



THOMAS C. HART LINE

YOU GOTTA HAVE HART

Vol. 3 Issue 36

March 2024

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T. C. Hart Veterans Assoc. Officers 2023-25		
President	Steve Holliday	DC1 (85-90)
Vice Pres.	Bill Tylock	EM2 (78-83)
	Dan Vasconcellos	FTG2 (77-82)
Treasurer	Dennis Paul	HM1 (91-93)
Secretary	Mark Lamboni	LTJG (76-78)
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	Mike Garcia	FTG2 (77-79)
Chairman	Phil Leblanc	HT2 (73-76)

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FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Shipmates,

Finally, Spring is upon us and this year is moving right along. Before you know it, it will be reunion time again. Now is the time to get our Shipmates onboard and build our membership. Also, remember to monitor your membership expiration date, as they approach rather quickly as well.

We are presently working on establishing a business relationship with Armed Forces Reunions Inc. and commence planning our 2025 Reunion. I would like to recognize and thank our Newsletter Editor, David Neimeyer for taking on the challenge as Reunion Coordinator. Dave has already started spearheading contract negotiations and planning efforts to ensure that we can all enjoy a great time together once again. We also welcome our Shipmate, Jonathon Carr, as he will be assisting us in our planning efforts.

With the loss of our Founder, Shipmate and Friend, Garry Collins, we must continue on building this organization in his memory. Please remember to keep Garry's wife, Marylyn and their family and friends in your thoughts and prayers. Marylyn, please accept our heartfelt sympathy. We also thank you for assisting us in the transfer process that was at hand. You made everything work smoothly and assisted us where needed.

I would also like to recognize and thank our Webmaster, Mark Lamboni for taking on the office as Secretary until our next Business Meeting in 2025. Additionally, I would also like to recognize and thank our other Webmaster, Todd Black for all of his hard work and time in making our transfer to Dream Host a success with better IT services.

I hope that you will enjoy the upcoming Summer and stay safe. We want to see you at the next reunion.

All the best, Steve Holliday DC1(SW) Ret. TCHVA President

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From the Secretary

Hello TC HART VETERANS and Families/Friends,

Shipmates, I'm happy to report we have a total of 109 paid up members as of March 2024. That being said, we have had over 20 other former members dropped from the active roster who have not renewed their memberships as of the end of 2023. So when you get the chance, please consider renewing your membership online.

Plans are moving along for our 2025 TCHVA Reunion. As of now, it looks like the most promising venue will be in the Portland Maine area where a number of other Navy Associations have hosted enjoyable reunions and festivities. So stay tuned as plans firm up and we'll get the word out ASAP as plans finalize.

As most of you know, we lost our TCHVA founder and lifelong member, mentor, secretary and shipmate Garry Collins earlier this year. Garry was the driving force behind TCHVA and especially when it came to planning and enjoying the wonderful reunions. As always, our thoughts and prayers remain with Marylyn and the entire Collins family. In his absence I will try to fill his big shoes as acting Secretary until the next Board elections in 2025.

And last, but not least, a big thanks to all those who made the 2023 reunion celebrating THOMAS C HART (DE/FF 1092) 50 th year since Commissioning a great event!

All the best,
Mark Lamboni, CAPT, USN (Ret)
LTjg COMMO/First LT 1976 - 1979
USS Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association Acting Secretary

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FINANCIAL REPORT THOMAS C HART VETERANS ASSOCIATION

At this juncture there should not be much change in our balance in the bank but because of Garry Collin's passing we need to close the account and open a new account with Wells Fargo using the EIN from our nonprofit status. (Garry had originally set up the account when the association was formed and so his name was on the account.) Our balance is about \$4400.

Dennis Paul HMC(SW/AW), USN, Ret SMDR 1991-1993
Treasurer USS Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association

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CHAPLAIN'S NOTES

Hello Shipmates,

It's been a long tough Winter. We have seen the passing of our shipmates and friends Garry Collins, Todd Moss, and Charlie Khrono. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers.

Winter is gone and we look forward to new beginnings as Springtime pushes the winter weather away. Don't forget to give a shipmate a call or a text now and then to check on them. A few words from a friend can make the difference in their day.

Please do share with us if a shipmate is sick or in need.

Best wishes to all.

Sincerely,
Mike Garcia
Chaplain

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FINAL FAREWELLS

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

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If you are on facebook, consider joining the USS Thomas C. Hart FF 1092 group, with its 769 members and hundreds of photos and posts.

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REUNION 2025

Portland, Maine – 15-19 Oct 2025

As previously noted, Sherry of “A Complete Reunion”, who planned the last few Thomas C. Hart reunions, has retired and closed the company. We’ve decided to go with Armed Forces Reunion/Book My Reunion as the reunion planner for our 2025 reunion.

The reunion committee and the TCHVA board of officers recently received the contracts from AFR and the Merry Manor. We are reviewing them and barring some unexpected roadblock we expect to have them signed shortly. From a list of dates offered by the Merry Manor Inn in South Portland Maine, we’ve selected October 15-19 as the dates of our reunion. The rate will be \$129 a night plus 9% tax, good for the reunion plus three days before and after the reunion. That will include a free full buffet breakfast each day, full use of a large hospitality room, reimbursed taxi fees to and from the airport, and other services.

