
Centenarian Sailors



*Julio "Jay" Ereñeta
Chief Warrant Officer
(Naval Flight Officer,
Radio Electronics,
Aviation), USN (Ret.)*

Submitted by Frank Ereñeta

My father, Julio "Jay" Ereñeta, Chief Warrant Officer (Naval Flight Officer, Radio Electronics, Aviation), U.S. Navy (Ret.) was born on Jan. 2, 1902, and is now 100 years old. He is agile, healthy, and ambulatory. His diction is clear; his recollection of names, dates, and events is still remarkably accurate.

A variety of old flight logs, correspondence, documents, insignia, memorabilia, weaponry, photographs, and videotapes are available and

uncatalogued.

Thank you for recognizing him as a Navy Centenarian. His longevity (and my communications with national associations) suggest that he has to be among the oldest known living veterans of the naval minewarfare community (1919); the naval radio communications community (1919); the battleship community (1921); and the naval aviation community (1922).

Duty Station Highlights:

World War I North Sea minefields in USS EIDER (Minesweeper no. 17), March 1919; witnessed world's first trans-Atlantic flight by U.S. Navy Flying Boat NC-4 at Lisbon, Portugal, May 1919; witnessed World War I scuttling of German High Seas Fleet, Scapa Flow, Orkney Islands, June 1919; in 1919-1920 served in old wooden warship, USS HARTFORD (Admiral Farragut's flagship at Civil War Battle of Mobile Bay, 1864); attended Navy Radio School (Great Lakes) with classmate and life long friend, radio/TV personality, Arthur "Red" Godfrey, 1920-1921; served on coal burning battleship, USS FLORIDA (BB-30) in 1921-1923; first aircrewman flight in F5L Seaplane of USS WRIGHT (AZ-1) at Newport R.I. in 1922; on China Station/Yangtze Patrol in USS FINCH (AM-9), 1924-1928; Aviation communications, Cavite/Los Banos, Philippine Islands, 1928-1930; Comm. Ctr, 1st Nav Dist, Boston MA, 1930-1932.

Aviation Squadrons aircrewman (Radio Electronics) in:

USS LANGLEY (CV-1), VT, VS-1, VS-3, in 1932-1934 and 1935-1936; USS LEXINGTON (CV-2), VF-5B and VB-2 in 1935; USS TRENTON (CL-11) Aviation Unit, 1936-1937; USS SAVANNAH (CL-42) Aviation Unit VCS-8, 1937-1940; NAS North Island, San Diego, Flight Ops, 1940-1942; Solomon Islands Campaign (Carrier Aircraft Service Units, Guadalcanal, Russell Islands, Munda, Segi Point, Green Island), 1942-1944; COMSEVENTHFLT Aviation Liaison Officer to U.S. Army 503rd Parachute Regiment, Philippine Visayan Islands liberation, 1945; Flight Ops, NAS, North Island, San Diego, 1946-1947; USN Retired 1949.

Career Path: Mess Attendant (Radioman Striker); Electrician's Mate Third Class (Radio); Radioman Second Class; Radioman First Class, Radioman First Class (Aviation aircrewman); ACRM (Chief Petty Officer, Aviation Radio Electronics); Warrant Officer (Naval Flight Officer, Radio Electronics, Aviation); Chief Warrant Officer (Naval Flight Officer, Radio Electronics, Aviation).



Great Grandpa "Jay" with Rebecca Anne Ereñeta Fitch Fietze

Thank you Frank Ereñeta, for a detailed look at a great shipmate! If you know a Sailor, retired or not, who has reached 100 years old, send us photos, a write-up or any information you may have to help us celebrate their service and their life. -- *Editor, Shift Colors*