

Starting now and for the next couple of months, we will be asking everyone to verify their information such as your address, phone number. To save the association money, we would like it done mostly by email. Later this year there will be a mailing of a new application for those who do not respond, whose email has stopped working or we have no email address on record. If you already responded thank you. Please read newsletter note about our website.

As of 4/27/12 active members stand at 657. There are no shipmates pending information at this time, and we have 101 on the memorial page. We have a new member to the association. David (bucky) Williams (73-76, E-3). We added Wille Edward Hughes BMC to our memorial page, died May 16, 2012. A email I received stated that another member William Murray (ET1) died in October 2008 of a rare blood disorder (MPD).

From The President' s Desk

The 2012 Reunion was a complete success. Everyone had a great time. Many thanks go to Gary Bair for putting together this remarkable reunion.

At our business meeting, which was held aboard the Creole Queen on our Saturday night dinner cruise, Bob Sheard continued to sell raffle tickets for a shirt and baseball style caps. These items were very special in that they were original "plank owner" items that had never been used. The raffle netted \$300.00 for the association bank account. Thanks to those who bought raffle tickets, and thanks to Bob for coming up with the raffle.

Our business meeting included elections for two positions on the executive board of directors. The two positions were for the vice president and treasurer spots. Bob Tuttle and Jim Kress were both nominated and re-elected. It should be pointed out that Joe Trytten volunteered to assist Jim for the next couple of years. Thanks to Tut and Jim for their continued service to the association. And thanks to Joe for volunteering to help Jim.

We also had to decide where to hold our 2014 Reunion. After a few anxious moments of silence, Ralph Draeger asked to address the group. Ralph stepped up to the microphone and volunteered to coordinate a reunion in San Francisco. There were no other suggestions. A motion was made and seconded to have the 2014 Reunion in San Francisco. The motion passed unanimously. I should point out that Ralph lives in Southern California, about 400 miles from San Francisco and will be travelling to and from San Francisco to coordinate the reunion. Tom Bernard, who lives in SF, will be assisting Ralph. If there is anyone out there who would like to assist Ralph and Tom, please let them know. They will certainly appreciate any help they can get. Thanks to both of them for stepping up.

There were many photographs taken at the reunion. If you would like to have them posted onto the website, you will need to provide information as to who is pictured in the photo, where the photo was taken and when the photo was taken, otherwise your photographs will **not** be posted and returned to you. We will provide information as to where to send your photographs later, so please do not send any photographs yet.

In regards to photographs, thanks to Mark and Jody from Picture Perfect Photographers, who drove to New Orleans to be our photographers once again.

We also want to thank Jerry Horton for bringing the model ships, that were made by Jack Pickerd, to the reunion and thanks to Todd Fowler for volunteering to take all the items that were on display, home with him. Todd has taken on the role of caretaker for these items.

One problem arose at this year's reunion. This problem involved refunds to those who, for some reason decide not to attend the reunion after sending in their registration and check, or decided to cancel tours they signed up for. Since the issue of refunds was never formerly addressed, I honored requests for refunds. It needs to be pointed out that once the association starts making advanced payments to vendors for tours and transportation etc, any refunds come directly out of the association bank account and are lost. We are unable to get refunds from various companies once we contract with them. Once

somebody sends in their registration and check, the association becomes nothing more than a middle-man, "Money in, money out." There is no easy solution other than to say that in the future, once we start paying the bills, no refunds will be made. We can issue receipts indicating you made a "donation" to the association. Sorry it has to be this way.

We had a great time in New Orleans and are looking forward to San Francisco in 2014.

JJ Hogue

From your Reunion Coordinator

I need one final note to thank all those who helped and were indispensable with our reunion.

JJ and Sam Hogue did a great job with the reservations, the name tags, and much more. Treasurer Jim Kress was ever responsive and helpful. Webmaster Rob Dege really came through. I especially thank Bill Albritton, Rex Rader, Lee Baly, and Brance Parker for their help every day with the buses, and for our memorial service.

It has been a fun two years planning this event. Norma and I enjoy nothing more than showing off and sharing our great city and such fabulous people as Chef Kevin Belton at the New Orleans School of Cooking and Captain Allan and Captain Tom at Cajun Pride Swamp. Hope you had as much fun as we did.

