

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 21, No. 1

March 2010

Officers:

**John Reynolds, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Dudley Cass, Secretary-Treasurer;
Ruth & Dudley Cass, Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master**



FROM THE PRESIDENT

San Francisco here we come!

Things are looking good. The Double Tree Hotel is at the airport and the shuttle will pick us up at no cost and take you to the hotel. The Bart is handy and will take you pretty much anywhere you want to go. Dudley and Ruth have lined up some great tours for us. Scheduling the tours has been a bit of a problem. They want their money up front so we have to guess how many will be on each tour. Please if you know which tours you will be going on sign up for them as soon as possible. It's a bit scary trying to order buses etc. and hope that it will all work out ok. Once we order the buses if they don't fill up we have to pay for them. I know it's hard sometimes to know at what point you want to order your tours, but hopefully we can work it all out before we have to lose money.

A buffet breakfast comes complimentary each morning, which helps out a little on the wallet.

It's been a while since I have hit the streets of San Francisco, but it will bring up lots of memories of the days we were at Hunters Point. I am looking forward to seeing you all again, and hope you will be able to make it to reunion #21. The trip through the wine country will make it all worth while. I have made that trip a couple of times, and its one trip you want to make when somebody else is doing the driving. Thank God for busses. See you all in Frisco.

JR

HAPPY ST. PATRICK'S DAY TO ALL!



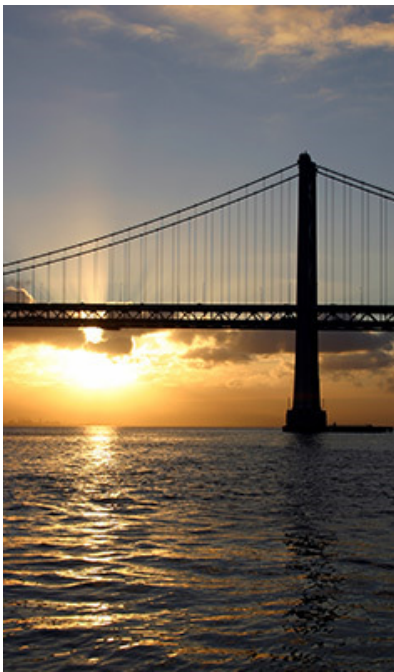
NEW MEMBERS (since November 2009)

Albert Brown SF1 65-66 Ashley, OH
Mike C. Wallace FTM3 66-67 Black Mountain, NC
John Mitchell LTJG 66-67 Frankfort, OH
Philip Cinelli MR3 60-62 Marlton, NJ
Gus Wickstrom RD3 68-69 Monroeville, PA
Jerre Ott EM3 68-69 San Diego, CA
Michael Crowell SN 60-63 Centuria WI
Ken Svoboda EM3 64-66 Fairbanks, AK
Steve Waclo FT3 63-65 Carson City, NV

TAPS

Frank Singer CWO 60-64 San Diego, CA (2010)
Robert Schramm GSC 61-62 Orange, CA (2009)
Archie Staines BT3 60-63 Burbank, CA (2002)
David Bills SN 60-63 London, OH (2009)
James Tracy BT3 64-66 Menifee, CA (2009)





The park is cool, shaded and moist year round. Daytime temperatures at Muir Woods average between 40 and 70 degrees Fahrenheit.

Join us for this spectacular tour on Friday, September 17th.

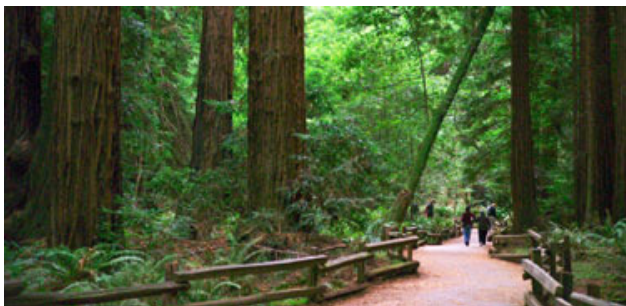


DINNER DANCE CRUISE

WHAT YOU GET

- 2.5-hour yacht cruise
- Three-course dinner with choice of entrée and dessert
- Wine and cocktails available for purchase on board
- Live music and dancing
- Scenic San Francisco Bay views

Join the Topeka Reunion on Thursday, September 16th for an awesome opportunity to enjoy the scenery while dining and dancing the evening away!



