

**Merry Christmas**

**&**

**Happy New Year**

**To all of our shipmates from your Executive Board**

**We have only one more newsletters, before we will start to mail new application for membership. To save the association money, we would like it done mostly by email. If you have not responded, we are looking to verify your mailing address and phone number. From those who have sent me their information thank you**

As of 12/14/12 active members stand aboutt 651. We have 106 on your memorial page. We added two new members this month Patrick Hanoa (79-81,sh3), William Lightfritz (71-72 Rdc). Please welcome them and I have their information for anyone who wishes to contact them.

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

At the 2010 reunion in Warrick, Rhode Island, I, as well of many other participants, had the pleasure of meeting a gentleman named Kelly Vega. In fact, when he was introduced to our group, Kelly was identified as a World War Two veteran. It seemed that almost immediately, we all stood to give this man a standing ovation to which caused Kelly to become a bit emotional. We also learned that Kelly was Carl Dege's father.

Upon learning of Kelly's passing, I asked Carl to give me some information on Kelly so that I might pass it on. Here is what Carl provided.

Kelly Vega was inducted into the Army, 16 November 1944 and was assigned to Company D, 149<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. He served in the Philippines as a heavy weapons crewman, to an 81mm mortar crew.

He received an Honorable Discharge on 12 October 1946. Kelly had been awarded a

Bronze Star, but like most vets from the war, he would not say why he received the award, nor would he talk about his service time, even when asked.

After the war, Kelly worked in the coal mines of West Virginia. He played semi-pro baseball and football. He was also a Golden Gloves boxer in his youth. While in the Philippines he did box in a match with a Navy man and knocked him out in the 8<sup>th</sup> round, but Kelly pointed out that if he hadn't gotten to the other fighter in the 8<sup>th</sup>, the match would have gone the other way.

Kelly passed away 12 November 2012. He will be missed.

Just a quick footnote. My wife and I had the pleasure of talking with Kelly as he sat outside our dinner/reception room. Kelly was still a bit emotional about the ovation he received and said he 'I never figured a bunch of Navy guys would do that for an Army guy.' I could see some tears in his eyes. He was very thankful for that moment.

Some may wonder why I chose to make my section of the newsletter about Kelly. It is not often that we can, in some small way honor our World War Two veterans, and this is my way of doing just that.

J.J. Hogue

### **From your Reunion Coordinator**

I'm going up to S.F. Dec.11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> to have a face to face meeting with the hotel sales manager. We'll bang out the rooms, hospitality rooms, meals and everything associated with contracts needed by Best western and RSE Association. Will also be talking with tour people, bus services needed, dinner in the city, and rental car agency. My goal is to have as many hard copy contracts for JJ as possible when I get home. I also got info. for the USS Hornet in Alameda. Haven't heard from Tom re; R.V. parking.

Take care of yourself, Bull, don't be doing anything to slow your recovery. I'll get back to you when I get home from San Francisco.

Reunion dates may 28, 2014-jun 1, 2014

Wolf

## 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 130 members who have verified their information on our membership list. Again thank you for your help, we were able to update 13 records with new information. 3 address changes, 10 phone numbers, If you have not verified your address and phone number please take a few minutes and email me at [bullcs3@hotmail.com](mailto:bullcs3@hotmail.com) Again thank you to all shipmate that responded to last month's request. See below about gold star

## Treasures Report

November 1, 2012 - November 30, 2012

Beginning balance \$4,494.97

Income 0.00

Expenses 0.00

Ending balance \$4,494.97

Bull the fifty dollar donation check arrived today.

Jim

## Edson

The Edson is now located in Saginaw Michigan. They began a Naval Museum with a F. Sherman class Destroyer for Public Viewing.

Here is a link to an article about it. <http://www.ussedson.org/> and article <http://www.navytimes.com/news/2012/08/ap-edson-future-museum-centerpiece-080712/>

## Memory Lane

Starting a New Portion of the Edwards' newsletter. Would like input from everyone. Does not need to be a large story. Only thing is tone down language and it cannot affect anyone negatively

One of memories of Captain Deal was about 4 days before we sailed on the 72 WestPac he came up to me and told me that they received orders to transfer me to the Davidson De1045. We talked for a few minutes and he asked what I wanted to do stay or go to the Davidson. It took me about 30 seconds to say that if I could I would rather stay with the Edwards and him. He looked at me and said as far as it was in his power that I would stay with the Edwards. In April of 72 I had a little over 8 month to go on my enlistment. We had just finished with the Hi Phong harbor mission when he came up to me on afternoon and told me to pack that I was being transferred to an oiler heading back to Subic Bay to catch the Davidson there. So 2 days later I was transferred, by hi line, to an oiler. Did not know that the ship was heading to a change of command ceremony, found after the Davidson and the Edwards were together in Subic towards the end of WestPac

Bob Sheard

Cs3 70-72

## Ship's Store

If you have not visited the ship's store please do so. Need a new Edwards' ball cap?

## Missing shipmates

None to report at this time

## Newsletter Notes

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

**Sign in is the word member**

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,**

[www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/ships/list.asp](http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/ships/list.asp) (united States Department of Veteran Affairs)

If You served on the ship (Feb 28- March 1 1969) You were possibly exposed to agent orange. Contact V.A. with any questions

**I am writing this on behalf of my husband Gary Pat Clifford who served on the USS Richard S Edwards DD950 from August 1963 thru November 1966. We have proof the ship was in the Tonkin Gulf at the time he served. What we are asking, does anyone have proof or remember the planes flying over spraying Agent Orange? I have been looking on the internet and we know some of the ships are listed as having been exposed to Agent Orange. I can't seem to find the DD950 on any list.**

**What he needs to prove is that the ship was called to the inland waters for fire support. He is looking for the dates and the name of the river that this took place in. He has some health issues and he knows that he was exposed to Agent Orange.**

**If anyone has any information that would be helpful we would certainly appreciate if you could send it to us.**

**We have already received the ships log from the National Archives.**