART, Ronald C.	Clare
SPATZ, Raymond	Kathy
TIMMONS, Jack E.	Jean
TIPTON, Tracy	Sandra
VASALLO, Felix C.	Lilibeth C.
WALLACE, Richard C.	Ellen
WHEATLEY, Ben A.	Joan
ZIMMERMAN, "Bud"	Ellen
Weldon K.	



PLEASE NOTE THAT I CAN ONLY INSERT MINIMUM PICTURES, SEE MORE ON THE TOPEKA WEBSITE.

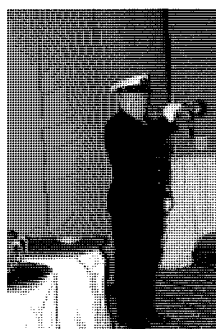
New Members

(Since June 2007)

Arthur J. LeSuer FTM3 (65-67) Alexandria, MN
 Donald Ray MM2 (59-63) Wichita Falls, TX
 Robert Sheldon BT2 (63-65) Branson, CO
 Vic Peco BM3 (66-69) Crestwood, IL
 Charles Rublaitus MM3 (60-63) Branson, MO
 David Clink MM2 (68-69) Fort Washington, MD
 Robert Wog SK3 (59-61) Galatin, TN
 Charles Minks EM3 (59-62) Owanco, IL
 Paul Giammona RD2 (65-68) Virginia Beach VA

TAPS

Ted Parker BM3 10/05/04
 Robert McCullough GM1
 Ronald Malone RM3 08/08/06
 A.D. (Doug) Haigh Jr. LCDR 06/19/07



LETTERS

Following is an excerpt from a wonderful letter I received 11/01 from Jerry Pennington regarding the recent fires in the San Diego area.

Dear Topeka Friends,

Leanne and I live in Fallbrook, which is in the North County on the back side of Camp Pendleton. Last Sunday (Oct. 21) the Santa Ana winds started blowing. They blow from east to west some 50 to 65 mph.

By early Monday morning a fire had started about 5 miles east of us and was moving west toward I-15 freeway. By late afternoon it had jumped the freeway and was burning toward Fallbrook. Firefighters were working on the fire, with ground crews and air drops from helicopters and fixed wing aircraft, but the winds were so strong they made little headway. Early in the morning of Tuesday the 23rd the winds started to die down and by 2:00pm that day the had stopped altogether and by that evening and the next morning the offshore wind from the ocean started gently blowing from west to east, virtually stopping the fire. I think, if the wind had not stopped when it did, we would have lost more homes.

I work as a Senior Volunteer with the San Diego County Sheriff's Department and was called in to work early Monday morning. At the same time a reverse 911 call was sent out to most of Fallbrook to evacuate. We did not evacuate, I took Leanne to the Sheriff's station in Fallbrook, which is about the safest place in town. She worked there helping to feed the deputies, other law enforcement people who were coming in from all over the state and the volunteers. I ended up working the entire week. The volunteers patrolled the hills and brush areas looking for fires and for suspicious persons or vehicles and helping other citizens. The town was virtually locked down for four days.

We also did damage assessment in the burned areas, as there were over 200 homes lost in and around Fallbrook. The fire came within a mile of our home and we feel very fortunate it didn't go further.

The firefighters and police did a great job and by Wednesday the National Guard moved in with hundreds of soldiers. They are still here.

Jerry Pennington

REUNION 2008

Ray and I are working on the hotel site for the San Antonio reunion. As some of you past reunion coordinators know, not always an easy task.

We will surely have the location by years end and will inform all in the next newsletter and sooner on the Topeka website. In the mean while read on about some of the exciting sites available in and around San Antonio.

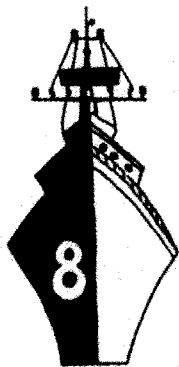
San Antonio captures the spirit of Texas. Now the eighth largest city in the United States, the city has retained its sense of history and tradition, while carefully blending in cosmopolitan progress. The city has always been a crossroads and a meeting place. Sounds and flavors of Native Americans, Old Mexico, Germans, the Wild West, African-Americans and the Deep South mingle and merge. Close to twenty million visitors a year delight in the discovery of San Antonio's charms.

A tour of downtown San Antonio will uncover centuries of history, including:

- La Villita, one of the original settlements was comprised of Spanish soldiers and their families.
- The Spanish Governor's Palace, which was the seat of government when San Antonio was the capital of the Spanish Province of Texas
- The San Fernando Cathedral, whose construction was started in 1731 by Canary Islanders
- The Jose Antonio Navarro State Historical Park, home of Navarro, a central figure in the formation of Texas
- Market Square, the largest Mexican marketplace outside of Mexico
- And the Steves Homestead, a mansion open to the public in the King William Historic District.
- A short drive to the historic missions. Start your adventure at the Visitors Center at Mission San Jose and explore the other jewels of San Antonio's mission period.
San Antonio Missions National Historical Park

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION
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SHIPS STORE

Most of the merchandise will be available in San Antonio. 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