



Ready Eddie Reader!!!

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 1

SUMMER/FALL 2000

Reunion 2000, St. Louis, MO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

"A big Thank You to all past Edwards crew members, (officers and enlisted), their spouses and guests, who came to our reunion, and to all who were thinking of us there. St. Louis was a good choice for Reunion 2000. We had a great time. A special thanks to those who volunteered and helped during the Reunion and for all of the items donated to the Association archives and to the Fund Raiser Raffle after our dinner, and the 2000 Reunion Committee members. Great job !

Order of Business

The election of three officers and the Reunion 2002 chairman occurred as follows:

- 1. Jim Kress - Treasurer*
- 2. Ed Hovatter - Secretary/ Reunion Chairman 2002*
- 3. Ed Armstrong - co-Reunion Chairman*
- 4. Bruce Child - Assistant Secretary*

We chose the Seattle, WA area as the Reunion 2002 destination out of six great locations. We also agreed to alternate reunion locations (West Coast, East Coast, Mid-America).

Three months have already passed of the twenty-four months between these reunions. So, I'll see you and yours in the Seattle area soon."

Jack L. Sanders,
President USS Richard S. Edwards
DD-950 Association



The "Class" of 2000

This year's reunion in St. Louis turned into the great success it was projected to be. The 56 crew members that came together, June 1-4, 2000 represented a wide cross section of the crew. They came from all areas of the country and represented crews from pre-commissioning to the late 70's. Many brought family and/or friends.

The service afforded the group at the Drury Hotel was very good. They had a spacious room available for us throughout the reunion to socialize and compare momentos and souvenirs. The room for our dinner, and the buffet was just right.

The location was within easy walking distance to many local attractions and the St Louis Transit system for easy transportation to any point of the city. To top it off, great weather throughout the weekend. Who could ask for anything more?

MORE FROM REUNION 2000!!!

The hospitality room offered people an opportunity to both reminisce about things shared in the past and to enlighten others of their own adventures aboard the R.S. Edwards.



Marshall Minks (seated left) and Jerry Beck on the right, reflect on the ship's second commissioning in '71.



(L to R) VP Bob Tuttle, Asst. Secretary Bruce Child, and Treasurer Jim Kress



Jeff Durfee on left and Barry Emerson both served as RD's aboard the RSE in the late '60s.



Don Haslett, a LT aboard 1970-72, (at podium), as spokesman for the recommissioning crew, presented the DD-950 Association with the original brass quarterdeck plaque taken from the ship when she was de-commissioned. The plaque was given to him by a shipyard worker. Mr. Haslett also proposed a toast to former CO Walter "Jack" Deal, the CO for the recommissioning, who, due to medical reasons was unable to attend. He also announced a very generous donation made to the association by Bill Renniecke, a LT aboard 1970-71, in honor of the CO, his fellow officers and men of the recommissioning crew. Mr. Renniecke was unable to attend due to an emergency business engagement.



John and Mary Baker. Bruce Child (standing)



Carl MacPherson, Tom Bernard recall sound powered phones

(above) Mr & Mrs. Jim Plank (GMG-72)

Jim Kress and Wade Gilbert (standing l-r) recall the old days with John Gabbert at the Vets Home in St Louis. All 3 are BT's from the early 60s.



The bus tour hits the arch. All hands on deck!!!



Bob Sheard (CS 70-72) with prize RSE lighter



Alan Ezzell and Tom Petersen check #'s

MORE FROM REUNION 2000!!!



Please help us with our "Who's Who". If you can match any of the crew members listed on the right to the numbers in the photo above, let us know when you send in your membership form. Our apologies to those guests who were not listed on the sign in sheet and are not recognized here. Your presence was very much appreciated and an important part of the reunion. See you in 2002!!!

