



THOMAS C. HART LINE

YOU GOTTA HAVE HART

Vol. 3 Issue 27

March 2021

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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)

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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Shipmates-As most of you know, we reluctantly cancelled the 2021 reunion in Washington D. C. due to the uncertainties of Covid on the reunion venues. The reunion has been rescheduled for next year at the approximate time frame with the same itinerary. We also expect the costs to remain the same or close to the 2021 costs. So mark your calendar for June 21 thru June 26, 2022 for the rescheduled Washington D.C. reunion. More information and details will follow in the months ahead.

Please see the below comments from our Webmaster, Mark Lamboni, who will be retiring from this position. If any of our members have an interest in being the new Webmaster, please contact Mark or Garry as noted in Mark's comments.

Also, see the comments from our Secretary and Founder, Garry Collins, regarding an informal reunion where he and other TCHVA Vets will be camping out in June near Graceland in Memphis, TN. Should be a great time for you campers out there.

Stay safe and healthy, and hope to see all of you at the 2022 reunion.

Philip Leblanc

Philip Leblanc (HT2 1973-1976)
President TCHVA

VICE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Shipmates,

We have all had a challenging year full of unknowns. I can only hope and pray that all of our Shipmates and families are doing well and finding hope through these difficult times. Vaccines are out and being distributed. We are still affected by many mandates and unsure when these mandates are going to be lifted. The Association Officers have made the decision to postpone the 2021 Hart Reunion until June 2022. It was a decision that was difficult to make, but we must realize that it was a safe decision. We also looked at the progress of venues opening up in time for us to completely enjoy the tours planned. Many are closed and the Navy Memorial is closed as well, so we would have to move our Plaque Dedication outside and not have the opportunity to see our Plaque displayed. Our planner, Sherry was able to reschedule our Reunion utilizing the same Hotel and on the same dates originally planned.

This gives us another year to grow as an organization and to reach out to shipmates that are not aware that we exist. We are still seeing an increase of new members, but there still shipmates to find. I am so thankful that our Founder, Garry Collins saw it in his heart to create this Association, and bring all shipmates together again to reflect on our time onboard Hart. We rekindle unforgettable memories and have fun making new memories. It is an event that you do not want to miss out on.

As spring approaches, let's all enjoy what we have, family, friends, and look forward to a brighter future. Until next time, be well, be safe and take care of each other.

YA GOTTA HAVE HART

All the best,

Steve Holliday (DC1(SW) 1985-90)

Vice President TCHVA

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From the Secretary 

Shipmates,

Here we are almost a quarter through 2021 already. I hope this finds you and yours doing well! As I'm sure you're aware, the TCHVA leadership team made the tough decision to cancel our DC reunion scheduled for this June. That said, we're already on track for the same week next year at the same hotel. Details will follow in the future but for now, please block that same week for our DC reunion. We have also rescheduled our Navy Memorial Plaque dedication to happen at the 2022 event!

With the disappointment of the reunion cancellation, an idea surfaced to get together during that same time on a campground somewhere. Well, thanks to John Ebata and Jerry Leatherwood, three of us have booked reservations in Memphis, TN at the campground just across the street from Elvis's house, Graceland. Here's the link to the campground. I have stayed there before and it is super convenient and nice. <https://www.graceland.com/rv-park-campground>. We have spots beginning on Sunday/Monday, June 20/21 thru Saturday/Sunday June 26/27 (we're arriving on either Sunday or Monday and departing either Saturday or Sunday). If you'd like to join us or drop by for a visit, you are certainly most welcome. The more the merrier. If you can't stay the whole week, no problem. Just tailor your stay to your schedule. You can contact me at garrysea@gmail.com, Jerry

at jerrywood1038@gmail.com, or John at jebata01@gmail.com if you have questions. If you decide to book your reservation, please mention that you are part of our group and request a site near us.

As for membership, we're looking pretty good. At present, we have 114 paid up, current members. Some of you may have let your membership lapse accidentally so please check our current member roster on the website to make sure your'e still an active member. You can check here: <http://www.thomaschart.org/id100.html> If you don't see your name, you can reenlist here: <http://www.thomaschart.org/id33.html>. Everyone should reach out to your shipmates with whom you are in contact and encourage them to join us. None of us are getting any younger so we need to stay in touch and keep the TCHVA organization strong and viable! Facebook is a wonderful platform for "real time" communication and I do encourage everyone to stay engaged there but as a fraternity, TCHVA is the way to go. The Association and its members are the ones who support our reunions and keep our website active. Please consider joining us if you haven't already. I didn't mention it, but our dues have never increased. We're still just \$20 for a two year hitch with TCHVA. All dues are used to support the website and domain costs and a little goes to help with our reunion hospitality suite at each reunion. No member receives any compensation and all are volunteers!

Speaking of volunteers, our webmaster, Mark Lamboni is looking for someone who would be interested in relieving him of his duties in the next year or so. His newsletter article describes the need so if you're at all interested, please give us a yell. You do not have to know any computer code with our current website. It is a web based template where it's pretty much a point and click operation, adding photos, and text where desired.

Please continue to stay safe and hopefully we'll get this pandemic situation behind us and some sense of normality will return. I do heartedly recommend the vaccine as well! It's wonderful to know that some protection could potentially save your life as well as the life of your loved ones.

All the best, *Garry Collins*

Garry Collins
LCDR, SC, USN (ret) SUPPO 1986-1989
USS Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association Founder/Secretary

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Financial Report **THOMAS C HART VETERANS ASSOCIATION**

Checking Balance as of March 21st is \$3995.51
990-n postcard IRS tax form completed.

