

USS TOPEKA CLG-8

Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 22, No. 1

March 2011

Officers:

John Reynolds, Chairman, Board of Directors; John Reynolds, President;
Dudley Cass, Secretary-Treasurer;
Ruth Judge, Kathy & Ray Spatz, Reunion Chairman;
Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor; Ken Noble, Web Master;
Linda Roberts, Ships Store



FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's hard to believe that it has been 18 years since our last reunion in our Nations Capital. I can't think of a better place to enjoy a reunion than DC. Kathy and Ruth have been negotiating with the powers -to-be to get us the best possible deals for our stay in this beautiful city. Besides the tours they have lined out for us I thought I would remind you of some things you might want to do on your own.

Visit the Smithsonian

Start at the Smithsonian Institution Building where you can pick up a map and information on all of the museums. These national treasures cover a wide range of subjects from art to space exploration. Plan to explore those you are most interested in, but don't try to see everything at once. Be sure to save time to see an IMAX movie at the Natural History Museum or the National Air and Space Museum.

Tour the Three Houses of Government

Explore the U.S. Capitol Building, the White House and the U.S. Supreme Court and you will gain a fuller understanding of the division of power within our democratic government. Plan ahead and note that some tours must be scheduled in advance through your Congressional Representative.

Take a Walk through Georgetown

Georgetown is the capitals historic waterfront that today is bustling with activity. The area is a shopper's paradise and the streets are lined with restaurants of every nationality. Take a tour of historic sites, do some shopping and enjoy a meal at a local restaurant.-

Attend a Concert at Wolf trap Farm Park

Listen to all types of music at this national park dedicated to the performing arts. Outdoor concerts are featured in the summer and indoor performances are held the rest of the year. The park is located in Vienna, Virginia, just 20 minutes from Washington, DC.

Take a Walking Tour of Old Town, Alexandria

Explore a quaint historic town just over the Potomac River from Washington, DC. Visit colonial houses, churches, and museums and shop for antiques.

I'm looking forward to seeing you there. We will have another great reunion; as we always do.

JR



**John and Mary Reynolds
(Claire and Ron Smart)**

NEW MEMBERS (since November 2010)

Walter Marks Jr. GMG3 65-68 Poway, CA
Robert Archer BT3 64-64 Riverside, CA
David Belisle EM2 67-68 Pueblo, CO
Douglas Cox ET2 61-64 Las Vegas, NV
Edwin Angstrom EM2 63-63 Davenport, IA
Larry Davis IC2 64-68 Pensacola, FL

TAPS

Andrew Czilli LCPL 64 - 66
Charles Campbell BM2 60 - 65
Andy Cutbirth YN3 61-64
Larry J Fisher BM1 65-69
Eddie Harrison SN 61 - 64
Kenneth L Burch SN 61 - 64
Paul Dworzniak ETR2 59 - 63



TOPEKA CLG8 PLANK OWNERS

The small supply will not be traveling to the reunions in the future. If you are a Plank Owner; please e mail Ruth Judge rajtr@cox.net with your name and address AND the years on the Topeka. I will mail you the piece of plank and the certificate.
Submitted by Ruth Judge

WASHINGTON, DC AREA FOR 2011

IMPORTANT, the dates for the 2011 reunion have changed. The USS Topeka Reunion Association will meet August 24th through August 27th, 2011. The room rates in August are the best at \$109.00 a night with breakfast included. The reunion will have a similar set up as San Francisco with the hospitality suite being attached to a sleeping room. Located in the West End of Historic Alexandria, Virginia, the **Hilton Alexandria Mark Center** is 5 miles from the tours, events, attractions, monuments, and business district of Washington D.C and 4 miles from the Pentagon. Our central hotel is within 15 minutes of the White House, US Capitol, Washington Convention Center, Arlington National Cemetery, and the famed Smithsonian Museums. Adjacent to a 43-acre botanical preserve, 3.8 miles from the quaint waterfront galleries and shops in Old Town Alexandria, our unique lakeside hotel provides a tranquil oasis for travelers to the DC Area. Our easily accessible hotel is 4.5 miles from Washington Reagan National Airport and 20 miles from Dulles International Airport.

