



OFFSPRING

The National Newsletter of the SONS and DAUGHTERS of PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS, INC.

"Pearl Harbor ~ December 7, 1941 ~ Lest We Forget"





National President, Deidre Kelley

P.O. Box 1022
Yulee, FL 32041
PH: 904-225-0013 (H)
E-Mail: pearlgirl1941@gmail.com

National Vice President, Mary Haessig Schiano

3200 Osborne Road
Chester, VA 23831-1946
PH: 804-796-2971 (H), 804-263-1950 (C)
E-Mail: Schianoinn59@outlook.com

National Secretary, Barbara Ford

833 Travis Drive,
Carson City, NV 89701
PH: 775-781-3555 (C)
E-Mail: scouterford@gmail.com

National Treasurer, Mary Purifoy

7846 Hastings Street
Jacksonville, FL 32220
PH: 904-545-5843 (C)
E-Mail: maryp7846@gmail.com

National Trustees

Carolyn Sparks
Cargo549@bellsouth.net

National Registrar, Linda Hooks

1414 Woodville Road
Mansfield, OH 44903-9478
PH: 419-526-0079 (H), 419-571-2003 (C)
E-Mail: dogsxthree@yahoo.com

PHS Archivist, Michael Naya

E-Mail: swaneyb4@aol.com

Editor, Eric Miller

751 Countryside Hwy
Mundelein, IL 60060-2503
PH: 847-566-1670 (H)
E-Mail: r222@comcast.net

Storekeeper, Deidre Kelley

NEW MEMBER REPORT 7-16-2022 THROUGH 11-15-2022

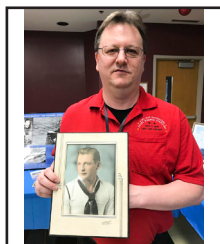
NEW LINEAL MEMBERS

Terry Gray Stirewalt Maple Grove, MN
Timothy J. Brune Montgomery, OH
Larry J. Morgan Ruckersville, VA

NEW ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

Elizabeth Reed Chester, VA
Evelyn Gannaway Sewanee, TN

A message from your Editor



Another issue is done. Thank you to everyone that contributed stories and photos. I am enjoying doing this newsletter. Feel free to send me stories and photos about your dads. I would like to learn more about them and feature them in future newsletters or even work on putting together a graphic telling your dad's story for your family. -Eric "Rick" Miller r222@comcast.net

The issue dates below allow for Veteran's Day, Pearl Harbor Day and Memorial Day information to be more timely. In other words, when the occasion happens, the reporting will closely follow instead of having to wait several months. It is imperative then, for that information to get to me on time for publication.

The issues will be sent:

MAILING DATES:
Editor):

March 15 (Issue#1)
August 15(Issue #2)
November 1
December 15 (Issue #3)

CUT OFF DATES: *(to get information to the*

February 15
July 15
Ballot Issue on even years only
November 15

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DID YOU KNOW... The Offspring is the official newsletter of the Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, Inc. It is published for the benefit of dues paying members three times a year with a separate Ballot Issue published on even years to coincide with our National elections.

Please send any editorial content to Eric"Rick" Miller: r222@comcast.net

Next Issue Deadline: November 15, 2022

Message from the President Deidre Kelley



The 81th Anniversary of the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor was celebrated by more than 60 members of SDPHS, their families and guests at the 2022 National Convention in Savannah, GA. Members toured the beautiful City of Savannah, enjoyed the Christmas show at the historic Savannah Theater, and toured the National Museum of the Mighty Eighth Air Force. Child survivor and Texas State Chair, Ann McKennis, shared a presentation about the “Nurses of Pearl Harbor” and our banquet speaker, Colonel Christopher Noe talked about vigilance and how Pearl Harbor and the events of December 7, 1941 relate to it. He also shared his own experiences in Iraq, Afghanistan, Korea, and Germany. Colonel Noe is the grandson of Pearl Harbor Survivor Charles J. Haessig who was stationed on the USS Sacramento on December 7, 1941. Banquet entertainment was provided by Kristin King, New Arts Ensembles, solo harpist.

