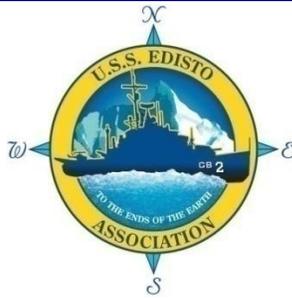


# Kee



# Bird

**Volume 3, Issue 2**

**USS EDISTO AG89/AGB2**

**Summer 2009**

## From the Helm

*President's Corner*

*Jerry Downs*



Greetings

Glenn and Kathie Smith did it again. Another excellent reunion. That makes our fourth reunion that Glenn and Kathie researched, planned, organized and checked out the facilities and tours, negotiated meals and did all of the legwork required for these reunions. We as shipmates and guests of the USS Edisto Association owe a great debt of gratitude to Glenn and Kathie.

Our fourth reunion (Baton Rouge) in May of this year went off without a hitch. I believe a good time was had by all. Great hotel, great tours, great food and getting together with old friends and making new ones.

At the business meeting, Virgil Paulk decided not to run for president this time around. We should all thank Virgil for doing a great job. He stepped up and took the job when no one else would.

I was voted in as president. David Collins was voted in as vice president. Jim Jensen remains as treasurer and Bill (Tiny) Gallant remains as secretary.

As a final note, all this time (since 1963) I thought that I stood for commissary. It really stands for Culinary Specialist. I was one and didn't even know it. Ha, ha.

Your shipmate  
Jerry Downs

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Original Patch donated  
by R.L. Beach



Art Kelsey is only one small  
enough to try on parka donated to  
Association by Richard Griswold

Check out our web sites: [www.ussedistoagb2.com](http://www.ussedistoagb2.com)  
[www.windclass.org](http://www.windclass.org)

### About the Kee Bird

The Kee Bird is the official newsletter of the USS Edisto Association, Inc and is published three times yearly for members of the Association. Stories, photos and other materials relative to icebreakers should be mailed to the USS Edisto Association, P.O. Box 747, Mims, FL 32754 and shall become the property of the USS Edisto Association. We make no guarantee that said stories or photos will be published and we reserve the right to edit the content to conserve space to limit printed materials to keep cost down.

#### **Editor/ Publisher/Printer**

Glenn Smith

—

## **2008-2009**

### **USS Edisto Association, Inc. Executive Board**

#### **President**

Gerald Downs  
563-381-1254

#### **Vice President**

David Collins  
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#### **Treasurer**

James Jensen  
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#### **Secretary**

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978-808-1214

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405-755-0824

#### **Director & Reunion Planner**

Glenn Smith  
321-269-5637

#### **Membership Chair**

Eugene Fettingger

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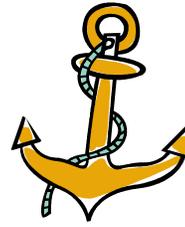
[www.ussedistoagb2.com](http://www.ussedistoagb2.com)

#### **Historian**

Jon Newton

#### **Ship Logo**

Eugene Mollica



## **Davy Jones Locker**

We extend our condolences to the families of our shipmates who have passed on before us.

| <b>Last_Name</b> | <b>First_Name</b> | <b>Gone_to_sea</b> | <b>Onboard</b> | <b>Rate</b> |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------------|-------------|
| Amorin           | Joseph S.         | 07/04/2008         | 51-52          | SA          |
| Bouffard         | Roger J.          | 08/02/2008         | Unk            | Unk         |
| Cheney           | Theodore A.       | 02/28/2008         | 47             | YN3         |
| Domoretzky       | Vasily (Ziggy)    | 05/28/2008         | 61             | BM2         |
| Drummond         | Glen N.           | 01/15/2009         | 58             | AGC         |
| Jacobs           | Richard P.        | 06/28/2008         | 51-52          | SN          |
| Jines            | Leslie W.         | 02/02/2009         | 54             | YN3         |
| Korka            | William J.        | 09/01/2008         | 49-50          | RM3         |
| Leach            | Donald B.         | 03/05/2008         | 56-59          | LT          |
| Lynch            | James T.          | 03/13/2008         | 51             | SKSN        |
| McIntyre         | Raymond H.        | 03/28/2009         | 54-56          | SK3         |
| Mitchell         | Louis C.          | 06/02/2008         | 51-55          | SA          |
| Neff             | Ray               | 12/23/2008         | 58-59          | QM3         |
| Newell           | Augusta           | 02/15/2008         | 58             | TN          |
| Newsome          | Theren T.         | 06/29/2008         | 49             | HM3         |
| Nocon            | Cenestor A.       | 08/12/2008         | 61             | SD2         |
| Petruno          | William E.        | 07/18/2008         | 57             | ETRSN       |
| Soeth            | John C.           | 03/20/2008         | 52             | AT3         |

