

There is only a less than a month to the reunion May 28- Jun 1, 2014. *No more registration forms will be accepted for our next reunion.* Bob

“The challenge coins are now available in the ship’s store!”

As of 4/25/2014 active members stand 647. New members are Barry Henderson (sn; 72-74) I have his information for anyone who wishes to contact them. Memorial page has 128 names on it,

A lot of us have friends who we have kept in touch with who are not members. We are asking you to contact them and get them to join us. Thank you to all who responded to last months request to verify email addresses. 172 of you did respond

From the President’s Desk

Well fellas, we are on the verge of another reunion, this time in San Francisco. This reunion will see a lot less of us as we will have only a total of 98 participants. It does matter on how many people we have at reunions, but just as long as everyone has a good time and are able to see old shipmates, our reunions can only be called a success.

Here are some things to remember:

First, the weather can be cool in San Francisco. So be sure to bring appropriate clothing for either warm or cool weather.

For those who are flying in for the reunion, an airport shuttle is available free of charge. The shuttle runs about every half hour, depending on traffic. The shuttle is white in color and is shared with the Holiday Inn Express North and the Travelodge North. Be sure to look for the Best Western Plus Grosvenor Hotel logo on the side of the van. Once you retrieve your luggage at baggage claim, go upstairs one level and follow the signs to the “Hotel Courtesy Shuttle” area. The first shuttle run begins at 4am and runs until 12:30am.

Our transportation to and from the Pier 39 area will begin at 9am each morning and return to the hotel each night from Pier 39 at 9pm. If anyone wishes to return earlier, cabs and limo’s are usually available in the Pier 39 area.

It has been necessary to make a major change in our schedule of events. We had hoped we would have a very large turnout for this reunion so that we could charter a tour boat for the harbor cruise. That has not worked out well since attendance is down. Instead, if you still want to cruise the harbor, you can. It will be an hour cruise and we’ll be sharing the boat with the general public. If you choose to remain on the cruise, there is a difference in the cost and we can reimburse you the difference, which will be about \$12.00 per person. Of course you can say just keep the difference and put it in the association bank account, or spend part of it towards the purchase of a USS Richard S. Edwards challenge coin, which will be available at the reunion.

All those who are taking to two day Hop On – Hop Off tour on Thursday and Friday please remember that your ticket will get you into the Aquarium on Pier 39.

On Saturday night, we will have our business meeting. If anyone wishes to make a presentation for a location for the 2016 reunion, please let me know so that we will get you on the agenda. Please keep in mind you will be the boots on the ground and responsible for putting the reunion together. At this time at least two presentations will be made.

We will also have elections for two open positions on the executive board, those being treasurer and president.

If there is any other business that you would like to discuss, please contact me in order to be placed on the agenda.

The following is a list of those who will be attending:

RON ABEL

LEE BALY

RICK BANKS

ERNIE CARTER

GLENDON CHESTER

BYRON COOLEY

DAVE CRAWFORD

JOHN CRAWFORD (looking for a sea daddy)

ALAN DAVIDSON

BILL DAVIS

RALPH DRAEGER

TOM FADLEY

JOHN FASCE

TODD FOWLER

DEWAYNE GARDNER

DON HASLETT

JJ HOGUE

JERRY HORTON

RUSTY HOWELL

MARTIN KOMAREK

DON KRUGER

BILL MCKENNA

TONY MOTSCO

WORTHY PAUL

GEORGE PAVLOVICH

JIM PLANK

DALE PRESCOTT

BILL RENNICK

CARROLL RISBON

MIKE ROBERTSON

MIKE ROBINSON

JACK SANDERS

BOB SHEARD

MIKE SHULTS

DON SIEMS

BEN SMITH

ART SOLIS

BILL TRACY

MIKE TREADWELL

JOE TRYTTEN

JACK TURLEY

DAVE WILLIAMS

RAY WILSON

ROGER WILSON

We will have early check in on Wednesday for our group so we may provide you with your handout packet. So be sure to look for us.

Ralph and Kathy Draeger have put in a lot of time and personal money in putting this reunion together. They have tried to give us the biggest bang for our bucks. **SO THANK YOU FOR YOUR HARD WORK!**

I do not anticipate we will putting out a newsletter next month.

From your Reunion Coordinator

Hope everyone who is attending the reunion will have a great time, and that you think of attending the next reunion were ever it maybe.

Web Site change

We added something new to the ship's website under the ship's info section in the history portion check it out. We are looking for more history of the Edwards' to place there. Also will be starting to make other changes to the site in the future, will keep you informed.

