TCHVA Members, Shipmates, Friends & Families,

It is with great sadness and disappointment that I inform you that TCHVA leadership Board has decided to cancel the TC Hart reunion in Herndon VA/Washington DC that was scheduled 22-26 June 2021.

We have had continuing discussions with our event planner, and there are just too many unknowns at this time regarding the COVID virus pandemic and many venues remain closed with no way to predict if/when they might open. The last thing we want to do is move forward only to find the situation has not improved. We had to act now because we realize many of you would be making non-refundable airline reservations or other travel arrangements, family plans, employment plans and so forth.

With so much uncertainty, we believe the turnout would be small, meaning we probably couldn’t meet our minimum tour requirements and the idea of having to wear masks and social distance would complicate the tour transportation, banquet, business meeting, and just socializing in the hospitality suite.  The idea was to have a huge reunion in a great town but the facts are overwhelming. Most of us are in the “at risk” age group, many if not all will probably have our vaccinations by June, but complying with holdover Covid rules thwarts the whole idea of socializing and enjoying time with shipmates. The idea of a reunion is to get together, not social distance and wear face coverings!!

Just for your information, the following closures are in effect now in DC and as mentioned, there is no way for us to know if they will be open in June. Take a look at this:

U.S. Capitol - closed and barricaded - Thousands of armed NG troops encircling the building.

All Smithsonian buildings and museums - closed

National Museum of American History - closed

National Museum of African American History - closed

National Museum of Natural History - closed

Holocaust Memorial - closed

Bureau of Engraving - closed

Lincoln Memorial - facemasks/social distancing

MLK Memorial - facemasks/social distancing

Korean War Memorial - facemasks/social distancing

Vietnam War Memorial- facemasks/social distancing

Washington Monument - closed

National Air and Space Museum - closed

Arlington - facemasks/social distancing

Mt Vernon - facemasks/social distancing

Capitol - closed at least till May with National Guard troops deployed to defend

Navy Memorial - plaza open, building closed - not sure if/how this would affect our dedication.  Suspect if situation remains as is today, there would be no dedication ceremony (unless held outside). In either case, we wouldn’t be able to physically see our plaque on the wall.

Ford’s Theatre National Historic Site - closed

Old Post Office Tower Tour - closed

Basically, unless it’s outdoors, the venue is closed. If it is outdoors, Covid rules apply!

We don’t think anyone has sent in their registration for the event but if you did mail your check, **you will receive a 100% refund** of all monies paid, including the reunion planners fee.  Our planner is working several other reunions at the present time so please allow them some time to make those refunds.  For those who have made hotel reservations, please don’t forget to call the hotel to cancel.  Our planner is contacting them as well but you need to cancel your own reservation to keep from losing your deposit.

As for the rescheduling of the event, we are working that problem now with our planner.  I suspect we’ll plan to reschedule in a similar timeframe or possibly late summer or early fall 2022. At this point with so many other events being cancelled and rescheduled, it is really hard to predict openings, but If possible we’ll attempt to stick with the same hotel and maintain the planned tours. We’ll attempt to reschedule the Hart plaque dedication at the Navy Memorial as well.

Thank you sincerely for your patience and continued support of TCHVA. We’ll definitely keep you posted.

And always remember, **YA GOTTA HAVE HART**!!