The General Membership meeting was well attended and many ideas for generating donations to our organization were discussed. A special thanks to Mary Purifoy, National Treasurer, Carolyn Sparks, Trustee, Gordon Sparks, retired PHS Archivist, Mary Schiano, Vice-President, Barbara Ford, National Secretary, Fred Rudder, District 6 Director, Kathy Schwarz, District 8 Director and her husband Mark Schwarz, and my husband Chuck Kelley for helping to make the convention a success.

Houston Bluebonnet Chapter #3 has graciously offered to host the 83rd Anniversary National Convention in Houston, Texas December 4 – 7, 2024. Included in this issue of the Offspring is a survey listing several possible activities. Please complete the survey and return to me as soon as possible. Members will have the option of registering for the convention online through the SDPHS.org website or by filling out the printed form and sending a check to the National Treasurer.

For those of you who enjoy reading survivor stories, two of our members have written books about their fathers’ experiences on December 7, 1941. Frank Bland has written a book entitled “A Rope from Above at Pearl Harbor.” For a copy, you can contact Frank at fbland3@comcast.net. William F. Rudder has written a book entitled “Bloody Sabbath, One Man’s Account of the Bombing of Pearl Harbor.” You can purchase a copy of this book from the SDPHS Small Store for \$15.

By the time you read this issue of the Offspring, I hope to have the Small Stores page completed and posted on the sdphs.org website. Members will be able to place their orders and pay online. Upon receipt of your order, I will get the items to you in the mail. Check it out! Thank you for all you do to remember and honor those who served and continue to serve our country “Pearl Harbor ~December 7, 1941~Lest, We, Forget.”





Donations 11/16/2022 to 2/15/2023

Beginning Balance 1/1/2022	
Beginning Balance 1/1/2022	
General Fund	\$ 40,155.47
Memorial Fund	\$ 2,722.25
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,474.89
Convention Fund	\$ (2,217.17)
PH/Child Survivor History	\$ 1,481.65
Total	\$ 43,617.09

Income	
Annual Dues	\$ 9,816.31
Donations to General Funds	\$ 9,677.05
Donations to Memorial Funds	\$ 2,993.97
Donations to Scholarship Funds	\$ 705.05
Donations to Convention Fund	\$ 14,822.95
Donations to Child Survivor History	\$ 295.00
New Member Fees	\$ 815.00
New Chapter Fees	\$ 25.00
Small Store	\$ 2,644.74
Offspring Ads	\$ 75.00
Miscellaneous	\$ 26.26
Total Income	\$ 41,896.33

Expenses	
Florida Dept of State	\$ 70.00
E-Board Meeting	\$ 179.88
Memorial Wreaths	\$ 800.00
Offspring, Printing/Postage	\$ 1,400.00
Small Store	\$ 1,274.03
Miscellaneous	
New Chapter Start-up	\$ 249.00
Chapter Member Awards	\$ 500.00
Stamps, Postage, Office Supplies	\$ 2,121.64
Bank Fees (Returned Check)	\$ 381.00
Website and Data Support	\$ 5,317.08
Trademark Expense	
Insurance	\$ 187.00
Memorial Fund	\$ 2,000.00
Scholarship Fund	\$ 1,000.00
Convention Fund	\$ 14,697.14
Total Expense	\$ 30,176.77

Ending Book Balance 12/31/2022	\$ 55,336.65
Outstanding Check #2567	\$ 100.00
Ending Bank Balance 12/31/2022	\$ 55,436.65

Special thanks to ILWC Credit Union, Mary Hicks, and Kyle and Thomas Wehr for donations of \$1,000 to \$5,000.

GENERAL FUND

Brad G. Wyatt	Suzanne Shipley
Barbara Combs	Douglas F. Didyongs
Gregory Medeiros	Michael Mason
Russell Grogan	Elizabeth Boulton
Patricia Dagle	Deidre Meyers
Judith Herman	Anita Delancey
Dennis Quearry	William Fred Rudder
Stan Harmen	Thomas Shepherd
George Bland	Thomas Herwer
Myrna Bland	Mary Reid
Thomas B. Haigley	Charles Meadows
Bernard Tillery	Kathryn Rulison
Mary Hicks	Derek Bauer
Donald Dvorak	Rachael Shea
Mark Joyce	Mark Banovich
C. Michael Hoffman	Pamela Roesijadi
Linda Toth	Kristi Covington
H. Keith Cavallero	Regina Schuch
Carole Terry	Luella Stilley
Beverly Heiser-Neas	James Elie
Annette Gillespie	Bryan Pennington
Gary Baker	Susann Lovell
James Armstrong	Renee Perrault-Perry
Wendy Masters	ILWU Credit Union
Bronson Metz	

