

# USS TOPEKA CLG-8

## Reunion Association Newsletter

Volume 9, No. 3

July, 1998



### Committee:

*John Reynolds, President; Dudley E. Cass, Secretary/Treasurer;  
Al Jefferis, Assistant Secretary; Jack Kehoe, Reunion 98 Chairman;  
Jack Connery, Newsletter Editor.*

### FROM THE PRESIDENT

In the last newsletter I traveled through a bit of reunion history recalling past gatherings to bring us up to date as we make preparations for the Boston Bash. Now, for a bit of trivia, which one did I leave out? I was just testing to see how diligently you read the newsletter.

Alas, one person did catch it. Parky Parkhurst informed me that our Norfolk reunion was missing from the list. We all had such a great time at that reunion dodging a hurricane that I left it out in order to see how many would write to let me know. I get lonely here in California and like to receive mail.

So, Parky is recognized as the only shipmate who picked up on this omission. This really was a contest and he has won an all-expense paid trip to Hawaii, on a torpedo.

Shipmates, read your newsletter carefully from now on. You can never tell what treasures may be hidden between its pages.

See you in Boston.

John Reynolds

### TAPS

Craig Coster, Clawson, MI; October 25, 1995.

Wayne Pittman, EM3 (62-66), Atlanta, Ga., January 3, 1997

In our continuing search for more former shipmates, we have found the following to be deceased:

Don Mayo, FTGSN (60-64). Deceased June 12, 1998

### NEW MEMBERS (SINCE MAY)

Darwin Afdal, LTJG (62-64), Virginia Beach, VA  
Frank Prather, SKSN (65-67). Charleston, SC  
Ralph Bruckelmeyer, RDSN (59-63), Bellefontaine, OH  
George Harman, FTM3 (65-69), Dunbarton, NH  
Ron Sudderth, RM3 (67-69), Bonham, TX  
Jim McElfresh, ETN2 (62-64), Richfield, UT  
Edward Loughry, LTJG (64-66), Englewood, CO  
Ralph Anderson, LTJG (60-61), Carlisle, MA

### GENERAL MEETING IN BOSTON

The following items, among others, will be on the agenda at the general meeting on Saturday, August 22, in Boston.

- Election of Officers: The Board of Advisors will present the following slate of officers for 1999:

President: John Reynolds

Secretary/Treasurer: Dudley Cass

Assistant Secretary: Al Jefferis

Reunion Chairman: To be determined after site selected.

Additional nominations will be accepted from the floor.

- Board of Advisors: No Change
- Reunion 99. The following sites, nominated at last year's meeting, will be voted on:

Branson, Mo., Dudley Cass

Minneapolis, MN, Calvin Ladd

New Orleans, LA., James Bond

Tulsa, OK., Jack Connery

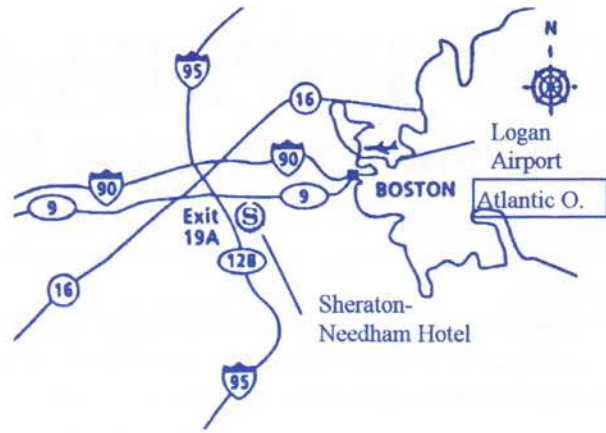
- Baka Hachi Revision



## REUNION UPDATE

The following is an update to the Boston reunion schedule published in the last newsletter:

