



THOMAS C. HART LINE

YOU GOTTA HAVE HART

Vol. 3 Issue 23

July 2019

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T. C. Hart Veterans Assoc. Officers 2019-21		
President	Phil Leblanc	HT2 (73-76)
Vice Pres.	Steve Holliday	DC1 (85-90)
Treasurer	Dennis Paul	HM1 (91-93)
Secretary	Garry Collins	LT (86-89)
Historian	Ron Church	FTG2 (73-77)
Storekeeper	John Ebata	BTFN (86-90)
Newsletter	Dave Neimeyer	LTJG (75-77)
Webmaster	Mark Lamboni	LTJG (76-78)
Chaplain	Lee Edwardsen	STG2 (81-86)
Chairman	Ron Church	FTG2 (73-77)

Congratulations to the above listed officers who were elected or appointed at the 2019 business meeting at the recent reunion.

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Hello Shipmates,

The Rapid City reunion has come and gone, and what a terrific reunion it was. Those who attended saw many of the wonderful sites this area has to offer such as Mount Rushmore, Custer State Park, numerous wildlife, etc. The hotel did a great job and was very friendly to veterans. It was a fun time for all meeting with previous and new attendees of the TCHVA.

We are now planning for the 2021 reunion in Northern Virginia/DC area sometime in June, so pencil in the reunion on your calendar. We are hoping for a big turnout of TC Hart Veterans. If your membership has lapsed, please make a point of renewing so you can attend the next reunion. More information will follow in the coming months.

Have a great summer.

Phil Leblanc (HT2 1973-76)

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Shipmates,

As newly elected Vice President, I would like to introduce myself. I am DC1 (SW) Steve Holliday. I served aboard USS Thomas C. Hart from 1985 – 1990.

I had the opportunity to attend the last reunion in Rapid City, South Dakota. It was the best decision that I have made in a long time. I enjoyed reuniting with my Shipmates that I served with. In addition, I enjoyed meeting Shipmates from the Plankowner years to some of the Decommissioning crew. We were all Shipmates sharing our special time onboard the Tommy Chuck. While attending tours, I had a flashback of the excitement of liberty in a new port. The only difference was having our extended family members with us.

We are now planning our next reunion in 2021. I would love to reunite and meet more Shipmates as we enjoy the Washington DC area. I encourage you to join us and experience the memories, sea stories and quality time with real Shipmates. Too many Shipmates have departed on their Eternal Deployment. Let us keep TCHVA alive in their memory.

All the best,

Steve Holliday (DC1 1985 – 90)

REUNION 2021

...and the 2021 reunion goes to....NORTHERN VIRGINIA

How the selection process worked: At the business meeting during the 2019 reunion, members present suggested locations for the 2021 reunion. The dozen or so suggested locations were then narrowed down to the three most popular choices. Those locations (Northern Virginia; San Antonio, TX and Savannah, GA) were then passed to our reunion planner, Sherry of A Complete Reunion for her input as to costs, availability of tours, and other factors. Because of problems with planning reunions in Savannah in the past, Sherry suggested substituting Mobile, AL for Savannah. The membership agreed to that swap. Each member was then emailed more detailed info on each of the three sites, and asked to vote on their preferred site. Northern Virginia received 11 of 20 first place votes cast.

Details are still being worked out, but the current option is to stay in a hotel near Dulles Airport, with the reunion occurring in mid to late June or early September 2021.

So what do YOU want to do in the Washington DC area? You can email your preferences to me at neimeyer@us.net or to Mark Lamboni at mlamboni@verizon.net We'll pass them on to the reunion planner for consideration. Also, please let us know if you'd like to be a part of the reunion planning committee.

REUNION 2019

Twenty-one shipmates and almost as many family and friends attended our 2019 reunion in Rapid City, South Dakota on June 4-9th. Highlights of the reunion were tours to Mount Rushmore, the Badlands, the Crazy Horse Memorial, Wall Drug, historic downtown Rapid City, and of course the formal banquet on Saturday evening. A special shout out goes to Together We Served, Tin Can Sailors, and author Eric Campbell for items they donated in support of the Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association. Be sure to check out our facebook page and the TCHVA website www.thomaschart.org for more photos. Those venues are also an excellent way to reconnect with shipmates.