Gary

New reunion coordinator is Ralph (wolfman) Draeger. 2014 site is San Francisco. Please help support him in his task

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 have 44 members who have verified their information on our membership list.

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Treasures Report

Treasurers Report for May 1-31, 2011: Beginning Balance \$ 12,561.88

Income \$ 9,556.00

Expenses \$ 13,430.11

Ending Balance \$ 8,687.77

Ship's Store

Nothing new as of this month.

Missing shipmates

We have four members who email address, phone number and address no longer work. If you are in contact or known anything about them, please let me know or contact them to have their information update.

Thomas Morris 73-74 Bt1

Robert Holmes 65-67 **Bt3**

Robert York 64-67 SFC

John Iannucci 70-72 sk3

Newsletter Notes

For those who are having trouble at the web site trying to access the membership

Sign in is the word member

I was reading book by Dan Simmons, called "Carrion Comfort" and the USS Richard S Edwards is mentioned in the book! They even got the Hull number right.

I was pleasantly surprised.

Thought you might find that interesting. The copyright on the book is 1989.

Thanks,

Mike

Have I a link, thank To William Stubblefield to the Pounding The Do Son Peninsula on May 10.1972 for anyone who is interested in it.

The free guestbook service that was used on the website was discontinued by the vendor.

For the interim, the guestbook buttons have been removed from the website.

We are currently looking for a suitable replacement. Once we locate one, the buttons will be restored.

Thank you, rob

> ALL,

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> On behalf of Denise and myself I want to thank you all that took the

> time send e-mails, made phone calls, posted messages on facebook , Mathews

> guest book, and sent flowers AND/OR attended the viewing, Service or

> Celebration of life for Mathew. We would like to say a heartfelt thank you

> to each and everyone of YOU. Your support and prayers were much needed and

> much appreciated. Thank you for your friendship.

>

> John, Tina Fasse Charlie and Denise.

A quick comment re: Agent Orange the EDWARDS and the MORTON. I don't know if it is the same time frame that you're looking for but the EDWARDS was been

granted presumptive status for a period late February to early March 1969. I resubmitted my claim in October 2011 and was informed in early January 2012 that my percentage was increased from 40% to 80% retroactive to 2009. They are now covering my Type-2 diabetes as well as hearing issues, high blood pressure and knee/joint issues. Hope this helps.

R/M. L. "Bud" Conner
LNCM, USN (Ret)
RSE(DD950) '69-'70

I'm going to ask a question in confidence since the facts are not totally known to me directly.

I joined the crew of the RSE after ET "A" school and the ship had just been commissioned.

An incident happened where the RSE was operating with a carrier (don't know which one) and a pilot had to eject. He was in the water and in his panic he had inflated his life preserver UNDER his chute harness. Therefore he could not release the chute due to the pressure of the inflated life preserver. (May be that the life preserver had inflated automatically before he was able to release the chute harness - I just don't know).

As a result he was in the water with the chute attached and trailing out and around him and he could not disengage the release mechanism.

Side bar - Since we were under Eisenhower's "People To People" program where the US was building it's reputation as a peace loving Nation after WW II we were forbidden to carry large knives or wear a large pocket knife where it was visible. The plan was that ships were to visit small out of the way foreign ports and we did not want to scare the population by having sailors carry big knives. So, no one was to carry a knife above decks.

Now, the Captain was in a hurry to pick up this downed pilot since the carrier group were not slowing down. He decided to not launch the pick up boat - rather he would approach the downed pilot and swing the fantail around and retrieve him from the back of the ship. Apparently not knowing the chute was firmly attached to the pilot or if he did -- not understanding the danger.

You are beginning to feel the danger...

We came along side, the chute was sucked into the sea chest - our guys were instantly in the water -- no one had a knife -- we drowned and lost a pilot.

I was an ET and confined to my station in the Radar shack and can only recount what was told to me.

There was never - to my knowledge - a public hearing or a report of the facts about this.

We were immediately told to carry knives in the dispatch of our day to day duties aboard ship.

This is not a story I tell lightly as I do not have direct eye witness information. Have you any knowledge of this?

William Muir

ET

On the RSE Sept., 1959 to June, 1960