Attendees

Bob & Deb Tuttle (71-76) NH
Earl & Lillian Kurtz (61-63) SC
Jim Kress (61-64) IA
Alan Ezzell (65-68) TX
Carl & Pat Dege (65-68) NY
Jerry L. Beck (71-74) PA
Don & Donnie Farrar (70-73) MO
Barry & Barb Emerson (66-70) CO
Tom & Peggy Petersen (67-68) MO
Carl & Rochelle MacPherson (58-60) CA
Wade & Eunice Gilbert (62-66) GA
Ben & Joan Crihfield ('71) VA
Bob Manglitz (62-65) MI
Larry & Carol Flesher (66-67) MO
Ed & Karen Hovatter (70-73) WA
Jack, Patsy, Cindy Sanders (62-65) OK
and friend Sherrye
Fred Oleson (63-64) TX
Frank & Linda Cowart (64-67) GA
Doug Teeter (60-63) CA
Rex Knodle (59-61) TX
Robert & Leslie Sheard (70-72) WI
Robert & Nesha Hillman (70-72) NY
Don & Connie Kruger (66-67) NE
Bill Shiels (59-63) CA
Jim & Sandy Vanderwyst (66-70) WI
Tom & Susan Bernard (66-69) CA
James F. Klug (66-69) WI
John & Mary Baker (59-61) AR
Don & Jette Haslett (70-72) OR
Jeff & Joette Durfee (67-70) MN
Andy & Rose Click 62-64) OK
Rick Banks (70-71) FL
John Pitts (74-76) AZ
Marshall Minks & Family (67-72) FL
Gerry Kaye (61-64) CA
Melvin T. Gerding (63-65) OH
Gene Lang (70-72) FL
Ron Berning (70-72) VA
Bruce & Mary Child (70-73) AR
Jim Plank (71-73) IN
Clyde Burnett (72-74) TX
Joe Trytten (70-73) IL
Jerry Heinen (70-72) WA
Mike West (65-66) CA
Mike Robinson (70-72) OK
Tom Suter (72-74) IN
Jack Wambach (59-61) IN
Ed Armstrong (59-64) WA
Ben Smith (70-74) WA
Rex Settlemoir (71-74) OH
Byron L. Cooley (70-73) TX
John A. Jeanis (59-63) TX
Melvin Gerding (63-65) OH
Ben Wright (76-79) IN
Alan N. Davidson (66-68) CO

The Ready Eddie Reader is the official publication of the USS R.S. Edwards Association, Inc. Published as often as time permits. The views expressed are those of the individual contributor.

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS

JACK SANDERS...PRESIDENT
BOB TUTTLE...VICE-PRESIDENT
JIM KRESS...TREASURER
ED HOVATTER...SECRETARY
BRUCE CHILD...ASST.SECRETARY

MEMBERS-AT-LARGE

JIM KRESS
CARL DEGE
DON KRUGER
DOUG SWIRES
TOM PETERSEN

Newsletter correspondence should be sent to:
Bob Tuttle, 12 Concord Ave., Derry, NH
03038-1900. E-mail to TuttleR@hotmail.com

The *READY EDDIE* on the WWW

The presence and importance of the web sites continues to grow. I urge all of you who have Internet access to fully check out all the features of the sites. If you can, please check in often. The association can make a buck or two with enough page views per week.

The main site at www.d950.com continues to hold a Crew and Members list as well as a guestbook and links to the features of the photo site and other destroyer and Navy sites.

New to the photo site at www.dd950.cjb.net is the Yeoman's shack. You can get there direct from the home page of the photo site or click on "Pictures" at the main site home page and go from there. The Yeoman's Shack contains:

Ships Store

Info on obtaining DD-950 and other Navy related items. Many of the links in this "Shack" take you to sites that are offering special deals coming from our link, and/or sites that have agreed to pay the association a fee for those who either join or visit their sites. Check out the "**Easy Money**" link some rainy afternoon and the association gets \$\$\$.

2002 Reunion

Lots of links here to sites in the Seattle area. You'll find anything from the Turner Joy's web site to a site where you can take a virtual tour of Seattle. Click on or email 2002@NavyVeteran.net and let others know you plan on attending the reunion.

Association Contacts

This page lets you know how to get in contact with the association officers. There is also some search info and tips, a history of the association, the by-laws, a page listing projects needing volunteers, and a page with links to forums that are of relevance to most Destroyermen.

Submissions

While this is not a new page, it has been newly integrated into the Yeoman's Shack and needs much more activity than it gets. Info on where and how to send photos and info for the web sites can be found here. Info on photos already posted is needed. Please look through the photo site and help us identify the "who's", "when's", and "where's". Free cameras, film, and processing (for the Net and prints) is also available.

Destroyersailor.org

E-mailing lists of interest to Destroyermen that you can subscribe to. They are all easy to get on and easy to cancel. Check them out. There is also a place to vote for the best destroyer web site for 2000. (Hint;-))

Posting your E-mail Address

As someone who has changed Internet providers a few times over the years having been with AOL, Compuserve, MSN and now with Media One, I'd like to suggest that those of you who have your e-dresses posted either on the Net or in print get one of the free e-mail services available too you. Hotmail and Yahoo are two that offer it. Regardless of my ISP, I've always been able to keep my Hotmail address. I can use it with any Internet service and I can access it from any computer with a hook-up to the Net. With hotmail you can access that email account while at work, vacation, traveling, in the process of moving, etc. It also keeps my family's shared email account relatively clear of junk mail. You can have any number of these per household you'd like. It takes about 5 minutes to sign up. It's a great opportunity to have your own "fun" email address, too. (DD950Prez@hotmail.com, KingBt@hotmail.com, PingJockey@Yahoo.com, etc. You get the idea). Check it out.