HOTEL AND RESERVATION INFORMATION

Hotel: **Hilton Alexandria Mark Center**
Address: 5000 Seminary Road, Alexandria VA
22311 Telephone: 703-845-7668
For Reservations, Call the hotel room reservation department at **1-703-845-1010**, or the toll-free number 1-877-783-8258. Request the group rate for **USS Topeka 22nd Reunion**. Deadline for this group rate is July 22, 2011.

Your will be asked for Arrival Date, Departure Date, Your Full Name, Number in your party, and Credit Card #.

Rooms may be reserved, as available, 3 days before, and 3 days after the contracted dates (Aug 23 thru Aug 27). Handicap rooms and smoking-allowed rooms may be reserved, as available.

Our group room rate is \$109/day + local taxes and fees, currently 11.5% + \$1 daily per room.

We are contracted to use a specified number of rooms for our reunion and are penalized if we don't meet the minimum. **The rooms must be reserved through the hotel reservation system to be credited against that minimum. Rooms obtained through non-Hilton internet websites are not credited to our room count total.**



Mount Vernon

Mount Vernon was the beloved home of George and Martha Washington from the time of their marriage in 1759 until General Washington's death in 1799. He worked tirelessly to expand his plantation from 2,000 acres to 8,000 and the mansion house from six rooms to twenty one.

The Mount Vernon Ladies' Association purchased Mount Vernon from the Washington family in 1858 and opened the estate to the public in 1860. Since that time, nearly 80 million visitors have toured Washington's home. Mount Vernon is independent of the government and no tax dollars are expended to support the 500-acre estate, its educational programs or activities.

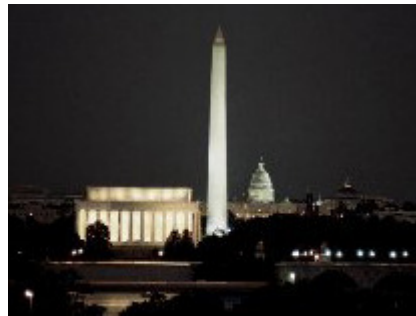


Union Station

- The \$160 million restoration and revitalization of Union Station was undertaken without any congressional appropriation.
- Total retail space: more than 210,000 square feet, including 50,000 square feet of restaurant space.
- More than 90,000 visitors pass through Union Station's doors daily.
- More than 100 specialty shops on three levels selling a variety items from jewelry

and apparel to gifts and boutique items and much more. (Please See Directory)

- There are more than 35 establishments offering international cuisine and six full service restaurants: America, B. Smith's, Center Cafe, East Street Cafe, Pizzeria Uno, The Station Grill and Thunder Grill.
- Union Station also offers a multitude of services including shoe repair, a pharmacy, car rental services, florist, 24-hour automatic teller machines, photo processing, gourmet delicatessen, and foreign currency exchange.
- Since its reopening in 1988, Union Station has hosted major cultural and civic events, including 70 major dinners and charitable benefits in the Main Hall; including five Presidential Inaugural Balls and Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher's 70th Birthday dinner. In its first three years of operation, Union Station has hosted more than 1,000 events at the Columbus Club, and a variety of free concerts, art and photography exhibits and other activities.



Washington by Night Tour

On this tour we will visit the magnificent monuments illuminated in spotlights. Included are the White House, the Capitol's dome, Washington Monument and reflecting pool, Lincoln Memorial, Vietnam Wall and the Korean Memorial. What an awesome evening this will be!

Cities Proposed for 2012 Reunion

Dan Moore proposed Branson and Cleveland, Paul Stein proposed Madison WI; and both will present information on the cities at the 2011 Reunion in Washington DC area.

2011 USS TOPEKA REUNION TOURS

If you are debating on attending the 2011 USS Topeka Reunion in the Washington D.C. area read on for the great tours that are lined up. I know that Ray and I will be on these terrific tours.

Tour Details: For the tours below, all admission, fees, driver, tour guide-narrator gratuities are included in the price. The cost of lunch on your own is not included.

“A” Mt. Vernon & Old Town Virginia – Wednesday, August 24, 2011

Time of the tour - 9:00AM to 3:15 PM

Morning begins with trip to Washington’s lavish, beloved estate, **Mount Vernon**.

