

USS TOPEKA CLG-8
Reunion Association Newsletter
Volume 36, No. 3

November 2024



Officers:

Al Gustafson, Chairman Board of Directors and President;
Arnold Hoel, Vice Chairman and Vice President
Gary Baker, Secretary-Treasurer;

Staff:

Kathy Spatz, Newsletter Editor and Photographer;
Gary Baker, Web Master:
Pat Baker, Ships Store

Greetings Shipmates

The 2024 Topeka reunion is now in the books. I hope that all who attended had a great time. If you were not able to attend this year you may want to put Branson on your place to visit list. It is a great military friendly destination and was an excellent Reunion choice.

There is a lot to see and do in Branson and I especially enjoyed the Showboat Cruise, The College of the Ozarks tour, and the Shepard of the Hills tour. But my favorite was lunch at Mel's Hard Luck Diner with the singing waiters and great root beer floats!

A big thank you to Pat and Jerry Tanner and the family with help from Pat and Gary Baker. Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the organization. Special thanks to Tammy who did her best to keep us organized and in line. Not an easy job!

I thought I would give an update on USS The Sullivans DD 537 which is on display at the Naval and Military Park here in Buffalo. Those of you who attended the Buffalo Reunion may remember visiting this historic vessel. Unfortunately, she sank at the pier during bad weather in April of 2022. Heroic efforts were needed to patch holes and refloat the vessel. It has just been announced that in September 2025 she will be transported to drydock and re-hulled. \$21 million has been raised to carry out this repair as well as some work on the parks WW2 submarine. Wish us luck for the successful restoration of this historic vessel.

I am already looking forward to next year's reunion in Myrtle Beach. Pat Baker has found us a great hotel right on the beach. Some info is already available on

the Topeka website (hotel and dates). Make your plans early. Looking forward to a great turnout.

New Riddle- 8549176320 is a large number and unique for two reasons. First, it presents all numerical digits from 0 to 9 without repeating; what is the other reason?

Answer to last newsletter riddle- There is a word that starts and ends with T and contains tea as well. What is the word?

Answer- Teapot

As always special thanks to Kathy Spatz and Pat and Gary Baker for all their hard work on behalf of the association.

Wishing everyone a safe, healthy and happy Holiday season. See you all in Myrtle Beach.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Gus

New Members (Since March 2024)

Herbert Harvey CS2 65-66
William Evans SK3 66-69

Taps

None

Reunion Dates:

September 15th – September 19th, 2025

2025 Myrtle Beach Reunion

Pat Baker is our host for the Myrtle Beach reunion. She has hosted three reunions and assisted a few others in the past and will do her best to make this a memorable reunion. E-mail her at pbaker@usstopekaclg.org or call her at 406-252-4546 for any questions or information.

Beach Cove Resort is conveniently located in North Myrtle Beach, close to all the Grand Strand has to offer. With easy access to Barefoot Landing and other Myrtle Beach area attractions and amusements, this North Myrtle Beach resort is one of the most popular in the area. Featuring all oceanfront suites and condos, guests can enjoy fabulous views of the Atlantic Ocean and all of the familiar comforts of home.

Guests will experience the very best of North Myrtle Beach resorts at Beach Cove Resort. Amenities are plentiful and include three outdoor pools, oceanfront whirlpools, kiddie pool and a 350-foot lazy river, all surrounded by lush landscaping. Indoor water features allow for relaxation in the whirlpool and pool. Guests also have access to the exclusive Town Center featuring dining, a state-of-the-art arcade and more. Relax and get away from it all at Beach Cove Resort.

We'll be staying at Beach Cove Resort in North Myrtle Beach. Address for the resort is 4800 S Ocean Blvd, North Myrtle Beach, SC 29582

Our accommodation types are Oceanfront Executive Suites or Oceanfront 2 Bedroom Condos.

Room reservation MUST be made by Friday August 12, 2025. After that date the room block is released, and you may not be able to make a reservation.

To make reservations, call 1-888-974-5531. Be sure to mention you want USS Topeka CLG-8 group rate.

If you have to cancel prior to your arrival call Marianne Smith at Beach Cove Resort Sales Office at 1-800-704-3033. Do NOT call her to make reservations, only to cancel reservation.