MEMORIAL FUND

Patricia Smith
Brad Wyatt
Lisa Jenkins
Gregory Medeiros
Oliver Jenkins
Barbara Pendergast
Mary Hukkanen
Wendy Masters
Wayne Carson
Kenneth Miles
Donna Fiveash

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Brad Wyatt
Jack Saxton
Douglas Didyongs
Victoria Linderwell
Edward Creighton
Maureen Young
Gary Gerhard
Kyle & Thomas Wehr

PEARL HARBOR CHILD SURVIVOR FUND

Tom Oden	Michael Karas
Brad Wyatt	Ann McKennis
John Berlier, Jr.	Janis Reddick
Pamela Ludwig	

Our survivors who have passed.

BELOW IS A LISTING OF NAMES OF PHS WHO HAVE PASSED

WAYNE A. SHELLNUT
USS CALIFORNIA
DOD: MARCH 26, 2021 (AGE 105)

LAURENCE V. ROSA
USS BAGLEY
DOD: DECEMBER 25, 2022

JESSIE VAN HOOSE
USS MARYLAND
DOD: JANUARY 7, 2023

FRANCIS L. EMOND
USS PENNSYLVANIA
DOD: JANUARY 10, 2023 (AGE 104)

JACK HOLDER
PBV SQUADRON VP-23, FORD ISLAND
DOD: FEBRUARY 24, 2023



*Go to sleep, Peaceful sleep,
May the Soldier or Sailor,
God keep.
On the land or the deep,
Safe in sleep.*

© Photo by Eric W. Miller

DEATH NOTICES OF PEARL HARBOR SURVIVORS SHOULD BE SENT TO TWO PLACES:

(Please include Name, Duty Station and Date of Death)

Michael Naya e-mail to: swaneyb4@aol.com

For publication in our newsletter send to our *Offspring* Editor, Eric Miller r222@comcast.net

IN LOVING MEMORY

IN LOVING MEMORY of *Walter I. Carson*
1st Battalion 98th Coast Artillery "AA" Headquarters Battery Schofield Barracks
 By Son and Daughter-in-Law
 Wayne and Jeanette Carson



IN LOVING MEMORY of *Herbert L. Martin, Sr.*
F2C/USS Tucker
 By
 Herbert L. Martin, Jr. and Frank E. Martin



IN LOVING MEMORY of
Leo W. Sved and the crew who served with him
USS Pyro (Ammunition Ship)
 By Mary Susan Hukkanen



IN LOVING MEMORY of *SSgt. Jack Brown*
USMC Marine Barracks
 By
 His Proud Family



IN LOVING MEMORY of *Leonard L. Purifoy*
USS Utah
 By
 Mary Purifoy (Daughter)



IN LOVING MEMORY of *Jim DeWitt*
USS Antares
 By
 Wendy Masters



Up to 4 lines:
 1 issue - \$ 8.00
 4 issues - \$ 25.00

In "Memory/Honor of" ads:

Include survivor's name & duty station on 7 December, 1941 & name/relationship to survivor of person placing ad.

In "Support of" ads:

Include SDPHS supporter, your name, title (if an officer), Chapter, City & State

Send ad information and check to:
 National Treasurer, Mary Purifoy. Check should be clearly marked - Offspring Ad

District, State, Chapter Reports

Illinois Chapter 1

By Carlissa Puckett

Sons & Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors
Honor their Fathers

The 81st Anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor was celebrated in Springfield on December 7th. On December 7th, 1941, Pearl Harbor, on the Island of Oahu, Hawaii, was attacked by the Japanese Imperial Navy. The surprise attack was comprised of 353 Japanese aircraft. The assault, which lasted less than two hours, claimed the lives of more than 2,403 people, wounded 1,000 more and damaged or destroyed 18 American ships and more than 300 airplanes. Eighty-one years later, we gathered to reflect on the day that will forever be remembered as “a date which will live in infamy” and to honor the memory and courage of those that served on that fateful day.