### USS Edisto Association Standing

|  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| • <b>Living Shipmates:</b>                 | <b>1069</b>        |
| • <b>Deceased Shipmates:</b>               | <b>1107</b>        |
| • <b>Missing Shipmates:</b>                | <b><u>1184</u></b> |
| <b>Total Shipmates:</b>                    | <b>3060</b>        |
| • <b>Total Membership:</b>                 | <b>339</b>         |
| • <b>Active Members:</b>                   | <b>329</b>         |
| • <b>Members not paid dues for 2009:</b>   | <b>119</b>         |
| • <b>Attending one or more reunions: :</b> | <b>140</b>         |

Muster web site: [www.windclass.org](http://www.windclass.org)

## A Word from Vice President David Collins



My recent election as V.P. of the USS Edisto Association came as a surprise. At the meeting in Baton Rouge I came back from a bathroom break to find I was being nominated and about thirty seconds later, elected. You asked for some biographical info so here goes.

I grew up in northern New Jersey and majored in economics at Bowdoin College in Maine. After four months at OCS in Rhode Island and six months at Supply Corps School in Georgia, I joined the Edisto at anchor in Hamilton Inlet in Labrador in June 1964. BuPers in its wisdom had first sent me by air to totally icebound Thule, Greenland, but that's another story.

Over the next 18 months I went from being the junior supply officer to being the only supply officer to being the senior supply officer. In that time I had two trips north plus the ARLIS rescue and one trip south to Anvers Island, where we built Palmer Station. I was one of the last Navy personnel still on board the Edisto after the Coast Guard took over command in the fall, 1965. With less than a year to go in my enlistment, BuPers sent me to the Naval Supply Depot in Newport, R.I. to finish out my tour.

During my final weeks in Newport, I married Holly McCutchin from Calgary, Alberta whom I had met on a fortuitous horseback trip in the Canadian Rockies when we were both 17. We went off to a honeymoon at Harvard Business School where Holly supported us for two years while I got an MBA. I then began a long career as an investment banker in downtown Boston, first with Paine Webber and then with a small firm that several of us started. Our business was raising money for companies by selling their stock or bonds and also arranging mergers and acquisitions.

