



THOMAS C. HART LINE

YOU GOTTA HAVE HART

Vol. 3 Issue 38

July 2025

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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:

It has been a while since we sent out a Newsletter and with our Portland, Maine Reunion just a few months away, we want to remind you that it's time to start preparing to attend. Thank you to our Reunion Coordinator, Dave Neimeyer for keeping our Shipmates informed with updated information as we draw closer. Dave has been working closely with Armed Forces Reunions and our Hotel, Best Western Merry Manor, to ensure a smooth working relationship in the process.

On our USS Thomas C. Hart (DE/FF-1092) Veterans Association website:

www.thomaschart.org information is updated by Todd Black and Mark Lamboni. They have provided a section in the drop-down menu named, TCHVA Reunion 14 – 19 October 2025. This provides a link to the Registration Form and contains information to either register online or download the form to mail in.

The Registration Close Date is posted as September 15, 2025. So far, we have had 11 registered to attend. I know that there are Shipmates that have prior commitments and have regrettably informed us of their unavailability. I have also noticed that Shipmates would attend if the Reunion were closer to their location. Please keep in mind that the location of upcoming reunions is voted on during the Business Meeting held during the Reunion.

I can understand that if you live on the West Coast, it is more challenging to make that commitment since the majority of all our Reunions have been on the East Coast. My first Reunion took place in Rapid City, South Dakota. I am in Virginia Beach, but I thoroughly enjoyed the trip to South Dakota. It was somewhere that I had never visited. Along with seeing new places, more importantly, I was able to reconnect with my previous Shipmates and make lasting relationships with Shipmates that served on Hart in other eras.

I strongly urge you to become a member and consider attending this upcoming Reunion in Portland, Maine. If you plan on attending, please submit your Reservations and register using the link

provided above. The tracking of attendees are in motion to consider our Transportation needs for our scheduled tours.

I, along with the TCHVA Board, look forward to seeing you in Portland. Please have a safe and enjoyable Summer.

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

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Notes from the Vice President

Hello, Shipmates,

I am writing as Vice-President of the association and hope I find all of you well. Summer is just starting, and we finally have some long days here in the north (I am in Upstate NY) Hopefully the warmth will follow soon. But fall is just around the corner, and along with that is our next reunion. One of the reasons we picked Maine in the fall is for the wonderful fall colors. They should be at full peak about the time of our get together.

I have attended several reunions now, and don't plan to miss any more. The first few reunions for me were too far, too expensive, couldn't afford the time off, or any other reason. Now that I have gotten to some, I find it is always a good time, and I make some new friends, and re-acquaint myself with some old friends. Now I save ahead, plan out my travel, and make sure to get the time off that I need. The first reunion I attended, I rode my Harley to Minneapolis, and had 3 days travel each way. (In hindsight, 4 days would have been better!)

Hart had over 1800 sailors assigned in her lifetime; it would be great to meet as many of them as I can. Additionally, over 400 were onboard the same time I was, Fall of 1978 through mid-1983. I would definitely enjoy seeing you all again. Many of the usual reunion attendees are plank owners, it would be nice to see some folks from all the eras Hart was commissioned.

There is still plenty of time to register. If you think you will attend but don't want to register at this time, email any of us and let us know. If you aren't sure, contact one of us, maybe we can help you decide. If you know any shipmates that don't get the newsletter, pass it on so they can make their choice.

This Association is member shipmate supported, and member shipmate driven, as are the reunions. We need your help to keep the Association going. I look forward to seeing many of you in the future (Hopefully Portland). Enjoy your summer!

Bill Tylock
EM2(SW) 1978-1983
Vice-President
USS Thomas C. Hart (DE/FF – 1092) Veterans Association



FINANCIAL REPORT THOMAS C HART VETERANS ASSOCIATION

June 2025 Treasurer Report

Current Balance in Wells Fargo Business Account is 5792.66

This includes Deposit transfers of 589.98 and 77.42 from PayPal for Dues and 80.00 received in checks for Dues.

Only Deduction was 100.00 to Armed Forces Reunions.

Have a Blessed Day

Dennis Paul HMC(SW/AW), USN, Ret SMDR 1991-1993

Treasurer USS Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association

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From the Secretary



Hello TC HART VETERANS and Families/Friends,

I'm happy to report we have a total of 108 paid up members (including Honorary members) as of June 2025. That being said, we have had over a dozen other former members dropped from the active roster who have not renewed their memberships as of the end of 2024. So when you get the chance, please consider renewing your membership online.