MUIR WOODS NATIONAL MONUMENT

Muir Woods National Monument is a part of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), one of the largest urban national parks in the world. GGNRA was established in 1972 and contains 75,398 acres extend from Tomales Bay in Marin County to San Mateo County in the south, encompassing 59 miles of shoreline - one of the nation's largest coastal preserves.

GLORIA FERRER WINERY

During the 2010 reunion join us in a Sonoma Winery Tour on Wednesday, September 15th. We will travel through Sonoma and tour the Viansa, Jacuzzi and Gloria Ferrer wineries.

For more than 20 years, Gloria Ferrer Caves & Vineyards—the first sparkling wine house in the Sonoma Carneros region—has invited visitors to discover cool-climate wines served with warm Spanish hospitality.

Owned by the Ferrer family, whose wine experience is rooted in 19th century Spain, our winery is a vibrant blend of Catalan and California mission design. We cultivate fruit for our premium quality sparkling and still wines in our 335 acres of estate vineyards distinguished by warm days, cool nights, summer fog and a long growing season that coaxes grapes to maturity slowly and consistently, with balanced sugar and acidity. Our Vineyard Manager Mike Crumly and Winemaker Bob Iantosca, both of whom have worked for Gloria Ferrer from its inception, have devoted more than two decades to identifying the diverse soil types, microclimates and specific needs of every vine in their care.

Please email Dudley Cass, DUDCASS@AOL.COM Before April 1st and let him know which tours you will be going on. (See note "HELP" in the reunion highlights pages)

Ed Note: Several Topeka stories from the past have been submitted to Jack Connery for inclusion in a

revision of The Baka Hachi, The revision was never completed. This is the first of several of these stories that will be included in future issues of this newsletter.

1959: Sailors Learn to Look for Bargains

When the first commissioning crewmembers went aboard Topeka in the Brooklyn Naval Shipyard in mid-winter, 1959-60, it was like an icebox. The ever-resourceful Chief Abernathy of the Commissary Department soon convinced the shipyard workers that the first piece of equipment installed should be a 50-gallon steam jacketed copper kettle. This was done and each day the copper was filled with hot steaming coffee or hot soup. It became the focal point for sailors and workers alike and facilitated many projects being done without benefit of official paperwork. One of the projects undertaken and completed was the construction of the Brass Rail Lounge. The lounge was located on the starboard side of the mess deck and in front of the soft ice cream (gedunk) machine. Several tables were located there, and the whole area was enclosed in 3-inch brass tubing which was mounted on 3-foot high stanchions. Red and white checkered tablecloths graced the tables as well as serving as drapes or skirts for the brass tubing. The lounge provided a comfortable area where sailors could relax and enjoy refreshments. Many visitors over the years inquired about the brass rails. The standard "sailor answer" was, "Don't know, they were here when I came aboard." Three battle cruisers, the Guam, Hawaii and Alaska, were constructed toward the end of WWII. Only one had been placed in commission. The other two, still uncompleted, were in the Reserve Fleet in Bayonne, NJ and were destined for scrap. Topeka sailors got the OK to go aboard and look for things that Topeka could use. One of the things they brought home was 150 feet of 3-inch brass voice tube. This, with a little bit of shipyard cumshaw help, became the brass rails.

Among other items removed from the battle cruisers were the barber chairs. These chairs were distinctive since they were not Navy specification, but were civilian chairs. They boasted red leather seats and backs, ivory porcelain arms and an ornate iron footrest. Because of the chairs and the expertise of Topeka barbers, we thought we had the classiest barbershop in the fleet.

It was this sailor ingenuity that made us different from the other LGs. Baka Hachi thinking was already taking over.

Vince Manion, LCDR Supply Officer (59-62)

Topeka Today, Tomorrow, Always

Ed Note: Clare Smart received this letter, with a check for dues, and forwarded it to me for processing. I enjoyed the letter and want to share it with you all, Dudley Cass

"23 Nov. '09

Dear Mrs. Smart,

Please forgive my lateness. I think of the Topeka CLG-8 all of the time but I do have poor secretarial skills. Anyway here I am, I wish you and your family and the Topeka family the very best and certainly a very happy and joyous Holiday Season.