Take care and God Bless

Dennis Paul
Treasurer, TCHVA

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WEBMASTER NOTES

Greetings TCHVA Shipmates!

One of the issues facing our association is transitioning and upgrading our web site WWW.thomaschart.org. Our current contract for our domain expires in January 2022, whereas our contract for the site itself with Web.com will continue. Our hopes are to consolidate the web service and domain provider into one contract/provider and relaunch a new and upgraded site.

That being said, our current Web Master is looking to retire and transfer duties to any interested person (or persons) who would enjoy this adventure and bring our web site into a more modern, and more importantly, secure site (HTTPS instead of HTTP). With the transition to a new domain and possibly new site provider, this would be a great opportunity to have someone in on the ground floor to help design, develop and manage our web site.

So what amount of time are you looking at should you choose to step up and take on this opportunity? Well, the current Web Master can tell you he spends roughly 1-3 hours weekly, at most, updating content, posting notices, downloading material and checking messages. There are periods of increased work, especially around pre- and post-reunion planning and presenting results of the event. By his own admission, he was self-taught with lots of assistance from the original designer and manager, our own Garry Collins. Thus, the recommendation to bring on a new manager or management team as we transition to new technology seems the most prudent manner to pursue.

So if you are interested in taking on this opportunity, or know of someone (family or friend) who might enjoy creating a new and more secure and dynamic web site, please feel free to contact us in any one of several ways:

- Contact Us tab in the [WWW:thomaschart.org](http://WWW.thomaschart.org) website, or
- Email current web manager Mark Lamboni at mlamboni@verizon.net or Association Secretary and web site plank owner Garry Collins at garrysea@gmail.com.

The TCHVA Board thanks you in advance for your interest in this matter.

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REUNION 2022

Although we've needed to postpone the reunion for this year, looking ahead to next year we'll try to keep the same venue and schedule.

Place: The Westin Washington Dulles Airport, 2520 Wasser Terrace, Herndon, VA 20171, (703) 793-3366.

Dates: Tues 21 – Sunday 28 June 2022

Preliminary itinerary as follows: Note: subject to change

- **Tues - Early Bird Check-in/Hospitality Suite open ~1500.**
- **Weds – Tours of the Capitol, downtown Washington DC**
- **Thurs – Tours of Arlington Cemetery and Mount Vernon**
- **Fri – Dedication of plaque at Navy Memorial, self-guided tour of memorials, museums, and other attractions on the national mall**
- **Sat - Business Meeting (AM)/Free Time/Banquet (PM)**
- **Sun - Check-out (AM)**

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Final Farewells

RM2 Ron Woods '77-'79 passed away January 15th, 2021, Melbourne Florida
EW2 Leon T. Lyons, Jr., served onboard Hart 90-93; passed away December 2020

Rex Locklear: (from Steve Holliday) I regret to inform all of you that we have lost another Hart Shipmate. Rex served with Garry Collins, Jerry Leatherwood, Lee Edwardsen, John Ebata and myself. Rex was my LPO in R-Div. when I reported aboard in 1985. He was highly respected by all Shipmates. He transferred to the Fire School as a instructor and made HTC. We were in contact through sending Christmas Cards each year. We sent one this year and later received a letter from his wife Shelia informing us of his death. As far as I remember, Rex reported onboard 1984 and transferred 1987.



REX LOCKLEAR: JUNE 1, 1959 – JANUARY 5, 2020

Rex Locklear of Atlantic Beach passed away January 5, 2020. He was born in Lumberton, NC on June 1, 1959 and graduated from Pembroke High School. Rex married Shelia Locklear June 29, 1984. He retired from the US Navy after 22 years of service. Soon after his retirement, Rex began his 2nd career at BAE with whom he is still employed. He was a longtime member and Deacon at Oak Harbor Baptist Church and was known as a jack-of-all-trades preferring to work outdoors. In addition to his wife, Shelia, he is survived by his daughter, Ashley Baker (Arsenio); grandchildren, La’Niyah, Za’Riyah, Alijah, and Alaya; sister, Judy Locklear; and a host of extended family and friends. Funeral services will be held 2pm Tuesday, January 14th at Oak Harbor Baptist Church, Atlantic Beach. The family will receive friends at the church one hour prior to the service.

Shelia & Daughter Ashley Locklear
2257 McAlpine Ct.
Jacksonville, Florida 32233

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CRUISE BOOKS

A big THANK YOU to Jim Zamorski, who provided scans of a number of Hart familygrams for our files. The issues he provided are: June 1976, August 1976, October 1976, November 1976, March 1977, June 1977, April 1978 and December 1978. He also provided scans of the 1976 UNITAS cruise book, the 77/78 Med cruise book, and the 1980 Persian Excursion cruise book, as well as the 1978 “Crew’s Book”, a HART-produced photo album of the yard period. Jim is hereby designated “Admin Officer of the Quarter”.

We now have scans of 76 familygrams/TCHVA newsletters and 7 cruise books. CD copies will be provided at the next reunion to anyone who wants them.

DESTROYER ESCORT SAILORS ASSOCIATION (DESA)

Thomas C. Hart sailors are eligible to join DESA. This organization is dedicated to sharing and preserving the history of all destroyer escorts, including the Knox class DE/FFs. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.desausa.org>, or contact them at Destroyer Escort Sailors Association, PO Box 488, Henderson Harbor, NY 13651-0488; (315) 938-7000

NEWSLETTER ITEMS AND COMMENTS

Comments, and items for the newsletter 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 475 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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