

Passing the Word
J.C. Campbell

May, 2007

USS Frank E. Evans Association DD 754

The Bosun's Pipe



Ahoy Shipmates,

The officers of the Frank E. Evans Association believe communication with the membership is critical for an effective organization and to generate active member participation. During 2006 and 2007 the Board received positive feedback on the newsletter. In the survey taken during the reunion last September, the majority of the respondents (26%) indicated a quarterly publication of the newsletter would be adequate. As a result, the decision was made to publish *Footlocker Talk* quarterly.

Meanwhile, at the Campbell home, we have heard from members that say they look upon the association as an extended family, and as such, they want to know how fellow shipmates and their families are doing. The *Bosun's Pipe* will be prepared and sent to the membership the eight months when the *Footlocker Talk* isn't published. Results: The membership will receive monthly communications from the association.

Bosun's Pipe

We are "piping aboard" a new name for the president's bulletin. The Bosun's Pipe goes back to the ancient Greek and Roman eras and has been used on ships for hundreds of years as a means to "pass the word". Our plans call for the *Bosun's Pipe* to do just that. This bulletin has been designed to fulfill the following purposes: (1) to keep you informed on happenings within the association's membership; (2) to remind you of upcoming events; and (3) to elaborate on our ongoing projects.

2007 Membership Update:

We are proud to announce we have 19 new, first time, dues paying members. Our membership currently stands at 213. The following is a breakdown of our new members. Welcome one and all.

- 7 New Shipmates
- 11 New Second Watch Members. (The names will be listed next month.)
- 1 New Family member of the lost 74

New 2007 Members "Piped Aboard"

We welcome each of the following shipmates and a sister of one of those lost June 3, 1969.

Fran Botto Camagna, Sister of Andrew James Botto, YN/3

Donald Bernard (1955-56)
Stanley Edwards (1962-64)
Shelton Ruppert (1964-67)
Donald (Don) E. Weisgerber (1967-68)

Les Davis (1953-56)
Alan (Al) Fortunate (1966-67)
Verdon Scott (1954-58)
Steven Whitton ((1969-S)

Next month we will list the 2nd Watch members. This group is made up of friends and family members of Evans shipmates and is the fastest growing group in our association.

The Ultimate Cruise Book

Submitted by Frank Jablonski, Association Historian

To date, we have accounted for a little over 2000 of the roughly estimated 5000 or so men who served aboard our ship, *The USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754)* from 1944 until June 3, 1969.

We are seeking your photos and stories for the two books we are attempting to put together. You recently received a mailing requesting “your photos” and “your stories”. To date only 15 of the 430 shipmates receiving the mailing have responded. In most cases, we didn’t receive any photos. A photo, even with the most minimal story, gives life to the story. We need your photos! Even if you have already sent in your story, send in a photo (if available). If you have sent a photo, send another! Without your help, this program will never get off the ground.

Luckily, several members have shared their cruise books with us. We now have books from: 1958, 1963-64, 1966, and 1967-68. A limited few shipmates have shared their personal photos with us. These photos have been invaluable in trying to recreate the “Ultimate Cruise Book”. Many of the cruise book pictures leave a lot to be desired, but so far, it’s all we have. **Please look around the house or in your old sea bag for the picture(s) that will give some life to our project.** We need to make a radical change in that dismal 15/430 fraction, to a number which all of us can be proud. **We need your help!**

For those of us still around, it is vital to honor those whose courage and dedication have kept our nation and many other nations free. We owe a great debt of gratitude to ALL the men of the *USS Frank E. Evans* who have served in war and peacetime during the years between 1944 and 1969. We have the responsibility to pass on, to all who come after us, the untarnished ideals for which our Evans veterans have served, suffered, and in 1969, died to preserve.

**We want your words, but we need your pictures!
Pictures will add Life to the *USS Frank E. Evans*’s projects!**

Frank may be reached via: E-mail: fjab333@earthlink.net or Phone: 386-322-5523

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or call 520-316-6159

Reunion Announcements

The 2007 reunion dates will be October 4th, 5th, & 6th, at The Elms Hotel & Spa in Excelsior Springs, Missouri.