I was a member of the Commissioning Crew in 1960 at Brooklyn Navy Yard. I was very proud to be associated with the many outstanding shipmates aboard Topeka. I was Second-in-Charge of the Signal Gang (SM1) and I certainly enjoyed my tour. Captain Pinney was the CO. Operation Officer was CDR Thompson, SMC Wilferd was in charge of the Signal Bridge.

Anyway keep up the good work that you are doing and give my best to all members of the crew that you come in contact with. I went back aboard the Topeka when she came to GTMO sometime between '67 and '70. At that time I was an instructor with the Fleet Training Group.

Yours truly,

Maurice H. Delancy, SMC Retired

"Topeka today, Topeka tomorrow, Topeka always!"

ARMED FORCES RETIREMENT HOME (AFRH)

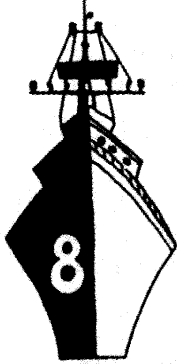
Our newer members may not be aware of our donations to AFRH. Years ago, we had a shipmate who was a resident at the AFRH in Gulfport, Mississippi. In his honor, we started an annual donation to the AFRH to be used for the Welfare/Recreation of the residents. Katrina wiped out the Gulfport AFRH, and now we contribute to the AFRH in Washington, D.C. We made a \$500 donation last year. You can donate to the AFRH when you pay your dues – just add a few dollars to the dues check and it will go the AFRH fund.



Campus Grounds

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



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 John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade #107, Redondo Beach, CA 90277; 310-540-7817; Email canrc@verizon.net

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Ships Store
 Linda Roberts, 7315 Valley Lane, Hixson, TN 37343-2207; 423-842-5147; Email ijlrob@aol.com

SHIPS STORE

Most of the merchandise will be available in San Francisco. 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. (Items subject to change)

Ladies Shirts	
White	\$19.00
Cardigan Baby Blue	\$20.00
Scoop Neck Blue	\$16.00
V-Neck L. Pink & Pistachio	\$16.00
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
Red w/pocket M	21.00
Men's Shirts	
Dessert Moon	34.00
Nike Blue	31.00
Jackets	
Red Jackets	\$36.00
Ping-Canvas	\$48.00
Assorted items available	
Ball Caps	\$12.00
Cold Drink Holders	4.00
Coffee mugs w/Topeka emblem	5.00
Topeka Note pads (5 pack)	4.00
License Plate Holder	3.00

Reunion San Francisco September 14-18 2010

San Francisco, here we come! We've been to San Diego, Long Beach, Portland, and Seattle – now for the Jewel of the West Coast! San Francisco is rich in history from the Great Quake, the construction of the Western end of the first continental railroad, thru the Gold Rush days, the building of the Golden Gate Bridge, and into the present with the development of nearby Silicon Valley, the high-tech industrial capitol of the world. and is beautifully located - surrounded on three sides by the Pacific Ocean and the San Francisco Bay, near the famous wine country of Napa and Sonoma valleys, the Giant Sequoia forests at Muir Woods to the North, and at the Santa Cruz area to the South, Come, see your shipmates, and enjoy San Francisco!

The date for the reunion is Tuesday Sep 14 thru Saturday Sep 18 2010. Mid-September weather is fine in the San Francisco area! We can expect sunny days and very comfortable temperatures. You may like a light jacket or sweater for the evenings.

Reunion Tours and Events

Tour/Event	Day	Time	Comment
Hosp. Room	Tue	PM	Setup and Open Hosp Room
Sonoma Wineries	Wed	9a-3p	Tastings and tour
Board Meeting	Wed	4p	Board business meeting
City Tour	Thu	9a-3p	Highlights of San Francisco
Harbor Dinner Cruise	Thu	5p-11p	California Hornblower
Muir Woods Tour	Fri	9a-3p	Lunch/shop stop Sausalito
Friday Buffet	Fri	6p-8p	Cocktail hour, "Home at the Ranch" Buffet
Membership Meeting	Sat	9a-11a	Group photos after meeting
Saturday Banquet	Sat	6p-9p	Cocktail hour, banquet, program

The hotel is the Doubletree Hotel San Francisco Airport in Burlingame, 17 miles from downtown SFran, and 2 miles south of the SFran airport on Airport Blvd. The hotel provides 24/7 shuttle service (free) to and from the airport.

