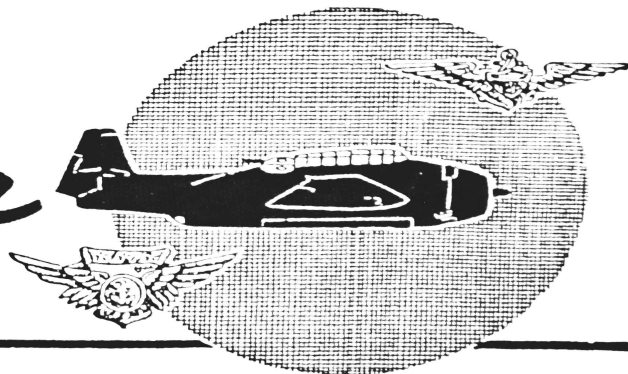


The Avenger

U. S. NAVAL AIR STATION - FORT LAUDERDALE, FLORIDA
HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION



Educating . Preserving . Honoring the Heroes

Newsletter of the NAS Fort Lauderdale Museum

May 2013

Newsletter Staff: Allan McElhiney, Minerva Bloom & Debbie Hamilton **Phone:** (754) 300-9259 and (954) 359-4400

Website: www.nasflmuseum.com **Giftshop:** zazzle.com/nasfortlauderdale **E-mail:** nasflmuseum@yahoo.com

A Note from the President



Due to my Parkinson's, I'm not able to be as active at the Museum as I used to be. We currently have a few active volunteers, but we need more to fully succeed. We're looking to partner with Organizations such as the Navy League, Broward Navy Days, Veteran groups and any other Corporations interested, to utilize our facilities, help with projects, or be active volunteers. Please e-mail Debbie Hamilton or Minerva Bloom at: nasflmuseum@yahoo.com or call the Museum to participate. Thank you for your support.

With best regards,
Allan McElhiney.

You can click on links, to see Photo Galleries or read further information.

NEW Exhibit at the NASFL Museum "Broward Goes To War" from March 16 to September 16, 2013



Naval Aviators marching along Fort Lauderdale Beach

The NASFL Museum had an Open House on March 16, with great success as many new visitors attended. We had a full house! If you live in the area or are planning to visit Fort Lauderdale, come and see it!

The Broward Goes To War in the Museum's exhibit room depicts the economic, social, and demographic changes during the war years of 1941-1945, and shortly thereafter. The war put Broward County on the map. It forever changed it. The exhibit features display panels with graphics, diagrams, photographs, and period uniforms, artifacts and memorabilia. Panels describe the military training that occurred in the area. Other panels discuss area industries prominent during the war, such as agriculture and marine businesses, and document how the local economy boomed after the war's conclusion. This exhibit was loaned to us by the

Broward County Historical Commission. The Boca Raton Historical Society, Fort Lauderdale Historical Society, Hollywood Historical Society, and the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum also contributed materials or research.

IN MEMORIAM

Our deepest condolences to the family of longtime supporter and member **Hank Petri**, 91, who passed away on 4 December 2012. Also long time member **Mark Stein**, who passed away on March 5, 2013 after a brief illness. And the family of member **Rob Taylor**, 60, who passed away on March 20. Mr. Taylor donated his time to create our recent Pro-Forma Business Plan.

FLIGHT 19 CEREMONY & VISIT TO THE USS TAYLOR



Flight 19 Memorial Ceremony



Crew of the USS Taylor at the Memorial Ceremony



NASFL Museum members visit the USS Taylor



Lt. Col Leo Gray a WWII Tuskegee Airman with crew members

Photos by [Minerva Bloom](#)

Members of the USS Taylor participated in the 67th Anniversary of Flight 19 Memorial Ceremony this past December 5th, 2012. Commander Dennis Volpe USN, the Commanding Officer with a crew of about 30 sailors and Officers got a tour of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum. They enjoyed themselves in the company of WWII veterans and other dignitaries such as the Mayor of Fort Lauderdale, Jack Seiler, and County Commissioner Chip LaMarca, among many others. Commander Volpe spoke to the large crowd that attended the Ceremony; while chosen sailors rang the memorial bell and placed a symbolic wreath. On the following day, several WWII veterans members of this Museum, were invited for a tour of the USS Taylor docked at Port Everglades. The veterans had an emotional tour of the Proud Defender, and marveled at all the advances in the military. The group got to meet more of its crew, and to top it all, they were given wonderful souvenirs of the ship. - [Click here to view all images](#) -