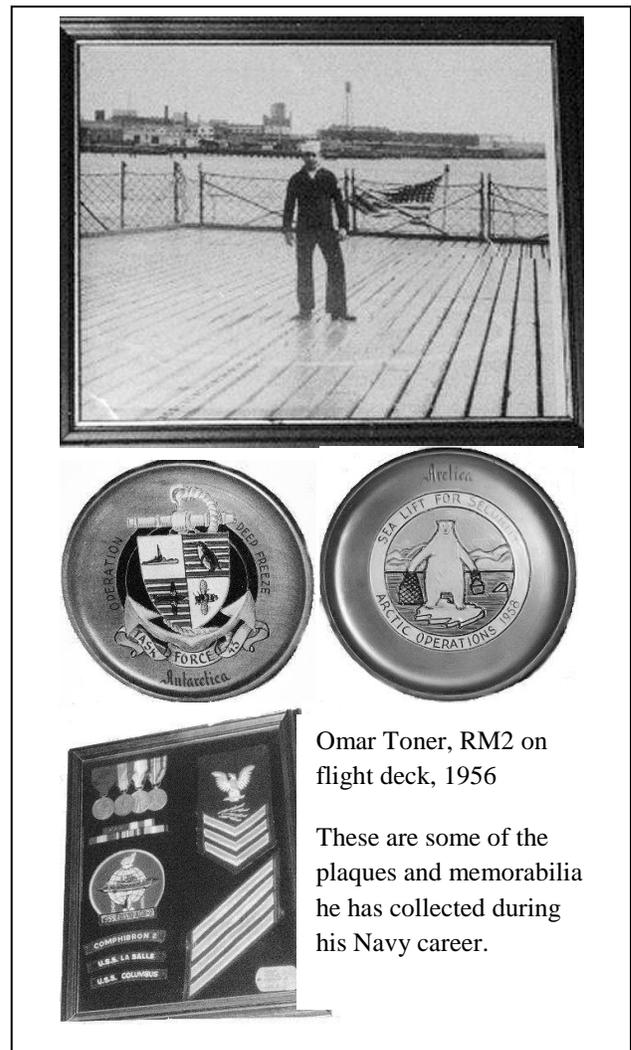
We have lived for 38 years in the same house in Dover, Mass, a small town 18 miles southwest of Boston where we raised two daughters, both now married and living in Baltimore and Chicago.

I'm 68 and retired. I'll mention two tourist trips Holly and I have taken, one from Ushuaia, Argentina to the Antarctic Peninsula and the other from Christchurch, NZ to the Ross Sea and McMurdo Station, both on Russian ships and both exciting and memorable.

I'll close with an unsolicited testimonial for anyone reading this who hasn't yet been to one of the Edisto Association reunions. If you've got the time, health and travel money, give the next one a try. Holly and I have been to the last two. It's a great group of people and Glenn Smith and his wife, Kathie do a fabulous job of keeping everything well organized, lively, interesting and fun. Hope to see you there.

All the best,

Dave



Omar Toner, RM2 on flight deck, 1956

These are some of the plaques and memorabilia he has collected during his Navy career.

# REUNION REPORT

## Baton Rouge, LA

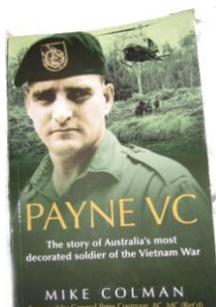


45 Shipmates along with 42 wives and guest attended the reunion in Baton Rouge. Shown above are group photos taken at the USS Kidd before the commencement of the memorial service for lost shipmates. More Reunion Photos may be seen at our Muster web site: [www.windclass.org/photos](http://www.windclass.org/photos) Additionally, Rudy Meyer took some great video of the event which is currently being edited to DVD size.

Special guest New Zealander Helen Maria Pullin flew up from Australia to attend the event and to offer commemorative gifts to the Association as well as the book on Australia's most decorated soldier, Keith Payne, holder of the Victoria Cross (VC) and several other prestigious awards including the United States highest award to a non American, the Distinguished Service Cross (DSO). Helen also presented a silver coin and cachet commemorating 100 years of Antarctic Exploration. These gifts will become part of the ship's



Helen



Side 1



Side 2

**Reunion 2010** – Areas of interest are Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia. It is hoped that Site inspections can be made this summer. Once a city has been selected, the information on the hotel, date of event and other particulars will be published as quickly as possible.



# MAIL CALL



30 Burke Avenue  
West Springfield, MA 01089

March 4, 2009

Glenn Smith  
P.O. Box 747  
Mims, FL. 32754-0747

Hi Glenn:

Glad to receive the recent mailings from the USS Edisto Association, and will be happy to receive any and all future mailings concerning the Olde Girl, AGB-2.

I served aboard her from October '56 to October '58, participating in two Arctic sailings. She was destined for Antarctica the winter of '58, but I opted to be released from active duty before she left.