- The Board of Advisors meeting will be at 1800 Wednesday, August 19, instead of 1600.
- Shuttle from Logan Airport to the hotel. After collecting baggage, call 1-800-449-4240 from any pay phone. Cost is \$16 per person plus \$3.50 airport surcharge per party plus gratuity. Pickup is at the YELLO LIMO STOP in front of the baggage terminal. Major credit cards accepted. If you are arriving at Logan after 10:30 p.m., please call 24 hours in advance for reservations 800-714-1115. Taxi cab fares are \$45-50 plus gratuity. Cost for three people is about the same as the shuttle, and cost for four is a little cheaper. Verify taxi fare before you take it. (We learned that in WestPac and Med liberty ports).
- Tour E: USS Salem Museum, and the Battleship Massachusetts: The \$20 fee is for transportation: There is an additional admittance fee of \$6.50 for the Massachusetts and \$3.50 for the Salem, payable at the entrance.
- Boston weather: August weather in Boston runs between 70° and 85°. It is, however, famous for being unpredictable. Bring a light wind breaker or light sweater or raincoat just in case, especially those going on the Thursday evening harbor cruise.
- What to wear in Boston: Casual wear, including comfortable walking shoes will be appropriate most of the time. An open-neck sport shirt (with collar) is appropriate for the Harvard Club Luncheon. A coat and tie is suggested for the Saturday banquet.
- Jack Kehoe is telling his shipmates that he is finally going to cough up the last of the items he collected in Hong Kong. (Jack was left in Hong Kong to collect everybody's Hong Kong purchases when the Seventh Fleet left port suddenly because of the Cuban Missile Crisis. He also wants the rest of us to join him for the search for Bar Texas.



The Greater Boston Area

## LETTERS

Dear Ed:

I wanted to write and tell you about my husband's death. He was Wayne Pittman, EM3 (62-66). He died on January 3, 1997 in Atlanta, GA.

Wayne told me about his time spent on the USS Topeka. He enjoyed receiving the newsletter and I also enjoyed reading it.

I am sorry I haven't had the opportunity to let you know about Wayne's death before now.

Sincerely,  
Mrs. Wayne T. Pittman

Dear Ed:

I have a question about an item in the "Taps" section in the May Newsletter. The letter lists a LTJG Norman Stiman (60-62) as having died. There was a Joel Harvey Stiman, a good friend and in my year group, on board during those years. I have been trying to find Joel Stiman for years without luck. Is this the same Stiman?

Jim Curtin (60-62)

*Ed Note: We think that this was not the Joel Stiman who was on board Topeka. Rather, we now believe that there were two Ensign Stiman's on active duty at time, and this one, we believe is the other one. We are still trying to sort it out.*

## NAVY UNIFORMS GOING MOD

Bell-bottoms are going back into the Navy's closet.

After 60 years with little change, the Navy, which invented the wide-leg denim utility work uniform, is scrapping the look for an updated, straight-leg version.



Replacing the traditional flared dungarees will be tailored straight twill pants. The familiar light blue denim work shirt will give way to a chambray polyester/cotton number.

The bells have been traditional on board work attire as long as historians can remember. They were easy to slip off over shoes if a sailor went overboard, and could be tied off to keep him afloat.

The Navy will retain the bell bottom look for its service dress uniforms.

*Ed. Note: And to think that today, my grandson buys pants with a 26-inch bell at the bottom.*

## MEET YOUR SHIPMATE

Don Clark's job on Topeka was that of Missile Fire Control Officer in the fall of 1966. He still keeps Long Beach as his home port and is still very active in military affairs.

Don is now President of the California Council of The Retired Officers Association (TROA) and frequently travels the state and nation stumping for military retiree benefits. His big challenge now concerns the question of health care for military retirees. This spring he was in Washington, DC with a group of TROA council presidents, lobbying for a bill before Congress, which would allow military retirees to take part in the same health care plan enjoyed by federal civilians. He met with Senator Barbara Boxer in the Capitol, and learned that she was signing on as a co-sponsor of the bill. This effort was for a test of the plan and was eventually approved in both houses. These efforts were featured in the July issue of *The Retired Officer Magazine*.

