

# To All Association Members and Family. We Wish you all a safe and Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

## Association Executive Board

>	Michael Robertson ( President)	GMG3	1972-1974
>	George Pavlovich ( Vice President)	IC3	1975-1979
>	Robert Sheard ( Secretary)	CS3	1970-1972
>	Jim Kress (Treasurer)	BT3	1961-1964
>	Dale Prescott ( Master of Arms)	BM2	1966-1967
>	Todd Fowler ( Ship's Store)	MS2	1980-1981
>			

Would like to announce that we have 3 new Members, please welcome James Hudnall Jr. (64-67; Ltjg); Robert Coffelt Jr. (77-78; IC1) Brian Boulter (71-74; Os3) We loss James Ebert, please read comment below by Larry White. It has been awhile since the last newsletter and there has not been a lot to report on about the association. I guess it is just like all of our lives on hold till further notice which to me really sucks. Only good news to report is the birth of what will be our last granddaughter who came into our world all most a month early. We have two stories for story time this report hope you enjoy them and thank you for sending them. Please read the comment section for three requests for information on a couple of crew members. If you have any, please send it to the email address attached. Wish to report a death David Roscoe Fisher e-4 served on the Edwards in 1968. See comments below

Greeting Association members, I pray that all is well with you and your Families. This Pandemic has affected us all in different ways. I pray you are practicing social distancing and have everything that you need to stay safe. We have never seen times like this in our lifetime, I hope was never very disappointing that we not able to have the 2020 Reunion this past April. I am looking forward to having the 2021 Reunion in San Diego. The information concerning the details will be forth coming. I want you to stay safe and take care of yourselves. God bless all of you. I just wanted to check on you and your family in California and hope that all of you are doing well. I have been monitoring the news outlets about what is going on in California and I have some concerns. We have the same problems in Texas about the pandemic and here is list of my concerns.

1. I understand that the Governor of California is about to order some type of lock down mode banning large inside and out side gatherings, this lockdown might go on for some time probably past our reunion dates.
2. If the lock down mode continues past the reunion dates would it be feasible to change the dates and would the hotel and tour operator work with up us. We have deposit money with the hotel and the tour buses were paid for up front.
3. Is the tour operator and hotel still in business? a lot of hotels in Texas and business are going belly up because of a lack of revenue.
4. What type of Social Distancing protocol the hotel and tour operator have in place to accommodate a large group of people for this reunion.
5. I am listing my concerns because the safety and health of our association members who might attend the reunion is my primary concern, I know that a vacine is on the way, how soon it gets to the general population is anybody's guess.

Mike

Shipmates,

With the ongoing pandemic and Southern California's current lock down, I've talked with the hotel and tour people, and they are not at all sure when San Diego will be open for business again. With that in mind, we have re-scheduled the reunion to April 26 - May 1, 2022. The hotel is giving us the same room rates as before, Speaking of the hotel, if you have made reservations for April 2021, please call and cancel them so you don't get stuck with any cancellation charges. I won't have information on the banquet or tours for a while. The banquet menu should be similar, if not the same. The tours should also be similar, but the stops for lunch may change, depending upon the availability of restaurants. As soon as this is all firmed up, I'll provide a write up that can go on the website and in a newsletter. In the meantime, happy holidays to all. Stay safe and we'll get together in 2022.

Regards,

Jim Kelly

Mar. 06,2020 - Apr. 07,2020	
Beginning Balance	\$17,198.96
Income	1.20
Expenses	8,764.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8,436.16

The large expense was from refunding all reunion fees that were paid by our members. I sure hope everyone is staying safe and healthy. We have never experienced anything like this in our lifetime, and hopefully never again.

April 07, 2020 - May 07,2020

Beginning Balance	\$ 8,436.16
Income	70.00
Interest	.70
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8,506.86

May 07, 2020 - June 05, 2020	
Beginning Balance	\$ 8,506.86
Income/Interest	81.68
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8,588.54

July 07, 2020 - August 07,2020	
Beginning Balance	\$ 8,589.29
Income/Interest	.73
Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8,590.02

Sept. 04, 2020 - Oct. 07, 2020	
Beginning Balance	\$ 8,590.68
Income/Interest	160.79

Expenses	0.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8,751.47

Oct. 08, 2020 - Nov. 06, 2020

Beginning Balance	\$ 8,751.47
Income/Interest	.69
Expenses	500.00
Ending Balance	\$ 8,252.16

Jim Kress

Hope everyone is staying safe and healthy and tax paper have been filed for the association.