Secretary Desk

I am asking for any leads of shipmate that you are in contact with, who are not members of the Edwards' Association. If you have not verified your address and phone number please take a few minutes and email me at bullcs3@hotmail.com. On Face book there is a face book page for the Richard S Edwards. On it is 110 names of people who were on the Edwards or related to Edwards' crew members. 16 of them are not members to this association. Sent out 42 letter with application for membership and for problems with member's email address since last newsletter. Received one correction for an address and phone number update this month

Treasures Report

March 1, 2014 - March 30, 2014

Beginning Balance \$ 16,757.27

Income 4,966.12

Expenses 45.40

Ending Balance \$ 21,677.99

> Jim

Memories

This should give us a better perspective on life!!!

Subject: Airline Captain (don't delete)

My lead flight attendant came to me and said, "We have an H.R. On this flight." (H.R. Stands for human remains.)

"Are they military?" I asked.

Nū

'Yes', she said.

'Is there an escort?' I asked.

'Yes, I already assigned him a seat'.

'Would you please tell him to come to the flight deck. You can board him early,' I said..

A short while later, a young army sergeant entered the flight deck. He was the image of the perfectly dressed soldier. He introduced himself and I asked him about his soldier.

The escorts of these fallen soldiers talk about them as if they are still alive and still with us. 'My soldier is on his way back to Virginia,' he said. He proceeded to answer my questions, but offered no words.

I asked him if there was anything I could do for him and he said no. I told him that he had the toughest job in the military and that I appreciated the work that he does for the families of our fallen soldiers. The first officer and I got up out of our seats to shake his hand. He left the flight deck to find his seat.

We completed our preflight checks, pushed back and performed an uneventful departure. About 30 minutes into our flight I received a call from the lead flight attendant in the cabin.

'I just found out the family of the soldier we are carrying, is also on board', she said. She then proceeded to tell me that the father, mother, wife and 2-year old daughter were escorting their son, husband, and father home. The family was upset because they were unable to see the container that the soldier was in before we left.

We were on our way to a major hub at which the family was going to wait four hours for the connecting flight home to Virginia. The father of the soldier told the flight attendant that knowing his son was below him in the cargo compartment and being unable to see him was too much for him and the family to bear. He had asked the flight attendant if there was anything that could be done to allow them to see him upon our arrival. The family wanted to be outside by the cargo door to watch the soldier being taken off the airplane.

I could hear the desperation in the flight attendants voice when she asked me if there was anything I could do. 'I'm on it', I said. I told her that I would get back to her.

Airborne communication with my company normally occurs in the form of e-mail like messages. I decided to bypass this system and contact my flight dispatcher directly on a secondary radio. There is a radio operator in the operations control center who connects you to the telephone of the dispatcher. I was in direct contact with the dispatcher. I explained the situation I had on board with the family and what it was the family wanted. He said he understood and that he would get back to me.

Two hours went by and I had not heard from the dispatcher. We were going to get busy soon and I needed to know what to tell the family. I sent a text message asking for an update. I Saved the return message from the dispatcher and the following is the text:

'Captain, sorry it has taken so long to get back to you. There is policy on this now and I had to check on a few things. Upon your arrival a dedicated escort team will meet the aircraft. The team will escort the family to the ramp and plane side. A van will be used to load the remains with a secondary van for the family.

The family will be taken to their departure area and escorted into the terminal where the remains can be seen on the ramp. It is a private area for the family only. When the connecting aircraft arrives, the family will be escorted onto the ramp and plane side to watch the remains being loaded for the final leg home.

Captain, most of us here in flight control are veterans.. Please pass our condolences on to the family. Thanks.

I sent a message back telling flight control thanks for a good job. I printed out the message and gave it to the lead flight attendant to pass on to the father. The lead flight attendant was very thankful and told me, 'You have no idea how much this will

mean to them.'

Things started getting busy for the descent, approach and landing. After landing, we cleared the runway and taxied to the ramp area. The ramp is huge with 15 gates on either side of the alleyway. It is always a busy area with aircraft maneuvering every which way to enter and exit. When we entered the ramp and checked in with the ramp controller, we were told that all traffic was being held for us.

'There is a team in place to meet the aircraft', we were told. It looked like it was all coming together, then I realized that once we turned the seat belt sign off, everyone would stand up at once and delay the family from getting off the airplane. As we approached our gate, I asked the copilot to tell the ramp controller we were going to stop short of the gate to make an announcement to the passengers. He did that and the ramp controller said, 'Take your time.'

