

# USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) Association, INC.



Newsletter 64  
1st Quarter  
2017

[www.ussfee.org](http://www.ussfee.org)

## Foot Locker Talk - Newsletter

### AHOY SHIPMATES, FAMILY & FRIENDS

During a time when the cold of winter sets in, things seem to slow down, but not this winter. Congressman Schiff and Senator Schumer both recently received communications from the Deputy Secretary of the Department of Defense (DoD). Since last September the DoD conducted a *de novo* (from the beginning) review of our case. As in the past they reconfirmed our ship was not in the combat zone at the time of the collision (nothing new here). They also pulled the records of the entire crew onboard at the time of the collision and determined 16 crew members had never been in the combat zone (we are researching their findings). Lastly the DoD states that the Vietnam Service Medal issued to USS Frank E. Evans for 2 June 1969 was an error (another statement we will research since the other ships with us did receive the Vietnam Service Medal).

Of course we were extremely disappointed in the posturing the DoD is taking. In the letter the Deputy Secretary does not support making an exception to their criteria to add the names of the "Lost 74" to the wall. He does, however, make an offering to have a panel or plaque included in the Vietnam Education Center to be built near by the Vietnam Memorial in Washington D.C. At first read this sounded like a concession; however having given it more consideration this may be an opportunity to not only have the names of the Lost 74 listed but it could also afford us the opportunity to tell our story to the thousands of visitors who come to see the wall each year.

Before we provided any response to Congressman Schiff and Senator Schumer's offices we created a panel of Association members who are relatives of the lost, shipmates, survivors and friends. The panel was provided a copy of the DoD letter and asked to provide their recommendations and preferences for next steps. The letter has generated many questions regarding the DoD's recent findings and questions about the offering to be included in the Vietnam Education Center.

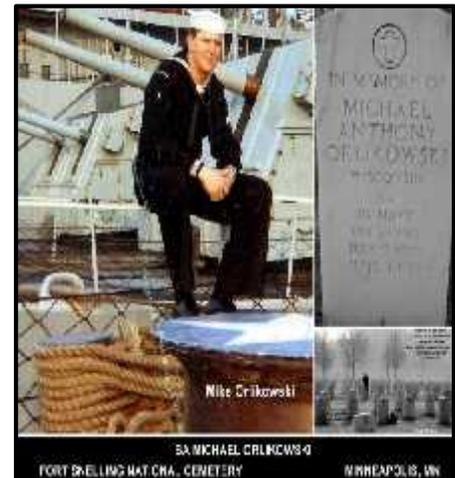
Our next steps is to provide Congressman Schiff and Senator Schumer's offices a consolidated list of questions. Depending on the responses we will then determine a course for action. Both Schiff's and Schumer's offices report that this may be a slight setback but both are willing to continue pressing for either an administrative or legislative solution.

On a positive note, plans are currently being made to firm up this year's upcoming reunion in Branson, Missouri. Mark your calendars for September 27 to October 1 2017. This should be a unique and somewhat different reunion. If you like entertainment, this is the town that provides a huge variety of it. Details should be out prior to Memorial Day.

Steve Kraus, Association VP

## MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND DESCRIPTIONS

Memorial headstones set by family members of the "Lost 74"... To date, 51 personal memorial headstones have been located and documented. If you happen to have a picture of a headstone or a memorial that you haven't seen in previous newsletters please let us know. Thank you all who have cooperated or helped us.



### Victor T. Rikal



## LOST SAILORS FROM MICHIGAN MEMORIAL

The storyboards are new and should be waterproof. There are storyboards on both the front and back (facing the ship). When people walk around the arch to see the other side of the stone they can see the same storyboard on that side too.

Note the FEE Brochure that is laminated and secured to a frame on the right side of the picture. It faces the sidewalk that leads to the ship **USS Edson (DD 946.)** **USS Edson** is a Sherman Class Destroyer the same as **USS Turner Joy (DD 951)**. When each guest takes a tour of the ship they are



provided a copy of our brochure. If the quest wants a guided tour, the first stop is our Memorial to the lost form the State of Michigan. The guide briefly explains our story. The museum is open in the winter weather permitting.

### FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

By: Al Collins

As generations pass, some organizations have ceased to meet and therefore closed their doors. Let us refresh our purpose to encourage you to meet, Lest We Forget. "We must pay the most careful attention, therefore, to what we have heard, so that we do not drift away." Hebrews 2:1 NIV We must keep our Mission and Goal alive, by meeting together.