Jim Kress

## Story time

“NOW GENERAL QUARTERS! GENERAL QUARTERS! ALL HANDS MAN YOUR BATTLE STATIONS FOR SURFACE ACTION! THIS IS NOT A DRILL, I REPEAT, THIS IS NOT A DRILL!”

Out of the rack, pull on dungarees and shoes, tie the laces in a flash, pull on shirt, only two buttons, do the rest later if there's time, hit the deck at a fast walk, bumping into bunks, too sleepy to run, the engines are speeding-up, this is not a drill, don't want to fall down and hurt yourself and be unable to defend the ship. Up three flights of aluminum ladders, other men scurrying up and down, clink, clink, clinking of quick footsteps on aluminum steps. Damage control parties stringing out fire hoses and shutting ventilation systems so fires can't spread, wearing helmets and fire suits, something they've never done before. Up, up, high to the bridge, hurry, bang open the steel door to the Combat Information Center, step inside, close the door, step behind your radar set. Plug in the sound phones and test them. “Gun Director 51, this is Combat Information. Sound check, over.” You're either out of breath or have been hyperventilating.

You inhale deeply and slowly and calm down. “51 aye, loud and clear.”

“Combat, aye. Loud and clear.” That's a break, these things don't always work. You don't want to hunt around for a good set while a battle's going on. Finish buttoning your shirt and tuck it in. There's a bright wash of land only seven miles away on radar and you ask a nearby officer, “What's that?”

He looks at the blip and ignores your question. You deduce that it's an officer-level secret and that you're where you shouldn't be; seven miles from the shore of northern Viet Nam.

Combat is manned with an air of competency. The radarman with an Elvis Presley hairstyle doesn't look like a rock star now. His face is framed by earphones through which other radarmen are sending bearing and range information about some high speed surface contacts. He's calm, focused on plotting the movements of combatants on the tactical display board. Long range and darkness doesn't conceal the enemy from radar. He's drawing a surrogate battle scene that will be these men's only experience of the attack, unless, that is, one of the enemy dots gets within torpedo range and explodes the ship and this whole room descends below the surface of the ocean. That could happen but don't think about it or you won't stay calm. If you don't stay calm you can't concentrate. Do your job perfectly or die. It's that simple. This is combat.

The tactical board shows a squadron of five contacts nine miles away and closing at fifty knots. The room sways and lurches in the destroyer's wild flight at flank speed, about thirty knots.

The officer on the other side of your floor-mounted radar console receives instructions and points to the nearest contact and says, “Designate target one to fire control.”

‘I was on a ship...out of Pearl Harbor...’

By OS3 Lee Baker

My Next 90 Days

There was a character in an underground movie around 1974 that would start every story with ‘I was on a ship...out of Pearl Harbor...’ I have had to stop sometimes because I catch myself starting out stories the same way....but this is finally the perfect start to the story.

I was stationed on USS Richard S. Edwards (DD-950) from 1979 – 1981. In my first story, I told you about picking

our ship from the OS "A" school reqs. And discussed the new OS's checking aboard the ship fresh out of OS "A" School in Dam Neck, Virginia. We were lucky to get multiple choices. I believe the two classes ahead of ours went as a group to USS Belknap. Not sure if you remember the collision between USS John F Kennedy and USS Belknap that resulted in nearly all of Belknap CIC destroyed and most of the OS's killed or injured. Kennedy had the nickname after that as the "Can-opener" for running over that Tin Can.

"The First 48 Hours" really was a total immersion into being on a ship and living (and surviving) as single sailors in Hawaii. "My Next 90 Days" really focuses on what our assignment as "Food Service Attendants" (mess cooks) was like and the daily routine you get used to. I learned quite a bit. Even had my first glimpse at the right and wrong way to manage people from the "managed" side of things.

Looking back through the haze of time things seem tamer than they really were and more matter-of-fact. But as they happened, in real time, it seemed like every event was fraught with drama, threat of EMI (Extra Military Instruction), withholding of our liberty cards, or Captains Mast. I spent many hours performing EMI on the barge after work around 1800 because of some minor infraction that OS1 Sayre thought I should pay penance. It only made me study my rating manuals and single line formations more. Later, I would consider myself an expert and think how lucky I was that Dave had me do that. I can assure you EMI was way more "wholesome" than anything that occurred off the ship.

Well, if you recall the last story, Lenny and I landed safely at Makalapa and made it back safely to the barracks and dove into our bunks. I am pretty sure we slept in our clothes. One thing for certain is that was not going to be the last time I would sleep in my clothes while assigned to the Richard S Edwards.