"Topeka was my first unrestricted Line Officer tour, having converted from LDO about a year before reporting on board," says Don. Like many other junior officers, he had numerous collateral duties. In addition to being the Protestant Lay Leader,

he had Project Handclasp for the first Med deployment in 1967. He was also Special Services Officer and arranged the purchase of a Volkswagen van they took to the Med. He left Topeka in the



spring of 1968 after arrival in the Med for what was to be the ship's last deployment.

He reported to USS Home as Weapons Officer in the fall of 1968. He then attended Postgraduate School and the Naval War College then went to USS Decatur as XO. Afterwards, it was CRUDESGRU 5, followed by command of John Paul Jones. His first real shore duty as an officer, a tour in Washington, DC followed at the Electronics Systems Command where he worked in the development of the Tomahawk and Harpoon missile systems. While there, he was promoted to Captain, and was then assigned as COMDESRON 25 in Pearl Harbor. After that tour he returned to NAVELEX for two years and retired, having served for 34 years.

"Joyce, my bride of 47 years, was very much a part of my Navy career. What with all my time at sea, raising five children was not an easy assignment. She accepted the challenges of sick children, teen-age years, children learning to drive, and dating, along with moving five summers in a row (two cross-country), with charm, grace and understanding love. Were it not for her contributions, my Navy career would have been not only shorter, but much less enjoyable. Even in my "retirement" she still shares in my military related efforts.

"She is very active with me in TROA matters, and we are both involved in the Navy League. These organizations allow us the pleasure of maintaining contact with many friends from our past Navy life. Frankly, we are still enjoying Navy life, except in a different form, and expanded to include all branches of the military."

## SHIP'S STORE REPORT

The following items are available in the ships store. Add \$5.00 for shipping

- Adult shirts
  - Green, sizes 2XL, XL, L \$22.00
  - Navy Blue, sizes 2XL, XL, L 22.00
  - White (on sale) 2XL, XL, M 15.00
- Ball caps 8.00
- Key Chains 3.00
- Wine glasses/tumblers 4@ 9.00  
(reunion only price)
- Cold drink holders 4.00
- License Plate Covers \$3.00
- Topeka Note Pads (pack of 5) \$5.00
- Topeka Jackets \$35.00
- Ship's Plaque (New design) \$27.00



## NAMES/TELEPHONE NUMBERS

### Chairman, Board of Advisors

Don Nellis, 12735 Abra Dr., San Diego, Cal.,  
92128; Telephone 619-487-4595.

### President

John Reynolds, 916 Esplanade, # 177, Redondo  
Beach, Cal., 90266; Telephone 310-540-7817.

### Secretary-Treasurer

Dudley Cass, 3028 Bonita Woods Dr., Bonita,  
Cal., 91902; 619-267-3123.

### 1998 Reunion Coordinator

John Kehoe, 162 Washington St., Wellesley,  
Mass., 02181; 617-235-0885.

### Newsletter Editor

Jack Connery, 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, Ok.,  
74008; 918-366-4581; Fax 918-366-6368; E-mail  
JJConn@AOL.com.

### Ship's Store

Jill Connery, 16334 South Lewis, Bixby, Ok.,  
74008; 918-366-4581; Fax 918-366-6368; E-mail  
JJConn@AOL.com.

## COMMUNICATION AMONG THE SERVICES

One of the reasons the three Services have trouble operating jointly is that they don't speak the same language. For example, if you passed the word in the Pentagon to "secure a building,"

- Navy personnel would turn off the lights and lock the doors.
- Army personnel would occupy the building so no one could enter.
- Marines would assault the building, capture it, and defend it with suppressive fire and close combat.
- And the Air Force, on the other hand, would take out a three-year lease with an option to buy.