Tom Suter and son at
Reunion 2000



Nesha and Bob
Hillman



Jack Sanders (left) and Frank Cowart, friends from the forward fireroom (BT's, '64-'65) met for breakfast at Checotah, OK. Frank and family were traveling through OK on their way to out West from GA.

Association Membership

This will be the last newsletter sent out to the entire mailing list. The enclosed membership form must be filled out and returned to the association Secretary to continue to stay on the mailing list for the newsletter and future reunion and association news. As a federally recognized non-profit veterans group, incorporated in the State of Oklahoma, we need to maintain up-to-date records of our membership. We also do not want to spend the money for printing and postage to send out mailings to those who would rather not get them.

Membership is free. It only requires a current membership form to be mailed in. This has been the policy for the last couple of years and will continue until changed by vote at a reunion business meeting. The generosity of those sending in donations has made this possible. To those who have given (donations of \$5-\$500 have been received over the past couple of years), our thanx! It has allowed us to move forward and grow, and made it possible for those who can't afford a donation to be members.

Alumni who have mailed in (or filled out at the reunion) membership forms since June are all set for the year. If in doubt send in another! It takes 5 minutes and 33 cents.

Over the past couple of years I've had people initially email me and say, "What do I get for membership?". "What does it mean to be a member?". At first I was a bit insulted and taken back by this "attitude". After putting in hundreds of hours myself, I wanted, "Ask not what the Association can do for you.....etc". It took me a while to realize that this is a legitimate and fair question. My personal answer to this is, "It's what you want it to be for you." For me it has been a great and fun experience, and lots of very self-gratifying work. Everything I've put into this has been returned to me threefold. I know it's not the same for all. For some it's a way of getting in touch with people they were close to, and shared their lives with in the past. For some it's a sad reminder of the bad old days. Or it can be anything in between.

However much, or little, membership in the association might mean to you, the time and money involved are minimal, and the benefits can be great.

Bob Tuttle, RSE Association VP



(left)The Edwards football team of 1961.This photo taken 10-20-61. No ID's on any of the jocks. If you recognize anyone let us know!

The Ready Eddie heads for the Great Northwest for Reunion 2002

Over the course of the last couple of years we asked for your input on the location for Reunion 2002. Based on your suggestions, and a presentation done by Marshall "Skip" Minks at the reunion in St Louis, the decision was made to hold our next reunion in the Seattle/Tacoma, WA area. The reunion committee has decided on a date of August 15-18, 2002 for the event. They have signed an agreement with La Quinta Inn of Tacoma, Wa for a block of rooms at a discount rate (\$79 for standard room w/2 full beds--or--a deluxe King room for \$83). La Quinta is also most anxious to make available to us, space for our hospitality room and a great banquet dinner. They offer amenities such as a heated outdoor pool and whirlpool, free fitness center, parking, local phone calls, and a complimentary Continental breakfast buffet. They have a restaurant and cocktail lounge on the premises.

Most of us are aware of the natural beauty of this part of the country. *Mt Rainier, National Cascades, and Olympic National Parks* all lie within a couple of hours of Seattle. Available outdoor activities include bicycling, sea kayaking, hiking, canoeing, and much more.

In addition to a couple of group tours, individual trips including winery and brewery tours and tastings, a trip to the Mt St. Helens visitors center and the dozens of attractions that Seattle has to offer will be available.

A trip to the Turner Joy will be planned. That sure will be a step back in time. For most of us it's been at least 20 years since we set foot on the decks of a destroyer.

Seattle offers a great waterfront and Chinatown, museums, The Kingdome, The Space Needle, cruises, a casino and thoroughbred racing. Let's not forget the SuperMall of the Great Northwest with over 125 stores.

Reservations at La Quinta can be made after August 15, 2001. More info on our reunion schedule, and the Seattle/Tacoma area is available at the web site and will be available in the next newsletter. It's never too late to save the date, though. Making hotel reservations is the easy part. Scheduling time for the reunion, around our busy lives, takes a bit more work.

SEE YOU THERE!!!

Thank you!!!

Many thanx to those of you who have responded to items in the "Reader" and donated copy. Time and space have restricted the size of this issue. All contributions will be published in future issues. Please continue to send in your photos and comments.

