

As of 12/03/10 active member stands at 641; there are 38 shipmates that I am in contact with, we have 73 shipmates on our memorial page. Since the last newsletter we have added to our memorial page Theoplis King who died on 1/07/05. There are 3 pending membership, waiting for their applications.

Please welcome our newest members Ralph Crowley (80-83, BtFn), Brian Buske (76-78, BtFn) I have their information for anyone who may wish to contact them.

From the President's Desk

Check out the website and look at the information we have added about your reunion in New Orleans May of 2012;

“GREETINGS FROM THE SNOW COVERED PLAINS OF NORTHEAST WYOMING. AS I SAID IN A PREVIOUS NEWSLETTER, I HAD CONTACTED THE OFFICE OF MY U.S. SENATOR AND ASKED IF HIS STAFF COULD CUT THROUGH THE RED TAPE AND SEE IF THE SHIP HAD EVER BEEN AWARDED A P.U.C. TO WHICH THEY REPLIED “NO. THE SHIP NEVER RECEIVED A P.U.C.” SO HOPEFULLY THAT ISSUE CAN BE LAID TO REST.

WITH CHRISTMAS JUST DAYS AWAY, WE SHOULD GIVE THOUGHT TO ALL THOSE MEN AND WOMEN SERVING IN OUR ARMED FORCES WHETHER THEY ARE SOLDIERS, SAILORS, AIRMEN OR MARINES, AND GIVE OUR THANKS TO THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE. SEVERAL WEEKS AGO, WHILE AT AN OFFICEMAX STORE IN RAPID CITY, I SAW TWO MARINE SGT'S IN THE STORE. THEY WERE PROBABLY FROM THE LOCAL RECRUITING OFFICE. I DID NOT SEE ANYONE ACKNOWLEDGE THEIR PRESENCE, AND I FELT OBLIGATED TO PERSONALLY THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE. I DID THIS AS THEY STOOD IN THE CHECK OUT LINE ALONG WITH OTHER CUSTOMERS. I MADE SURE THE CUSTOMERS HEARD ME THANK THEM. BOTH MARINES THANKED ME SAYING THEY APPRECIATED WHAT I SAID. WE SHOULD ALL GIVE OUR THANKS TO OUR SERVICE PEOPLE FOR THE SACRIFICES THEY MAKE TO KEEP OUR COUNTRY SAFE. WE MAY NOT AGREE WITH THE POLITICIANS IN WASHINGTON, BUT WE NEED TO SUPPORT OUR MEN AND WOMEN IN UNIFORM. THE NEXT TIME YOU SEE ONE OF OUR OF OUR SERVICE PEOPLE, TAKE A SECOND AND THANK THEM FOR THEIR SERVICE. I AM SURE THEY WOULD APPRECIATE TOO.

I THINK I CAN SPEAK FOR THE ENTIRE BOARD AND WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A GREAT NEW YEAR. AND BY THE WAY, THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE.

From the New Orleans Coordinator

If you or someone in your party has special needs, please let us know when you make your reservation. Sites are handicapped accessible

It's never too early to plan ahead and set up procedures. However, I do not want to finalize excursions until we are about a year out. Availability and prices may, and most likely, will change. I have set all the events I have listed. Some have set a price and say they will stand by it, but some of the places will not commit this far out.. Besides, I don't think many of our folk want to commit with money so far in advance. Nor do we need them to do it

About the cruise, in my remarks and the handout at the dinner, I did say that we might include a cruise option for interested members following the re-union. I had very preliminary cost estimates because the cruise line had not yet set cruises that far out. They still haven't, not yet past April 2012. The only cruise option out of here is the Norwegian Spirit which does a seven day sail from here every Sunday to Costa Maya, Belize City, Roatan, and Cozumel. (That's a great cruise. Norma and I are taking it for the umpteenth time next week.) I have spoken with the head of the best cruise agency here in New Orleans, and he would be glad to set up a group for us, at a discounted rate. There were several people who told me at the dinner they were interested, and I have heard from a couple since too. I expect Norwegian to announce their summer 2012 cruises next month. At that time I'll have the agency come up with a proposal for us, and I'll forward it on to JJ for the board consideration.