The hotel room rate is \$119 per night, single or double occupancy, (\$129 triple, \$139 quad) (plus 11.5% room tax) and includes a full breakfast buffet at no extra charge Wednesday thru Saturday morning. The \$119 room rate is available for 2 days before/after the reunion date, subject to availability. The sleeping rooms are large, well furnished, have very comfortable beds, and an excellent guest-controlled heating/AC system. The fifth floor has smoking guest rooms – the rest of the hotel interior is non-smoking. Handicap rooms are available. Hotel wheel-chairs are available for guests arriving or departing the hotel. 24/7 wheel-chairs must be arranged by the guest. Banquet/buffet/business-meeting rooms are on the first floor and open out to the courtyard where smoking is permitted. **See the reverse side of the registration form for hotel reservation information.**

Our Hospitality room is the 1350 sq ft Presidential Suite, which is very nicely furnished and decorated and has a wet bar. The Hospitality room will be setup Tuesday and will be open for check-ins Tuesday afternoon and evening, and will be open 7 am to 11 pm Wednesday thru Saturday, except during the Friday evening buffet and the Saturday evening banquet. The Hosp. Rm is where we visit, relax, swap sea-stories, look at cruise books. Coffee, beverages (alcoholic and non-alcoholic) and snacks will be available.

The hotel restaurant is excellent. We had breakfast, lunch, and dinner there and were pleased with the menu, prices, and quality of food and service. Our Friday buffet, and the Saturday banquet will be at the hotel. The menus:
Friday Buffet – Marinated Santa Maria Tri-Tip, BBQ Chicken Breast, Salad(s), Vegetables, Dessert, Coffee and Tea.
Saturday Banquet – Spinach Salad, choice of Entrees; Prime Rib, Dore Fillet of Petrale Sole, Stuffed Chicken Breast, or Vegetarian; Double-baked potato, vegetable, Dessert. Coffee, tea, choice of wine (by glass). No-host bar at both the events.

With advance notice, free RV parking (no hookups, limited number) is available nearby for hotel guests. Auto parking for guests is \$5 per day. A jogging/walking trail along the bay shore is just back of the hotel, as well as a golf driving range.

Airport Blvd, a short "hotel circle" containing about 8-10 large hotels and Benihana and Elephant Bar restaurants, is East of Hwy 101 along the bay - West of Hwy 101 is the Burlingame residential and business area.

Burlingame is a small town with lots of shops and restaurants, about 1-2 miles from the hotel. A Burlingame shuttle bus (free) runs every 45 minutes between the "hotel circle" and the Burlingame business district for those who will enjoy the small-town atmosphere for a leisurely walk and eating or shopping near our hotel.

We will be offering bus tours to downtown and other areas near SFran, but I'm sure we have members who will want to "do-the-town" on their own. For those, there is a BART station located at the airport, which provides excellent transportation to downtown SFran. Takes 32 minutes to go downtown to the Embarcadero station on Market Street. Costs \$8.10 one way regular rate – Senior Rate (65+) is just over \$3. BART runs about once an hour.

The Embarcadero is near the Oakland Bay bridge and near the heart of the downtown area. For 75 cents, seniors can take the MUNI F trolley out to the Fisherman's Wharf, which is one of the tourist favorites of San Francisco - lots of shops, restaurants, and near the famous cable cars of SFran. Double-decker tour buses operate out of Fisherman's Wharf for tours of the city – you can get off anywhere along the route and then reboard a later bus to continue the tour.

Tour Details: For the below tours, all admission, tasting charges, bridge tolls, and driver/guide-narrator gratuities are included in the price. The cost for your lunch is not included.