MEMBERSHIP NEWS AND NOTES (We Need You!!!)

VOLUNTEERS

We want to thank those who have stepped up and pledged some of their "spare" time for the association.

Ed Armstrong, Ed Hovatter

The reunion coordinators have laid the groundwork already for a great time for all in Seattle/Tacoma

Tom Petersen

Tom has agreed to act as official reunion contact again for Reunion 2002. Anyone who contacted Tom and Peg Petersen for Reunion 2000 knows what a great job they did, and what a plus their participation is to the event.

Harry Griesenbrauck

Harry has volunteered his time to be the Print Media Coordinator for Reunion 2002. Any suggestions, ideas, etc. for advertising the reunion in print would be greatly appreciated. Feel free to drop Harry a line

Bob Sheard

Bob has volunteered to help document the year that wasn't for the Ready Eddie. The year between decom and recom. Quite a few people "did time" during the conversion. We're looking for that info. Please help Bob, and the association, piece together that important part of the Edwards history.

Jim Rasbach, Rob Dege

The Webmasters continue to keep us in sync with the world of the Web today. The payback to the association for the hours they contribute is hard to compute. We benefit from it every day.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!!!

Chat Room Hosts

Just pick a night and a time to hang out in the Chat Room at the Photo Site. You can advertise or promote it any way you want. Many people check in now and then and move on when they see no one is there. Having a person committed for a couple of hours will give it some continuity. Saturday eves, 7PM Central seems to be the most popular time for people to visit the chat.

(If interested contact Hosts@DD950.org)

Webmasters

Sounds complicated? It's not! You don't have to know how to design a web page to help out. We are looking for people to "cover" certain time periods (ie. '56-'64, '65-'70, '71-'76, '77-'82). Most of the info and photos on the web sites are there due to some serious solicitation from the staff. Many people have lots to contribute but just don't know that they do, or need a little encouragement to get the ball rolling.

(If interested contact Webteam@DD950.org)

(More) VOLUNTEERS

Archivist

Many historically important items have been donated to the association over the last couple of years including cruise books, photos, plaques, patches, hats, etc. We are working hard to preserve all that can be scanned to CD, but need a volunteer to manage the original "art". Possibly a couple of people to share the load. Another possibility is a Ready Eddie museum. Maybe some space in one of the museum ships properties would be available to us. We need someone to explore the options available in that area, too.

(If interested contact Archivist@DD950.org)

Area Members-at-Large

We like to encourage local reunions in various areas of the country. Scheduling a regional get together can be fun. Just set a date and a place (ballgame, restaurant, fair, festival, etc.), let the websites and newsletter promote it, and have a good time!!! Even a reunion of two can be GREAT! Advertising our national reunion in the local newspapers can turn up a few crew members who might also be your neighbors.

(If interested contact Area51@DD950.org)

Association Contacts

(Feel free to go through the webmasters or send correspondence to the Ready Eddie PO Box to get in touch with any crewmember on our list, or for association info or news)

Jack Sanders

111 E. Commercial St.
Broken Arrow, OK 74012
Doyce@big-z.com

Jim Kress

3090 Keokuk
Dubuque, IA 52001
Mjkrs@aol.com

Ed Hovatter

8411 NE 56th St.
Vancouver, WA 98662
Hova235@aol.com

Ed Armstrong

42704 NE 30th Ave.
Woodland, WA 98674
Efanrvt@aol.com

Bruce Child

RT2 Box 218A
Huntsville, AR 72740
bmlchild@madisoncounty.com

Tom Petersen

4044 Highway AA
Halfway, MO 65663
pegleg@ipa.net

Harry Griesenbrauck

18 Sachem Dr.
Mastic, NY 11950
hgriesenbrauck@keyspanenergy.com

Bob Sheard

30117 Pinewood Dr.
Burlington, WI 53105
bullcs3@hotmail.com

Bob Tuttle

12 Concord Ave
Derry, NH 03038
tuttler@hotmail.com

Webmasters

Rob Dege:

webmaster@DD950.com

Jim Rasbach:

webteam@NavyVeteran.net

General Info:

R. S. Edwards Assoc.

PO Box 970

Broken Arrow, OK 74013

SHIPS STORE!!!

World Famous Ready Eddie Ball Caps

These great (Navy) blue hats have "USS RICHARD S. EDWARDS DD-950" embroidered in gold, and underneath "the Ready Eddie" in a subtle (haze) gray. A limited number are usually available for immediate shipment. When supplies are depleted it may be 5-6 weeks for delivery. Please make checks payable to Richard S. Edwards Association and mail to Jim Kress at: 3090 Keokuk St., Dubuque, IA 52001

Prices are: 1. ___ \$15.
2. ___ \$25.