**USS TOPEKA (CLG-8)**  
**REUNION ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER**  
**c/o JACK CONNERY**  
**16334 SOUTH LEWIS**  
**BIXBY, OK 74008**



## COMING TO BOSTON

If your best shipmate friend is not on this list, why not call him and say, "Let's get together in Boston in August and talk about old times. If he's already here,

## See ya in Boston!

Dale Anderson, Forbes, MN  
Don Anderson, Woodbridge, VA  
Mike Angulo, Spring Valley, CA  
Jesse Aragon, Anaheim, CA  
Steve Archbold, Dix Hills, NY  
James Bennett, Bella Vista, AR  
Roger Beukema, Davisburg, MI  
Jack Bock, Rancho Palos Verdes, CA  
Robert Bond, New Braunfels, TX  
James Bond, San Angelo, TX  
Joe Buonopane, MA  
Tom Bussell, Mogadore, OH  
Phillip Brooks, Cloverdale, CA  
Freddy Bruce, Burton, MI  
Parker Butcher, Shenandoah, IA  
Bill Carver, Des Moines, IA  
Dudley Cass, Bonita, CA  
Don Cates, Ocala, FL  
Jack Connery, Bixby, OK  
Jerry Craig, Cartersville, GA  
Dale Crandall, Petersburg, NY  
Jim Curtin, Hinsdale, IL  
Tom Eagling, Tucson, AZ  
Donald Everitt, Pittsburgh, PA  
Mike Faber, Centralia, WA  
Donald Grady, Mechanicsville, VA  
George Grupe, Marlboro, NJ  
Edward Hewitt, Brigantine, NJ  
Tom Hoard, Ithaca, NY  
Norbert Howe, Lakewood, CA  
Fred Howes, Scarborough, ME  
Jerry Judge, Chula Vista, CA  
John Keepper, Lake Bluff, IL  
Jack Kehoe, Wellesly, MA  
Virgil Kefauver, Myersville, MD  
Ernie Kershaw, Melrose, NY  
Wes King, Arlington, VA  
Sid Knowlton, Lynn, MA  
Calvin Ladd, Minnetonka, MN  
Terry LeBar, Haverhill, MA  
Mike Leahy, Fraser, MI  
Lewis Loudon, Omaha, NE  
James Mahoney, Palm Harbor, FL  
Norm Malmberg, Fort Jones, CA  
Donald McFarland, Winchester, VA  
Don Nellis, San Diego, CA  
Loy Nix, Flowery Branch, GA  
Ken Noble, Louisville, CO  
Arthur Nolan, Cumming, GA  
Charles Northrup, Palm Harbor, FL  
Richard Olsen, Los Altos, CA  
Jim Ownby, El Cajon, CA  
Irad Parkhurst, Granada Hills, CA  
Larry Patriquin, Barrington, NH  
Jerry Pennington, Fallbrook, CA  
Joe Peragine, San Diego, CA  
Jim Pflieger, Ft. London, PA  
Gale Pfund, San Francisco, CA  
Richard Ramsey, Lutz, FL  
John Reynolds, Redondo Beach, CA  
Patsy Richardi, Randolph, MA  
Russ Richards, Apple Valley, CA  
Ike Roberts, Hixson, TN  
David Roderer, Washington, DC  
Paul Ruby, San Francisco, CA  
Bill Ruhe, McLean, VA  
William Sache, Watertown, MA  
Richard Sampson, Plymouth, MA  
Robert Schramm, Orange, CA  
Austin Schroder, Smith, NV  
Andre Seaton, Tarzana, CA  
LeRoy Servin, Apache Junction, AZ  
Alonzo Simmerman, Lodi, CA  
Ron Smart, Turlock, CA  
Raymond Spatz, South Hempstead, NY  
Jimmy Starr, Topeka, KS  
Leonard Van Germert, Bradenton, FL  
Ernie Villamil, Annapolis, MD  
Dick Walker, Mendon, MI  
Richard Wallace, Halifax, MA  
Doug Weeks, Canastota, NY  
Egon Werdelman, San Diego, CA  
Willie Williamson, San Diego, CA  
Dillon Wooten, Goldsboro, NC.