



# THOMAS C. HART LINE

## YOU GOTTA HAVE HART

Vol. 3 Issue 33

JULY 2023

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<b>T. C. Hart Veterans Assoc. Officers 2022-23</b>		
President	Steve Holliday	DC1 (85-90)
Vice Pres.	<b>OPEN</b>	
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	Todd Black	LT (87-90)
Chaplain	Lee Edwardsen	STG2 (81-86)
Chairman	Phil Leblanc	HT2 (73-76)

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### FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Shipmates,

If you're planning to attend our 50 th Anniversary of Commissioning Reunion, you need to be aware that time is running out to get your reservations in. Reservations are due July 22, 2023 to receive the special Hotel price available to TCHVA members.

We are getting good numbers of attendance and we are in the process of adding onto the block of rooms. We are excited to welcome new attendees/new members to this very special event. It is always exciting to get together again and rekindle great times had in our earlier years. It is extra special to meet shipmates that were present during the commissioning of our ship, and the sailors that served through the years leading up to the ships transfer to the Turkish Navy.

Please do not miss Muster. This will be our last Newsletter before the reunion. Visit: <http://thomaschart.org> to receive the latest news concerning Reunion 2023, download our latest newsletter, receive IMC Announcements, join or renew TCHVA Memberships, shop the Ship's Store, view the Eternal Deployment page, share a favorite Sea Story, view photos of previous reunions and several other resources are available.

Remember, that you must be a TCHVA Member and complete registration to join us in the Hospitality Room or attend our Banquet and any other festivities during the reunion.

We hope to see you in our Homeport, August 2023!!!

All the best,

*Steve Holliday* (DC1(SW) 1985-90)

President TCHVA

## YA GOTTA HAVE HART

Shipmates,

This year's reunion celebrates the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ships commissioning on July 28, 1973 at the Boston Naval Shipyard, not far from where the U.S.S. Constitution (Old Ironsides) was docked. As a Plank Owner, I remember what a thrill and honor it was to be part of the commissioning. The weeks in the shipyard as part of the pre-commissioning crew were filled with long work hours getting the ship outfitted for the commissioning. Of course, this was all new and exciting for a new recruit, just out of training school. When we had liberty, it was always fun navigating the intricacies of the T (Boston's Subway System) heading to the then active Combat Zone and the Hillbilly Ranch.

Being from Massachusetts, I had family in Central Mass., so I was able to take my parents and a cousin to the commissioning. My cousin's husband was a WWII Torpedoman on a destroyer. Until the day he died, he always talked about attending the ceremony and what a thrill it was for him to be there.

I hope many of you reading this newsletter can attend this special reunion and celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U.S.S. Thomas C. Hart DE/FF-1092, and re-kindle friendships with former shipmates and make new ones with shipmates from different times on board.

Sincerely,

Phil Leblanc  
HT2(1973-1976)  
Chairman TCHVA

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### Financial Report THOMAS C HART VETERANS ASSOCIATION

Current Balance as of July 7, 2023 is \$3366.74  
Transferring from PayPal \$490.49  
Checking balance does not indicate PayPal Transfer.  
Balance in Checking and PayPal reflects 9 new members.  
web.com \$44.80

Dennis Paul, HM1(SW/AW) SMDR 91-93  
USS, Thomas C Hart veterans Association Treasurer.

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If you are on facebook, consider joining the USS Thomas C. Hart FF 1092 group,  
with its 644 members and hundreds of photos and posts.

## From the Secretary

Hello shipmates,

Shipmates, I hope 2023 is treating you and yours well in all areas of your life. Reporting as the Secretary of TCHVA, I am pleased to report that the Association is robust and we are looking forward to a great reunion coming up next month. Now is the time to make those hotel reservations and get your reunion registrations completed and sent in to our reunion planner (address on the brochure). The brochure has been emailed to you in the past and it has been posted on Facebook in the TCH group a couple of times as well. I know our fabulous Newsletter editor, Dave Neimeyer, has been emailing copies to those who request one on Facebook. Here's where we are with reunion deadlines. The Association has a specified and guaranteed hotel room block BUT we must release any unbooked rooms on July 22nd so if you haven't reserved your room, you should do so ASAP because after July 22nd, our discounted rate will not be guaranteed and there may not even be any rooms available at any price.. That's enough about that. Please do not confuse July 22nd hotel deadline as a deadline for reunion registration. It is not! It is strictly about the release of unsold rooms back to the hotel. You may register for the reunion anytime up to, and including, during the reunion. While I don't recommend that as there could be issues with getting extra meals for the banquet it can be done! We will do what we can to accommodate you. It is not uncommon for a few shipmates to show up during the event.