From the Secretary



What a great time we had in Rapid City, South Dakota at reunion 2019! All of the tour options were great and as the saying goes “fun was had by all.” Of course, we were all ever mindful of Captain MacMichael’s declining health and the stark realization that his earthly time was short. His 4th of July departure on eternal deployment was somewhat fitting as it truly was “Independence Day” for him. He fought a good fight more than six years. He held TCHVA and its members in high regard and was ever mindful of his shipmates. He drafted a “farewell” letter (his words, not mine) to TCHVA and I had the great honor of reading the letter at the reunion banquet. He will be greatly missed by all! That said, it is a reminder of just how important it really is to spend some time with those shipmates with whom you share a unique bond of service aboard T C Hart. If you’ve never been to a reunion, you don’t know what you’re missing. It’s just an experience that you will treasure. Don’t take my word for it, ask anyone who has attended a reunion! I encourage everyone to maintain your TCHVA membership and do all you can to make the next reunion in the DC area in 2021. We are two years out but we have already notified our planners of our intentions and they are already at work beginning the process of taking great care of us once again! In fact, our planners have already advised that late June would be a far better timeframe than September as rates are much higher in September.

Hopefully by the time you receive this newsletter, we will have successfully transitioned the Treasurer position from Randy Groen to Dennis Paul. Randy has been our elected Treasurer from the very beginning of TCHVA! He has done an absolutely stellar job of keeping track of our account and filing our annual Form 990 to the IRS as required by law. Though we are a non-profit, 501 c (19) organization, we still have to report to IRS annually to attest to our modest dues receipts. As times have changed since Randy opened our checking account some 14 years ago, our bank recommended we open a new account. That has been accomplished and we are in the process of adding Dennis to that account so he can assume Treasurer duties. This is three state coordinating effort. Randy’s branch is in Minnesota, I’m in Indiana, and Dennis is in Arizona. In conjunction with this transfer we’ve had to temporarily disable the website PayPal link for dues receipt that Randy established years ago. Once we determine if that can be renewed, we’ll return it to service. If not, we’ll have to rely on the old fashioned, print the form, fill out the form, and mail in with your dues renewal or initial membership. Will keep you posted on that.

I hope everyone enjoys the rest of the summer.

Garry Collins



Financial Report **THOMAS C HART VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

At present there is \$2322.32 in our account. We’ll have a more detailed report in the next newsletter.

Final Farewell

- RM3 Stafford Cumberledge, Thomas C. Hart plank owner, passed away on July 16th. He was part of the comm crew who came from Navcomsta Keflavik, Iceland, and served on the pre-commissioning and commissioning crew.

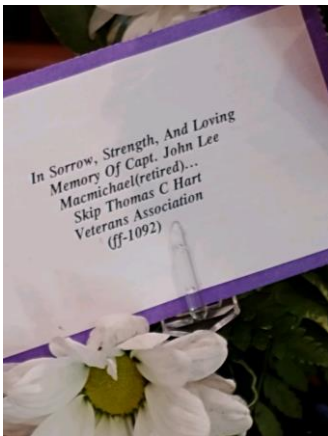
- Captain Skip MacMichael, who served as Commanding Officer of Thomas C. Hart from 1983-1985 also passed away in July. Many of you who did not have the opportunity to serve with him may remember him as a frequent attendee at our reunions. The following message was received from his wife Jo:

Dear Family and Friends,

Just hours after my last posting, Skip died peacefully. I had whispered to him that it was the 4th of July -- a good day to die as had patriots John Adams and Thomas Jefferson. We were alone together -- just the two of us as we often preferred to be -- when he took his last few breaths. I am incredibly sad to lose him but so relieved that he is no longer suffering. It was my good fortune that my nephew Matt Balzano who has a gift for praying arrived minutes afterward. He, my sister Denise, our son Jim, his wife Shannon and their sons John (20) and Ryan (16) were with me for the rest of the day. I am grateful to Capital Caring Hospice folks who helped make Skip's last few weeks much easier. Both of us were thankful for the wonderful care Skip received from the doctors, nurses and staff at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center (especially Dr. Benjamin Potter, Dr. Jeremy Perkins, Nurse Practitioner Brenda Davis, Ms Fatu Fofana and the nurses in the infusion center) as well as Dr. Christian Meyer, a sarcoma specialist at Johns Hopkins Cancer Center. Unbelievably, we were surprised by weekend calls from Dr. Meyer checking up on Skip and offering encouragement and advice on alternative therapies. We were very fortunate that both he and Dr. Perkins willingly consulted on Skip's choices of care -- we know that doesn't always happen.

