

USS TOPEKA

CLG8 REUNION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

Volume 1, No. 3 July, 1990



COMMITTEE

Don Nellis, President
Irad Parkhurst, Vice President
Dudley E. Cass, Secretary
James F. Ownby, Treasurer
Jerry Judge
Dick Jolliffe
Joe Ripley
Bill Largent
John Reynolds

... FROM THE REUNION COMMITTEE

Preparations for the reunion are, for the most part, complete and looking good. The people from Holiday Inn on the Embarcadero have been very cooperative and helpful. We are delighted that so many of you have responded and are so enthused about a reunion. Our experience on the Topeka must have left many positive feelings among us about the ship and the Navy.

We have received many letters from you regarding your tour on board Topeka and your Navy service. We have included excerpts from some of them in this issue. They say much about the Navy that we all agree with, but perhaps couldn't say quiet as well.

In closing, we would like to say that serving on the reunion committee has been a very rewarding experience. We highly recommend it to anyone who may have the opportunity.

See you at the reunion!

REMINDER:

The last day for making reservations at the special reunion rate at our hotel is *July 16, 1990*. The deadline for submitting the Registration fee, and the Banquet fee, is *August 1, 1990*. See your copy of the May newsletter for details

Our mailing list, list of paid-up members, and list of those attending the reunion is growing. But we still have a long way to go to find everyone who served on TOPEKA CLG 8. Please send any names and addresses you may have.

REUNION COSTS:

Association Registration Fee (if you haven't already paid) — \$25.00

Cost for Banquet (per person) — \$35.00

A check (or money order) payable to the USS TOPEKA CLG 8 Reunion Association to cover the above costs must be received by August 1, 1990. Please mail to USS TOPEKA CLG 8 Reunion Association, c/o D. E. Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Drive, Bonita, CA 92002.

...LETTERS

...My husband, Retired MMC-E7 Fred Lytle, noticed in the Naval Affairs magazine that you are planning a reunion. He was elated and has hoped for this for a long time. Even though he is disabled, he is really anxious to attend. I doubt that we can attend many functions. It will be a joy for us to be there, and especially for me, to see him enjoy, once again, the fellowship of his shipmates.

Juanita Lytle
Lakewood, California

This reunion business has required quite a bit of work. This letter makes it all seem worth it! The most important reasons for this reunion is simply to reunite Topeka shipmates. Fred, you'll do fine! Thank you, Juanita. Looking forward to seeing you both.



... I was GMG Seaman in Turret I. If you get any address [sic] from anyone up front, please send them to me.

Gary Minis
Overland Park, Kansas

Gary, hope you can find some of those up front guys in our mailing list. We can't give out addresses, but we would be happy to forward a letter for you to anyone on our mailing list. Hope to see you in August.

... Nellis, No Water Fall!!!! P.S. Is Cliff Calais attending?

Joe Heeney
Torrance, California

Bos'n, we're calling a working party away for the rocks early Thursday. Who is this Calais guy? Several people have inquired about him. Last we heard, he would like to make it, but may not be able to. Come on out, Cliff—you're in demand!!!



... The way I understand this letter is you have to get up \$25 to attend this reunion. I have been to many reunion and it was so everyone could have a good time and to remember some good times they had together. I would like to know how many members are there already I think a Board should be put together by a vote. Who made Don Nellis as President Was it by a vote But I would like to have more info on this association before sending a \$25 registration fee. [sic]

William Sache
Watertown, Massachusetts

William, I wouldn't send \$25 to an organization with Don Nellis as president either! Seriously though, your questions were good. We added more information to our newsletters (after receiving your letter) which we hope answered most of your questions. Your succinct summary of what a reunion is all about is superb! We don't have a Board, but our Committee is doing a fine job of beating the bushes for names and addresses, and making the arrangements for the reunion.

...LETTERS

...As a plankowner of mighty Topeka, I was really glad to hear about the reunion. I was assigned to the pre-commissioning detail in Brooklyn Navy Yard in December, 1959, and saw Topeka emerge from a rusty old hulk to a beautiful fighting ship. My first impression of Topeka, stripped and gutted in the yard, was that of a ship without a soul. After commissioning that ship turned into a ship with the soul and spirit of the men who sailed her. She was my last ship before retirement and the best ship I ever served on. It will be great to see many old friends again. Thank you for taking the ball and running with it.

Art Johnson
Cheltenham, Maryland

Art, you write a fine letter! I wish we had room to print it all. Yes, she was a great ship, and I can personally swear she had the coldest mid-watch quarterdeck in Long Beach! We'll see you in August!



...I would like to attend the reunion...getting married this date. Do I still need permission from the Captain???

Eugene McKinney
El Grove, Kansas

Of course you need permission! The Captain and the XO will be here, so come on down!

...I doubt that I will be on the West Coast in August, but am enclosing my check to help out and wish my former shipmates, especially those who worked so hard to get us recommissioned in 1960, good luck and good health.

RADM F.L. Pinney, Jr.
Kilmarnock, Virginia

Admiral, we appreciate your help and your good wishes. Several people have expressed the wish to see you again. Our best to you and hope you can make it to the next reunion.



...P.S. Will there be a tour of the USS Topeka?

Keith Kincaid
Banning, California

Keith, you're not the only one who has this question. In fact, Dan Gray from Las Vegas called today for information about the reunion and asked the same question. There is good news and bad news. The bad news is that Topeka was decommissioned in 1969, and sold for scrap in 1975. The good news is that USS TOPEKA SSN 754 was commissioned in 1989. TOPEKA lives... she's disguised as a nuclear attack submarine! One of the Association objectives is to gather and make available to those interested, more history of the USS TOPEKA CLG 8.

BANQUET SCHEDULE

Cash bar - open 6:00 p.m. to closing

Banquet - 7:30 p.m.

Invocation

Introduction - 8:30 by Jerry Judge

Remarks - Don Nellis

Guest Speaker - J.W. Perkins

Entertainment - John Reynolds

KUDOS

Many thanks to Ruth Cass for overseeing the catering and for the many hours of library research to locate Topeka crew members.

s/ The Committee

We recommend casual attire for all reunion functions.

USS TOPEKA CLG 8 REUNION ASSOCIATION

c/o D.E. Cass
3028 Bonita Woods Drive
Bonita, CA 92002

STAMP