This remembrance ceremony was co-hosted by the Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs (IDVA) and the Springfield Elks Lodge #158. Gwen Diehl, IDVA, was the moderator and the following offered remarks: James Langfelder, Mayor of Springfield; Terry Prince, Director, Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs; John Carrigan, VP, World War II Memorial Committee; and Bobby Edwards, Department of Illinois VFW District 10 Commander. Governor Pritzker sent a proclamation naming December 7th as Pearl Harbor Remembrance day in Illinois.

The indoor ceremony was followed by casting memorial wreaths into Lake Springfield, a three volley salute, and bagpipes playing Amazing Grace.

Jim Tripplet (SDPHS) and Terry Prince, Director of Illinois Department of Veterans’ Affairs threw wreaths in memory of those who paid the ultimate sacrifice on December 7, 1941.



Lynn Shindel



Terry Prince



John Carrigan

Attending the PHS Ceremony in Springfield are: (Back row) Chuck Bott of Chillicothe; Jim Tripplet of Decatur; Steven Lee Browning (President of Chapter 1 SDPHS); Don Thompson of Chillicothe; Lynn Shindell (Chairman of Illinois SDPHS). (Front Row) Carlissa Puckett of Fort Worth, TX; Cheryl Tripplet of Decatur; Emily Thompson of Chillicothe; Madeleine Shindell of Bloomington and Charlotta Janes of Mattoon.



Jim Tripplet (SDPHS) and Terry Prince



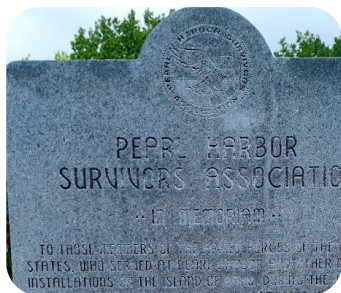
District, State, Chapter Reports

Nebraska Chapter

By Peg Murphy

The Nebraska Bo Wilson Chapter 1 participated in the Lincoln Veterans Memorial Garden Pearl Harbor Commemoration Ceremony in Lincoln, NE on December 7th. Members, Bob and Bill Dietrich were the keynote speakers. They spoke of their father's (Sgt. William A. Dietrich) service during the Attack on Pearl Harbor. Several Chapter Members also attended the ceremony. The Memorial Garden is the location of a monument and benches that were designed and donated by our fathers, as members of the Nebraska PHS when it was an active group.

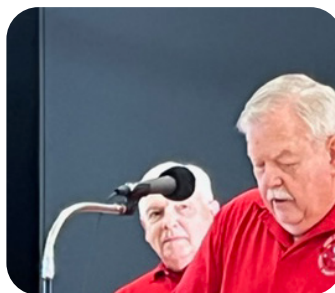
Other Nebraska Chapter Members were in Savannah, GA attending the SDPHS National Convention and Remembrance Ceremony. Lest We Forget!



PHS Memorial in Lincoln, NE



Veterans Memorial Garden Ceremony



Bob and Bill Dietrich giving their keynote address



Nebraska SDPHS National Convention attendees

Arizona Chapter

By Dorothy Williamson

Arizona Chapter 1 was chartered in November 2011 in Prescott, AZ with just the bare minimum number of active members. Although there are 89 dues paying SDPHS members in Arizona, only 18 of those in or near Prescott have ever attended our regular meetings held monthly up until Covid 19 put an end to them. During the Covid years, four of our most active members passed away. Now, with only 8 or 9 truly "active" members, the chapter is not sustainable.

Chapter 1 President Bill Williamson with several officers and Prescott members held a planning meeting in March 2022 to decide if we should continue to hold meetings and, if so, how to proceed. It was suggested that instead of monthly meetings, we should try quarterly meetings. Because Covid is still with us, and most of us are vulnerable seniors, it was also suggested that we try virtual meetings on Zoom. This would allow us to once again hold meetings and would expand our reach to include all Arizona SDPHS members. The core group is determined to carry on!

Our chapter has purchased a one year ZOOM contract, allowing us to have unlimited time for our meetings, as was proposed and approved at our first Zoom meeting held on October 15th. That meeting had eight attendees.

