



## EDWARD BURKE

1923-2013

US NAVY-WORLD WAR II

**Ed**, a Post member for 21 years, was originally from Bayonne, New Jersey. He passed away on February 11<sup>th</sup> while in hospital in Blacktown, NSW and survived by two sons, his wife passed away several years ago. He enlisted in the US Navy shortly after the attack on Pearl Harbor in December 1941 and volunteered for submarine duty. His initial boats (yes that's the Navy term for submarines, not ships.) were the older R and S class subs, USS R-17, USS R-15 and USS S-42. When the new fleet boats came into service he served in the USS Guavina (362) and the USS Sea Devil (400) in the Pacific Theatre of Operations. He was a Torpedoman 1<sup>st</sup> Class when he received his discharge in 1946.

***We Will Remember Him***



***Lest We Forget***



We have two of our Life Members who no longer have to get parental permission to watch **PG** programs on TV or at the movies; **Ralph Ferber** who celebrates his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on Feb. 24<sup>th</sup> and **Bernard Murphy** turned a young 91 on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY BOYS (?) !!**

We hope that our members who live up in the "deep north" of New South Wales and Queensland managed to survive the latest violence of nature in their areas. **Ralph Ferber** in Noosa, **Robert Smith** in Grafton, **Dan Potts** in Ballina and **Frank Finch** in Kyogle. **Frank**, who runs a Maritime Museum, said he wasn't worried about a little high water, he has that crows nest in his back yard and a couple of life rafts in the museum. One of our Auxiliary members **Maria Ridsdale** down in Cardigan, Victoria says she was fortunate not to have been harmed by the terrible bush fires in her area.

## Increased Social Security benefits for veterans:

Many of our members may be aware of the following but as many of our Vietnam Veterans are at or nearing US Social Security age you should be aware of this increased benefit. If you served on active duty between **Jan. 1, 1957 and Dec.31, 2001** there is a possibility for a higher social security payment because of your active Military service in those dates, up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit which will be credited at the time of application. This is not automatic, you must ask for it. You must show you DD-214 to the Social Security office. Sounds simple? HAH !! The closest Social Security Office is at the US Embassy in Manila. You can download the application by going to [www.ssa.gov](http://www.ssa.gov). You can contact the Manila office by going to [Emmanuel.Castillo@ssa.gov](mailto:Emmanuel.Castillo@ssa.gov) or telephone the office. To reduce your cost, you may leave your name, telephone number and social security number. A specialist will return your call at SSA expense. For surnames beginning AAA-JOS call 0011 63-2-522-4716. For surnames beginning JOT-ZZZ call 0011-63-2-526-5936. The Post Commander has all this information plus FAX numbers etc so if you need assistance with they contact him. See, your government is there to help you. Not old enough yet? Keep living, you'll get there.



**71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary of the Battle of the Java Sea commemoration ceremony.**

**Friday February 22<sup>nd</sup> at the Cenotaph in Martin Place, Sydney, 10:30am**

The ceremony commemorates a number of events that took place over a period commencing with the invasion of Malaysia, the sinking of HMS Repulse and HMS Prince of Wales, the surrender of Singapore on February 15<sup>th</sup> to the last naval engagement in the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1942. Five Allied Navy's participated with a total of 74 ships and submarines of which 34 were sunk and one captured, a Royal Netherlands Navy hospital ship. The US Navy had 18 ships participating of which 8 were sunk which included the cruiser USS Houston and the USS Langley, the US Navy's first aircraft carrier.

There is a meeting at RSL State Branch early in March of all participating organizations in the Sydney ANZAC Day March to update any changes for the upcoming event on April 25<sup>th</sup>. Details will be outlined in our April newsletter but one change that may be new is that all World War 2 veterans will either have to ride in the Australian Army Land Rovers provided or be seated in a special area along George Street.

A reminder for those who attend our business meetings at the Combined Services RSL Club in Barrack St., Sydney. The meetings are all on a Wednesday beginning at 11 am and last not more than 1 hour. The dates for 2013 are as follows: **April 3<sup>rd</sup>, June 5<sup>th</sup>, August 7<sup>th</sup> and October 2<sup>nd</sup>**. All meetings are in Room 1 on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor for both the Post and Auxiliary.

Thank You for your Support!!