Room Rates: (All Rates Include Tax)

	Executive	2 Bedroom Condo
Sep 14-19	\$144.48	\$273.28
Sep 12-13	\$200.48	\$312.48
Sep 19-20	\$200.48	\$312.49

To put it in perspective, the average cost per day for Monday through Friday would be \$155.68 for the Executive Suite rooms and \$281.12 for the 2 Bedroom Condo.

Room price does NOT include breakfast, but it can be added for \$17.13 per person per day, (tax included). Breakfast can either be a breakfast buffet or ordered off the breakfast menu.

The daily parking fee at Beach Cove Resort is waived for our USS Topeka Group.



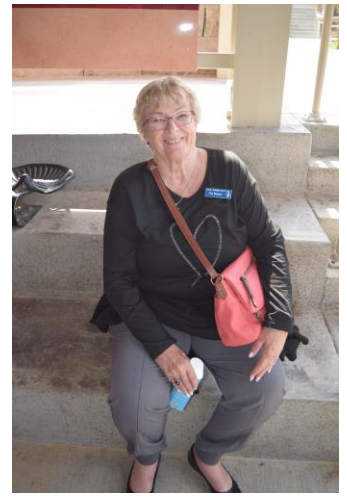
Myrtle Beach International Airport (MYR) is about 30 minutes (17 Miles) from Beach Cove Resort.

It is served by seven major airlines: Allegiant, American, Delta, Frontier, Southwest, Spirit, and United. It is also served by three smaller airlines: Avelo, Breeze, and Sun Country.

All major car rental companies are represented at the airport, and Lyft and Uber also serve the airport. There is no shuttle service to or from the resort.



Branson reunion in the books. Huge thanks to Pat and Jerry Tanner, our hosts, for an awesome reunion. Everything was perfect from the tours to the hospitality room and banquet



Highlights of the reunion in photos:



2024 YTD Financial Report

A brief summary of our finance's year to date. The association's finances are looking good.

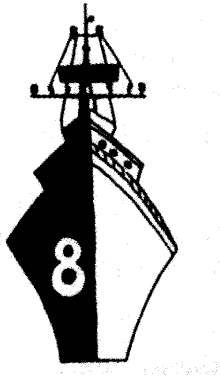
There is quite a bit more money in the Operating account than is needed to fund the day-to-day expenses of the association. With the consent of our president, Al Gustafson, and the board of directors, as we wind down our association over the next few years, the excess will be used to offset the fixed costs of our annual reunions.

<u>Account</u>	<u>12/31/2023</u>	<u>2024 YTD</u>
Operating Fund	\$15,416.35	\$15,181.07
Reunion Fund	\$4,535.48	\$4,251.57
<u>Ship's Store</u>	<u>\$2,916.61</u>	<u>\$2,787.30</u>
Total	\$22,868.44	\$22,219.94

USS TOPEKA REUNION ASSOCIATION

C/O Gary Baker
20 Heather Drive
Billings, MT 59105

TEMP – RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



NAMES AND TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Chairman, Board of Directors; Al Gustafson
Vice Chairman; Arnold Hoel
Board Members: Jerry Craig, Harold Jackson, Dan Moore, Ray Spatz, Jay Davis, Dan Moore
President Al Gustafson, 3668 Bonnie Lane, Hamburg, NY 14075; 716-648-5960; gus127@verizon.net
Vice President: Arnold Hoel, 418 W 229th St., Carson, CA 90745; 310-834-5359; Arnold.hoel@yahoo.com
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Ships Store:
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Ship's Store

The store has USS Topeka ball caps, lapel pins, jacket patches, coffee cups, and license plate frames as well as 6th and 7th Fleet and Vietnam bumper stickers. A generic Navy ball cap "We Own the Seas" has been added to the inventory. Order forms and illustrations of items are on the Ship's Store page of the website. The store is managed by Pat Baker. Her contact information is on the ship's store page of the website and the Names and Telephone Numbers section of this newsletter.

Membership and Dues

At the Board of Directors meeting on September 21, 2023, the board elected to cease collecting dues after 2028. Members that have already paid dues through 2028 are considered Lifetime Members. When other members pay dues through 2028, they also will become Lifetime Member