

Washington Island Military Archives

Richard Ellefson

Born: July 13, 1925

Died: June 30, 2013  
Island

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Period of Service: WW II

Navy

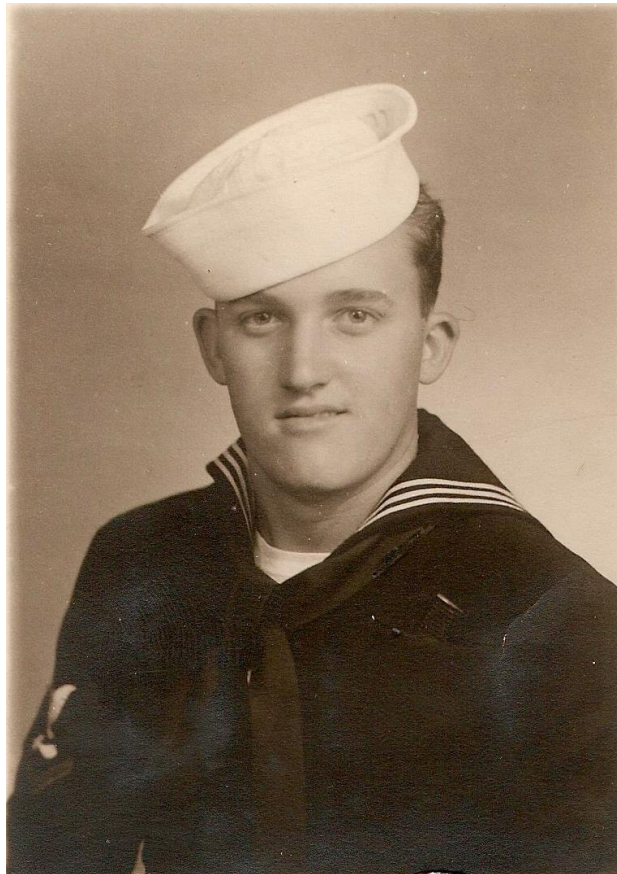
Sources: Svc questionnaire,  
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Enlisted Sept 15, 1943. Trained at Great Lakes, and San Diego, CA as torpedo man 3/c. Released 4/9/1946. Joined American Legion Post 402 from Post 94 in Milwaukee.

Stationed at Great Lakes, IL, Norfolk VA, San Diego for advanced torpedo training, and USS Rolf, a newly commissioned ship. Served in the Asia Pacific area mainly escorting ships to New Guinea and Okinawa. They were only 50 miles from the sinking of the *Indianapolis* where all were lost, but the ship was on a top secret mission involving the atomic bomb, and radio silence was enforced. In his naval career he crossed the equator 13 times.

Medals include Victory, American Asiatic –Pacific, Philippine Liberation, Philippine Independence, China Svc, Navy Occupation Asia.

His father was Swerra Ellefson, his mother Mathilda Petersen. He married Barbara Lynn Aaron on 6/10/1950 who became the Island archivist. A postman in Kenosha, he retired to the Island in 1983.



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