You will tour through 14 rooms of the mansion; learn about plantation life in pre-colonial America. A highlight is visit to **Reynolds Museum Center**, 25 galleries and theaters about Washington’s exceptional life. We will go back to **Old Towne, Alexandria**, which Washington surveyed. Free time, “lunch on your own”, to explore cobblestone streets, quaint restaurants, many boutiques.

Cost: \$64.50 per person (includes \$15 entrance to Mt. Vernon)

“B” Welcome to Washington by Day - Thursday, August 25, 2011

Time of the tour – 8:45AM to 4:00PM

Our morning begins with visit to **FDR Memorial** across from the **Tidal Basin**. Then a stop at the **National WWII Memorial** honoring the defining event of the 20th century. Next **Capitol Hill**, to view the US Capitol Building including the Senate and House of Representatives Office Buildings.

Stop at **Union Station**, restored with specialty shops, restaurants and boutiques. “Lunch on your own”. Finally the afternoon will be spent at **Arlington National Cemetery**; we will witness the “changing of the guard” at Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, stop at JFK eternal flame.

Some time will be allowed for private visits.

Cost: \$64.00 per person (includes \$9.50 Arlington Tour mobile, private)

“C” Washington by Night with Dinner – Thursday, August 25, 2011

Time of the tour – 6:15PM to 10:45PM

We begin with dinner at Washington’s famous **Tuscan West Restaurant** dating back to 1856.

Choice of 4 entrees: 8oz sirloin steak, fresh swordfish, fresh rolled ravioli, or green spinach gnocchi (choices made at time of dinner). When sun goes down we will tour with a professional

narration of many of the magnificent monuments illuminated in spotlights, **White House, Capitol’s dome, Washington Monument and reflecting pool...** Several stops will give a close up view of Washington at night.

Final stop is the awe-inspiring **Lincoln Memorial and Vietnam Wall and Korean Memorial**.

Cost: \$91.00 per person (includes \$46.50 dinner, coffee & tea, not bar drinks)

“D” Special Day Tour – Friday, August 26, 2011

Time of the tour – 8:45AM to 3:30PM

We begin with a stop at the White House for a Photo op and narration of the life and life styles of the occupants. Then to the **Naval Memorial and Heritage Center**, honoring and commemorating the sailors of the US Navy. Next we travel to **Georgetown**, rich in history and charm. A historic bonanza of homes and public buildings. A city within a city for “lunch on your own”. Final stop is the highest point in the city **the Washington Cathedral**. We will have a private tour of the Gothic structure modeled after great Cathedrals of Notre Dame, Chartres and Milan.

Enroute back to the hotel we will travel along **Embassy Row** developed for wealthy and influential citizens of early 20th century. Now it is the home of more than 100 foreign dwellings, the setting of Washington’s diplomatic life.

Cost: \$61.00 per person (includes Cathedral donation \$4, Navy Museum \$2.50)

OR

“E” USMC Museum, Quantico, VA – Friday, August 26, 2011

Time of the tour – 8:30AM to 3:30PM

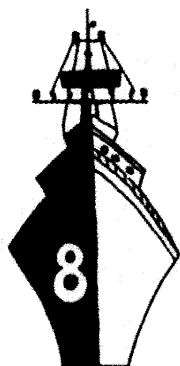
USMC Museum is located about 1 hour south of Washington DC. The museum goes from the recruiting efforts in 1775, through WW I, through German lines in France at Belleau Wood, where Marines earned the nickname “Teufelhunden” meaning “Devil Dogs”. Visitors will see, hear, feel and smell the battles. There are 2 restaurants at the museum for “lunch on your own”. A replica of **TUN TAVERN** originally located in Philadelphia, the birthplace of the Marine Corps in 1775. It is a small tavern/restaurant with tons of atmosphere and story telling bartender/waiters.

COST: \$40.00 PER PERSON (FULL 27 SEAT BUS)

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O Dudley Cass
3028 Bonita Woods Drive
Bonita, CA 91902-2019

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



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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

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

President

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

Secretary-Treasurer

Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Drive, Bonita, CA 91902-2019; 619-267-3123; Email DudCass@aol.com

2011 Reunion Coordinator

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Ken Noble, 14019 Summer Bay Lane, Broomfield, CO 80020; 303-410-7150; Email kwnoble@usstopekacig8.org

Ships Store

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

SHIPS STORE

Most of the merchandise will be available at the 2011 Reunion. 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

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