

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## REUNION ASSOCIATION

EDITOR: DUDLEY CASS

Volume 2, No. 2 April, 1991

### COMMITTEE

Don Nellis, President  
Irad Parkhurst, Vice President  
Dudley E. Cass, Secretary  
Jim Ownby, Treasurer  
John Reynolds, '91 Reunion Chmn.

Jerry Judge  
Dick Jolliffe  
Bill Largent  
Jack Connery

Jack Bock  
Joe Heeney  
Joe Ripley



## FOR FIRST-TIME RECIPIENTS OF OUR NEWSLETTER...

The Reunion Association and the Committee were formed in late '89 with the objectives of locating TOPEKA crewmembers (Navy and Marine) serving on the CLG-8 during the period '59-'69 and organizing a reunion for those crewmembers. We decided to go for a reunion in '90 and had a GREAT reunion here in San Diego. The reunion attendees decided to have the second reunion in '91 at Long Beach, after consideration of other cities in the East, Midwest, and West. The reunion will be held 15-19 August, 1991, at the Hotel Queen Mary (formerly the SS QUEEN MARY).

We now have an active mailing list of over 200, and we provide a directory of those on the mailing list to those who submit the annual dues (currently \$15). We are working to increase our association membership and need your help—send us names and addresses of any TOPEKA shipmates you know. Our current list of crewmembers includes all ranks and rates, serving from the pre-com detail in '59 to the final decommissioning in '69.

Welcome to the association! As proven at our '90 reunion, friendship and comradeship among the TOPEKA men is alive and well! Join in the fun!

## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

As noted in the article above, the TOPEKA Reunion Association is growing rapidly. For that we are all thankful and again I beseech you to get in touch with any TOPEKA shipmates you may know.

Plans are moving right along for the '91 get together. The Queen Mary is superb. I and my wife Pat joined Ruth Cass, Jim and Jackie Ownby, and John Reynolds on an informal inspection of the Queen in March. It's "4.0" for the BASH. It offers everything a good sailor might want and then some. Actually, you won't even have to go ashore during your whole stay.



*The '91 Reunion Committee is working hard to get everything lined up and squared away for us on 15-19 August. All they need is YOU! So, please plan on joining for the best yet reunion.  
Don Nellis, President*

## FROM THE EDITOR

Response to our request for dues and personal information has been very good. Several members have made contributions in addition to the \$15 annual dues, and we appreciate it! Keep the letters and checks coming!

Reunion notices were sent out to 670 newspapers and periodicals in all 50 states. The first crewmember responding was Mike Wandschneider from Kohler, WI. He was an ETR3 on TOPEKA '65-'68.

From the responses to our January newsletter I have received, we will have a lot of new faces at this year's reunion. I have a list of those planning on attending later on in this letter. Looking forward to seeing them!

## REUNION '91

Our recent committee meeting aboard the Queen Mary was a great success as we hammered out all the details of the greatest ship's reunion that will ever be held anywhere. The Queen Mary people were more than accommodating and came our way on prices, rooms, etc. One of the things that will make this gathering one of the great reunions of all time is the atmosphere that is built into the Queen Mary. It really lends itself to a ship's reunion.

The Hospitality Room, which is always the center of all reunions, is located above the main deck and has all the room we will ever need, 1900 square feet to be exact. It is well arranged and will more than accommodate our group.

The gathering place for our banquet will be amidships in a plush ballroom that lives up to its name - "The Royal Salon." It would be impossible, I believe, to find a more adequate place to bring shipmates and their families together to renew past friendships. I am convinced Reunion '91 will be talked about for many years to come.

The reunion cost for the use of the Hospitality Room is dependent on the number of "room-nights" the reunion attendees use. Needless to say, we strongly encourage everyone to stay at the Queen Mary.

John Reynolds  
Long Beach Reunion Chairman

## REUNION EVENTS

### Thursday, August 15

Get acquainted day - registration in "Hospitality Room." Information will be available on Long Beach, and on reunion events. Beverages and snacks will be available throughout the day.

### Friday, August 16

Open day for visiting, tours (e.g., cruise to Catalina Island, tour of Hollywood homes, Disneyland). Snacks and beverages available in "Hospitality Room." Friday evening, a cocktail party with heavy hors d'oeuvres.

### Saturday, August 17

Reunion meeting in the morning. Select officers and committees for the following year. Determine when and where next reunion will be held. Snacks and beverages available in "Hospitality Room." Reunion banquet in the evening. Sit-down meal with program and entertainment, followed by dancing.

### Sunday, August 18

Open day for visiting, tours, etc. Snacks and beverages available in "Hospitality Room."

### Monday, August 19 - Aloha

Checkout and departure.

Our June newsletter will have complete details on the reunion events, tours baseball games and exhibition football games, deadlines for registrations, sign up for golf tournament, menu choices for banquet, etc.

## REUNION COSTS

Reunion Fee (per person) - \$85. This includes cost of the banquet, hors d'oeuvres at the cocktail party, snacks and beverages in the Hospitality Room, music for the banquet, and cost of the Hospitality Room.