NEW EXHIBIT DONATIONS

The following items and artifacts are on display now:

- **Ammunition Shells:** from the NASFL Gunnery School found in the ocean off Sea Watch Restaurant, donated by Pompano Beach diver Steven Singer.
- **Books:** on military, art and photography donated by Gary Lee Littrell (Medal of Honor recipient), Harry Lattman, Gary Kilbride, Willard & Connie Conrow, the family of Rob Taylor, Charlie Schaus, and Allan and Steven McElhiney.
- **DVD's:** on military subjects donated by the family of Rob Taylor, Gary Kilbride, and Willard & Connie Conrow.

- **Posters & Photographs:** by Paul Bradley, Harry Lattman, George Rafajko, Sue Presley, Ben Langley and Norm Summey.
- **Port Booklets, Cruise Patches** and memorabilia from the USS Kennedy by Joe Giambrone.
- **Naval Aviation Rates & Insignias:** Display donated by Ben Langley.
- **WWII Ration Book** & limited edition **Commemorative Coaster** donated by Joseph Fitzpatrick, in honor of his wife Elinor A. Strong. These items are a great complement to our “Broward Goes to War Exhibit”.
- **Commemorative Flag** that flew on July 4, 2012 on the US Capitol donated by David Epstein.
- **48 Star Flag “Old Glory”** and description plaques donated by Sue Presley.
- **Aircraft Models** by Don & Helen Fallon, Gary Kilbride and Willard & Connie Conrow.
- **WWII Corporal Uniform**, with Regalia, Naval air **technical manual** and 62 caliber **WWII Artillery Shell** by Willard & Connie Conrow.
- **Artifacts from the USS Saratoga** and a colorful *Operation Desert Shield Cruise Jacket* by Stephen J. Engasser.
- **Original Poems** *The Lost Pilot* and *News On A March Full Moon* by Vietnam Veteran, David Plumb.
- **Poem & Poster** *The Naval Aviator* donated by Gary Kilbride.
- **Merchant Marine Flag** donated by CAP Virginia Montalvo.
- **Keepsake photographs** and **Propaganda Magazine** from WWII Japan, found inside a sniper's cave in Saypan by US Navy veteran Ray Rivera.
- Large **LCD TV** by Jeff Finder (will be used to display hospitality videos).
- **Limited Edition framed Print** *Low Holding Over San Jacinto* by artist Robert Taylor signed by President George H.W. Bush, and members of Torpedo Squadron 51, donated in memory of Capt. J. Lee Tedder USMC.
- **Helmets from WWII** (Swiss, German & Canadian), donated by Willard & Connie Conrow.
- **Autographed, Pictorial book:** *Pacific Pioneers* - History of Pan Am's Pacific First Flights by author Jon E. Krupnick.
- **Navy Hats** donated by Fran Scheffler to be sold at our giftshop. Available now!
- A WWII Naval Aviator built with **Legos**, donated by Luke Underwood, a 4th grader from Morristown, TN.

Thank you to each and everyone for enriching your Museum!

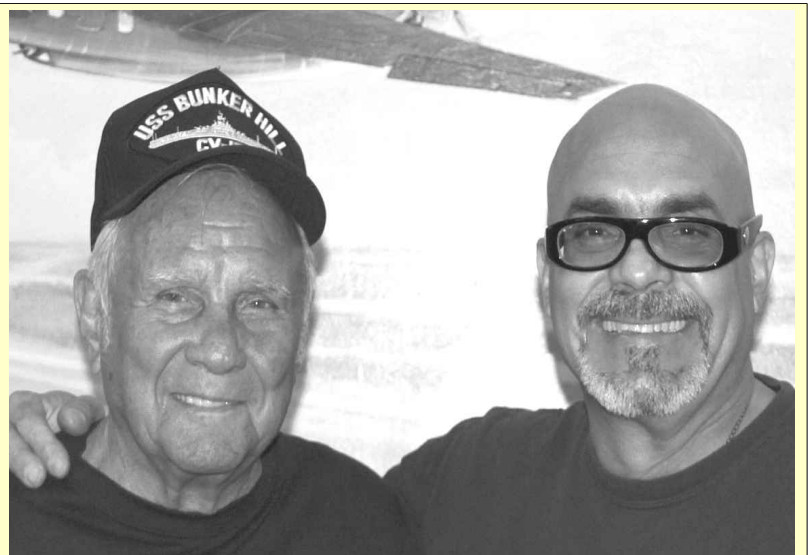
VOLUNTEERS

Volunteer **Sue Presley** a former Flight Attendant for Eastern Airlines is one of our long-term volunteers. Sue first came to this Museum to purchase a poster of the Flight 19 Squadron. By the time she left, thanks to Museum's founder and custodian Allan McElhiney's persuasiveness, she was a member, volunteer assistant to Allan, and had arranged space to display her Eastern Airlines memorabilia!