Monday morning came and we repeated the bus trip (to the shipyard ... not Honolulu) and boarded the ship, proudly saluting the Ensign and requested permission to board. We received the same tired-sailor salute from this OOD as we did from the first OOD last Friday morning. Of course, my snappy bootcamp and "A" school military bearing would soon become acclimated to the tired-sailor salute as well. I think this was part of being in the "Pineapple Fleet" where everything was thousands of miles from Washington DC. Anyway, we headed down to the OI cage to muster.

Much to our surprise at the time, Savary, Brian, Marty, and I were all assigned to the mess decks that week. We were a little disappointed the we would start so soon but the plan was to have it completed before the ship underway for sea-trials following the yard period. As it turns out I was very glad to have it over and done with at that point. But be careful what you ask for, because as OS's we were an underway group of people, that seemed to always be on watch in CIC.

In spite of the inconveniences surrounding the postponement of the reunion, I agree that it is in everyone's best interest to do so. We, as a nation and as a people have to get past this pandemic in order to allow us to get back to what ever the 'new normal' will be. God bless American and God bless us all!

William Bailey

### Notes Received since last newsletter

My name is Larry White I am a member  
And served on board the Edwards 1963 - 1964

I was an ET 3. It my duty that I inform

Shipmates from 1962 - 1964 ET2 James R Ebert has passed. He passed away a few last month ago.

I will pass on additional Information as I receive it to anyone who wishes more information.

Sincerely

Larry M White

My name is Nicholas Bowen and I would like to Know if the R.S. Edwards assn. has any Contacts to buy American Flags at Government Spec Cotton .

I gave my Retirement Flag to someone for a Veteran's interment. Went to the Naval Station near where I live and for one they give me a Nylon 4 X 6, my Original was Cotton

Hi. I'm trying to find my dad, Alvin C Newton, without any luck. I am positive this was the ship he was on for 2 cruises.

[pamela.newton930@gmail.com](mailto:pamela.newton930@gmail.com)

If there is any other information I can provide you about our veteran's program and what I do for veterans diagnosed with asbestos illnesses, please let me know and I will be happy to answer any questions you might have.

And if you are open to adding us to your resources page, please let me know and I can have one of our IT folks provide you with whatever link information you need. Thanks.

Respectfully,

Carl Jewett  
LCDR, US Navy, Retired  
VA Accredited Claims Agent  
[www.mesotheliomaguide.com/veterans/](http://www.mesotheliomaguide.com/veterans/)  
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844-VET-MESO  
844-838-6376

My name is Mark Fulco, artist and retired U.S. Army veteran. I am creating an urn for a crewmember who is an uncle to a best friend of mine, LTC John Fisher, U.S. Army, retired. For the record, for your [DD-950 Association](#), I am providing the following information:

The deceased crewmember is: David Roscoe Fisher, Jr. (d. 24 May 2020) late of Lewes, Delaware. Fisher, rank E-4, left U.S. Naval service on 20 March 1968, last duty appointment on the USS Richard S. Edwards (DD-950).

If you have any questions regarding this information please feel free to contact me.

V/r,  
MARK A. FULCO  
[fulcofineart@gmail.com](mailto:fulcofineart@gmail.com)

Hello My name is Holly McPherson Hennon, My Dad Served on the RS Edwards from 1963-1967. I've just contacted him after not speaking for over 19yrs, I've also not seen him in over 19yrs. I never knew until a few weeks ago about the ship he served on during his time in the United States Navy. I wanted to do something really nice for him so I'm doing a Shadow box and Album for him to go back in time a little bit, he loves history, he has everything anyone could have but doesn't have anything like this, It's priceless. I would like To know if I could anyway possible get a Copy of his boot camp picture along with maybe a couple more pictures of him. I know there is a picture of him in his white uniform with his hat on standing under a clothing line, if anyway possible you could allow me to have these i would be very grateful, if not it's understandable. Please let me know, if I need to become a member that's great I've already downloaded the form and will email it to you when I hear back from you. Thank you Holly McPherson Hennon

[camiscarousel891@gmail.com](mailto:camiscarousel891@gmail.com)

My name is William "Bill" Simms. I served on "Reddy Eddy" from Oct '78 to Nov '81, reporting as an STG1 and departing as an STGC.

The Admiral at my present command has ordered me to "lighten ship". I have a plaque (10 1/4 x 9 inches) with a painted ships crest that I was given when I re-enlisted. Unfortunately, the brass plate has been lost, but I thought the group might have a use for it rather than "deep sixing" it.

I also have a decorative flag (20" x 26") of "Old But Still Steaming", and a Westpac '81 cruise book that are yours for the asking.

Bill Simms  
STGC(SW)USN, Ret.