Hotel rooms on the Queen Mary - \$78-\$98 per night. Parking - \$4/day at the Queen Mary.

## REUNION YEARBOOK

The Reunion Committee is in the process of publishing a TOPEKA Reunion yearbook. It will contain highlights of the TOPEKA's life as a CLG, pictures taken during those years, and pictures taken at the 1990 Reunion.

We want you to be a part of it. If you haven't already, please jot down your favorite story about your experience aboard TOPEKA, and send it, along with your name, Division/Department, and the years you were aboard to Jack Connery, 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, OK 74008. If you made either of the Med trips, or were on the decommissioning crew, Jack is particularly interested in hearing about those experiences. Please do this right away as Jack wants to get the book finished.

In that regard, Jack would like to borrow the cruise books for both the Med trips. He now has all others. Contact Jack if you are willing to lend him one.

The Yearbook will be available at the 1991 reunion, and by mail afterwards.

## ENTHUSIASTIC RESPONSE FOR THIS YEAR'S REUNION

Since the last newsletter, more than 50 TOPEKA men have responded that they plan to come to this year's reunion. Their names, period they served on Topeka, and rate/rank on TOPEKA are listed below.

Ray Kraft	59-62	CWO
Fred Lytle	59-62	MMC
John Milliken	59-62	LTJG
Joe Ripley	59-63	LTJG
Austin R. Schroder	59-63	LCDR
Robert L. Alberts	60-61	YN3
Dan B. Leonard, Jr.	60-61	LTJG
Richard Olsen	60-61	CDR
Egon Werdelman	60-61	CDR
Will Hays	60-62	LT
Donald K. Lamb	60-62	LTJG
Vince Manion	60-62	LCDR
Joe Paulis	60-62	LCDR
Hank Rinnert	60-62	LTJG
John M. Rutherford	60-62	RD2
William Carver	60-63	SN
Norm R. Malmberg	60-63	LTJG
Keith Kincaid	60-64	SK3
Thomas J. Victory	60-64	SFCS
Charles L. Campbell	60-65	BM2
Robert C. Robbins	60-65	FTC
William H. Hawkins	61-63	LCDR
Hal Hodson	61-63	LCDR
Dudley E. Cass	61-64	LTJG
John D. Reynolds	61-66	FTM1
Charles T. Armstrong	62-63	DCCM
Eugene R. McKinney	62-63	RM3
Richard Ramsey	62-63	GMCM
Mrs. Donna (Eugene) Glenn	62-64	LT
Ted Haessler	62-64	LTJG
Gale Pfund	62-64	LTJG
Jack V. Bock	62-65	LTJG
James J. Carey	62-65	LTJG
John Keeper	62-65	LTJG
Paul Ruby	62-65	LTJG
Jim Ownby	62-66	LT
Felix Vasallo	62-66	YNC
Father Bob Gately	63-64	LT
John F. Manley	63-65	LTJG
Don Nellis	63-65	CDR
Willie G. Williamson	63-65	SH1
Joe Heeney	63-66	CWO4
Gerald Judge	63-66	FTCS
Irad J. Parkhurst	63-66	FTCM
Bernardo Pulido	63-66	SDCS
Tom C. Buell	64-65	CAPT
Robert J. Feely	64-65	LCDR
Willis Gwynn	64-66	MSC
Dick Jolliffe	64-66	LT
Ralph Lohr	64-66	BMC
Dick Slye	64-66	LT
Mike Angulo	65-67	CWO3
William W. Dorsey	65-68	MM2
Benjamin L. Luistro	65-69	TN
George R. Badger	66-67	LCDR
Jerry Craig	66-69	FTM3
Stan Hayes	66-69	PH2
Steve Manley	66-69	MM3

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

Don Cates, LTJG on TOPEKA '62-64. After TOPEKA, served on NAS Brunswick, Maine; USS BOSTON (CAG-1), ISMF Philadelphia, and Commander Eastern Sea Frontier. Retired in '70, and worked in Department of Personnel, State of Maine until 1980. Don's hobbies are "Golf/woodworking/golf/ bowling/golf/kids and grandkids/ golf." Don and Marie now live in Ocala, Florida.

William Dorsey, MM2 on TOPEKA '65-'68. Separated from the Navy in '68. Worked in Long Beach Naval Shipyard as Marine Machinist '69-'85. Since '85, worked as Quality Assurance Specialist for Defense Logistics Agency. William and Gloria have 2 sons and 3 Grandchildren and live in Long Beach. William's hobby is fishing.

Robert Robbins, FTMI-FTC-ENS on TOPEKA '60-'64. After leaving TOPEKA, served on USS COLUMBUS (CG-12), and HMS Collingwood (Personnel Exchange Program). Retired in '75, worked for several firms in Oregon and Washington, then joined and is still working for DynCorp, Norco, California. Robert and Bell live in Milton-Freewater, Oregon. His hobbies are Golf, Bowling, and Steel-tip darts.