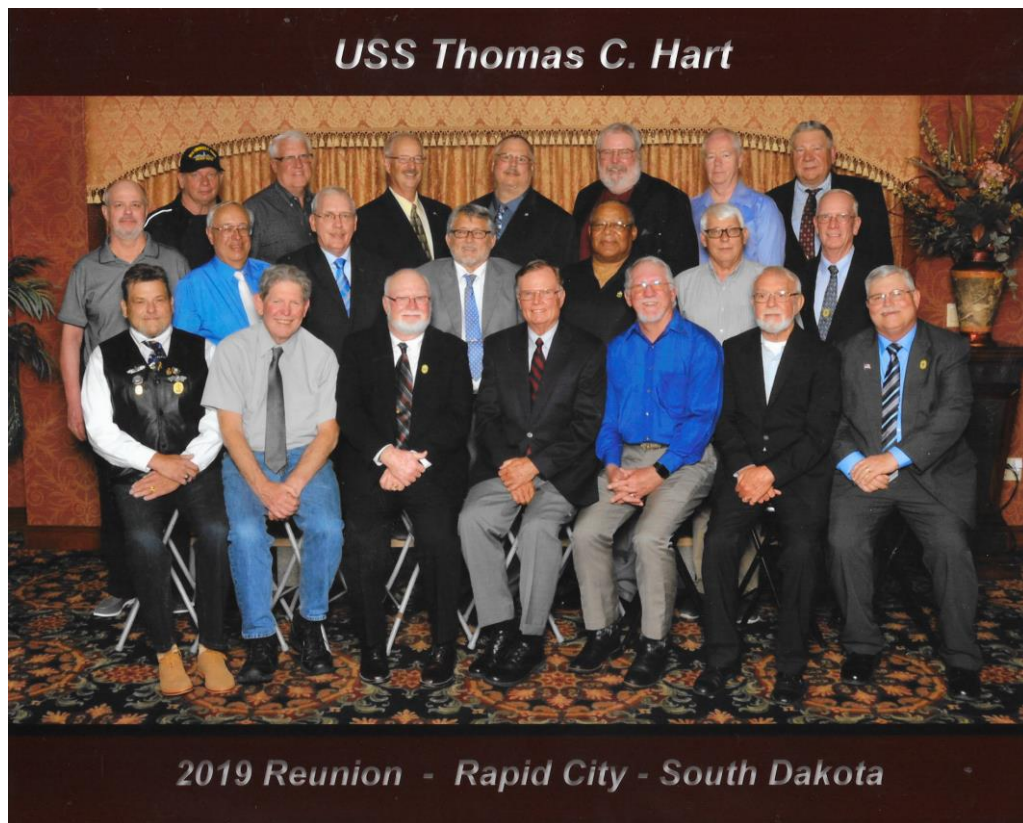
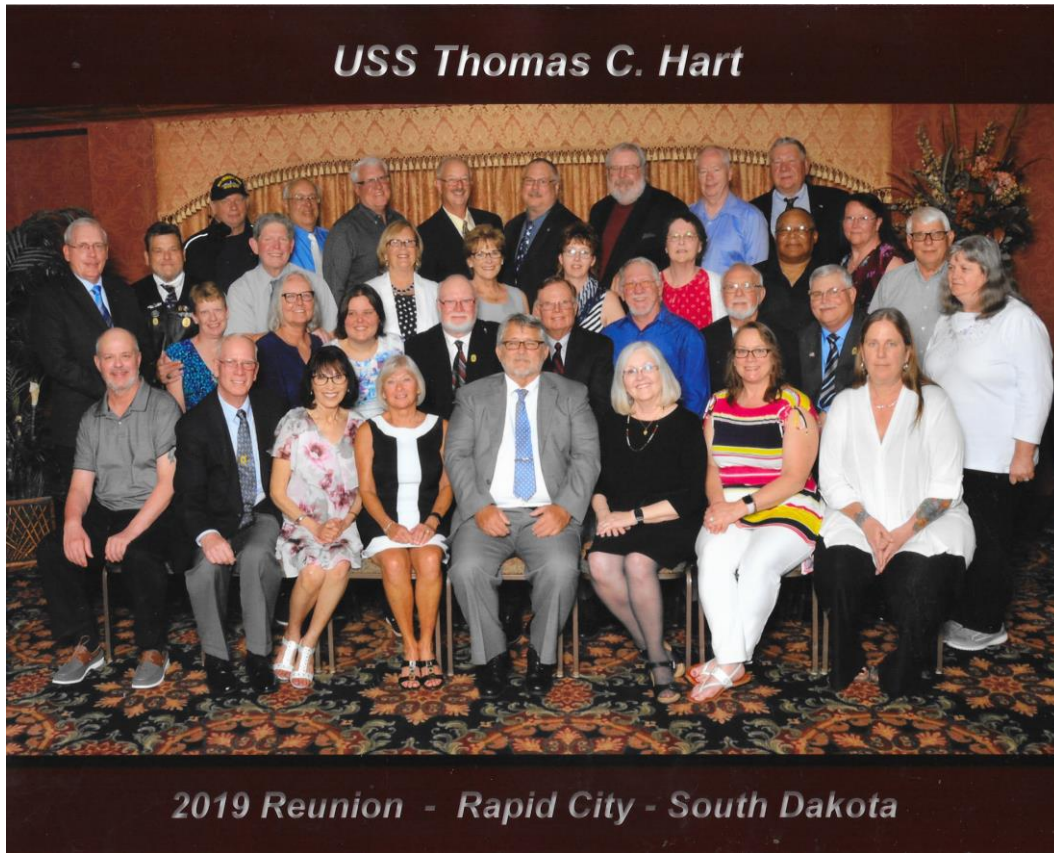
The family will receive guests from 6:00 - 8:00pm Friday, July 12 at Demaine Funeral Home, 502S Washington Street, Alexandria, VA 22314. A service commemorating Skip's life will be held Saturday, July 13 at 2pm at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 8009 Fort Hunt Road, Alexandria, VA 22308. There will also be a visitation on Friday evening, July 12 at Demaine's Funeral Home, 520 S. Washington St, Alexandria, VA 22314. Skip will be interred at Arlington National Cemetery at a future date.