You may be interested to know that in 1957 the ship conducted a contest to design a ships patch. I entered the contest and low and behold my entry won. (A copy of which is enclosed). My reward for winning was a whopping new five dollar bill!!!.

I regret to say that I will not be attending the 2009 reunion in Baton Rouge. My second wife and I are on a fixed income so we'll wait until the reunion comes closer to home, like the Olde Girl's home port of Boston, at which time I will bring some interesting photos and memorabilia of those days aboard the Edisto.

Sincerely,  
*Ernie LaBranche*  
Ernie LaBranche SNPN '56-58

P.S. I don't know if you have the name of a shipmate of mine:  
Richard Smith  
94 Commercial St.  
Whitman, MA 02382



The above patch was created from the photo of the design that Ernie sent along with the note on the left.



Cigarette Box and Ashtray with ship imprint. Donated by Omar Toner.



Mail Call Continued

TO: GLENN SMITH, EDITOR  
USS EDISTO ASSOCIATION  
POB 747  
MIMS, FL 32754

Dear Mr. Smith:

I was a Radioman First Class on the USS EDISTO for Operation Deepfreeze One which sailed from Boston, Mass. in October 1955 towing a gasoline barge to be permanently stationed in McMurdo Sound. I transmitted numerous daily reports of the continuing operations in and around the Ross Sea. I specifically recall transmitting newspaper articles as well as television reports for the New York Times and WNBC Studios. On board at the time of my mission was Bernard Kalb, a reporter for the New York Times and William Hartigan, a television cameraman/reporter for WNBC.

I have attached for your review and possible addition to the Kee Bird newsletter two digital files you may find of interest. One is a copy of the Christmas Menu served aboard the USS EDISTO in December 1955.

The second is a deed presented to me of an allocated piece of property for each and every member on board during the aforementioned mission. This was as a result of discovering an uncharted body of water and land on the western shore of the Ross Sea, west of Cape Hallett. Our Commanding Officer Roger W. Luther deemed it necessary to name the body of water, EDISTO BAY, and the adjoining land EDISTO ACRES. Each allotted parcel is 100 feet square. It is a remembrance which can never be forgotten.

Thank you for your attention. I hope you can make use of these items.  
I look forward to seeing them printed in a future issue of the Kee Bird!

If you require additional information kindly reply to me at my email address: [diluca@verizon.net](mailto:diluca@verizon.net).

Sincerely,  
Angelo Pieroni  
Radioman First Class  
USS EDISTO





U. S. S. EDISTO (AGB-2)

*On this anniversary of the Birth of the Prince of Peace it is good to see a ship of war engaged on a mission of peace and good to know that it is all part of a money motion effort that should lead to the betterment of men. It has taken a great many anniversaries of Christmas to bring this about. We are truly fortunate to be observing Christmas in 1955.*

**COMMANDER R. W. LUTHER, USN**  
 Commanding Officer  
**LIEUTENANT COMMANDER F. L. BRIMMER, USN**  
 Executive Officer  
**LIEUTENANT JUNIOR GRADE K. S. TALBOT, USNR**  
 Supply Officer  
**J. E. GUTHRIE, USNR**  
 Assistant Supply Officer  
**W. J. MOHR, JR., CSC, USN**  
 Chief Commissaryman

*Christmas Day Menu - 1955*



|                                |                    |            |
|--------------------------------|--------------------|------------|
| SHRIMP COCKTAIL                | LEMON WEDGES       | CRACKERS   |
| ROAST TURKEY                   | VIRGINIA BAKED HAM |            |
| CRANBERRY SAUCE                |                    |            |
| GIBLET GRAVY                   | SAGE DRESSING      |            |
| MASHED POTATOES                | CANDIED YAMS       |            |
| BUTTERED PEAS                  | BUTTERED CORN      |            |
| BREAD ASSORTED                 |                    |            |
| HOT ROLLS                      |                    | BUTTER     |
| PUMPKIN PIE WITH WHIPPED CREAM |                    | FRUIT CAKE |
| ASSORTED CANDIES               |                    | ORANGES    |
| MINED NUTS                     |                    |            |
| FRUIT PUNCH                    | COFFEE             | CREAM      |
| CIGARS                         |                    | CIGARETTES |