**OUR MISSION:** The primary mission, objectives, and purpose of USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) Association, Inc. shall be to:

- Promote camaraderie among shipmates, family and friends of shipmates who served aboard USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754), as well as others with similar interest,
- Promote a spirit of national patriotism,
- Help assure that the history of USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) is maintained,
- Conduct research, communicate, appropriately publicize, help commemorate the deceased and those lost at sea, through timely ceremonies, publicity and memorials.

**OUR GOAL:** The goal of the Association is to preserve the memory of the sailors who lost their lives serving their country on USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754), as well as provide a means of communication and dissemination of information to the Association and its membership.

"And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deeds, not giving up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging one another--and all the more as you see the Day approaching." Hebrews 10:24-25 NIV

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### SHIPS STORE

Mary Gregg is the contact for all ship store inquiries. Her email address is [marystomp@ATT.net](mailto:marystomp@ATT.net) or call her at cell 949-290-1400 or at home at 760-659-6068

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## USS KIDD DDG 100 ARRIVES AT NAVAL STATION EVERETT

By: Rich Alverdes, Liaison to USS Kidd



What do you do on an overcast day with temperature in the low 50's you may ask? What every sailor would do. Welcome his Navy shipmates to their new home port. At 4pm on Monday, November 21, 2016, **USS Kidd (DDG 100)** arrived in full flourish to their new home port, Naval Station Everett. I was privileged to be joined by fellow USS Frank E. Evans shipmate, Joe Gauntt (ETN3, 1967-1968) as we awaited the arrival of the Kidd.



We were able to meet with (from left to right) CDR Rodman Burley, Executive Officer Naval Station Everett, Captain Mark Lakamp, Commanding Officer of Naval Station Everett, along with Bob Bolerjack, Director of Government Affairs, Everett, and Major Ray Stephanson of Everett.

After the arrival, we were escorted on board the Kidd for a brief meeting where the Mayor presented Captain Timothy Long with the official flag of the City of Everett. I had opportunity to meet and talk with Captain Long (on the left), XO Mike Williams (on the right) and Command Master Chief Paulette Brock. Captain Long shared his deep appreciation of our Friendship Alliance with USS Frank E. Evans. Captain Long said that there has been a 40% crew turnaround and many of the new crew of Kidd needs to be introduced both to the USS Evans and our special relationship. The Kidd has a tight schedule of adjustment to their new home port and ongoing preparations for the next overseas deployment taking place sometime in late spring or early summer. I am looking forward to a future lunch aboard the Kidd and an opportunity to share about the USS Frank E. Evans Association to the crew.

The following is the news article that appeared in the Everett Herald:



EVERETT – Naval Station Everett welcomed its fifth Arleigh Burke-class guided missile destroyer Monday. The USS Kidd pulled up to the pier at 4 p.m. just as the sun dropped below the clouds on the horizon. About 75 family members waited for their sailors to disembark.

Among them were Ayesha Willis and her son Josiah. Her older son, Seaman Apprentice DeMarco Wilson, was on board. Willis, who lives in Bremerton, recently left the Navy after eight years and now works at the Washington Youth Academy. Her son enlisted in July

and joined the Kidd in San Diego. "It was all his choice," she said. "I'm just excited he's close. We don't have to worry about plane tickets during the holiday."

The Kidd, first commissioned in 2007, is the third destroyer in the past year to be reassigned to Everett. The USS Gridley arrived in July and the USS Sampson in September. They join the two destroyers that are already here, the USS Momsen and the USS Shoup. A sixth destroyer, the USS Ralph Johnson, is scheduled to arrive sometime in 2017. It has been under construction in Mississippi this year.

The Kidd has a full complement of about 325 sailors. Like the Gridley and Sampson, it also was previously stationed in San Diego.

Nicole Udall was waiting with her two children, Brooklynn, 4, and Eli, 2, for her husband, Petty Officer 2nd Class John Udall. Udall said they'd moved up from California four months ago, but she and the kids had endured longer separations before. "They do fine," she said, while the kids blew bubbles on the pier. The weather was a different story. "It's weird because when the sun is out, it's not warm," she said.

The destroyers replaced three decommissioned Oliver Hazard Perry-class frigates that used to be based in Everett, the USS Ford, USS Ingraham and USS Rodney M. Davis.