Bill Bradley, EN3 on TOPEKA '60-'61. After leaving TOPEKA, ashore duties at Commissary Long Beach, COMSTA Kodiak, Security Station Skaggs Island, COMSTA Adak; sea duty on LST 1157 (Japan), and YTB-539 (Adak). Retired in '75 and stayed in Alaska. Worked construction, mined for gold, and has a small jewelry business. Bill lives in Kenai, Alaska, and fishes about 16 hours a day in the summer. The coffee pot goes on around 4 a.m., so if anyone is in the area, stop by."

Benjamin Luistro, TN on TOPEKA '65-'69. After TOPEKA,

SERVED on the USS Fred J. Berry (DDG-858). Separated from the Navy in '70 and joined the Marines. Retired from Marines as Master Sergeant in '90. Now a State Correctional Officer at CVSP Blythe, California. Benjamin and Consuelo have 3 children and live in Riverside, California. Benjamin's hobbies are bowling and jogging.

Ted Haessler, LTJG on TOPEKA '62-'64. Released from active duty after TOPEKA. Graduated from Stanford Medical School in '70. In private practice of psychiatry in Sebastopol, California, since '76. Ted and Barbara have 3 daughters, and live in Sebastopol. Hobbies include golf, collections, and horse racing. Paul Ruby, LTJG on TOPEKA '62-'65. Released from active duty after TOPEKA. Paul went into the brokerage business and is now President of Pfluegar & Bairwald in San Francisco. Paul's hobby is military history, and volunteer interests include the preservation of land through the Audubon Canyon Ranch, and the Columbia Parks Boys Club. Paul and Loretta have 2 sons and live in San Francisco.

Robert Alberts, YN3 on TOPEKA '60-'61. After TOPEKA, was assigned to USS Sandoval (APR-190), got out of the Navy in '63, came back in '64 as TEMAC, became a TAR, and then served at NAVSUPFAC Cam Rahn Bay, NAVORDFAC Yokosuka, ASU-1, USS Point Defiance, NAVSURFPAC Staff, USS Belleau Wood, HSL-41, VS-33, USS Kitty Hawk, USS Nimitz, and HSL-45, retiring for real in '90. Now employed as Manager of La Playa Towers at the Coronado Shores. Robert and Sue have 4 children and 2 grandchildren and live in San Diego. Robert's hobbies include jogging, biking, softball, and grandchildren.

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The below form is provided for use in forwarding annual dues and/or submitting personal information for the Reunion Association database. Please cut out and mail to:

**USS TOPEKA CLG 8 Reunion Association**  
c/o D. E. Cass  
3028 Bonita Woods Dr.  
Bonita, CA 91902

Checks may be made out to: **Topeka Reunion Association**

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### USS TOPEKA CLG 8 REUNION ASSOCIATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

'91 Dues Submitted \_\_\_\_\_

Do you plan on coming to '91 Reunion? \_\_\_\_\_

Period served on TOPEKA \_\_\_\_\_ Rank/rate on TOPEKA \_\_\_\_\_

Date, and Rank/rate, on retirement or release from active duty \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Spouse \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Children \_\_\_\_\_

Hobbies: \_\_\_\_\_

Please attach a brief summary of what you've been doing since leaving TOPEKA:

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## OTHER REUNIONS

USS PRINCETON (CV-37) Contact Robert Butler, 1401 Brion Pl, Camanche, IA 52730.

USS LOS ANGELES (CA-135) Contact Fred Jones, 11845 E. 206th St., Lakewood, CA 90745-1414.

USS TOPEKA (CL-67) for '44-'49 crewmembers. Las Vegas, 8-10 August 1991. Contact Jim Wilson, 1022 W. Abbott St. Muncie, IN 47303.

## NEXT NEWSLETTER IN JUNE

The June newsletter will have ALL the details of the reunion and will be the final newsletter before the reunion.

## MAILING LIST TO BE PRUNED

Several persons on our mailing list have never responded to any of our newsletters. If you are among those, and wish to continue receiving the newsletter, let the Editor know. Otherwise, this may be the last newsletter you receive.

## LOCATOR SERVICE

The offices listed below will forward a letter from you to active duty or retired personnel. Write down as much of the following as you know: full name, SSN, last known rate/rating/rank and approximate date. Include your letter in a stamped, sealed envelope with your return address, and with the name of the person you wish your letter forwarded to. If they have the address, they will add the address and forward your letter.

Naval Personnel Command Center  
Attn. Mr. Chuck Crowe, Code 1643-D  
Room 1514

Washington, D.C. 20370-5000

Defense Finance Accounting Services  
Code 631 (Attn. M. P. Junko)  
Cleveland, Ohio 44199

The social security number is the surest identification - we were able to get SSNs (and find out those still on active duty) for several TOPEKA men from Petty Officer Franklin, Naval Station, San Diego phone (619) 556-2419.

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## USS TOPEKA CLG 8 REUNION ASSOCIATION

c/o D.E. Cass  
3028 Bonita Woods Drive  
Bonita, CA 91902

STAMP