From your Secretary Desk

I am asking for any leads of shipmate that you are in contact with who are not members of the Edwards Association.

Sent out 12 letters and 5 email to either possible new members or to verify problems with existing member information such as bad email address and such

Our web master Rob Dege sent me the following email about a new project for our website, about adding the ship's awards to the site. What I am looking for is some to help with the project. He needs help to identify the Republic of Vietnam Merit Unit citation ribbon. I was not sure which one it was on the site mention by Ed below and to verify pictures of the other awards are correct. How many battle "E" did the Edwards win if any and the dates?

Sounds like a fun project. Please send me a list of the awards. Unfortunately, I do not know which ribbons would go with each respective reward, so if you can use the website that Ed referred to, that would be a great help to me.

I was thinking we can put this under the "Ship Info" section. That page is due for a layout overhaul, and this is the perfect opportunity to do it.

if you go to [www. Medals of America.com](http://www.Medals of America.com) you can build ribbon bars and print the results, or you can print and copy individual Medals and ribbons and add the individual dates of eligibility. Ed H

There are numerous websites on the internet with unit pages on them for the Richard S Edwards. I am not asking you to join any one these, as some site are pay to join or pay to get their best services. I Use them to find contact and have been very lucky over the last 4 or 5 years. Some of you reading this email were first found using these web sites. If anyone knows of other website besides these below that has our ship on it, please let me know. Many of our fellow shipmates, are on more than one site. There are also names on these's sites, who are not members or contacts. I have in the past tried to contact them, but could never connect.

Website

Active Members

contacts

Face book	138	2
Classmates	85	5
Hull number	75	10
So proud we serve	6	
Tin can sailor	120	6
Military.com	64	2
Navy memorial	73	

The **USS Olympia** is the only ship left that served in the Spanish American War is now a floating museum

Notes received from last month letter

When doing your Christmas cards this year, take one card and send it to this address. If we pass this on and everyone sends one card, think of how many cards these wonderful special people who have sacrificed so much would get. A Great Idea!!!

When you are making out your Christmas card list this year, please include the following:

**A Recovering American Soldier
c/o Walter Reed Army Medical Center
6900 Georgia Avenue,NW
Washington , D.C. 20307-5001
If you approve, please pass it on.**

I have a first hand knowledge of the Edwards involvement in Do Son Raids in May and Jun of 72 and also referred to as Operation Linebacker that occurred in the Spring and Summer of 1972 when Edwards participated in the Haiphong harbor raids with several other Destroyers and Cruiser Newport News... The Newport News received the Presidential Unit Citation and Edwards and received the Meritorious Unit Citation. Captain Deal was the CO although Cdr Lloyd Rice relieved him in Aug of that year but Edwards role in Linebacker was pretty finished in July and Edwards went back to gunline duties. I believe all then attached received authority to wear the MUC for those operations. Anyway I have the MUC in my service record. Later when we inquired, DD950 was never nominated for the PUC.
Fair Winds,

I have been looking for a John Gibson from Anoka, Minnesota. Know of him? Served he sometime between 69-72.

Robert, I believe that the commissioning Commanding Officer was CDR R. R. Law, not R. P.. I served under him when he was the CO of the Fleet ASW School, San Diego. Thanks for compiling the listing.

Robert, I didn't realize when adding you as a Facebook friend you were part of DD0 950!

Under the President's remarks in your email letter, he mentions the Presidential Unit Citation of which there is no available record. It was a Meritorious Unit Citation I believe, It is listed on one of my DD214's not the other. Joel

Also received numerous kind remarks about this format and it was greatly appreciated Bob Sheard (bull)

I had 2 medals that I received by doing the information below but it took a year and a half to get them. How many commanding officers come to the reunions or are in touch with the group? Does CDR J.R. Bailey have contact with our group? If he does ask him if he knows what happened to our unrep flag? Captain Murray passed away but has anyone contacted his family to see if they have anything they want to donate to the group? I would also like to get as many interesting pictures of the ship, gun fire, big waves or anything else that would make a good book, similar to a cruise book. I would be glad to put it together if people would send me pictures. They can e-mail them or regular mail them.