Volunteers **Larry Rivera**, son of WWII veteran **Ray Rivera**, discovered this Museum while he was riding his motorcycle around Perimeter Rd. He told his father Ray (a WWII sailor and survivor on the USS Bunker Hill) about his visit to the place, and brought him over to meet Allan. That was 7 years ago. Ray & Larry have been the most dedicated volunteers. They enjoy spending time together while painting, pressure cleaning, landscaping and taking of the maintenance of this Museum whenever they can.



Sue Presley



Ray Rivera & son Larry

Photos by [Minerva Bloom](#)

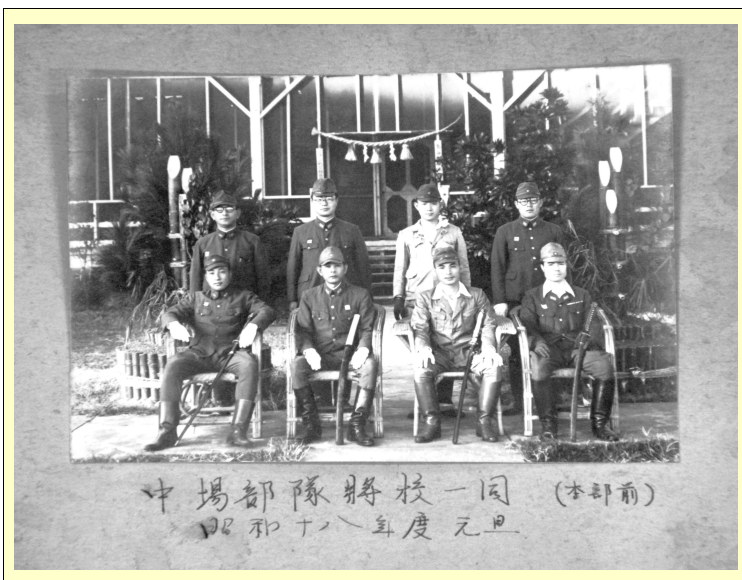
THANK YOU TO:

- **JACKS OF ALL TRADES:** Richard Haddad, John Casey, Ray & Larry Rivera, Debbie Hamilton, Jeff Finder, David Epstein, Sue Presley, John & Minerva Bloom, and author Angela Piraino, for their help with maintenance, preservation, public relations, recruiting, tours, schedules, digital archives, exhibit organization, event participation, office assistance, memberships, newsletters, website, social media, cleaning, and whatever not...
- **STUDENT VOLUNTEERS:** Mckenna Sivore, Nick Vasil, and Eagle Scout Anthony Alberico.
- **NAVY HERITAGE PROJECT:** Navy Reserve Capt. Scott Hahn USN, Capt. Bruce Fuchs USN, and CRD Rey Horta USN for their invaluable help, with physically tough preservation projects.
- **OLD GUARD HOUSE & TORPEDO PROJECT:** Kurt Langsenkamp owner of Steel Fabricators; Willie Cook of Bromley-Cook Engineering, Inc., and the Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport for their support and assistance in helping us complete the removal of the Old Guard-house and the moving of the torpedoes.
- **SHOUT OUTS TO:** Marianne Giambone, Editor of Broward Navy League for their article of the NASFL Museum on their newsletter (Vol. 24 Issue 4), and to Ken Kaye of the Sun-Sentinel newspaper for helping spread the word of our new Exhibit and Flight 19 Memorial Ceremony.
- **SHOWCASE:** Thank you to Dr. Anthony Atwood, President of the future South Florida Military Museum in Miami; author Margaret A. Ahnert and Edward Odabashian who brought their WWII Willys Jeep for Exhibit display; Entertainer Woody Woodbury, and Jules Harper, for making our Open House a more interesting event!
- **TECHNICAL UPDATES:** Thank you soooo much to our new members Brad Wood and Keith Culm, for providing us with an upgraded Computer, windows programs, accessories, technical advice and setting us up with the Wi-Fi and speedy Internet connections! What an amazing gift, we are so grateful (and lucky)!