Thank you to all of you -- our friends and family who supported, prayed for and loved us.



Message and floral display sent on behalf of the TCHVA

Capt. MacMichael



Note: copies of these two formal photos can be ordered from Barbara Schroeder at quickprintphoto@gmail.com



How much fun did we have?



NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Items for the newsletter, and other comments, can be sent to

Dave Neimeyer at <neimeyer@us.net> or 9026 Haaf Road, Fogelsville PA 18051-1717

If you are on facebook, consider joining the USS Thomas C. Hart FF 1092 group, with its 418 members and hundreds of photos and posts.

THOMAS C. HART DE/FF 1092 VETERANS ASSOCIATION



TCHVA relies on your continued support to help build the Association and keep the great memories of T C Hart alive! You can continue to help by referring other shipmates to us and letting us know when you have an email address, phone number or some other bit of info that may help us locate our shipmates. The success of the Association depends on the active support of our members!

You can stay up to date with current events and happenings by visiting our website at www.thomaschart.org

THOMAS C. HART VETERANS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Check your membership status: <http://www.thomaschart.org/id100.html>

USS THOMAS C. HART (DE/FF-1092) VETERANS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

*Please print the form, complete, and mail to address listed on the form
If you have trouble printing out this form, just provide the same info on a short note,
mail it in, and we'll muster you in.*



If a shipmate told you about the TCHVA, please tell us his name: _____

Tell us about you and your TCH service:

First Name _____ *M.I.* _____ *Last Name* _____

Rate/ Rank on TCH _____ *Division* _____

Year Reported Aboard _____ *Year Detached* _____

Current Street Address: _____

City _____ *State* _____ *Zip* _____

Home Phone _____ *Cell/Work Phone* _____

Current Email Address: _____

Spouse Name: _____

Dues are only \$10 per year. We have chosen to collect for two years (\$20) at a time to reduce the administrative burden on our all volunteer staff. Thanks for your understanding and support. You may join for any additional years if you desire.

I am sending in \$_____. Please begin/renew my membership!

**Please mail check/M.O. to: USS THOMAS C. HART VETERANS ASSOCIATION
c/o Dennis Paul
11620 E. Camino Aurelia
Vail, AZ 85641**

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