The Kidd, commanded by Cmdr. Timothy Long, is the third ship to be named after Rear Adm. Isaac C. Kidd, the former commander of Battleship Division One who was killed when the USS Arizona was sunk during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

Kidd was the first flag officer of the U.S. Navy to be killed in action against any foreign enemy, and was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor. The USS Kidd is also the only ship in the U.S. Navy that flies the Jolly Roger flag. The crew of the first USS Kidd adopted the famous pirate William Kidd as a mascot. All crews have carried on the tradition.

**FOLLOW USS KIDD BY LOOKING AT THEIR FACEBOOK PAGE**

## YUMA ARIZONA BENCH DEDICATION

For years, long time Yuma, Arizona resident and Shipmate Willis Zismer has seen the Yuma Armed Forces Park. A park dedicated to honor and revere the sacrifices of past, present and future veterans. Within the Yuma Armed Forces Park there are several granite benches that have been donated by civic and veteran organizations. Willis wanted to do something to honor our ship the USS Frank E. Evans DD 754. Over a year ago, Willis had a vision and decided on a course of action.



Willis' vision was a bench dedicated to all the sailors who served aboard the USS Frank E. Evans DD 754 from 1945 to 1969. Zismer began pursuing his vision by contacting the City of Yuma. They manage the park and the local veteran's organizations. The major selling point was that the City of Yuma and the various Veterans organizations would not incur any cost associated with the bench. Willis was willing to pay for the bench himself.

Over a year of hard work and coordination with the City of Yuma and Veterans Organizations went into this project. At 10:00 am on 20 February 2017 Willis' vision became a reality. The bench Willis bought was added to the park after a dedication ceremony. The Day was near perfect, clear, sunny, warm mid 70s.

The USS Frank E. Evans DD 754 Association was well represented. Association Vice President and Survivor Steve Kraus, and his wife Donna, Willis Zismer and his wife Joey, Survivors Glen Belec and his wife Sue, Dean Wyse and his wife Cheryl, Bob Mason and his wife Dixie, Rich Burke and his wife Wendy, Association member Larry Webb and his wife Diane and Association Member Mary Gregg.

Diane Webb opened the ceremony with the invocation then colors by the American Legion Post 19. Dean Wyse lead the Pledge of Allegiance. Steve Kraus gave a brief history of the Evans. Following the Evans History was a ribbon cutting. After the ribbon cutting Rich Burke recited the "Ode To The Fallen." Dixie Mason then gave the benediction. Lastly, Willis presented the American Legion a plaque from the Association.



## INVITATION TO ATTEND USS KEARSARGE CVS 33 ANNUAL REUNION

At the last Kearsarge Association Reunion it was suggested and approved by all present, that we invite the Frank E Evans Association to join us at our next reunion in Jacksonville, FL in 2018. Currently the only information we have relative to the reunion is that it will be in Jacksonville, FL the 1st or 2nd week in May, 2018. [USS Kearsarge](#)



# USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) ASSOCIATION 2017 ESSAY CONTEST



## Essay Contest:

To award winning students' a financial prize for participation in an essay contest.

## Purpose:

Provide Relative of the Lost Students the opportunity to compete for two prizes of \$ 250 each and to learn more about USS Frank E. Evans DD 754, its crews and their dedication to our Country.

## Objective:

Help students understand the true meaning of Memorial Day and the opportunity to research more about USS Frank E. Evans, (DD 754) its crew members and the terrible collision with HMAS Melbourne (R 21) and the "Lost 74 Sailors" who gave their all on 3 June 1969 for their country.