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Dr. James & Margaret Perry, Kathleen Halloran, Bjorn Madsen, Pierre Roseman, Barbara Makris, Jacques Renard, Randy A. Laser & Family, Willard & Connie Conrow, Anne de Padro-Bloom, James Hoy, Bromley-Cook Engineering, Inc., William McGrath, Bruce Qualey & Family, Keith Culm, Underwood Family, and Lifetime members: Denise Arico, Rudy & Louise Oetting, and Brad Wood.

NEW ONLINE-ONLY EXHIBIT



Mementos from a cave in Saipan

With 51 images: donated by WWII Veteran Ray Rivera.

"At the end of the war, I found pages from a photograph album in a sniper's cave in Saipan. There were of young men, like us fighting the war, and I wondered if they had sisters, mothers, brothers. I also found torn pages from what it looked like Japanese propaganda from magazines. The pages had been perforated with one top and bottom hole and held together with shoelaces. I was drawn to the images and I wanted to safe-keep these mementos. I held to these pages for more than 60 years. I don't speak Japanese and don't know the names of the Japanese soldiers in the photographs, but it would be good if someone knows their families or recognizes them."

--Ray Rivera USNR, USS Bunker Hill.

Take a Virtual Tour of this, and more Online-Only Exhibits
by visiting our website: nasflmuseum.com/online-only-exhibits.html

FEBRUARY LUNCHEON at the PRIMAVERA RESTAURANT



Our Guest Speaker for February was **Judge Edward H. Merrigan, Jr.** Judge Merrigan is the first Judge to preside over the recently created Veterans Court in Broward County. He is a combat veteran and a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve. Merrigan was awarded a Bronze Star for his service in Iraq. He brings to the Veterans Court a 20 year experience as a trial lawyer. Broward County celebrated the opening of Veterans Court on Monday, April 30, 2012. The first docket was held on May 7, 2012.

Broward County Veterans Court is a voluntary 12-18 month program designed for veterans who have served in the U.S. Armed Forces and are currently experiencing legal problems due to suffering from behavioral, mental health, or substance abuse disorders. Judge Merrigan was a formidable Speaker and we all learned about the new court.

MAY LUNCHEON AT THE LAUDERDALE YACHT CLUB

We had a busy and meaningful Luncheon in May! We had a Special Guest: State Representative **George R. Moraitis, Jr.**, who was a Submarine Officer, and is currently in the Navy Reserve. George is also a Real Estate Attorney based in Fort Lauderdale. Our Speaker was **George Rafajko**, a Sargent in the Marines serving during Vietnam. He worked with Air & Naval Gunfire. George has been in the American Legion for 21 years and is Commander for the South Florida Region for the past 2 years. Also, WWII veteran Charlie Schaus USNR, gave a spontaneous recollection of his war experience while serving aboard the USS Barton. Charlie recalled his participation at Normandy on D-day, Okinawa, and at the Surrender of Japan— an emotional moment for all who attended.



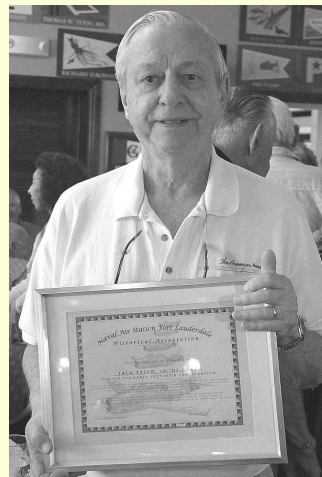
WWII veteran Charlie Schaus USNR, with member Angela Piraino



George Rafajko, American Legion South Florida



State Representative George R. Moraitis, Jr.



Member Jack Effird, was recognized for his longtime support of the NASFLHA. Jack and his wife will be moving to Texas. Thank you for all you have done for us! We will miss you Jack!

MUSEUM NEWS

Kurt Langsenkamp owner of Steel Fabricators made beautiful bright red torpedo stands, which were designed by **Willy Cook** of Bromley & Cook. The torpedoes were secured to the slab which was underneath the guard-house. The dilapidated house was removed by the Airport along with the two most western sections of the fence to improved visibility. They also moved the torpedoes from behind the building onto the stands. **Jeff Finder** prepared and painted the concrete slab in military gray, and **Richard Haddad**, **John Casey**, **John Bloom** and **Ray Rivera** helped with its completion. The final touches were applied by member **Ben Langley** with stenciled insignia. These colorful WWII artifacts definitely stand out as people pass by!