If you are wondering if you are among those former shipmates whose membership expired this past December, and perhaps did not receive any of my emails advising folks that their membership was expiring, here's my most current list:

Ahern, Mike	Baer, Dennis	Bocha, Frank	Boswell, James	Cobb, Kerry
Elson, Malcolm	Gleaves, Michael	Groen, Randy	Johnson, Kenneth	Kust, Michael
McGourn, Joe	Rush, Richard	Seigle, Thomas	Shanahan, Michael	Thiel, Toby
Wagoner, Lee				

If you believe your name is listed in error, please contact me at mlamboni@verizon.net.

Plans are moving along for our 2025 TCHVA Reunion in Portland Maine from 14 – 19 October 2025 where a number of other Navy Associations have hosted enjoyable reunions and festivities. So please go to our website at thomaschart.org for all the goug and register for this event. It should be a very picturesque time of the season and who wouldn't want to enjoy a good old fashioned New England lobster bake in historic Kennebunkport Maine! I'm certainly looking forward to it

All the best,

Mark Lamboni, CAPT, USN (Ret)

LTjg COMMO/First LT 1976 - 1979

USS Thomas C. Hart Veterans Association Acting Secretary

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.

Comments and items for the newsletter can be sent to Dave Neimeyer at dave@neimeyer.org 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 851 members and hundreds of photos and posts.

HART IN HISTORY – MED DEPLOYMENT 1975 – PART 4 (FINAL!)

- 7-12 December: Gibraltar. The Rock! Friendly, English-speaking folks. We all did lots of Christmas shopping, pub hopping, watched the rock monkeys (Gibraltar apes) and toured the tunnels inside the rock. One of my favorite spots was St. Michael's Cave. It is a huge cave with massive stalactites and stalagmites. When I first entered, the pillars were bathed in colored lights while an unseen organist played "Amazing Grace". Absolutely beautiful.

- 15 December: brief stop for fuel, Ponta Delgado, Azores. No liberty

- 20 Dec: brief stop for fuel, Bermuda. A huge "Bravo Zulu" to Captain John Rohrbough, who sweet-talked the pilot into allowing us to leave that day, rather than stay overnight, even though rules said ships could not depart after a certain hour and we were well past that hour when fueling was complete. The pilot's only demand was that he be given the conn for the transit.

- 22 December: arrive Norfolk, Virginia. The natives were friendly

USS Thomas C. Hart DE/FF 1092 Reunion Registration Form

Listed below are all registration, tour, and meal costs for the reunion. Please enter a quantity for each event you and your guests wish to participate in. Then total your costs and send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of a check or money order. You may also register online and pay by credit card at <http://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/USSHart25> (online registrations have a convenience fee of 4%). Registration form and payment must be received on or before September 15th. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of your completed form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form. (Returned checks will incur a \$20 fee)

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
 Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
 322 Madison Mews
 Norfolk, VA 23510
 ATTN: USS Thomas C. Hart

OFFICE USE ONLY Check # _____	
Received _____	Inputted _____

Don't forget CUT-OFF date is September 15, 2025!

	Price	# of Ppl	Total
<u>MANDATORY REGISTRATION FEE</u>			
Registration Fee	\$25	#	\$
Total number in your party (including member, spouse, and guests)	-----		-----
<u>TOURS</u>			
Thursday, October 16: Tour#4 Kennebunkport Tour with a Downeast Lobster Bake. (8am-4pm est)	\$140	#	\$
Friday, October 17: Tour #1 Greater Portland Overview: Lighthouse & Military Museum (8:30am -12:30p)	\$74	#	\$
<u>MEALS</u>			
Saturday, October 18: Banquet (<i>Buffet style: salad, beef, chicken and fish entrées, sides, and dessert included</i>)	\$50	#	\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.	-----		\$

PLEASE PRINT YOUR NAME AND SPOUSE/GUEST NAMES AS YOU WISH THEM TO APPEAR ON THE NAMETAG:

FIRST _____ NICKNAME _____ LAST _____

YEARS ONBOARD _____ RATE/RANK _____

SPOUSE / GUEST NAME(S) _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____

EMAIL _____ PH. # _____

DISABILITY / DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME _____ PH. # _____

DO YOU NEED TO BE HYDRAULICALLY LIFTED ONTO THE BUS IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN TOURS? ☐ YES ☐ NO
 (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

REGISTER ONLINE AT: <http://www.events.afr-reg.com/e/USSHart25>

The
MAINE TOUR
CONNECTION

The Lobster Lady's Signature Tours
USS Thomas C Hart Armed Forces Reunion
October 16 & 17, 2025

Thursday, October 16, 2025 – 8am -4:30pm (est.)