## Who are the Contestants?

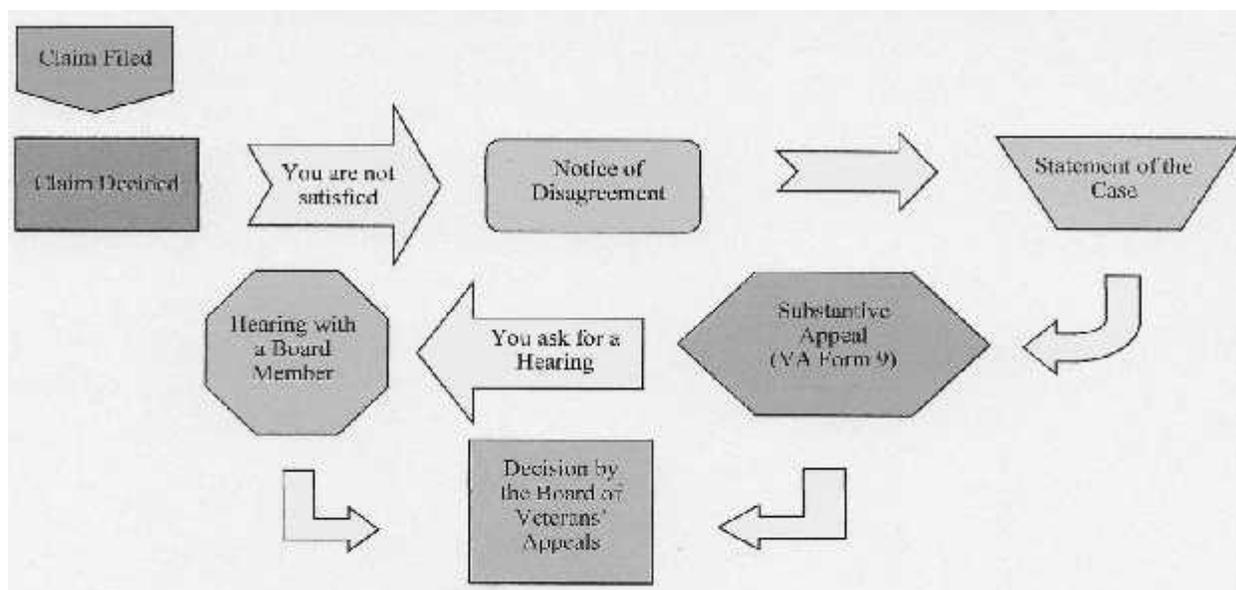
Middle School (grades 6-8) and High School Students (grades 9-12). Contestants must be direct descendants of one of the "Lost 74." A descendent is someone who can trace their lineage by "child" relationships back to one or more of the "Lost 74." All submissions includes direct descendants of siblings of the "Lost 74" which includes descendants of the spouse of the "Lost 74."

## How do I get the information and evaluation packet?

Contact Tim Wendler via email at [timwendler85@yahoo.com](mailto:timwendler85@yahoo.com) or phone him at (626) 221-7222, he will mail you or email you the information.

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## VA APPEALS PROCESS



## VA APPEALS PROCESS *continued*

**Claim Filed** - To apply for benefits, you file a claim at your local VA regional or county office. This is when you ask for the benefit you want. There is at least one VA regional office in each state, Puerto Rico, and Manila. You can also file your claim on the internet at [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov). You can also ask for help with your claim. Help is available from Veterans Service Organizations (VSO), such as The American Legion, VFW, DAV, etc. and from your local county office.

**Claim Decided** - The local VA regional office makes a decision on your claim and sends the decision letter to you. The local VA regional office's decision will allow or deny your claim. If you are not satisfied with the decision, you can then appeal.

**Notice of Disagreement** - If you disagree with the rating decision, you can write a statement to your local VA regional office saying that you disagree and that you want to appeal that decision. This statement is called a Notice of Disagreement (NOD). The NOD is completed on VA Form 21-0958. The NOD is sent to your local VA regional office and must be submitted within one year of the date your local VA regional office mailed you its original decision. DRO's offer a second review of your entire file and can also hold a personal hearing on your claim. If you are not satisfied with the DRO's decision, you will be sent a Statement of the Case.

**Statement of the Case** - With the traditional appeal process, after the local VA regional office gets your NOD, it will create a Statement of the Case (SOC). The SOC is a detailed explanation of the evidence, laws, and regulations used by the local VA regional office in deciding your claim.

**Substantive Appeal (VA Form 9)** - When you receive the SOC from your local VA regional office, a VA Form 9 will be included. The VA Form 9 is also available through the internet at [www.vba.va.gov](http://www.vba.va.gov). A VA Form 9 is the last step in the appeal process. To finish the process you must fill out the VA Form 9 and send it back to your local VA regional office. When you fill out your VA Form 9 you should state the benefit you want, any mistakes you find in the SOC, and if you want a personal hearing.