NASFL Booth from the *Save Our History Show* in January, at the Pompano Beach Elk's Lodge. Courtesy of Florida East Coast Collector.



Broward County Property Appraiser and former County Commissioner **Lori Parrish** visited January of this year. Lori helped save the Link Trainer building in 1999, by procuring a \$200,000 grant.



Hallway Progress: 6 layers of flooring covered the original hardwood floor in the hallway. Richard Haddad led the project with help from volunteers John Bloom & Anthony Alberico.

The bottom layer which was the most difficult to remove, was accomplished with the help of outstanding members of the Navy Reserve: **Captain Scott Hahn USN**, **Captain Bruce Fuchs USN**, and **CRD Rey Horta USN**, with *Navy Heritage Project*.



Gary Littrell, a retired U.S. Army Command Sergeant Major, and Medal of Honor recipient visited the Museum.

Member **Charles McLaughlin** USMC Vietnam who is an avid supporter of Veteran's issues, invited Gary for a tour of the Museum. Gary signed the "*On Final Approach*" mural by Bob Jenny, joining with President George H.W. Bush and Senator John McCain's signatures. Gary also donated several autographed books for our Library.



A large display bookcase was also completed.

It showcases many Museum artifacts. The bookcase runs the length of the 25x7 foot *On Final Approach* mural.

The project was led by **John Bloom**, with help from volunteers **John Casey**, **Ray Rivera**, **Richard Haddad** & **Don Fallon**.



NEW ITEMS FOR SALE!

Embroidered, adjustable, quality NASFL hats are available in several styles and colors. These caps are customizable! From \$19.95 All proceeds go to the NASFL Museum. Order **More Items** from our Online Giftshop: zazzle.com/nasfortlauderdale

The Museum is offering collectible NAS Fort Lauderdale **CHALLENGE COINS** with the image from the original insignia. If you would like a number of coins please call: (954) 205-1098 or [click here for more info](#) or to place your order.



Capt. Thomas B. "Tex" Ellison USN



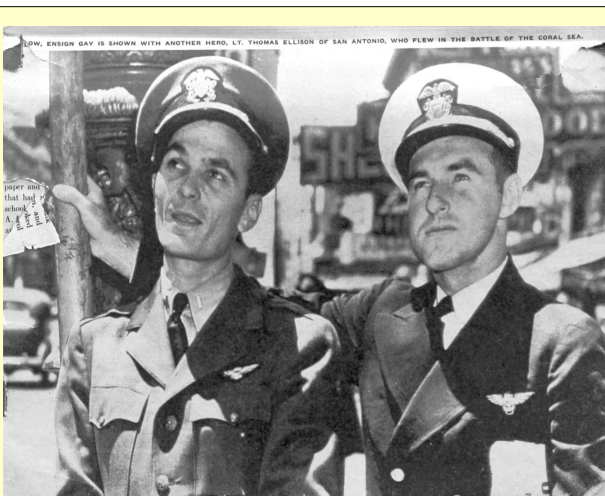
Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Senior Flight Instructor

Capt. Thomas B. "Tex" Ellison was the uncle of former Fort Lauderdale Mayor Jim Naugle. Ellison was born July 28, 1914 in Nixon, Texas. He graduated from the University of Texas in 1938 with a BBA. Tex joined the U.S. Navy as an aviator and served his country for 32 years before retiring in 1970. He married Virginia "Boots" Griffiths in 1942 in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. They had three children. Virginia passed away in 1995. Tex was remarried in January of 2002 to Christine Gray.

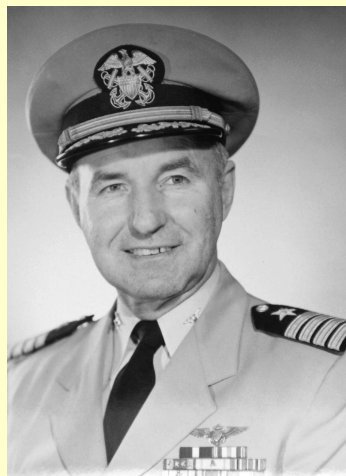
Ellison participated in one of the first attacks on Tuglai harbor, the first raid on Salamaua and Lea and the first raids on the Gilberts and Marshalls. In addition, he was engaged in anti-submarine patrol in the Atlantic before Dec. 7, 1941. He served on the USS Yorktown and at NAS Miami. In 1942, Ellison had just returned from combat in the Battle of the Coral Sea Pacific theater when he was commissioned as a Flight Instructor at the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale.