We’re still a bit far out for planning tours since most venues will wait until the start of 2025 before determining their rates and schedules. However, we will probably stick to our established schedule of hospitality room open on Tuesday, tours on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, a business meeting on Saturday morning with the closing banquet on Saturday night, and most people departing on Sunday morning.

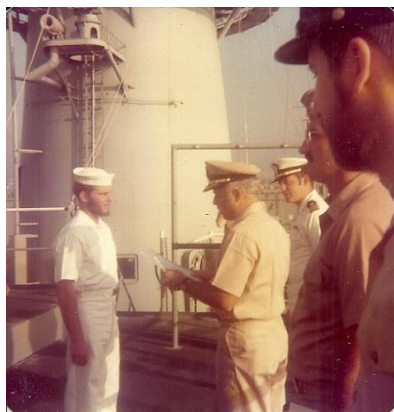
As we plan for tours, what would you like to see and do at our Portland reunion? What sites would you like to see? The Maine Maritime Museum, Fort Williams lighthouse, tours of downtown Portland, a harbor cruise, and the Maine Military Museum are all fairly close to the Merry Manor Inn. Bath Iron Works, L.L. Bean outlets, and other attractions are a bit further, but could be worked in if there is interest. It’s up to you! Let us know your ideas. It would be best to post them in our facebook group page so others could chime in, but you could also send your ideas to me at dave@neimeyer.org.

See you in Portland in 2025!!

Dave Neimeyer
dave@neimeyer.org
484-378-2725

HART IN HISTORY – FIRST MED DEPLOYMENT Part 2

- 16 - 22 August: Taranto, Italy. Right at the instep of Italy's boot. How many shipmates crossed the bridge to the "off limits" section of town?
- 25 August - 9 September: Catania Sicily. Two weeks of upkeep and repairs. The crew also spent lots of time at the nearby US base at Sigonella, including the Officers vs Chiefs baseball game. Another popular outing was to take tours to Mt. Etna.
- 13 Sept - 4 October: Long visit to Naples. "Med-moored" to the Molo Angelino. "Hey Joes" on the pier. "Hey, Joe...you buy?" The USO was a few blocks into town. Hart was visited by the Secretary of the Navy and Commander Sixth Fleet.
- 14 - 17 October: Messina Italy. One of the cleanest towns in Italy. We would have stayed longer, but the induction pipes kept clogging from sucking up plastic and other garbage flowing through the straits of Messina. We had to send a diver over the side to clean them out. Transiting the straits of Messina was fun. In addition to the usual host of pleasure boats, fishermen, and commercial vessels plying the straits, there was also a huge power cable that stretched from Sicily to the mainland. The navigation guides warned us that it would pick up like a ship on our radar, but was too high to impede our passage. As we moved through the straits, radar did indeed pick up a phantom contact. It kept getting closer and closer, on a collision course with the ship. Unlike the merchants and fishing boats, it did not get out of our way. Worse, we could not see it. 14,000 yards and closing...12,000 yards and closing...constant bearing, decreasing range ("CBDR"...a sure sign of a possible collision)...10,000 yards and closing. Where the heck is that contact? Can anybody see it? 8,000 yards and closing!! By this time everyone with binoculars is intently scanning the direction of the contact trying to sight it. 7,000 yards and closing!! About this time, someone would remember the warning from the navigation guide and would announce "It's the power cable." "Oh yeah, the power cable. I knew that" everyone would agree, and go back to the normal level of trauma of a transit of restricted waterways.
- 18-22 October: Catania Sicily. More time to make use of the facilities at Sigonella.
- 27 October - 11 November: Inport Naples; dependent flight brought many wives to enjoy Naples with their sailors. Visits to Pompei, Mt. Vesuvius, Capri, Rome, etc. Nine months later, many visits to maternity wards. (My wife was on the trip; my son was born in August 1976. Do the math.)
- 17 -21 November: Inport Athens Greece. Very tightly controlled liberty; only the second ship to return to Greece after that country allowed US ships back in. Lots of movies on the pier, with the only "off-pier" liberty being commercial bus tours. Great stuff, though, with the acropolis being one of the highlights.



1. 8 Sept 1975 XN Division: HM1 Currier, HMSN Andre, PC3 Edwards, YN3 Bayliss, PN3 Wiech, YN3 Lundquist, SN Murray, QM3 Leatherman, QM3 Rooks
2. SN Murray, Captain Rohrbough, XO John Scott Redd, QMC Plummer, YNC Childress
3. 13 Sept 1975 Entering Naples. YN3 Bayliss, CO John Rohrbough, XO John Scott Redd, Harbor Pilot

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: <https://thomaschart.org/tchva-member-listing/> If your name does not appear here then your membership expired before 2023 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
6490 Big Cheese Rd
Natrona, WY 82646

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!