

There will be no Feb newsletter by itself next month.

As of 7/08/14 active members stand 637.

We have 133 on your memorial page. Added to Memorial page Barry Emerson, Thomas Ascue (see below comments)

From The President's Desk

I am glad to report that room reservations can now be made for the 2016 reunion in Branson, to be held Wednesday, June 8, 2016 to Sunday, June 12, 2016. Wednesday will be check in day and there will be no official activities unless something changes.

Room rates are as follows:

Room type-Run of the house (Standard) \$109.00 per night, plus any applicable tax.

-Leisure Suite, \$159.00 per night, plus any applicable tax.

This room rate will apply to three days before and three days after the reunion.

There are two ways to reserve your room. You may call 1-800-967-9033, 24 hours a day. Be sure to mention you are part of the 2016 USS Richard S. Edwards reunion.

You can also reserve your room **on line** by going to www.radisson.com/ussrse.

The contract with the hotel notes a cut-off date of May 5, 2016 after which a regular room rate will apply as well as room availability. We have 75 rooms currently set aside for our group.

If you wish information on rooms, check out the hotel website at www.radisson.com./bransonmo.

The sooner you make your room reservation the better as this will give our reunion coordinators an idea of how many will be attending.

Once all the activities have been scheduled we will put together a schedule/reunion registration form and post it on the website.

JJ

From your Reunion Coordinator

- > Things have been slow this last month, but a trip to Branson is planned for February. We have secured two venues, and are talking to a third. We also have secured transportation to one venue and are working on the others.
- > We want you to have time to do things individually or with your family. We will be glad to help you with these selections, and the hotel staff will also help you.
- > As stated before, the website would be ready in January 2015, and I understand it is available now and reservations can be made at: <http://www.radisson.com/ussrse>
- >
- > Rusty Howell, Jack Sanders, Jim Kress, Ken Lollman
- >

Web Site change

We want your thoughts on this as were you would like to see these items and what you would like to see worked on first, This is your web site and we do not want to hear later that maybe this should have gone here, why was this added, or why was still done at all? See comments in red for status and or question, bull

- **Awards Page** - has not been started yet. Based on an email thread from 2013, you were going to send materials for me to use. However, the only items I received were a USB drive with Newsletters, and a few printed newsletters. I acknowledged that I did not receive any awards content, but did not follow up with you on it, and thus was quickly forgotten

- **2012 Reunion Group Photo** - scanned the photo into the computer, but have not created an image map to associate faces to names. Primarily a lack of free time. However, a lack of reunion photos to post from members indirectly lowered the priority of the task.
- **Agent Orange exposure** - not added to Ship Info. As far as I know, I am still waiting for the content to post onto the website. **Info found, were to put it so that members can find it?**
- **List of Commanding Officers** - Last I knew, you were still compiling data for this list. I have not heard anything about it, or where to post it on the website. **Bob has the list in one of the newsletters, need help with the finding their pictures**
- **Admiral Edwards** - I have attached a photo and bio to this email. Is this the content you want posted on the website? **yes, where do you want it placed?**
- **Bon Hon Refueling** - I have attached a photo of the Bon Hon Refueling in 1959. **Where would you like the photo posted?**
- **Turley & Capt. Deal** - I have attached a photo of Jack Turley that was submitted. Where would you like the photo, **Please hold on to it until we decide about commanding officers list and then add it next to his bull name**

CHINFO_DD950 - I have attached a PDF document that details the sinking of the ship. **Do you want this posted on the Ship Info page yes,**

Secretary Desk

I am asking for any leads of shipmate that you are in contact, who are not members of the Edwards' Association. If you moved or changed phone number please take a few minutes and email me at bullcs3@hotmail.com .

Received two email application for membership and no letters were returned, 2 email address changed, 1 mailing addresses changed.

Received an email about a Thomas Grand who served on the Edwards during the war, He died on or around Oct. this year. Mention in the Superior evening telegram per email. Does anyone remember him, need his rank and rate for memorial page. Our hope is that all of our members find Joy and happiness for the Christmas season and blessing for the New Year. Please pray for our shipmates, family or friends who are facing serious illness, reach out and let them know they are not alone.