An email notice was sent to all members with a listed email address before Thanksgiving and again on December 1st to notify all Arizona members of the upcoming quarterly meeting on December 7th. The notice listed the topics to be covered during the Zoom meeting.

On December 7, 2022 at 7 pm AZ State Chair Bill Williamson opened the second statewide Zoom meeting for all Arizona SDPHS members. We were disappointed to have only six members attend, because there are fifty-eight names on the latest member list sent to us by National.

One major question is how many dues paid members do we really have in AZ and how can we contact them. It was proposed that we divide up the list from National and each member present at the December 7th meeting will try to contact 10 members personally by whatever contact information we have to find out if they are still members, whether they are still interested in the organization, how can we best contact them, and if they have the capability to attend ZOOM meetings on a computer. The results from this effort will determine how to best proceed.

We also learned at the meeting that not everyone received a dues reminder and not everyone is receiving the "Offspring", so we will send an email copy of the dues reminder and the latest copy of the "Offspring" to every member on our email list.

8 We hope to have better news to report in the next Offspring. Arizona Chapter 1 is not giving up!

District, State, Chapter Reports

Texas Bluebonnet Chapter 3

By Sylvia Withrow



Rick Lawrence gave a brief story of what our organization, the SDPHS, stands for and our commitment to keeping the history alive for all generations. Lest We Forget



Reba Watson, her granddaughter, Savanna, Rocky Martino, and Rick Lawrence enjoying lunch after the Commemoration.



Rick Lawrence, Savanna, holding the Hawaiian lei, followed Reba Watson, escorted by Rocky Martino, for the ceremonial wreath tossing into the bay.



Marine Rocky Martino holding our SDPHS flag with Reba, Savanna, and Rick Lawrence standing at attention



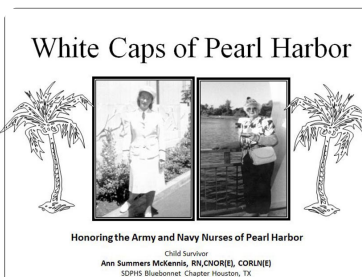
Houston Texas Bluebonnet Chapter 3 child survivors: Jill Allen, Tom Gillette, and Ann McKennis. They were there during the attack at Pearl Harbor.



Reba Watson and Tom Gillette



Jeff and Ann McKennis. At the SDPHS National Convention in Savannah, GA, Ann McKennis gave a presentation honoring the Army and Navy Nurses of Pearl Harbor, titled "White Caps of Pearl Harbor"



Jeff Smith also attended the SDPHS National Convention and displayed the Bluebonnet CH 3 Battleship Row. This scaled model was created by Rocky Martino with an enclosed case built by Jerry Withrow.

District, State, Chapter Reports

SDPHS CA Chapter 5

By Kathleen Farley

On December 7, 2022, the 81st anniversary ceremony was held at the Visitors Center at Pearl Harbor with the theme "Everlasting Legacy". Approximately, 2,500 people attended this event and was open to the public.

Five Pearl Harbor Survivors were in attendance.

Sterling Cale, Naval Base Pearl Harbor Dispensary, resides in Honolulu, Hawaii

Herb Elfring, Camp Malakole, Detroit, Michigan;

Jack Holder, Ford Island, Chandler, Arizona;

Ira Schaefer, USS Dobbin, Portland, Oregon;

Kenneth Stevens, USS Whitney, Powers, Oregon.

As the USS Daniel Inouye did a "Pass in Review", PHS Kenneth Stevens returned the salute on behalf of the Pearl Harbor Survivors.



National Park Superintendent Tom Leatherman was the Keynote speaker at the USS Utah on Dec 6th, USS Arizona on Dec 7th and USS Oklahoma. Sons and Daughters had floral wreaths at the USS Utah, USS Arizona, USS Oklahoma and Hickam Field.



District, State, Chapter Reports

Northern Illinois December 7, 2022

By Eric and Bob Miller

For the 50th anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor I put together a display case for dad and presented that to him on December 7th, 1991. It contained a model of the USS RAMSAY DM16 which is the ship he was on that morning in 1941. It also had other memorabilia from his time in the Navy, 1940-1946. He was very proud and happy to have this.