There are only "two" requirements for you to attend the TCH reunions. First, you must be a veteran of service aboard TCH. Secondly, you must be a member of TCHVA. You may bring as many guests as you like. If you're unsure of your membership status in TCHVA you can

check the website here for a current list of members. <https://thomaschart.org/tchva-member-listing/> If your name is not there, please go ahead and join/renew online or if you prefer, we'll collect your \$20 (two years dues) at the reunion when you check in.

As for the Association status, we now have 123 current paid up TCHVA members. Not bad but we could do much better. I know Facebook is convenient and a great way to communicate, but please understand that it is ONLY TCHVA that initiates, plans, coordinates, and carries out these reunions. TCHVA also funds and supports our website and helps subsidize our reunions when possible. Without our formal organization, I fear getting together for a big event would never happen. Please consider keeping your membership current. We have never raised our modest dues of \$10 annually (collected in two year increments). As long as we have your support we'll keep the cost down.

Let's keep it rolling! See you in August!

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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## FINAL FAREWELLS

From David Fiscus on facebook June 7<sup>th</sup> "Good morning, I am heartbroken to let you all know that my father [Ron Fiscus](#) who served onboard the USS Thomas C. Hart-FF 1092 from 1973-1975 passed away peacefully at his home in Pollock, ID on June 5th, 2023 with his partner Tresa Shearer of 13 years by his side. His heart just had no more fight in it. We are holding his service in Potlatch, ID at St Mary's Catholic Church on 16 June at 1000 hrs with graveside service following where he will be reunited with his wife of 33 years, our mother Shari Fiscus. Our Dad loved his ship and his shipmates and always had a story to tell, and we'd listen to it no matter how many times we'd already heard it. Bless you all and thank you for your service to this great Nation."

Steven J. Joiner passed away on March 19, 2023 in Ellwood City, PA. He served on Thomas C. Hart as a GMT2 from 1985-1989.

Go to the Hart website, eternal deployment section, for updates and listing of shipmates who have passed away. Additional information on rate/rank and time on board for those who have passed would be appreciated.

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## CRUISE BOOKS

We now have scans of 78 familygrams/TCHVA newsletters; several precommissioning, commissioning, Change of Command and Welcome aboard booklets; and 7 cruise books. If you have any familygrams, newsletters, cruise books, photos, or other paper memorabilia you would like to share, please contact me, Dave Neimeyer, at 484-378-2725 [dave@neimeyer.org](mailto:dave@neimeyer.org). I'll let you know if it's an item we need. You can then either send me a scanned attachment of the item, or you could mail me the original. I can scan the item and return the original to you.

**SPECIAL GOOD DEAL:** Bring a flash drive / memory stick to the reunion to receive a copy of all the familygrams, newsletters, cruise books, etc, as well as photos from most of the past reunions.

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### **Will this be the last copy of the newsletter that you receive?**

In the past we have send the newsletter to anyone whose address we had. We are now considering going back to the policy as stated in the Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association bylaws where the newsletter is only sent to members of the association. On the one hand, sending to everyone gives us a wider audience and may encourage joining the association, attending the reunions, etc. On the other hand, association dues support many of our activities (such as our website) and so the newsletter would serve as a perk for those who support the association. What are your thoughts? Avoid a conflict and join the association.

Comments and items for the newsletter can be sent to Dave Neimeyer at [dave@neimeyer.org](mailto:dave@neimeyer.org) or 9026 Haaf Road, Fogelsville PA 18051-1717

## 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](http://www.thomaschart.org)

### THOMAS C. HART VETERANS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP

Check your membership status: <https://thomaschart.org/tchva-member-listing/> If your name does not appear here then your membership expired before 2022 or you were never a member.



If a shipmate told you about the TCHVA, please tell us who: \_\_\_\_\_

Tell us about yourself and your service aboard USS THOMAS C. HART (DD/FF 1092)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ M.I.: \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Rate/Rank on TCH: \_\_\_\_\_ Division: \_\_\_\_\_

Year Reported: \_\_\_\_\_ Year Detached: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell/Work Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Current Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name (if desired): \_\_\_\_\_

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 desired.

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

Mail this form and check or money order to:

USS Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association  
C/O Dennis Paul  
PO Box 69  
Powder River, WY 82648

Note: If you have any difficulty printing this form, please just write the requested information on a short note and include with your payment. We'll make sure to muster you in. Thanks