**Note: This submission is in response to an earlier Kee Bird in which Jon Newton's "Song of the Icebreaker Sailor" was enclosed.**

**From:** GJMNAVY@aol.com  
[mailto:GJMNAVY@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Monday, September 08, 2008 3:48 PM  
**To:** ussedisto@bellsouth.net  
**Subject:** Re: USS Edisto

Thanks for the info.  
A lot of poems were written during that time. One was "It is happy Haskell hour" This was about the TF43 weather man, CDR Haskell. I was a member of TF43 staff but spent my time with CTG43.6 during DF III in the Weddell Sea and CTG 43.1 during DF IV, in the Ross Sea, etc. I was aboard Edisto among other ice breakers during that time. Any way here is the poem that was written during DF IV about the brave men who served in Christchurch. I started out in Christchurch starting DF IV, but flew to NAF McMurdo to relieve the Comm Officer, before the next wintering over party arrived. Then I joined to CTG 43.6. at McMurdo. I really enjoyed this poem, author unknown, as I was in the Antarctic about 6 months during DF IV.

ITS HAPPY HASKELL HOUR  
ITS HAPPY HASKELL HOUR  
FLAG QUARTERS IS THE PUB  
FOR THE OLD EXPLORERS CLUB

THOSE FROM CHRISTCHURCH THAT WE'VE MET  
ARE MEMBERS OF THE COCKTAIL SET  
ALTHOUGH THEY SAY THAT IT'S A FACT  
THEY HAVE A CHAIR STRAPPED ON THEIR BACK

NOW WHEN IN CHRISTCHURCH SO THEY SAY  
IT'S HARD TO LIVE ON EXTRA PAY  
ELEVEN DOLLARS NOT ENOUGH  
TO RENT A FLAT AND GET THE STUFF

NOW THEN THEY COME DOWN TO SEE THE ICE  
TO LEAD AN OLD EXPLORERS LIFE  
UP TO BEARDMORE TO THE POLE  
AND BACK TO OLD MUDHOLE

THEN TO SCOTTS HUT THEY MUST ROAM  
JUST TO SHOOT SOME KODACHROME  
OBESERVATIONS HILL THEY'LL CLIMB  
IF THEY DON'T MISS COCKTAIL TIME

BACK TO CHRISTCHURCH THEY MUST GO  
GLAD TO LEAVE THE ICE AND SHOW  
DID THEY LIKE IT NOT AT ALL  
BUT THEY MADE THEIR DUTY CALL

WHEN BACK IN CHRISTCHURCH IT'S A BET  
THEY'LL LECTURE TO THE COCKTAIL SET  
EXPERTS ALL OR SO THE SAY  
AND IT TOOK JUST ONE SHORT DAY

NOW IT'S PLAIN TO ALL OF US  
WHY THOSE IN CHRISTCHURCH ARE A MUST  
WE NEED SOMEONE TO GIVE ADVICE  
TO THE EXPERTS ON THE ICE

WERE NOT ASKING AS YOU SEE  
FOR FAIRTRANS TO OLD CHE CHE  
WE MISS THE GIRLS FOR THAT'S A FACT  
BUT THOSE DAM CHAIRS WON'T FIT OUR BACK

Gordon J. Miller, LTJG, '59



DVD's & printed material are available for a small fee to Members. All proceeds go to the Edisto Association. Examples are:

- DVD of '47 cruise by Adalore Petrie
- DVD of all Reunions
- All five (5) cruise books in pdf format
- Printed cruise book in 3-ring binder
- Copy of Crew list copied from Navy film
- Complete roster on CD (free to members)
- Reunion Memory books on CD or printed