Shipping is \$5, and is subject to changes in Postal rates.

...T-SHIRTS...T-SHIRTS...T-SHIRTS...T-SHIRTS...T-SHIRTS...

The Ready Eddie T-shirts are white Hanes Beefy T's of 100% pre-shrunk cotton. The silhouette of the Ready Eddie in black, gray and red is available in pre and post conversion styles and states that she is "Just another proud old war veteran", "Serving America from 1959 'til 1982". Please make checks payable to Richard S. Edwards Association, and mail to Jack Sanders at: PO Box 970, Broken Arrow, OK 74013-0970. All T-shirts and sweats, are in stock and available for immediate shipment.

Please specify pre-1971 or post-1971 silhouette.

| T-shirts | Mid-weight (7oz) Sweatshirt | Heavyweight (9oz) Sweatshirts |
|----------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Small to XL ___ \$15 | Small to XL ___ \$19 | Small to XL ___ \$22 |
| XXL ___ \$16 | XXL ___ \$21 | XXL ___ \$24 |
| XXXL ___ \$17 | XXXL ___ \$23 | XXXL ___ \$26 |

A limited number of Reunion 2000 t-shirts are available if you order soon. XL, XX, XXX all \$15 ea. (about 20 left).

NEW ITEM AVAILABLE!!!!

Ask Jack about the ashtrays now available for sale. (Candy dishes for us non-smokers) They are approx. 6' in diameter and sell for \$9. We'll try and get a picture posted at the ships store on the web page, and will include one in the next newsletter. *It's never too early to start Christmas shopping!!!*

Prices include shipping, which is subject to changes in Postal rates.

All items for sale include a small mark up for the association. All labor and handling are done on a volunteer basis by your fellow shipmates. As we grow, prices and shipping times should get better. Thank for your support. Any help for, or feed back about the Ships Store will be greatly appreciated.

THE BACK PAGE

After the attack

(this was forwarded to the newsletter staff by Rex Rader. The USS Cole "incident" really hit home for me and I'm sure lots of you, too)

"It wasn't until a few days ago though, that we started doing something that I feel may be the first thing I've seen in my short Naval career that has truly made a difference. Right now we are supporting the USS COLE and her crew in Aden. When the attack occurred we were a day away. Just by luck we happened to be on our way out of the Gulf and headed towards the Suez and could get here in a relatively short amount of time.

I know what you all have seen on CNN because we have seen it too. I just want you all to know that what you see doesn't even scratch the surface. I'm not going to get into it for obvious reasons, but I will tell you that right now there are 250+ sailors just a few miles away living in Hell on Earth. I'm sitting in a nice air conditioned room while they are sleeping out on the decks at night. You can't even imagine the conditions they are living in, and yet they are still fighting 24 hours a day to save their ship and free the bodies of those still trapped and send them home. As bad as it is they are doing an incredible job. The fact that these people are still functioning is beyond my comprehension. Whatever you imagine as the worst, multiply it by ten and you might get there.

Today I was tasked to photo rig the ship and surrounding

area. It looked so much worse than I had imagined, unbelievable really, with debris and disarray everywhere, the ship listing, the hole in her side. I wish I had the power to relay to you all what I have seen, but words just won't do it. I do want to tell you the first thing that jumped out at me- the Stars and Stripes flying. I can't tell you how that made me feel. Even in this God forsaken hell hole our flag was more beautiful than words can describe.

Then I started to notice the mass of activity going on below. Scores of people working non-stop in 90 plus degree weather to save this ship. They're doing it with almost no electrical power and they're sleeping (when they can sleep) outside on the decks because they can't stand the smell or the heat or the darkness inside. They only want to eat what we bring them because they're all scared of eating something brought by the local vendors.

Even with all that the USS COLE and her crew is sending a message guys, and it's that even acts of cowardice and hate can do nothing to the spirit and pride of the United States. I have never been so proud of what I do, or of the men and women I serve with as I was today. There are sixteen confirmed dead sailors who put it on the line for all of us, and some of them are still trapped here. Please take a minute to pray for their families and say a word of thanks for their sacrifice-one made so we can live the lives that we do. All of you that serve with me, thank you. All of you that have loved ones that serve, thank you"

**Ready Eddie Newsletter
c/o Bob Tuttle
12 Concord Ave.
Derry, NH 03038-1900**