



'USS Frank E. Evans DD - 754 Footlocker Talk

Footlocker Talk
Newsletter
Second Quarter
2008

USS FRANK E EVANS DD 754 - 2008 REUNION

We are excited to announce our upcoming 17th annual USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) Association Reunion in beautiful Mount Pleasant, South Carolina, on **September 11th through September 13, 2008**. The location for this year's reunion doesn't get much better! Mount Pleasant is the home of one of the largest naval and maritime museums in the world. A visit to Patriots Point will provide an exciting, moving and memorable experience. Patriots Point Naval Maritime Museum has on display the Aircraft Carrier, USS Yorktown CV 10, Destroyer, USS Laffey DD 724 Please note that the Laffey is the last surviving Sumner Class (Evans) destroyer, Coast Guard Cutter, Ingham and the Submarine, Clamagore. The collection of ships, vintage aircrafts and the Congressional Medal of Honor museum will provide educational and entertaining experiences for everyone. The beautiful, historical city of Charleston is across the bridge from the hotel where there are numerous sites to see, interesting places to visit such as Fort Sumter, wonderful sea food and plenty of shopping.

If you have not made your reservations it isn't too late. It is important that you make your room reservations early. The hotel has blocked rooms only until August 1st, however, the availability of king size beds is limited and subject to first come availability. When making your reservation make sure you mention USS Frank E. Evans reunion. Call 1-800-290-4004 Holiday Inn at Patriots Point today. If you decide to come early or stay after the reunion the \$ 99.00 room rate will apply.

This year we are offering you an incentive to get your reservation form and payment in early. If you send your completed **registration form with payment for your meals and registration fee** prior to July 1st you will receive **2 chances** at winning a free night stay at the Holiday Inn in Mt. Pleasant. For those that have already sent in their registration form (meals and registration fees) prior to June 1 they will receive **5 chances** at the drawing. Your tickets will be added to your registration packet and provided to you upon your arrival at the Holiday Inn. Drawings will be held on Thursday and Friday evenings for the members who submitted their registration form prior to June 1st and July 1st.

GENERAL GRANBURY'S BIRTHDAY

By Steve Kraus SM2 1969

Each year the City of Granbury celebrates and dedicates a weekend of events to celebrate their founder General Granbury. This year was no different however who would guess that several members of the Association would be in town to help with the festivities...Tommy and Leslie Anthony were quick to answer the call to bring the banner down to Granbury so we could march in the General Granbury Parade.

The banner listing our "Lost 74" was carried in the parade. It was heart warming to see the crowd cheering and showing their respect for our fallen shipmates.

It was a special day, spending time together, shopping, eating, and drinking (a few people stopped occasionally for a beer or two). In the evening the group attended the Granbury Live Theater to see the "Class of 57" production.



Left to Right; Steve Kraus, Frank Jablonski, Joe Bob Mann, Tommy Anthony, & Pete Peters

“Lest We Forget”

The USS Frank E Evans Association needs your help. We are attempting to produce two books. Both will be patterned after the book “Only 317 Survived,” which is about the USS Indianapolis (CA-35).

1. “The 278 Men of the USS Frank E Evans (DD-754) - 3 June 1969”
2. “The Ultimate Cruise - USS Frank E Evans (DD-754) 1945 - 1969”

These books will be about you, the crew members. Our aim, at a minimum, is to have the name of every sailor who ever sailed with the USS Frank E Evans (DD-754). Ideally, your photo will be there too, then and now, complete with your story. That’s where you and your relatives come in. We need your help, as well as theirs too.

We need you to provide the photos and the stories, your recollections, remembrances, mini-biography. We are also interested in photos of our ship, you, and crew members complete with location and names. If you have deck logs, war diaries, maps, etc., we can use them too.

Our Historian, Frank Jablonski is responsible for this task. Please send your items to him electronically, as JPG files: fjab333@earthlink.net or.....

Mail hard copies by USPS to 4027 Waterbridge Circle, Port Orange, FL 32129.

It is strongly suggested that you do not send original items, but if you do, we will guard them with our lives. All original hard copies will be returned to you immediately after Frank scans them into his computer.