We shared the memories of that day through out our life. It was this project though that started me on a 31 year journey to document, honor, and keep dad's story alive.

The project has turned into sharing the stories of dad along with the local survivors that we were honored to get to know over the years.

On December 7, 2022 on the 81st anniversary of the Attack on Pearl Harbor we shared those stories at two ceremonies. The first ceremony was our 11th one partnering with the National Museum of the American Sailor and Naval Station Great Lakes. The second ceremony was a first time event for us and we hope to make it an annual one.

We shared the stories of my friends and members of the Greatest Generation:

- Clarence J. Miller** - USS Ramsay • **Joe Triolo** - USS Tangier • **Lyle Hancock** - Navy Yard Dispensary
- Frank Gibbons** - USS Detroit • **John Barry** - Naval Intelligence • **Ambrose Ferri** - USS Vestal • **Ed Block** - USS Medusa
- Doug Phillips** - USS Ramsay • **Dean Garret** - Navy Hospital • **John Terrell** - USS Perry • **Ralph Lindenmeyer** - Ford Island
- Finch Stowell** - USS Oklahoma • **Ralph Ladtko** - USS Solace • **Carl Hickman** - USS Downes • **Thomas Decker** - USS Hull
- Special graphic honoring Robert Daniel Smith** - USS Utah - KIA 7 December, 1941
- Special section with the story of: Don Stratton** - USS Arizona • **Joe George** - USS Vestal

Both ceremonies were open to the public

Being able to share these ceremonies with my brother and nephew have been an emotional experience. We make a great team. We hope to see you there! Some photos from the setup today.

www.ericwmillerphotography.com



Rick Miller, left, and his brother Bob Miller pose for a photo on Wednesday, Dec. 7, 2022, at Vintage Wings and Wheels Museum in Poplar Grove. The men gave a presentation on their father's experience and memories from the attack on Pearl Harbor. CHRIS NIEVES/ROCKFORD REGISTER STAR



Survivor's Stories

Captain Edwin John Kroeger

By Bill Kroeger (Son)

Captain Edwin John Kroeger (USN)

Captain Edwin John Kroeger (aka Bud) earned his Navy wings from NAS Pensacola flight school August 5th, 1938. The newly minted Ensign JG was assigned to the recently commissioned carrier USS Enterprise, serving with Bombing Squadron Six (VB-6) and piloting the venerable Douglas "Dauntless" SBD dive bomber. The Enterprise, initially assigned to the Pacific Fleet off Coronado Island in San Diego, was later reassigned to Pearl Harbor, Hawaii in September of 1939.

On December 4, 1941, Enterprise was ordered to deliver a Marine F4F Wildcat Squadron to Wake Island with a scheduled return to Pearl on December 6th, but was fortuitously delayed by stormy seas. Due to increasingly strained relations with Japan, U.S. Fleet Task Force Commander Admiral William (Bull) Halsey had prudently ordered the fleet to operate under wartime conditions which dictated flying scouting missions ahead of the advancing carrier while under radio silence. Upon approaching Pearl on December 7th-still 200 miles out and unaware of the ensuing enemy attack- Halsey ordered an 18 sector area search with two planes assigned to each sector. Bud's sector was to take him in the vicinity of Waikiki Beach, with a second leg over Barbers Point, and upon completion, to land on Ford Island.

Radio silence was ultimately broken by frantic chatter alerting everyone listening that Pearl was under heavy enemy attack, exclaiming- "This Is Not a Drill!" The "Big E" scout planes soon encountered dense smoke and flames from burning vessels in the harbor plus massive ground devastation. As Ford Island was an inferno, Bud and his wingman, Dale Hilton, made the prudent decision to re-route and attempt a landing at Ewa Field. During their approach, they were mistakenly identified as enemy planes by bewildered and overwhelmed U.S. personnel necessitating the pilots to evade friendly fire emanating from multiple sources; the critically wounded Nevada as she attempted to beach herself, destroyers frantically attempting to escape from the harbor, and ground personnel. Fortunately, neither Bud's nor Dale's plane was seriously hit which allowed both pilots to land, arm, refuel and launch with other SBD pilots in pursuit of the enemy- which by this time had made a hasty retreat.

