

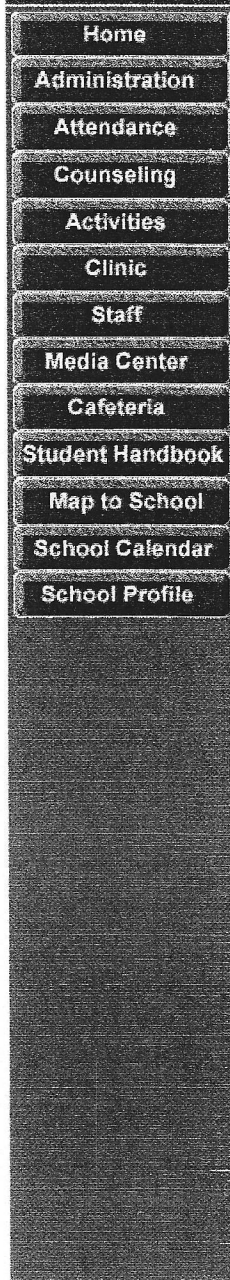
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St. Johns High School

Home of the Redwings!

Charlie Edward

Interviewed by Danielle Hartigan



My World War II veteran is Charlie Edward. He enlisted into the Navy in June 1943. He was in the service from 1943 to 1946, he was 20 years old when he got out. He was promoted to seaman 2nd class, he was also decorated, for carrying a bunch of supplies and mortars on the beaches of France on "D-day" and other days of the 3 years he was there. Charlie went to boot camp in Williamsburg, Virginia, he had rough experiences in training.

One of his most memorable was when they were put into tear gas chambers without there gas masks and they had to put them on after the gas was put in, some guys could not do it and they would pound for the Sergeant to let them out, but the Sergeant would not. They also did a lot of marching and if you roped your gun you slept with it for 7 days. Charlie said that boot camp is very close to actual combat.

Charlie started out in navy construction and then moved to working in the little PT boats in the Pacific. His scariest part of war/combat was when he invaded France with his platoon on "D-day," they won that invasion. They also invaded parts of the Philippines, and won those invasions too. Charlie went on leave for 32 days in November one year and came back to the states to see family; he then went back to his ship and was quarantined for 18 days. In the 3 years he was there he saw very little improvement in technology. Charlie's thoughts on war were, "Yes, I think it was right for the U.S. to got involved because of Japan bombing Pearl Harbor. But it was not right to get involved in Vietnam."

After getting out of the service in 1946 he finished his senior year of high school.

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