The *USS Caldwell DD-605* will be at The Elms Hotel on October 2nd through 4th for their ninth reunion. The *Caldwell* was a destroyer that served in the Pacific during WWII. All of these sailors are now in their 80's.

Their reunion will be the first opportunity for the next *Caldwell* generation to have the privilege of planning and putting on the reunion. They are finalizing plans to make their reunion a special and a memorable event to honor and say thanks to the men that served aboard the *USS Caldwell*.

A Special Treat for the *USS Caldwell* and the *USS Frank E. Evans*

The *Caldwell* and *Evans* reunion planners have arranged with The Elms Hotel to have a joint meal on Thursday evening. The meal will be followed by a keynote speaker who is in great demand in the Kansas City area. The Officers of the Frank E. Evans Association are planning to serve everyone a special dessert after the evening program.

The Perpetual Watch Program

During the 2005 Milwaukee reunion Donna and Steve Kraus kicked off the Perpetual Watch program. They developed the program as a way to honor the lost 74. The membership was asked for help in locating family members of these shipmates. To date only 18 of the 74 names have been returned to Steve.

He is asking your support in moving the Perpetual Watch onto the FAST track. If you have taken one (or more) of the "Lost 74" Perpetual Watch cards, please continue your research and send the information to the following address:

Steve Kraus, 4587 Blackwell Road, Oceanside, CA 92056

If for some reason you have not been successful or have been unable to conduct the research, please contact Steve Kraus via E-mail at: kraussa@cox.net or by phone at: 760-941-8184.

Sick Bay

We are pleased to say the Evans Sick Bay is empty (At least no one is currently in the hospital that we are aware of as of this writing.) However, we want to bring the membership up to date on the following members:

Tom Anthony, (RD/3 1967-69), went back to work in January. He sent his thanks for the prayers and support he had received from his Evans family during his surgery last fall. He reported Leslie displayed all the cards he received.

Fern Kerr, (Mom of Gerry Hemphill and mom of a sailor), had a pacemaker put in and was in the hospital for six days in early April. She was sent home on oxygen but will be weaned off the oxygen. (Fern, we hope you are back to your normal active self and are following the doctor's orders.)

Ken Norton, (Brother of a lost 74 sailor), has spent four months recovering from a broken leg. (Ken, be extra careful when you go back to work.)

Sick Bay continued:

We offer our concerns to the following members as they continue to deal with their on-going illnesses or those of family members.

Gerry Hemphill, (Sister of a lost sailor), sent a note of thanks for being remembered by members in her struggles with ALS. We want to thank Gerry for keeping us updated on her mom, Fern Kerr's health. (Page 3.)

Tom McMillan, Jr. (BM/3 1966-68) As you know, from Tom's interesting story in the *Footlocker Talk* last month, he still needs our daily prayers as he continues to work with doctors on new medications that are helping him to fight the "Big C".

Note: The Association received word in early May that our Historian, Frank Jablonski's daughter was diagnosed with cervical cancer on April 27th. Please keep Connie Jablonski-Montana in your thoughts and prayers during this troublesome time. At this time we have little information to share but as we receive more we will keep you updated. Frank and Terri have been a major part of the Association for the last few years and our hearts are with them. If you would like to drop them an e-mail I'm sure they would appreciate hearing from you. Their e-mail is fjab333@earthlink.net.

When the above message went out via e-mail, Myrt Jones, (Mrs. Marvin, 52-55) sent a message back re: her daughter who has been seriously ill after "surgery gone wrong". After two weeks of severe pain and near death, a second surgery was done. She is on the road to recovery now but still has bouts of painful repercussions.

Please keep all of these shipmates and friends in your daily prayers.

QUESTION of the MONTH?

What decade did the Evans get the name "The Lucky Evans"?

Please tell us the story of how the name came about and the when and where.

Jot down your thoughts of that cruise and send them to:

The Campbell Clan P. O. Box 164, Granbury, TX 76048 or E-mail to: sylviajc@lakegranbury.com

Lest We Forget

On Memorial Day, May 28th,

When we stop to reflect on those who have fought for our freedom,

Let's pause to remember those who continue to serve ---

And those who will serve eternally.

The "Bosun's Pipe"
USS Frank E. Evans Association, Inc.
c/o The Campbell Clan
P. O. Box 164
Granbury, TX 76048