In February of 1942, Bud took part in one of the first "payback" hit and run raids on Japanese possessions in the Pacific with strikes on Kwajalein and Tarawa in the Marshall Islands. Dodging intense anti-aircraft fire, he was then attacked by three enemy fighter planes necessitating evasive maneuvers in an attempt to escape. One of the Jap fighters strafed his plane from below with machinegun fire riddling his SBD with bullet holes and sending an exploding round through his left foot. Bleeding profusely and without the ability to fully control his rudder, Bud miraculously managed to fly his severely damaged plane back to Enterprise and safely land, even after first circling the carrier selflessly allowing all the other pilots to touch down. His aircraft was so shot up, the decision was made to scrap it, and consequently, it was pushed overboard.

Bud was transferred to the hospital ship Solace to convalesce from his wound where doctors thankfully saved his leg from amputation. He would make an eventual return to the Big E just in time for the engagement that became "The Turning Point of the Pacific conflict- the Battle of Midway!"



On June 4th, 1942, a trio of Enterprise SBD's comprised of: Dick Best in command, Bud as his wingman, and Fred Weber, spun off of a larger formation of dive bombers to spearhead an attack on the Japanese flagship carrier Akagi. While all three pilot's bomb strikes were credited with damaging the enemy ship, Bud's 1000 pound bomb inflicted the most catastrophic carnage- piercing the carrier deck near the amidships elevator, thus, dooming it. After returning to the Enterprise to refuel and rearm, he and the few surviving SBD pilots from carriers Enterprise and Yorktown rallied for another run at the now critically damaged Japanese fleet, successfully sinking the two remaining carriers- Hiryu and Soryu- thereby culminating one of the most decisive battles in Naval history.

At the conclusion of Midway, Bud had completed his scheduled 4 year tour with Enterprise and received orders returning him to Pensacola to assist with new pilot training. In 1944, he was recalled into combat as VB-7 Squadron Executive Officer aboard the newly commissioned USS Hancock. He led several sorties during the battle of Leyte Gulf, and in November of '44 was assigned to the USS Homet to finalize his wartime service as Commander of Air Group II (VB-11). Throughout November '44-January '45, he flew the Curtis SB2C Helldiver in combat missions striking Japanese positions in the Philippines, Formosa, Cam Ranh Bay, Hong Kong and Okinawa, ultimately racking up a combined total of 65 combat missions. After the war in 1947, Bud served aboard the USS Boxer as CO of VB-19 flying the newly released Douglas Skyraider- a plane he truly loved!

In 1952, he was given command of Air Group 6 aboard the USS Midway where he was honored by completing the historic 50,000th carrier landing.

In 1958, Bud reluctantly traded in his wings for diplomatic duty, assuming the post of Attaché under Dwight Eisenhower at Columbia University and later as Naval Attaché at the American Embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia.

As his final assignment, he headed the Department of Naval Intelligence in Boston, MA, supervising the investigation of numerous high profile national cases. In 1962, with the rank of Captain, Bud retired from his exemplary Naval career.

During his wartime combat service, Captain Edwin John (Bud) Kroeger was awarded the following:

- *The Navy Cross
 - *3 Distinguished Flying Crosses
 - *3 Air Medals
 - *Bronze Star
 - *Purple Heart
 - *Numerous campaign citations and commendations
- Bud earned his eternal wings on September 29, 2002 one month shy of his 89th birthday.



Survivor's Stories

John Herwer

By Tom Herwer (Son) SDPHS #677

This information was told to me by my father.

My father John Herwer joined the US Navy on Oct 1939, this was after he had spent two years in the US Army reserve in 1937 where he made the rank of corporal E-4. The Navy sent dad to basic training at San Diego Naval Training Center. After basic he was assigned to the USS Tern AM-31 a mine sweeper. At that time the pacific fleet was stationed at San Diego, CA During the summer of 1940 the pacific fleet was then moved to Pearl Harbor, TH.

