

As of 9/07/11 active members stand at 656; there are 32 shipmates pending information, and we 87 on the memorial page. I Would like to welcome our newest member Richard S Chester (enfa, 76-77); Michael Gaspard, (70-73, Sh3), Mark Waite (sn, 69-70). I have their information for anyone who wishes to contact him.

## **From The President' s Desk**

“So far, registration for the 2012 Reunion is progressing very slowly. We have only received two registrations at this time. We do have 44 room reservations, so we know there are many of you who are going to attend. We do need to make deposits for the tours that Gary Bair has scheduled for us. So I urge you to get your registration forms filled out along with a check in the mail as soon as possible. We need to make these deposits to insure a successful reunion.

If you didn't see last month's newsletter, the complete 2012 Reunion information can be downloaded to your computer and printed out. Simply go to the website and click on "Reunions." After the pictures come up, click on "upcoming events." The entire registration form will be displayed along with the schedule of events and the costs related to each tour. Just click on the "pdf" file you need. One file will provide you with the hotel information and the other is the registration form. We are only nine months away from the reunion and we all know how that time will pass quickly.

Shortly after the 2008 reunion in San Diego, Jim Kress submitted a request for any and all medals that he was eligible for. After a three year wait, he received confirmation that he qualified for the National Defense medal, the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, the Viet Nam Service Medal (in lieu of the AFE Medal), the Republic of Viet Nam Campaign Medal, and the Republic of Viet Nam Meritorious Unit Citation (gallantry cross with palm and frame). These medals were earned during the ship's deployments in 1963 and 1964. Jim is uncertain as to where his request ended up, so if there is anyone out there who knows where to send a request for medals, please let us know so we can pass that information on. It shouldn't the government 3 years to get back to you, or does it?

Hope everyone had a wonderful summer.”

Joe

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SHIPMATE, JOHN FASCE. HE IS THE FIRST MEMBER TO SEND IN HIS COMPLETED REGISTRATION PACKAGE.  
JJ HOGUE

## **From the New Orleans Coordinator**

This month I want to emphasize how we have stressed **affordability and value**.

First, your registration will include two receptions and two dinners (including the dinner jazz cruise.)

Second, your excursions will include two lunches, and your hotel includes full breakfasts daily.

Third, all our excursions are at significantly reduced prices (eg. more than half off for the swamp tour and a third off for the dinner jazz cruise); the hotel is about half a normal French Quarter fare (and includes full breakfasts and much more); and even the buses are at least a third off the going rate.

Think whole family and vacation!

Best regards,  
Gary

### ***As of this date, we already have 44 rooms reserved by shipmates in the following names: (list)***

Hogue, JJ; Turley, Jack; Trytten, Joe; Crawford, Carolyn; Kruger, Connie; Kruger, Patrick; Cusick, Bill; White, Larry; Marceau, Steven; Kress, James; Howell, Russell; Fowler, Todd; Sheard, Bob; Chester, Barbara; Fadely, Tom; Fadely, Steven; Fadely Daniel; Lambrecht, Deb; Tuttle, Debra; Cooley, Bryon; Robertson, Michael; Banks, Richard; Rennieke, William; Bair, Gary; Solis, Arthur; Heinen, Jerry; Ross, Tim; Palovich, George; Shiels, William; Underwood, Doug; Bryon, Walter; Treadwell, Michael; Caldwell, Comazel; Fasce, John; Drager, Ralph; Davidson, Al Total reservation as of 9/03/11.

## **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.

We sent 5 emails. This month, we received 3 new member applications by email, also received 1 email this month for records corrections. I sent out 20 letters to shipmates about the reunion or problems with their records information.

## **Treasures Report**

Treasurers Report for August, 2011: Beginning Balance \$2,478.87

Income 20.00

Expenses 346.31

Ending Balance \$2,152.56

## **Ship's Store**

Start thinking what you are going to need for the reunion and order now.

## Missing shipmate

Nothing to report this month.

## Notes received from last month letter

The 2011 edition of the Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors booklet is now available on the web at [http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits\\_book.asp](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/benefits_book.asp) and is also available in [PDF Format](#).

Do you want to apply for VA [health benefits](#), request [military records](#), or [change your address](#)? These are just a few of VA's [most frequently requested forms](#).

Visit the [National Resource Directory](#) for information about military and VA benefits, military pay, disability compensation, insurance, Social Security benefits and more. This was submitted by Jack Turley thanks Jack (bull)

I didn't see my name Comazel Caldwell, as one of the persons who has already reserved a room for the reunion. I have also talked to shipmates from the time that I was on the Edwards and we will have at lease four of us at the reunion with more of us planning to attend. My shipmates and I have been having our own reunion for the pass few years. The first one was at Myrtle Beach, S.C., the next one was in State Ville N.C., right before our shipmate John Hardy died of cancer. The last one was last year Labor day in Kansas City Kansas. Please make that correction, because I am using my reservation to help push more of the shipmates to attend the New Orleans reunion.

Wolfman here. Thanks for all your info... will be in New Orleans with you all. God Bless...Ralph and Cathy Draeger

I have a short video of the hotel that we will be staying at next year if anyone is interested b please contact me

**For those who are having trouble at the web site trying to access the membership list the user name is *member***

The link below is a virtual wall of all those lost during the Vietnam war with the names, bio's and other information on our lost heroes. Those who remember that time frame, or perhaps lost friends or family can look them up on this site. Pass the link on to others, as many knew wonderful people whose names are listed.

<http://www.virtualwall.org/istates.htm> thanks to Don Farrar for this information

Jack Turley also has a site <http://thewall-usa.com/names.asp>

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