At NASFL an Aviator's course was completed in about 8 to 12 weeks. Ellison's training syllabus included familiarizing the cadets with the specialized Avenger aircraft, as well as flight experience with landings and take-offs, expanding to include bombing flights, navigation flights over the water, formation flying, gunnery runs on a towed sleeve, and night flying.

While at NASFL, Tex instructed many students including former President George H.W. Bush. Ellison then returned with "Squadron Able" to Japan, for further combat. All planes returned safely. Ellison was the recipient of numerous awards, medals and honors including the Navy Cross, the Silver Star, five Air Medals and the Meritorious Service Medal for his work with NATO. All his medals and four Aviator Flight log-books comprising his military career from 1939 to the late 1960's are on display at our Museum. Capt Ellison passed away at 91 years old on November 30th, 2005 in Pensacola, Florida. He was one of America's finest.



George Gay and Tex Ellison during WWII



Capt. Ellison at NATO



George H.W. Bush and Capt. Ellison
Fort Lauderdale, 1992.

MEMBER PROFILE

CHARLES J. SCHAUS, USNR WWII



S 1st Class (Fire Controlman)
USS Barton DD-722

Charles J. Schaus was born in 1926 in Washington DC. His father was a U.S Army Staff Sergeant serving in France during World War I. Charles comes from a long line of military servicemen, dating back to the war of 1812. On his seventeen birthday he joined the Navy and was assigned to the Gunnery Department and Fire Control, from Aug. 1943 to Feb. 1946 aboard the USS Barton DD-722— a distinguished fighting ship of World War II. Charles participated in D-Day Normandy and the bombardment of Cherbourg. And, later invasions in the Pacific: Luzon in the Philippines, including the battle of Ormac Bay, landings in Mindoro and Lingayen, Iwo Jima and Okinawa. He was also present aboard his ship upon the surrender of Japan.

On one occasion as the *Barton* headed for the German stronghold at Cherbourg, France, the ship was straddled by the second salvo from the enemy coastal batteries. One 240-millimeter shell skipped off the water's surface, ripped through the port quarter, and lodged in the after-diesel generator room. Fortunately, the shell failed to detonate, and a repair party jettisoned it quickly. Throughout the war, the USS Barton pursued an exhausting routine. She performed a variety of activities: fire support, anti-aircraft defense, antisubmarine screening during which she sank a midget submarine (unconfirmed), and radar picket duty. Her 5-inch gun barrels nearly wore out as a result of firing over 22,000 rounds— rounds that knocked out 150 enemy emplacements, hit 35 supply dumps, and dispersed 23 troop concentrations. Especially dangerous were the hours spent on radar picket stations, alone, and exposed to deadly

kamikaze aerial attacks while operating off Okinawa. One such plane came in so close astern to *Barton* before being shot down by her anti-aircraft fire, that gasoline fumes were sucked into the destroyer's ventilation system. Many a time, the crew was placed in precarious situations near the precipice. However, her officers and her men withstood the stress and perils of these hazardous missions, to provide effective Naval gunfire support over the three months of the Okinawa campaign. All this without losing a single man from enemy attacks. "*The Luck of the Barton.*"

After the war, Charles married and had two sons, one serving in the Army as an MP in Vietnam. Under the GI Bill, Charles graduated in 1951 from the American University in Washington, D.C, with a degree in Business Administration. He then went to work for the Department of the Navy and at the Special Projects Office (Polaris Missile Submarine Development), until 1962. He also served in Federal Civilian Departments, including the National Transportation Safety Board, working as Budget and Fiscal Director, and in the Dept. of Transportation as Senior Budget Examiner in the Office of the Secretary. Charles retired from public service in 1981. He remained very active with the USS Barton Association, and was its President from 1987 to 1996. He currently resides in Florida. Charles has donated several historic artifacts, books and photographs and a model of the USS Barton, which are on display at our Museum.



USS Barton under Japanese attack at Mindoro Island, December 1944. Notice the anti-aircraft gun-bursts. This is the last picture of the Barton, taken with wartime camouflage.



RADM Edwin B. Dexter - USS Barton
Commander, Pacific Campaign.