WE NEED THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION AND PHOTOS, THEN AND NOW:

Name, Rate, Rank, Division, Years on Board
Date of Birth
Place of Birth
Eye Color
Hair Color
Place of entry
Date of entry
Boot Camp Attended
College Attended/Graduated
Time on Evans, Experience on Evans, Story, Bio, Anecdote

Mail to:

**Frank Jablonski
4027 Waterbridge Circle
Port Orange, FL 32129**

Don’t Trend On Me -

The Secretary of the Navy Gordon R. England has ordered all U. S. Navy ships to fly the First Navy Jack in place of the Union Jack for the duration of the Global War on Terrorism. In a memorandum to all ships and stations, England explained, "The temporary substitution of this Jack represents a historic reminder of the nation's and Navy's origin and will to preserve and triumph."



Survivors Honor “Lost 74” - Memorial Day 2008

By Steve Kraus SM2 1969

Members of USS FRANK E EVANS DD 754 survivors group met on Memorial Day May 26, 2008 at Green Hills Memorial Park in Rancho Palos Verde, California to honor our “Lost 74” as well as all veterans. Each year the Green Hills Park presents a spectacular program dedicated to remember and honor all military fallen heroes.

For the last five years USS FRANK E. EVANS DD 754 survivors have been invited to participate in the ceremony by being in the veteran’s honor guard. Duane “Butterball” Conley MM3 1965 -69 and Steve Kraus SM2 1969 this year carried the banner with our “Lost 74” Names in the parade. In the crowd Mary Manley and Donna Kraus cheered on with the other one thousand attendees.

It was an interesting to hear the guest speaker, Captain Charlie Plump USN speak to the group about his 2,103 days as a Prisoner of War during Vietnam. Captain Plumb flew “74” successful combat missions over North Vietnam. He was shot down on his 75th mission, with only five days before he was to return home.

It was mentioned by the master of ceremonies that the number “74” had a very special and significant meaning at today’s memorial ceremony. The banner of our “Lost 74” and Captain Plumb’s 74 successful missions brought extra importance to this Memorial Day ceremony.

The moving Vietnam Wall was on exhibit and surrounded the greatest part of where the entire ceremony was held. So, Butterball and Steve took the opportunity to at least place our “Lost 74” names on the wall for at least one day.



THINKING ABOUT GOING TO THE MEMORIAL CEREMONY IN AUSTRALIA 2009?

Plans are still underway for the Memorial Ceremony in Ipswich Queensland on June 3 2009. Many of you have asked about how you should make your plans early. We have contacted several travel agencies regarding the best way our Association Members can make advanced plans for 2009. For the most part travel agencies were unable to obtain firm pricing however one travel group “EF Customized Tours” put together a 17 day tour that encompasses both New Zealand and Australia. EF is primarily a customized tour company that works with schools and other educational groups. The pricing provided was only an estimate however EF anticipates that final costs for this tour will not change significantly.

FE Custom Tour & Highlight Details

STOPS	DAYS	Comprehensive Tours	Entrances to Sites
Rotorua	2	Waitomo Caves	Waitomo Caves
Auckland	1	Rotorua	Maori Cultural Center
Sydney	2	Sydney	Whaka Geothermal Area
Coff’s Harbour	1	Koorana Crocodile Farms	Skyline Gondola
Brisbane	3		Jade Factory
Fraser Island	2		Sydney Harbor Cruise
Rockhampton	1		Sydney Opera House
Whitsunday	2		Sydney Tower
Cairns	3		Opal Factory

Included in the program fee:

- Round Trip fee
- Transfers to & from airport and hotel and between destination cities
- Overnight stays in first-class, superior tourist class hotels (all with private bathrooms)
- Continental breakfast daily
- Dinner, days 3, 7-9, 12, 14-17, 18
- Full-time services of an EF Tour Director

Estimate for *Association Trip, Australia & New Zealand* : 20 Days, 17 Overnights
 Requested departure date: Monday, May 25, 2009
 Requested return date: Saturday, June 13, 2009
 Requested departure city: Los Angeles, CA (5 gateways available)

