



THOMAS C. HART LINE

YOU GOTTA HAVE HART

Vol. 3 Issue 24

December 2019

In this issue:

- From the President's
- Vice President's Corner
- From the Secretary
- Navy Memorial plaque
- Financial report
- from the ship's store
- Final Farewells
- Reunion 2021
- Membership form

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)

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Shipmates

As another year is coming to a close, we can reflect on the accomplishments of the Association during this past year. The reunion in Rapid City was a great success. Those who attended were treated to the great sites of South Dakota, and renewing old friendships and creating new ones with former shipmates. We are well on our way with the planning of the 2021 reunion in Northern Virginia/DC area in late June. Updates will be posted on the TCHVA website as new information becomes available. Make sure you put a "Hold the Date" reminder on your calendar for June 22 thru June 27 in 2021.

Most of you know that we had a fund drive to commission a commemorative plaque of the ship to be displayed in the US Navy Memorial in Washington, DC. The fund drive was an overwhelming success, and the goal was achieved in a very short time. We will soon be making a down payment to the Navy Memorial to begin the process of designing a plaque. The intent is to have the dedication ceremony during the 2021 reunion. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this endeavor.

On a sad note, we lost two former CO's of the Hart, Captain John (Skip) MacMichael and Captain Frank (Dick) Whalen. We wish them Fair Winds and Following Seas.

This is a good time to check on your membership status, and renew your membership if it expires at the end of the year. While you're at it, if you know any shipmates who are not members, give them a call and ask them to join the association. Let them know about the upcoming reunion and the opportunity to get together with former shipmates.

Wishing all of you a Merry Christmas, and a Happy New year.

Phil Leblanc (HT2 1973-76)

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Hello Fellow USS Thomas C. Hart Shipmates,

It's time once again to reach out to our fellow shipmates. Hope everyone enjoyed their summer. It's hard to believe that Christmas is just around the corner. Before you know it, it will be time for our next reunion in our nation's capital. Mark your calendars. We are scheduled to check in on June 22nd 2021 and we will be together as a crew once again until June 27th as we complete another memorable reunion. I urge everyone to join the USS Thomas C. Hart Association. Our founder Garry Collins had every shipmate in mind from the very beginning. There are so many shipmates out there that has never heard of this group. If you are in contact through Facebook or just holding on to a close friendship of our shipmates, please share our presence and our goal of keeping a great Ship (Crew) alive. Our Ship is in its final resting place. But our crew can still honor a Ship that was our home, our workplace, and a place that will follow us in our memories till our last day of our lives. I am proud to serve as your Vice President and will strive to bring us all together in Washington DC. Wishing everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year. All the best.

Steve (Doc) Holliday DC1 (SW) Ret.
TCHVA Vice President

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From the Secretary



Shipmates,

The year end is approaching way too quickly. We had a very enjoyable reunion in Rapid City back in June and we're already locked in for 2021 reunion in the DC area. Our hotel has been selected and the \$119 rate is great for the DC area. There is plenty of time to finish the planning and block that time for your attendance. The dates will be 23 June - 27 June 2021. You can actually check in on Tuesday, June 22 if you like to get the great rate.

As you know, you really picked up the ball and ran with it during our recent effort to fund a memorial TCH plaque at the U.S. Navy Memorial. We have placed the order and made the down payment already. We are waiting for Navy Memorial to contact us at this point. Thanks again for the tremendous response. We will definitely keep you posted on the progress. You'll also find a list of plaque donors in this newsletter. BZ shipmates!

As it is year end, that also brings to the situation where many will have their TCHVA dues expiring. Currently, we have 93 paid members but many memberships expire at year end. As a courtesy, the following TCHVA member's dues expire at year end 2019. You can renew here:

<http://www.thomaschart.org/id33.html> Let's keep the Association strong by reenlisting. Our dues are only \$20 for two years.