I stopped the aircraft and set the parking brake. I pushed the public address button and said, 'Ladies and gentleman, this is your Captain speaking I have stopped short of our gate to make a special announcement. We have a passenger on board who deserves our honor and respect. His Name is Private XXXXXX, a soldier who recently lost his life. Private XXXXXX is under your feet in the cargo hold. Escorting him today is Army Sergeant XXXXXXX. Also, on board are his father, mother, wife, and daughter. Your entire flight crew is asking for all passengers to remain in their seats to allow the family to exit the aircraft first. Thank you.'

We continued the turn to the gate, came to a stop and started our shutdown procedures. A couple of minutes later I opened the cockpit door. I found the two forward flight attendants crying, something you just do not see. I was told that after we came to a stop, every passenger on the aircraft stayed in their seats, waiting for the family to exit the aircraft.

When the family got up and gathered their things, a passenger slowly started to clap his hands. Moments later more passengers joined in and soon the entire aircraft was clapping. Words of 'God Bless You', I'm sorry, thank you, be proud, and other kind words were uttered to the family as they made their way down the aisle and out of the airplane.

They were escorted down to the ramp to finally be with their loved one.

Many of the passengers disembarking thanked me for the announcement I had

made. They were just words, I told them, I could say them over and over again, but nothing I say will bring back that brave soldier.

I respectfully ask that all of you reflect on this event and the sacrifices that millions of our men and women have made to ensure our freedom and safety in these United States of AMERICA.

Foot note:

I know every one who who reads this will have tears in their eyes, including me. Prayer chain for our Military... Please send this on after a short prayer for our service men and women.

They die for me and mine and you and yours and deserve our honor and respect.

'Lord, hold our troops in your loving hands. Protect them as they protect us. Bless them and their families for the selfless acts they perform for us in our time of need.. In Jesus Name, Amen.'

Prayer Request:

When you receive this, please stop for a moment and say a prayer for our troops around the world.. There is nothing attached. Just send this to people in your address book. Do not let it stop with you. Of all the gifts you could give a Marine, Soldier, Sailor, Airman, & others deployed in harm's way, prayer is the very best one.

GOD BLESS YOU!!!

Ship's Store

Ship mates who have made their reservation for the next reunion

Richard Banks, David Crawford, Ralph Draeger, Todd Fowler, ,Jerry Heinen, Robert Hillman, Joseph Hogue, Russell Howell, Don Kruger, Robert Millman, Carl Paul, George Pavlovich, William Rennie, Michael Robertson, Joe Trytten, John Turley, Roger Wilson,Robert sheard. Next email will give the final for reservation received.

Missing shipmates

Newsletter Notes

What is a challenge coin? For the answer type in search challenge coin history answer will be found using WIKIPEDIA. Other units have a coin so your executive board had the same company who made your reunion pins make our ship's coin.

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

Sign in is the word member, password is rse950

Service Jokes

ANNIVERSARY GIFT

LARRY WAS IN TROUBLE. HE FORGOT HIS WEDDING ANNIVERSARY.
HIS WIFE WAS REALLY ANGRY.

SHE TOLD HIM "TOMORROW MORNING I EXPECT TO FIND A GIFT IN THE DRIVEWAY THAT GOES FROM 0 TO 200 IN LESS THAN 6 SECONDS...AND IT BETTER BE THERE!!!"

THE NEXT MORNING LARRY GOT UP EARLY AND LEFT FOR WORK. WHEN HIS WIFE GOT UP, SHE LOOKED OUT THE WINDOW AND SURE ENOUGH THERE WAS A GIFT BOX FOR HER WRAPPED AND IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DRIVEWAY. CONFUSED, THE WIFE PUT ON HER ROBE, RAN OUT TO THE DRIVEWAY AND BROUGHT THE BOX BACK IN THE HOUSE. SHE OPENED IT AND FOUND A BRAND NEW BATHROOM SCALE.

LARRY HAS BEEN MISSING SINCE

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,

Notes Received from last month

PER VFW-Ever wonder why FEB 2, 1961 was selected as the official start of the Vietnam WAR? It had nothing to do with combat. It was changed from Aug 5, 1964(The Gulf of Tonkin Resolution) for purposes of awarding VA benefits Mike Treadwell EM2 60-63 Edwards

a few years ago you sent me a navy film it was a bad moon rising i lost it could you send it to me again
- thanks dan roff em3 69=70