Program Fee Estimate*
 Based on 30 + paying participants \$ 5,000 -5,100 per person
 Based on 20 -29 paying participants \$ 5,125 -5,300 per person
 Based on 10 -19 paying participants \$ 5,600-6,200 per person

Additional Fees

Lifetime Membership Fee: \$95, Departure Fees (*subject to change*): \$412, Weekend Supplement \$35, Adult Supplement (*for participants 23 and over*): \$565

The costs for this program are extremely reasonable in comparison to other agencies contacted. Also this company will allow a monthly payment plan so the entire amount is not due at any one time. If you are interested in this plan please contact Sara Kitaeff @ 1-800-665-5364. The name of the company is EF Customized Tours, make sure you mention USS Frank E Evans Association trip Tour # 477006.

Flight Centre

The second company that provided us valuable information is Flight Centre. This is an Australia owned company that has offices world wide. Our contact is Amy Hansmann. She too was unable to get a fixed price since prices were not available. Amy indicated that Flight Centre has agreements with Quanta’s and American Airlines and that sometimes they offer specials to Flight Centre that are not offered to other company’s. Amy indicated that Flight Centre would be able to work with our membership on an individual basis for a total package if needed. The following is an estimated air price for planning purposes only:

Cost for Flights Only

Trip # 1, 10 days	
Los Angeles - Sydney to Melbourne (Ground)	
Melbourne – Sydney –Los Angeles (air)	\$ 1,132.00 per person
Trip # 2 30 days	
Chicago – Sydney-Los Angeles	\$ 1, 389.00 per person
Trip # 3 30 days (Various Stops)	
LA – Honolulu (stay 2 nights)	
Honolulu – Sydney (stay 2 days)	
Sydney – Melbourne (on own)	
Sidney – Auckland (stay 5 days)	
Auckland –Tahiti (stay 2 days)	
Tahiti – Los Angeles	\$ 2, 260.00 per person

Amy indicated that even though prices are not fixed she would like to hear from any members that are at the least interested. She can perform **full scale travel services**, which includes; hotels, autos, tours and any other items that maybe required. Amy can be reached at 312-346-6002. Her office is located at 22 East Madison Street, Chicago, IL 60602. Amy’s e-mail is amy_hansmann.il@flightcentre.us

June 3, 2008 – Long Beach Navy Memorial

By Steve Kraus SM2

Each year shipmates, family and friends gather at the Long Beach Navy Memorial located in Long Beach, California to honor and remember the USS Frank E. Evans (DD-754) "Lost 74".

Special guests at this year's celebration were Dale and Margie Brandon, brother & sister-in-law of Ensign Robert G. Brandon, one of our fallen 74. Dale and Margie were located just one week prior to the June 3, 2008 ceremony. Dale & Margie indicated that they were so happy to have made contact with the Association and the shipmates that served on board with Dale's brother. They also said that they were excited about the goals and objectives of the Association to locate all relatives of the "Lost 74", put memorials in the states for the "Lost 74" and to search endlessly to locate all former shipmates.

Pete Peters (Survivor Relations Director) was master of ceremonies for this year's memorial. The program included information about the collision, several poems that had been written after the collision, the reading of the "Lost 74" names and ringing of the bell, a Coast Guard Helicopter Fly-by, dropping of 74 carnations into the Long Beach Harbor, a 21 gun salute, laying of the wreath and a closing touching tribute of taps.



Following the memorial ceremony several of the attendees joined forces and went to lunch at Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Restaurant just a short distance away. The time was taken to inform the restaurant servers what they would be up against the next few hours and we commenced to celebrate in true USS Frank E. Evans style. Stories were told, glasses were raised in remembrance of our fallen ship mates.

What Is A Veteran?

Provided by .J. C. Campbell FN 1952-53

A veteran is someone who, at one point in his life, wrote a blank check made payable to 'The United States of America, for an amount of up to and including my life. That is honor, and there are way too many people in this country who no longer understand it.

Thank a Veteran / Thank a Teacher

Article provided by Charles Huber QM2 1963-66

Back in September of 2005, on the first day of school, Martha Cothren, a social studies school teacher at Robinson High School in Little Rock Arkansas did something not to be forgotten. On the first day of school, with the permission of the school superintendent, the principal and the building supervisor, she removed all of the desks out of her classroom.