Dave Altwies
Pat Burke
Craig Cope
Peter Coste
Mark Dammer

Paul Dougherty
Patrick Dunn
Randy Funkhouser
Norbert Gandera
Neal Jefferis

Ron Koshko
Terry Ledford
Glen Mansfield
Craig Maywhort
Bill McGloon

Jack McKinzie
Gary Nelms
Kevin Nordberg
Archie Parks
Terry Peterson
William Rodriguez

Jim Schreiber
Bill Shank
David St John
Mark Truitt
Joseph Tumminello
Bill Tylock

Daniel Vasconcellos
Daron Walker
Jimmy Wilkerson
Samual Yearby
James Zamorski

If you haven't joined us before or your dues expired in years past, you can use the link above to reenlist.

Wishing you and yours a very happy and prosperous 2020! Remember hindsight is also 2020 and "YA GOTTA HAVE HART"

All the best, *Garry Collins*

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NAVY MEMORIAL PLAQUE

Shipmates,

You've done it! We've reached the \$3000 goal for the U.S. Navy Memorial Commemorative Plaque for TCH. Accordingly, we have shut down the plaque donation page on our website. Once all the PayPal and check payments are processed, we'll publish the final list of donors on our website and in our next TCHVA newsletter!

Within three hours of us calling for donations, you guys came through big time and nearly funded the entire plaque. The last few days, the final \$400 or \$500 trickled in. I couldn't believe how fast the donations poured in. It was a testimony to your strong feelings and commitment to the fine ship that we were all privileged to serve aboard!

In the next few weeks, we'll make our down payment to the U.S. Navy Memorial and we'll get the ball rolling on plaque designs. Not sure how long that process will take but I expect it will take some time. TCHVA will keep you posted and those who donated will get the opportunity to help in the final plaque selection process! You certainly demonstrated that you really do have HART!

LIST OF DONORS

Glenn Marshall	Todd Black	Ron Baylis	Matt Panella	Peter Coste
Jack McKinzie	Sean Patton	Ron Babb	Bob Giles	Dennis Paul
James Morgan	Peter Ford	John Ebata	Ron Church	Mark Lamboni
Jerry Leatherwood	Garry Collins	Louis Nick	Robert Rooks	Brian Franklin
Bill Cox	Phil LeBlanc	Dave Cymerman	Scott Hines	Steve Holliday
William Shank	Daniel Vasconcelos	Brian Neihart	Toby Layman	John Batton
Jeff Ishee	James Stevens	Mark Truitt		

Contributions from several other donors are still being processed. We'll include their names in the next newsletter.

Thanks again shipmates.
Standby for much more!

All the best, *Garry Collins*



Financial Report THOMAS C HART VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Our Checking Balance is 4662.76
Web hosting Fee 29.85
Deposit for Plaque 500.00
On Hold in PayPal 183.59
Checks yet to deposit 350.00

Treasurer Dennis Paul *Dennis Paul*



FROM THE SHIP'S STORE

John Ebata USS Thomas C. Hart FF/DE 1092 Ship's Store Operator

During the holiday season the ship's store is selling gift packs for \$3.00 including shipping while supplies last. Items included in the gift packs are a can cooler, a Hart key chain and a TCHVA button. Coolers come in two colors: you can choose either navy blue or powder blue. You can order either by going to the ship's store on the TCHVA web site or by mailing a check to:

Attn: John Ebata, USS Thomas C. Hart Ship's Store, 709 N. Marshall St., Caledonia, MN 55921.



Final Farewell

Captain Frank Richard Whalen, who served as Commanding Officer of Thomas C. Hart from 1983-1985 passed away on August 13, 2019. An email received from his son, Capt. Todd Whalen, read in part: "It is with great sadness that I inform you of my father's passing earlier this week after a long fight with cancer. As you know, he was a great man with a passion for living life at full speed ahead. He took great joy in serving others during his 30 years of naval service and 26 years of work with the Hampton Roads soccer community (his "retirement" gig). ...Dad was more of a IMC kind of guy, so forgive me for using what amounts to DC message blanks to make reports. (Sorry, couldn't resist, Dad would have appreciated some navy humor.) Please feel free to forward to any '63 classmates or other shipmates I may have missed – I appreciate your help in spreading the word. ...join us in wishing an Old Salt fair winds and following seas."