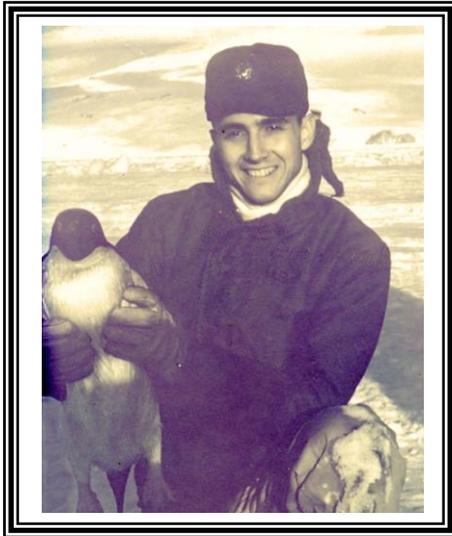
Call, email or write me with your request.



From: cfmorris@comcast.net  
To: "john j herrmann" <john.j.herrmann@gmail.com>  
Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 4:04:18 PM GMT -05:00 US/Canada Eastern  
Subject: New Year's Eve

I enjoy the website.

Attached is photo of Alex Morris with heavy date, Midnight, McMurdo Sound, Antarctica, 12/31/1960.



"My 5 year-old Granddaughter told her teacher that I discovered the penguins."

*What goes around comes around category:*

As an attempt at humor, I once put a note on our site saying that since I'd been to both the North and South Poles, I surely rated being bi-polar. Recently, I googled my name and about the first thing it came up with was that bi-polar remark!! And it'll be there forever!

Thanks,

Alex Morris. LTJG '59-61



**SCUTTLEBUTT**

*GOOD NEWS!!*

### LIFE-TIME DUES

At the 2009 All Hands meeting of the Association, the general membership approved a **Life-Time Membership of \$100**. Annual dues remain at \$15 for the period January 1<sup>st</sup> to December 31<sup>st</sup>. If you wish to know where you stand on dues, contact our Jim Jensen by email: [lakeflyjim@jrecoop.com](mailto:lakeflyjim@jrecoop.com) or by phone: 715-585-2399. Or if you prefer to write, send to: Jim Jensen, N 4792 Homestead Rd, Hawkins, WI 54530

### USS EDISTO HISTORY BOOK

Our Historian Jon Newton has been given the Go Ahead to develop/publish the USS Edisto's history. It is estimated the book will cost about \$35 each to recover the cost of printing & distribution. Advance orders are being accepted and are encouraged because it surely will make the Best Seller list. Send a check or money order made out to USS Edisto Association and mail to **James M. Jensen, N 4792 Homestead Rd, Hawkins, WI 54530** with instructions to apply to the History Book.

**‘JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH’**

By H. Maury Drummond

A few years ago, I was in my car listening to a radio call-in talk show and the topic of the conversation was that of whether it was proper for people to burn the American flag in protest or if it was a protected individual freedom. During the talk show, someone called in and said they didn't understand what all the controversy was about over "just a piece of cloth." The image struck me immediately of the Marines on Iwo Jima with their faces down in the volcanic ash and looking up at Mount Suribachi to see the flag being raised. Surely, they didn't consider it to be just a piece of cloth.

When I arrived home that evening, I put the following thoughts down on paper and I believe that expresses my beliefs and my feelings of who I am and the love that I have for this country. I entitled it:

**“JUST A PIECE OF CLOTH”**

I was with Colonel Parker and the Minutemen at Lexington and Concord to hear "The Shot Heard 'Round The World" that began the American Revolution.

I was with General Washington when he crossed the Delaware and suffered with his men in the harsh winter at Valley Forge.

**Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I was with Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys at Ticonderoga and with Washington, Hancock, and the Marquis de Lafayette to accept surrender terms at Yorktown with the British playing that old European tune "The World Turned Upside Down."

**Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I was with Andrew Jackson and Jean Lafitte at the Battle of New Orleans in 1815.  
I was with Lee and Longstreet and all the Boys in Gray at Gettysburg and I was with all the Boys in Blue with General Mead and Colonel Chamberlain on Little Round Top.  
I was with Grant in the Wilderness and at Vicksburg.  
I was with both the Blue and Gray when our country was healed at Appomattox.

**Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I was with Teddy Roosevelt and the Rough Riders on San Juan Hill and with Admiral Dewey and the Great White Fleet in Manila Bay.  
I was with the Dough Boys in World War I, the "War To End All Wars,"  
and I now lie buried in Flanders Field.

**Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I was with Admiral Isaac Kidd aboard the ARIZONA that fateful Sunday morning in 1941.  
I was with the infantry that landed on beaches so far away named Omaha, Juno, Utah, Sword, and Gold.

**Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I was with General Wainwright on Corregidor.  
I was with Admiral Fletcher in the Battle of the Coral Sea.  
I was aboard the ENTERPRISE, the HORNET, and the YORKTOWN at Midway.

**Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I fought at Kwajalein, the Battle of Leyte Gulf, at bloody Tarawa, Guadalcanal, and Iwo Jima and served on destroyers on picket duty off Okinawa.

**Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I flew *Saber* jets in MIG Alley on North Korea and I was with the Marine Corps at Chosin Reservoir.  
I was with the Navy at Inchon Harbor and fought on hills called Bloody, Heartbreak, Old Baldy, and Porkchop.

**Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

I flew bombing missions over Hanoi and was on Rat Patrol in the Mekong Delta.  
I was with the Navy on Yankee Station in the Tonkin Gulf.  
I flew night missions over Baghdad and was with the battalions in Desert Storm.

**Did they fight and die for just a piece of cloth?**

Freedom is not free. It has a price and it has been paid many times by many people  
I am a product of my past. I am what you have made me. I am an American and I am free.

Written by ...

H. Maury Drummond  
Executive Director, USS KIDD Veterans Memorial  
Baton Rouge, LA  
Past President, Historic Naval Ships Assn.

Presentation at Tin Can Sailors Association Banquet at the annual conference in Las Vegas, Nevada, on February 06, 1996

*Mr. Drummond read this poem at the Welcome Dinner, May 14, 2009, Baton Rouge Reunion*

# SHIP'S STORE

Ship photo may be obtained by sending a \$20 Check or money order to Glenn Smith, P.O. Box 747, Mims, FL 32754 (\$20 Includes mailer tube, postage)



13 x 19 inches



Navy Blue, White & Khaki \$25



ENS Lyman H. Smith, '62-64

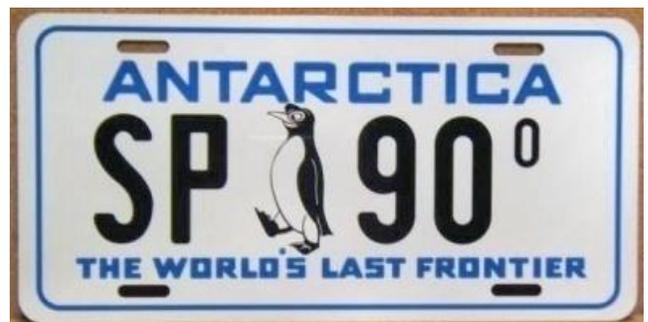
Mail check or Money  
Order to:

Lyman H. Smith  
PO Box 524  
South Sutton, NH 03273

Lyman Smith says he still has plenty of South Pole, 90 Degree license plates for sale if anyone would like a unique plate for their automobile. I have one on each auto and often get asked if I drove all the way down to Antarctica. To those smart folks, I give them a dumb answer "Yes."

Cost for the plates is \$15.00 plus \$5.00 shipping and handling. Cost for two plates is \$35.00 if both are shipped to the same address as two may be shipped for the same rate as one.

Lyman has contributed hundreds of dollars to the Assn from the sale of these plates.



Note: Order Hats, photos, DVDs and other products from **Glenn D. Smith at P.O. Box 747, Mims, FL 32754**

Order License plates from Lyman H. Smith, P.O. Box 524, South Sutton, NH 03273

Email: [gdsmith@cfl.rr.com](mailto:gdsmith@cfl.rr.com)