When the first period kids entered the room they discovered that there were no desks. Looking around, confused, they asked, "Ms. Cothren, where're our desks?" She replied, "You can't have a desk until you tell me what you have done to earn the right to sit at a desk."

They thought, "Well, maybe it's our grades." "No," she said, "Maybe it's our behavior? She told them, "No, it's not even your behavior". And so, they came and went, the first period, second period, third period; still no desks in the classroom. By early afternoon television news crews had started gathering in Ms. Cothren's classroom to report about this crazy teacher who had taken all the desks out of her room.

The final period of the day came an as the puzzled students found seats on the floor of the desk less classroom, Martha Cothren said, "Throughout the day no one has been able to tell me just what he/she has done to earn the right to sit at desks that are ordinarily found in this classroom. Now I am going to tell you."

At this point, Martha Cothren went over to the door of her classroom and opened it. Twenty-seven (27) U.S. Veteran's, all in uniforms, walked into that classroom, each one carrying a school desk.

The Vets began placing the school desks in rows, and then they would walk over and stand alongside the wall. By the time the last soldier had set the final desk in place those kids started to understand, perhaps for the first time in their lives, just how the right to sit at those desks had been earned. Martha said, "You didn't earn the right to sit at these desks. These heroes did it for you. They placed the desks here for you. Now, it's up to you to sit in them. It is your responsibility to learn, to be good students, to be good citizens. They paid the price so that you could have the freedom to get an education. Don't ever forget it."

This is a true story....If you can read this, thank a teacher. If you read it in English, thank a soldier.

Important Vet Info Whether Or Not You Plan To Live Forever...

Article provided by Rich Burke, FTGSN 1969

Each week The War Library receives calls from anguished family members trying to hurdle the VA maze to get burial information or benefits for a deceased veteran because they cannot find the vet's report of separation or other military documents. Whether or not you plan to live forever you **MUST** make arrangements for your death. It is both unfair and callous to frustrate family members who run into VA roadblocks because you failed to prepare.

Here Is What You Will Need.

Prepare an 8-by-12 envelope containing the following veteran-related information to be left on a shelf or in a drawer that can be easily found after your death:

- a. a photocopy of your DD-214 (or Report of Separation) and other important military-issued documents
- b. a photocopy of your Social Security card
- c. a photocopy of your driver's license
- d. the location of the nearest VA Service Office for burial assistance benefits
- e. a duplicate set of your military medals to be buried with you
- f. the address and phone number of your local newspaper(s) to post your obituary
- g. your military medal last will and testament naming the person you entrust your primary medal set
- h. the names and addresses of fellow veterans / organizations you want your survivors to notify
- i. cassette tapes in your voice with your most memorable military experiences. (These tapes will become monetarily valuable over time/generations; you can make your great-great-grandchildren rich.)

USS Frank E Evans (DD 754) Association Board of Directors Meeting Granbury, Texas, March 26, - 28 2008

The Association's Board of Directors conducted a three day meeting in Granbury Texas this year to discuss a variety of issues, upcoming events and planning for future reunions.

This year the Board voted unanimously to add Vondale (Dale) Mann and Jennifer Nichols to the USS Frank E Evans Board of Directors. Dale and Jennifer have volunteered in the past to do whatever needs to be done so they both are stepping up to help do what ever the Association needs to be done in their areas of expertise. Because of Dale's educational background and her command of the English language she will be an asset to the Board as well as her position as Communications Director.

Jennifer Nichols has attended past board meetings as a guest and often stepped forward to volunteer to do activities that her father was no longer able to do. Jennifer has years of experience with other Board of Directors and has already demonstrated her capabilities and leadership qualities. Welcome aboard Dale and Jennifer!