Treasures Report

> December 1, 2014 - December 31, 2014

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> Beginning Balance \$ 6,990.93

> Income 59.00

> Expenses 0.00

> Ending Balance \$ 7,049.93

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> Jim Kress

Ship's Store

Looking to add new articles for the ship's store do you have any ideas? Some things mention to me are golf balls with Richard S. Edwards DD-950 on them if we can keep the unit price down. Another is Edwards on the navy's camo. ball cap. Have received a couple of comments on offering golf balls with the Edwards DD 950 on them looking for more input before we consider ordering something like them. Need a stocking stuffer for your only stocking? Consider a ship's coin or new ball cap to replace that old worn out on that you now wear. Merry Christmas and season greeting to you and your family

Todd ship's store

Memories

Sunday, December 7th, 1941--Admiral Chester Nimitz was attending an afternoon concert in Washington D.C. He was paged and told there was a phone call for him. When he answered, it was President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on the phone. Pearl Harbor had been attacked. He told Admiral Nimitz that he (Nimitz) would now be the Commander of the Pacific Fleet.

Admiral Nimitz flew to Hawaii to assume command of the Pacific Fleet. He landed at Pearl Harbor on Christmas Eve, 1941.

There was such a spirit of despair, dejection and defeat--you would have

thought the Japanese had already won the war.

On Christmas Day, 1941, Adm. Nimitz was given a boat tour of the destruction wrought on Pearl Harbor by the Japanese. Big sunken battleships and navy vessels cluttered the waters everywhere you looked.

As the tour boat returned to dock, the young helmsman of the boat asked, "Well Admiral, what do you think after seeing all this destruction?" Admiral Nimitz's reply shocked everyone within the sound of his voice.

Admiral Nimitz said, "The Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could ever make, or God was taking care of America. Which do you think it was?"

Shocked and surprised, the young helmsman asked, "What do mean by saying the Japanese made the three biggest mistakes an attack force ever made?"

Nimitz explained: "Mistake number one: The Japanese attacked on Sunday morning.

"Nine out of every ten crewmen of those ships were ashore on leave. If those same ships had been lured to sea and been sunk, we would have lost 38,000 men instead of 3,800.

"Mistake number two: When the Japanese saw all those battleships lined in a row, they got so carried away sinking those battleships, they never once bombed our dry docks opposite those ships. If they had destroyed our dry docks, we would have had to tow every one of those ships to the mainland to be repaired.

"As it is now, the ships are in shallow water and can be raised. One tug can pull them over to the dry docks, and we can have them repaired and at sea by the time we could have towed them to the mainland. And I already have crews ashore anxious to man those ships.

"Mistake number three: Every drop of fuel in the Pacific theater of war is in top of the ground storage tanks five miles away over that hill. One attack plane could have strafed those tanks and destroyed our fuel supply.

"That's why I say the Japanese made three of the biggest mistakes an attack force could make... or God was taking care of America."

I've never forgotten what I read in that little book. It is still an inspiration as I reflect upon it. In jest, I might suggest that because Admiral Nimitz was a Texan, born and raised in Fredericksburg, Texas -- he was a born optimist. But any way you look at it--Admiral Nimitz was able to see a silver lining in a situation and circumstance where everyone else saw only despair and defeatism.

President Roosevelt had chosen the right man for the right job. We desperately needed a leader that could see silver linings in the midst of the clouds of dejection, despair and defeat.

There is a reason that our national motto is, IN GOD WE TRUST

Notes from Last Month Newsletter

Ken, I am very sorry to here about your issues with Mesothelioma. Be to be sure to get good legal advice. The asbestoes industry has a large trust fund that people who have asbestoes issues can tap. All of us who have served on ships, been through ship yards and in particular smoked should get checked up for this very difficult disease.

The legal issues are well documented and do take action to look out for yourself and your families.

To our friends on the Eddie and to all the memories hope you had a very Merry Christmas. Ken I assure you we are all in your corner and pray for you.

Best. Glenn Porter 75 to 78.

Barry Emerson death was reported on Face book on The Richards S. Edwards web page by his daughter Kristi

Barry's Memorial Service will be held on Friday, June 12th at 1:00 p.m. at Fort Logan National Cemetery in Denver, Colo. If possible, it would be an honor to have his Navy buddies attend. It will be at Stage A. The cemetery is located on South Sheridan Blvd.

By the way, could one of you please inform Bill McKenna of this Service . I don't seem to have his E-Mail address.

Thank you so much for the cards and letters about Barry. He was a great guy, husband, and father.

Barb

Sent Thomas an application earlier this year and it was returned filled out, with a death notice. Thomas was a Bt3 who served on the Edwards 58-63 per application, have his information for anyone who wishes to contact his wife

Thank you so much for your reply and information; it means a great deal to me! I'll be sharing this with our family. I know you will enjoy your reunion in the beautiful Ozark Mountains.
Thank you and all the DD 950 crew for their service to our country! Family of Thomas Ascue