**Personal Hearings** - You can request a personal hearing in connection with your appeal. A personal hearing is a meeting between you, your representative (if you have one), and the person from the VA who will decide your case. There are two types of personal hearings: (1) a hearing with someone from your local VA regional office (this is the DRO hearing); or (2) a hearing with a member of the Board of Veterans' Appeals. If you want a personal hearing with a member of the Board, you can choose from several different types. You can elect a hearing in Washington, D.C., where the Board of Veterans Appeals is located; a videoconference hearing with you at your local VA regional office and the Board member in Washington, D.C.; or a hearing at your local VA regional office with the Board Member present.

**Decision by the Board of Veterans' Appeals** - After reviewing the evidence in your file, the Board Member will make a decision on your appeal. The Board will send you a copy of the decision. The decision will allow, deny or remand your claim. If your claim is allowed or denied, the Board's decision is final. However a remand is not a final decision. Sometimes the Board finds that it does not have enough information about your claim to make a decision. When this happens the Board will either try to get more information itself or send your claim back to the local VA regional office so they can try and get the needed information.

### **Helpful Hints for the VA Appeal Process**

- 1 - Have a representative help you with your claim and appeal.
- 2 - Give as much detail as possible about evidence that you want the VA to get before they make a decision on your claim.
- 3 - Make sure you let your local VA regional office know if you move.
- 4 - Put your claim number/social security number on all documents.
- 5 - Make sure you keep a copy of any evidence you give to the VA for your records.
- 6 - Try to identify as early as possible all the evidence you want the VA to look at.
- 7 - You can request information about your appeal by calling 1-202-565-5436.

# HOW TO OBTAIN DD-214S; Medals; Corrections or Upgrades; and Emergency Requests

There are several ways to get a replacement DD214.

1. Check with your last base. If you didn't separate too long ago, there is a chance that the military separations section of your old base may have a digital copy of your DD 214. It is best to go in person and make the request rather than to do it by phone.
2. Look at the last place of residence you put on record. Many Veterans forget to change their place of residence, which can be different from where they started their career. Your copy of your DD 214 could have been mailed there if the address change wasn't made.
3. Research the VA Regional Office for a copy of your DD 214 if you filed a disability claim within the past five years.
4. Log onto the Veteran Records website. Follow instructions on how to get your DD 214.
5. If you are enrolled A Veteran may obtain their military personnel records through the National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) in St. Louis, Missouri. Please note that NPRC holds historical military personnel records of nearly 100 million Veterans. A Veteran may request their military service records online, by mail or by fax. This request may include DD-214 or separation documents, personnel records, and medical records. If your request is urgent (for example, for a funeral) and there is a deadline associated with your request, please provide this information in the purpose section of the Form SF-180 and fax it to the Customer Service Team at (314) 801-0764. Please contact the customer service staff at (314) 801-0800 if you have questions or require same day service. Due to the large number of calls received at this number, hold times are often long.

**Army:** Contact the Army Review Board Agency at (703) 607-1600

**Air Force:** Contact the Board for Corrections for Air Force Records at (240) 857-3502

**Navy and Marine Corps:** Contact the Board for Correction of Naval Records at (703) 604-6884 or (703) 604-6885

**Coast Guard:** Contact the Board for Correction of Military Records of the Coast Guard at (202) 477-4099

#### Tips & Warnings:

1. Be patient with the process. It can take a few weeks to get a copy of your records. It may be even longer if you were discharged before 1973, because a fire at the Central Repository for Records in St. Louis destroyed 80 percent of the records housed at that time.
2. Record a copy of your DD214 with your local VA office in case you misplace it in the future.
3. The National Personnel Records Center usually processes requests within 10 working days of receipt. Many factors may alter that time including work load, current volume of requests, and whether your records are coming from a stateside base or an overseas location in the case of recently retired or separated military members.

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## DUES NOTICE

Dues invoices were mailed out in late January, if you haven't sent in your dues yet, please do so soon. If you did not receive an invoice please let Donna Kraus know, she can be reached at [krausdf@cox.net](mailto:krausdf@cox.net) or at home 760-941-8184, by cell at 76-521-4700.

## USS DULUTH (LPD 6) ANCHOR MONUMENT



This photo of USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) was taken by Jboy Shepard aboard USS DULUTH (LPD 6) 14 May 1969 - 11 men aboard EVANS by small boat.

Top Photo Courtesy of Jboy Shepard USS DULUTH (LPD 6)

Off the coast of Vietnam, on 14 May 1969, DULUTH delivered 11 men to USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754): Walentiny, Myers, Glines, Salisbury, Guyer, Eaton, Thomas, Kraus, Moore, Reiter, Stroup.