Board of Directors

J.C. Campbell (Board Chairman)
P.O. Box 164
Granbury, TX 76048

Sylvia Campbell
P.O. Box 164
Granbury, TX 76048

Frank Jablonski
4027 Waterbridge Circle
386-322-5523

Steve Kraus
4587 Blackwell Rd.
Oceanside, CA 92056
760-941-8184

Dale Mann
201 West 14th
Friona, TX 79039
806-250-3869

H.G. Nichols
P.O. Box 306
Frankston, TX 75763
903-876-2413

Jennifer Nichols
3710 Holland Ave. # 4
Dallas, TX 75219
214-499-5236

Pete Peters
2715 Armour Lane
Redondo Beach, CA
310-542-3609

Sharon Shirack
P. O Box 348
Drake, CO 80828
970-635-0828

If you should have any issues, questions or concerns, please contact any board member.

Welcome to New Members

Since our last newsletter we welcome the following new members who have joined the Association:

Jess F. Kraus

Brother of Steve Kraus

Carlsbad, CA

Jennifer Moore

Niece of Steve Kraus

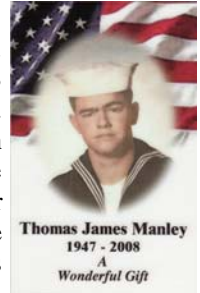
St Charles, IL

IN MEMORIAM

SHIPMATES:

Thomas J Manley BT3 1967-1969 Long Beach, CA Feb. 9, 2008

Thomas James Manley died unexpectedly at his home in Long Beach California on February 9, 2008. Tom was born on November 29, 1947. He enlisted in the Navy in 1967 and served on board USS FRANK E EVANS DD 754 from 1967 – 69. After Tom's naval service he married Mary Essington. Mary and Tom had 2 children, Christopher and Jennifer. Tom and Mary worked with the Association to lobby congress to pass a bill to force the Department of Defense to add the 74 names to the Vietnam National Memorial in Washington, DC. Tom was also active in organizing parades and other special events that promoted honoring and remembering the "Lost 74". Tom was dedicated to the cause and Mary has vowed to continue the action by assuming the position with in the Association as Public Relations Director.



Ned "Pete" Duhe SC3 1945-1946 Garyville, LA May 22, 2008

Ned "Pete" Duhe grew up in Garyville, LA and never strayed far from home except during his time in the Navy. Pete reported on board USS FRANK E. EVANS DD 754 on 3 Feb, 1945 commissioning day. Because he was part of the first crew he was a plank owner. Pete died at age 81 on May 22, 2008. His friends and extensive family were by his side. Relatives and friends of the family attended the funeral on May 26, 2008 and Pete was set to rest in St. Peter Cemetery, Reserve. Association member Jerry Kraus attended representing the Association.

Remembering Pete Duhe

In 1946 when Pete was mustering out of the Navy in New Orleans, there was the mandatory lecture, movie about joining the reserves, a real gung-ho thing. Pete got all excited and was truly thinking about signing up, but his first priority for now was to get the hell out of the Navy. He was at the naval station for a few days and wanted to make sure he didn't screw up, which would delay his exit.

One day, over the loud speaker, came this booming voice, "Pete Duhe, report to the ship's office". Oh my God, what did I do now thought Pete

The man there says, "So you want to join the reserves. Well I'm sorry to tell you, you're unfit." "Unfit, why" asked Pete?" "Your eyes." "My eyes? I just finished 16 months overseas fightin' them Japs! My eyes?"

Pete was told to go down to the reserve office after he was discharged and they would probably take him down there. Pete never followed through. Imagine, his eyes!

FAMILY & FRIENDS

Barbara Scott Friend of the USS Frank E. Evans Association Newcomerstown, OH May 7. 31, 2008

For those that attended the last reunion in Excelsior Springs you will remember that Vane, Barbara and their daughter Gale presented the "Many Faces of Old Glory" program at our Saturday evening celebration. Shortly after returning home, Barbara became sick, had extensive surgery and never really fully recovered. Our deepest sympathy goes out to the Scott family and as always we wish them the best always and want them to know that the USS Frank E. Evans Association is truly your friends.

Sick Bay

Russell O Carver BT3 1953-54

We received notice from his wife Evelyn that Russ was hospitalized on April 2, 2008 with a severe case of colitis and pneumonia. On May 6th Russ was moved to a skilled care unit where they continue to build his strength back up. Please say an extra prayer for him and for Evelyn during this stressful time.