On Dec 7th 1941 the USS Tern was moored at the end of 1010 dock, (so called because the dock was one thousand ten feet long). At 0700 my dad left the Tern headed for the USS Helena, He had to cross over the Helena to get to the USS Oglaga where he was to meet his buddy, they were going to Pearl City that morning. As my dad stepped on the gang plank of the Helena, he heard machine gun fire from the torpedo bombers, they launched their first torpedo at the USS Arizona. Seconds later he saw the USS Shaw go up in smoke and fire. With all the smoke and fires going on the Helena would not let my dad on board. About this time a Navy truck was passing by and they shouted at him to get on board, there was a 50 caliber machine gun on board which they set up on a ball field. Later the Marines took over the 50 caliber and he was sent back to his ship.

The Tern was assigned to put out fires on the USS Arizona and later moved over to the USS West Virginia to put out fires. The Tern pulled out forty sailors from the burning water. My dad was a former life guard at the Redondo Beach salt water plug , he saw where some of the sailors were not going to make it out of the burning water. He dove into the water and pulled them out and aboard the Tern.

In March 1942 my dad, a Gunner's mate 2c, was transferred to the USS Preble, In May, 1942 he was transferred to the USS Medusa. In Nov 1942 he was transferred to Mine assembly unit 134 Brisbane, Australia . He helped set up a mine production unit. where he stayed until the end of the war. In Oct 1945 my dad was assigned to mineman "A" school in Yorktown, Virginia that is a distance of over 15,000 miles. In 1959 my dad a Chief Mineman retired with 22 years of military service



John Herwer. Photo taken 2 months after Pearl Harbor attack



Shadow box by Tom Herwer (son) made up with his dad's PHSA cap and his SDPHS cap.



**Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors
Houston Bluebonnet Chapter #3**

Hello to all –

My name is Jeff Smith and I am the President of the Houston, Texas Chapter of the SDPHS. We are honored and privileged to host the next National Convention in our great city in December of 2024. To make your visit more memorable, we request that you complete this survey and return to Deidre Kelley, National President, P.O. Box 1022, Yulee, FL 32041 as soon as possible.

1. Do you plan to come to Houston for the 2024 SDPHS National Convention? Yes No.
2. Are the following events important to you? Please check all that apply:
 - Visiting with old friends
 - Learning more about the history of Pearl Harbor
 - Social activities
 - Visiting local sites of interest
3. Please feel free to leave any comments regarding the future SDPHS conventions.

To make your time here as enjoyable as possible, we are considering a number of different items/places to offer as outings during that time. If you would take the time to check a couple of items of the list below and get your answers back to Deidre Kelley, she can give us the results. If you have another suggestion or if there is something that you would like to have or be a part of, or not do for the convention then please add on the line designated for “comments.”

NASA Space Station tour

Galveston tour of “The Strand.” It’s an old Victorian downtown 180’s area with shops & restaurants

Lone Star Flight Museum

Kemah Bay area. Amusement park and restaurants to watch the pleasure yachts in the area

Sea Wolf Naval Park in Galveston to see tour ships

Moody Gardens. Christmas light show and other things.

Comments: _____

I’m looking forward to meeting all of you in Houston in 2024.

Jeff Smith, President
SDPHS Houston Bluebonnet Chapter #3
Pkman4Him@gmail.com

SDPHS Annual Dues Renewal



SDPHS Annual Dues Renewal
(December 7, 2022 – December 6, 2023)
Member Renewal \$20.00
Associate Renewal \$15.00 ~ Minor Renewal \$5.00

Member: _____ Member ID#: _____

Associate Member: _____ Associate ID#: _____

Minor Member: _____ Minor ID#: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Telephone: () _____ - _____ Cell Phone: () _____ - _____

Email Address: _____

Please check circle if you wish to receive a color copy of your Offspring by e-mail instead of a black and white hard copy through the U.S. Postal Service. Make sure you include your e-mail address above!

Make check or money order payable to SDPHS, INC.

Mail to: Mary Purifoy
 7846 Hastings Street
 Jacksonville, FL 32220

Members can also pay dues on the SDPHS website (www.sdphs.org) through PayPal.

In addition to my dues payment, please accept my donation for: (check one below)

_____ General Fund _____ Memorial Fund _____ Scholarship Fund
_____ Pearl Harbor & Child Survivor History Project

DUES SENT: \$ _____ DONATION: \$ _____ = TOTAL: \$ _____



Sons and Daughters of Pearl Harbor Survivors, Inc.

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