"A" Sonoma Winery Tour - Wednesday, September 15 9am-3pm

Bus to the Sonoma area for tastings at the Viansa, Jacuzzi, and Gloria Ferrer wineries and a tour at one of the wineries. Viansa features an Italian Marketplace, a wide choice of wines, a picnic area with a great view, and olive oil. Gloria Ferrer features sparkling wines – Sonoma Brut was one of their wines rated 90+ points. Jacuzzi (yes, it's the same family who built the hot-tubs) features Italian Varietals and olive oil. You can "google" these wineries on the internet. You will see beautiful vineyards, tour a winery, and taste some of California's best wines. Lunch stop near the Viansa winery. **Price (includes tasting fees) \$75 per person.**

"B" San Francisco Deluxe City Tour – Thursday, September 16 9am-3pm

Highlights of San Francisco including (but not limited to): Twin Peaks(PS), Mission Dolores, Lombard Street, Painted Ladies, Haight/Asbury, Palace of Fine Arts(PS), Golden Gate Park, Golden Gate Bridge Vista Point(PS). Note: PS indicates Photo-Stop. Pier 39 – 1.5 hour stop for lunch and shopping. Includes guide/narration.

Price \$50 per person.

"C" Hornblower Harbor Dinner Cruise – Thursday, Sep 16 Leave hotel 5:30pm – return hotel approx 10:30pm

Custom built in New Orleans in 1988, California Horn blower is one of the West Coast's largest and most luxurious dining yacht. 183 feet long, the ship features three spacious decks, mahogany bars, expansive promenade decks and a sky deck atop the vessel. The Hornblower departs Pier 3 at 7 pm, cruises from Pier 3 to the Golden Gate Bridge, returns to the Pier at 9:30pm. The dinner served: **Salad** – Avocado, Endive and Israeli Cous Cous Salad with Lemon Cilantro Vinaigrette. **Entrée (choice of one)** Chicken Breast Stuffed with Pesto, Feta and Provolone Cheese with Citrus Kalamata Olive and Tomato Salsa and Almond Rice Pilaf, **OR** : Spinach Basil Gnocchi with Sautéed Escarole and Broccoli Rabe and Lemon Asiago Cream. **Dessert:** Chef's Choice. **Price (includes transportation): \$120 per person.**

"D" Muir Woods National Monument – Sausalito Tour – Friday, September 17 9am-3pm

We have William Kent to thank for what is now Muir Woods National Monument, home of groves of Coastal Redwood, the tallest trees in the world (the tallest recorded to date is 379 feet tall – tall as a 35 story building). In 1905 Kent bought the Muir Woods property, 611 acres, for \$45,000. In 1907, he donated 295 acres, the core of the redwood forest, to the federal government, to thwart the city of Sausalito in a plan to dam the Redwood Creek and destroy the redwoods. In 1908 Teddy Roosevelt proclaimed it a National Monument. Come and see for yourself the beauty and magnificence of these sequoias! For easy walking, there is 1.5 miles of "almost flat" trail. 2 wheel-chairs are available for visitors on a first-come – first-serve basis. Smoking allowed only in the parking lot and the entrance plaza. After Muir Woods you will visit Sausalito for a 1.5 hour lunch/shopping tour. **Price \$50 per person.**

HELP! I need to know if you plan on coming, or not, by the first of April. Please email me, or mail a copy of the registration telling me your "intent" on coming to the reunion, and how many of your party will go on each tour. No commitment or money required right now. September is the peak of the visitor and convention business in San Francisco, and bus transportation gets scarce! Bus transportation has to be booked and reserved, and deposit paid soon. I need feedback from you NOW to determine how many bus seats I need to contract for. If you email, just send me your name, how many in your party, and how many seats you need for each of the tours "A", "B", "C", and "D". Email to DUDCASS@AOL.COM or mail to my address on the registration form. . If you're Not Coming, I'd like to know why. Thanks.

USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Association, Inc. Registration Rev. 1
21st Annual Reunion, San Francisco, CA September 14-18, 2010

Name _____ Number in party _____

Staying at the Double Tree Hotel San Francisco Airport? _____

What nights? Check: Tue ___ Wed ___ Thu ___ Fri ___ Sat ___ Sun ___ More? y/n

Emergency Contact: Name _____ Phone (____) _____

Any Handicap and/or Special Dietary Requirements? _____

Name(s) for nametag(s) (if you haven't previously received permanent nametag): _____

Reunion Fee: The Reunion Fee includes the fixed costs of the reunion (e.g. Bartenders at the Buffet and Banquet, Event liability insurance, rooms for Reunion Coordinator and Sect/Treas, and Banquet guests – Speaker and Color Guard), and the costs of snacks and beverages in Hospitality Room, the Friday night Buffet, and the Saturday night Banquet.

Tuesday is the setup day for the hospitality room which will be available in the afternoon and evening for those checking in on Tuesday. No charge for Tuesday. Reunion Fee (per person) for members/adult-guests attending all four days (Wed thru Sat): \$120. For those members/adult-guests not attending all four days: \$10 for Wed; \$10 for Thu; \$45 for Fri; \$55 for Sat. Adult/Teens/Children Guests for the buffet and banquet only: Friday Buffet Dinner: \$40/40/20; Saturday Banquet Dinner: \$50/38/19.

	Number Attending	Price	Cost
		(Per Person)	
<u>Members and Adult-Guests, All four days</u>			
	_____	\$120	\$_____
<u>Members and Adult-Guests, Not all four days</u>			
Wednesday	_____	\$10	\$_____
Thursday	_____	\$10	\$_____
Friday	_____	\$45	\$_____
Saturday	_____	\$55	\$_____
<u>Guests of Members Above For Only The Fri Buffet and/or Sat Banquet</u>			
Friday Buffet: Adult	_____	\$40	\$_____
Teens	_____	\$40	\$_____
Children (3-12 yrs)	_____	\$20	\$_____
Sat Banquet Adult	_____	\$50	\$_____
Teens	_____	\$38	\$_____
Children (3-12 yrs)	_____	\$20	\$_____
		Reunion Fee Total	\$_____

Banquet Entrée Choices (give number for each)

Prime Rib of Beef _____ Dore Fillet of Petrale Sole _____

Stuffed Chicken Breast with Cabernet Sauce _____ Vegetarian (Chef's choice of Pasta) _____

Child's Plate (w/ French Fries, Ice Cream, Beverage): Hamburger _____ Chicken Fingers _____

(CONTINUED ON REVERSE SIDE)

TOPEKA 2010 San Francisco Reunion Registration (continued)

Tours:

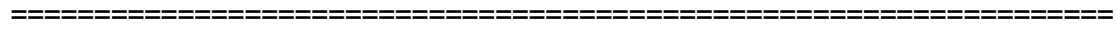
<u>Tour</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>Price</u>	<u>Cost</u>
“A” Sonoma Winery Tour Wed 9AM- 3 PM	_____	\$75	\$_____
“B” San Francisco Deluxe City Tour Thu 9AM-3PM	_____	\$50	\$_____
“C” Hornblower Harbor Dinner Cruise Thurs 5:30-11PM	_____	\$120	\$_____
“D” Muir Woods National Park Fri 9 AM- 3 PM	_____	\$50	\$_____
Tours Cost Total			\$_____

Reunion Fees and Tours Costs: Total \$_____

Deadline for Payment and Receipt of above costs is August 13, 2010.

Make Checks payable to USS TOPEKA (CLG-8) Reunion Assn. and mail to:

Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita, CA 91902-2019



HOTEL AND RESERVATION INFORMATION

Hotel: DoubleTree Hotel San Francisco Airport
 Address: 835 Airport Boulevard, Burlingame, CA 94010 Telephone 650-344-5500

For Reservations, Call 1-800-222-8733 This is the Central Reservation System for ALL Doubletree hotels.
Deadline for reservations for our group rates: August 21, 2010

Information you will need to give them:

Name of hotel: “Doubletree Hotel San Francisco Airport”
Group Name: “USS Topeka” **Group Code:** “USS”
Arrival Date: _____ **Departure Date:** _____
Your Full Name _____ **Number in your party** _____
Credit card # _____

If you have problems with reservations (e.g., rates, availability, etc) Call Dudley or Ruth at 619-267-3123, or email dudcass@aol.com or bonitarcdc@aol.com.