...Glines, Guyer, and Thomas, and 71 others did not survive the collision with HMAS MELBOURNE on 3 Jun 1969.

USS DULUTH (LPD-6), named for the City of Duluth, MN, was commissioned on 18 Dec 1965, and decommissioned on 28 Sep 2005. The ship which proudly carried the name of the City of Duluth for 40 years, representing the community of Duluth throughout the world, was 569 feet long, 108 feet wide; carrying a crew of over 400 Sailors and 800+ U.S. Marines and equipment. Her primary function included a unique capability to land and support Marine expeditionary forces via both sea and air, but because of its unique design, also was a perfect platform for humanitarian missions, such as the evacuation of refugees from Saigon in 1975, aid in the clean-up of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, disaster relief following typhoon Mike in 1990 and in her final major mission, provided aid to the victims of the Indian Ocean tsunami in Jan 2005.



### "USS DULUTH"

50th Anniversary August 21, 2015 Duluth, MN



In 2014, the City of Duluth was afforded the opportunity to acquire which, thanks to the tireless efforts of John Werner, on behalf of the St. Louis County Historical Society & Veterans' Memorial Hall, as well as many local businesses and individuals, now rests proudly as the centerpiece of a permanent monument to the ship on Duluth's Lake Walk.

In 2015, a brick was placed by the USS Duluth Crewmembers Association in memory of the lost 74, a permanent part of the USS DULUTH (LPD 6) Anchor (the 22,000 pound starboard side anchor) Monument, in Duluth, MN.

USS Duluth (LPD 6) was the transfer ship that carried several of our shipmates to USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) on 14 May 1969. The Duluth was a support ship during the last combat mission (Operation Daring Rebel) Evans participated in prior to the collision.

## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Our membership has fallen off a little in the past 2 years. The challenge is to enlist one new member each year! We all have at least one friend or relative who we can solicit for membership, please do it today, don't put it off thinking others will do it so I won't.

Interested in joining? Contact Donna Kraus at [krausdf@cox.net](mailto:krausdf@cox.net) or 760-941-8184, or go to our website [www.ussfee.org](http://www.ussfee.org)

We welcome Nick Hopfauf and Lawrence Ficek to our Association Family.

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	SERVICE	CITY/STATE
Nicholas Hopfauf	Friend of Steve Kraus	Navy	Allen, TX
Lawrence Ficek	Shipmate SK3 65-67	Navy	Pierz, MN

### IN MEMORIAM SHIPMATES

NAME	RANK	SERVICE	CITY/STATE	DECEASED
Bob Baldwin	SM2	50-52	Auburn, CA	Oct. 29 2016
James Brayton	SM2	50-52	Fairbanks, AK	Jan. 4 2017
Leonard Needham	DCSN	51-52	Fennville, MI	Nov. 4 2016
John Jack Coen	BM3	52-55	Centralia, CA	Sept. 23 2016

### IN MEMORIAM RELATIVES

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	CITY/STATE	DECEASED
Patti Williams	Sister of Mary Gregg	Huntington Beach, CA	Dec 10 2016
Julie Sheehan	DIL of Jack & Peggy Sheehan	Placitas, NM	Dec. 12 2016
Robert Hagarty	Uncle of Hanna Ackerman	Iowa City, IA	Jan. 28 2016

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## GET YOUR FOOTLOCKER TALK NEWSLETTER VIA EMAIL & IN COLOR!

We provide about 300 newsletters per quarter to members and relatives of the lost. About half are mailed via the post office. If you have an email address and are willing to receive the newsletter via this media, please provide your email address to Steve Kraus at [kraussa@cox.net](mailto:kraussa@cox.net). By providing us your email address you will help reduce our postage and printing costs. Thanks for your help!

**IF YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION HAS CHANGED PLEASE LET US KNOW!**

USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) ASSOCIATION, INC.

2286 Morgan Rd.

Carlsbad, CA 92008

FORWARDING SERVICE REQUESTED



FROM THE  
HANDS OF A  
FEW

Cooke

Huber

Cantwell

Gile

Thornton

Clark

Cambell



"LEST WE FORGET" OUR "LOST 74" EARNED THEIR PLACE ON THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL WALL

[WWW.USSFEE.ORG](http://WWW.USSFEE.ORG)