Kennebunkport Tour with a Downeast Lobster Bake

- 8:00 am Meet your local **Maine Guide & Coach at the hotel this morning.**
- 8:30am Depart hotel with your local guide for a tour of **Kennebunkport**. Hear the history and folklore as you drive through two shipbuilding villages on Maine's south coast. Drive past the beaches, the Bush family compound at Walker's Point, hear the legend of the Wedding Cake House and maritime history of sea captains and shipbuilders. Stop at the Franciscan Monastery with its seaside shrines and gardens.
- 11:30am Don your **souvenir lobster hat** as a **classic Downeast lobsterbake lunch**. You'll feast on your choice of Maine boiled lobster or barbecued chicken, plus chowder, either steamed mussels or clams depending on availability and season, corn on the cob, Maine potatoes and blueberry cake.
- 1:30 pm Travel along the ocean
- 1:45 pm Stop is Maine's southernmost lighthouse in Cape Neddick. Stretch your legs and take in the picturesque view and salt air at the **Nubble Light**.
- 2:15 pm Travel to Scarborough
- 3:15 pm Photo op with **Lenny the Chocolate Moose** and a "Sweet Treat" awaits you at Len Libby Chocolate before returning to the hotel. You've heard of chocolate mousse, but have you ever seen a giant chocolate moose? See what these local chocolatiers created!
- 4:15 pm Return to the Best Western Merry manor (est. back at hotel by 4:30pm)

Friday, October 17, 2025 8:30-12:30 pm (est)

Greater Portland Overview: Lighthouses & Military Museum

- 8:00 am Meet your local **Maine Guide & Coach at the hotel this morning.**
- 8:30 am Depart hotel with your local guide for an Overview tour of **Portland highlights** from the historic Old Port waterfront to Fort Allen Park overlooking Casco Bay.
- 8:45 am Guided tour of **Maine Military Museum** featuring the largest display of Vietnam POW uniforms and artifacts smuggled from prison.
- 10:00am -12:15pm See three nearby lighthouses with admission included to the **Museum at Portland Head Light** at Fort Williams. Also view the Memorial to the WWII Liberty Ships next to the sparkplug shaped lighthouse.
- 12:30pm Tour will end in Portland's historic Old Port waterfront for free time. Walking maps and coupons for shops and restaurants provided.

Note: Coach will return to the Best Western Merry Manor if anyone doesn't want to explore the Old Port. Guests staying in the Old Port for lunch on their own will find their own transportation back to the hotel when ready.

We will be staying at the Best Western Merry Manor Inn, 700 Main Street, South Portland, Maine 04106. We have negotiated a special rate of \$129 per night, plus tax (single or double occupancy – extra person adds \$10 a night). The special rate is available for three days before and after our contracted dates (Oct 13-19) for shipmates who would like to stay longer to enjoy the South Portland area. Hotel fees include a free buffet breakfast each morning. Although the Merry Manor no longer has a shuttle bus available, shipmates arriving at the airport should take a taxi or ride share to the hotel and the Merry Manor will reimburse the cost.

You do NOT need to stay at the Merry Manor in order to participate in all reunion activities, including the hospitality suite. (The free breakfast buffet, of course, is limited to Merry Manor guests.)

Each shipmate must contact the Merry Manor directly to make their reservations. Call 207-774-6151 and tell the receptionist you are with the Thomas C. Hart reunion group for the special rate.

If you have questions about hotel services please contact the Merry Manor directly.

If you have a name tag lanyard from a previous reunion, please bring it along.

The Hospitality Suite will be open starting on Tuesday evening. Bring along your photos, cruise books, and other Hart memorabilia for display. The room will be secured when not in use.

The Merry Manor will provide a free one hour beer, wine, cheese, cracker, and cookie reception in the Hospitality Room at 5 PM Wednesday October 15th.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Cancellations prior to September 15, 2025 will receive a full refund for tour and banquet charges. You must contact the Merry Manor directly if you need to cancel your hotel reservation. The reunion registration fee is not refundable.

NOTE: Because membership dues from the Thomas C. Hart Veteran Association provides the seed money for initial reunion costs, as well as defraying other expenses, all shipmates attending the reunion must be members of the TCHVA. The good news is that you can sign up and pay dues at the reunion. Cost is \$10 a year, with two years collected at a time to cut down on admin. Please come to the reunion even if you are not sure of your TCHVA status. If you are not a member when you arrive, you will be one when you leave.

For general questions about the reunion contact Thomas C. Hart reunion coordinator Dave Neimeyer 484-378-2725 dave@neimeyer.org or go to the TCHVA website <https://www.thomaschart.org/> for more reunion and other info about the Hart and our shipmates.

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!