A visitation was held in September at Holloman-Brown Funeral Home, Great Neck Chapel. Guests were encouraged to wear their favorite jersey/sand soccer/beach t-shirt, shorts, and sandals in true Dick Whalen style. Captain Whalen was laid to rest at the Albert G. Horton Jr. Memorial Veterans Cemetery in Suffolk, VA. Condolences can be offered at www.holloman-brown.com, and memorial contributions can be made to the Dick Whalen Memorial Fund at <https://www.sandsoccer.com/dick-whalen-memorial-fund/> or via checks to the Hampton Roads Soccer Council. Dick's family suggests observing evening colors at sunset or attending a youth soccer game (and cheering with enthusiasm) as a fitting tribute to his memory.

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REUNION 2021

Our hotel is the Westin Washington Dulles Airport, 2520 Wasser Terrace, Herndon, VA 20171, (703) 793-3366. Although the official dates of the reunion are June 22-June 27th (Tues-Sunday morning), I strongly suggest you plan to stay a few extra days. Why? Because there is so much to do in the DC area that we can't possibly squeeze it all into four or five days. In downtown DC you have the Smithsonian Museums (Natural History, American History, American Art, African American Museum, Air and Space Museum and more), the Holocaust museum, the National Gallery of Art, the White House, the Capitol, the Supreme Court, monuments and memorials (Washington, Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Vietnam, World War II, Navy Memorial, etc.). There's also Arlington National Cemetery. Want to see Pandas? Head for the National Zoo (free admission!)

Are you interested in genealogy? Plan on going to the National Archives, Library of Congress, or Daughters of the American Revolution Library. (I had a genealogical research business when I lived near DC a number of years ago. If you are interested in genealogy, please let me know and I can give you some suggestions.)

Up for some day trips? Within one hour of our hotel: Mount Vernon, Quantico, Harper's Ferry, and parts of the Skyline Drive. Within two hours: Annapolis (see the baby ring-knockers!), Gettysburg, Antietam battlefield, Baltimore and Fort McHenry (Oh say, can you see...).

Although driving and parking in DC can be a real pain, they have an excellent subway system to help you get around. Most of the museums and other attractions are free.

We haven't yet determined exactly which attractions we'll see during our reunion. Right now some leading candidates are the Navy Memorial (where we should be able to see our plaque), Arlington National Cemetery (where we should be able to pay our respects to Capt. MacMichael), and a general tour of the monuments downtown. The National Museum of the Marine Corps at Quantico, Mount Vernon, and the White House also have some strong proponents. What would you like to see included? Pass your suggestions on to Mark Lamboni, me, or any of our officers. We'll do our best to create a memorable reunion tour package.

CRUISE BOOKS

I have obtained reproductions of the 1983 and 1986 Med deployment cruise books and the 1990-91 Desert Storm cruise book. Along with the 1975 Med and 1976 Unitas cruise books, they will be provided on the free CDs distributed to shipmates at the 2021 reunion. The reproduction cruise books along with a separate CD of each will be raffled off at the next reunion.

These high quality reproductions were obtained from DBA Classic Cruise Book Reproductions www.navycruisebooks.net Although the only Hart cruisebooks in their inventory are the 75-76-83-86-91 books, they have a large inventory from other ships. The reproductions (which include a "hard copy" and a CD) run about \$50 each, depending on the size of the book and the type cover requested. I was able to work out a credit by letting them copy the 75 and 76 books, which they did not have in their inventory. You may be able to work out a similar deal if you have books they need. I was very pleased with the speed and quality of their service.

Are there Thomas C. Hart cruise books from other years? Please let me (Dave Neimeyer) know. It would be great to collect a complete set, or at least to know which years we are missing.

NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND COMMENTS

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

Dave Neimeyer at [<neimeyer@us.net>](mailto: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 439 members and hundreds of photos and posts.

HART AWARDS, CITATIONS AND CAMPAIGN RIBBONS



Precedence of awards is from top to bottom, left to right

Top Row: Navy Unit Commendation - CG Meritorious Unit Commendation - Navy Battle "E" Ribbon (2)
Second Row: Navy Expeditionary Medal - National Defense Service Medal w/ 1 star - Southwest Asia Service Medal w/ 2 stars
Third Row: Sea Service Deployment Ribbon - Kuwait Liberation Medal (Saudi Arabia) - Kuwait Liberation Medal (Kuwait)



Flag Hoist / Radio Call Sign:

N - T - C - H

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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