

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



Newsletter 72
1st Quarter
2019

www.ussfee.org

Foot Locker Talk - Newsletter

AHOY SHIPMATES, FAMILY & FRIENDS

Make all preparations for getting underway! The 50th Remembrance (Reunion) is rapidly approaching. If you haven't made your reservations yet and need a packet contact Donna Kraus krausdfm@gmail.com. The longer you wait the possibility of stateroom availability dwindles. We will have a very large group gathering to honor the sacrifice of our 74 Shipmates. We will have many from Australia, other ships that were on station on June 3, 1969, shipmates, family members of the lost and maybe even a mother or two. We expect this to be the largest gathering ever. Survivor Bill Thibeault will be singing his way to and from the 50th. He is rolling out his first album soon and is using the drive to California as an opportunity to gather exposure to our cause. Check out his site at www.billthibeault.com and catch his show.

We had hoped to dedicate the California Memorial Stone in Fort Ord prior to this 50th Remembrance. As of this newsletter Sharon Shirack has not received the final approval. Should we get approval soon we are targeting the weekend prior to Memorial Day for dedication. We will keep you posted.

While this nation continues to refuse to honor our Lost 74 with a place on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (the wall) our fight continues. Senators Toomey (PA) and Schumer (NY) are making plans to introduce a stand-alone bipartisan bill forcing the DOD to place the Lost 74 names on the Wall. We are sure a companion bill will also be introduced in the House.

We hope you will join us in Long Beach to reminisce about the good old days. Best Wishes and smooth sailing



Steve Kraus, Association President
Dell Francis, Association Vice President

FROM OUR CHAPLAIN

By His Grace
Chaplain Al Collins

Thanksgiving and Christmas have past. May your new year, 2019, be filled with understanding the bounties of Thanksgiving and the wisdom to know why our Christmas blessings prevail.

Our reason for Thanksgiving is found in God, because it honors God. When we are thankful, we recognize that God exists, and we are acting on the reality of His life as the very source of our lives. True thankfulness recognizes our total dependence on God and gives us an awareness that everything going on in our lives and all we have is from God's sovereign control, infinite wisdom, purposes, grace, and activity in our midst. (2 Corinthians . 4:15)

During Christmas we celebrate the birth of our Savior, Lord and Christ. He is, our deliverer, master and anointed king. Jesus' ministry shows us that His work reaches beyond earthly boundaries and across social nationalities. His birth has value because of whose birth it is.

The shepherds found that the angel's words were true, that events have transpired just as they had been told. God's word is coming to pass and his glorious plan is at work. So, break out in praise to God, because he has sent Jesus, the Savior, Lord and Christ. "Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3 NIV

Romans 8:28 addresses living by the power of the Spirit in the midst of suffering and pain. In this world we are continually confronted by war, disease, and all that is evil. "And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." Romans 8:28 NIV

My prayer is that you can see your life with thanksgiving and be joyous in the life given to us and overcome whatever, wherever, whenever! In God We Still Trust.

NEW MEMBERS

This is the first time in many, many newsletters where we did not have any new members to report. We challenge you to get at least one family member to join the association. If everyone would accept this challenge, look how much our association would grow. Contact Donna Kraus at krausdfm@gmail.com or 760-521-4700 for any required information

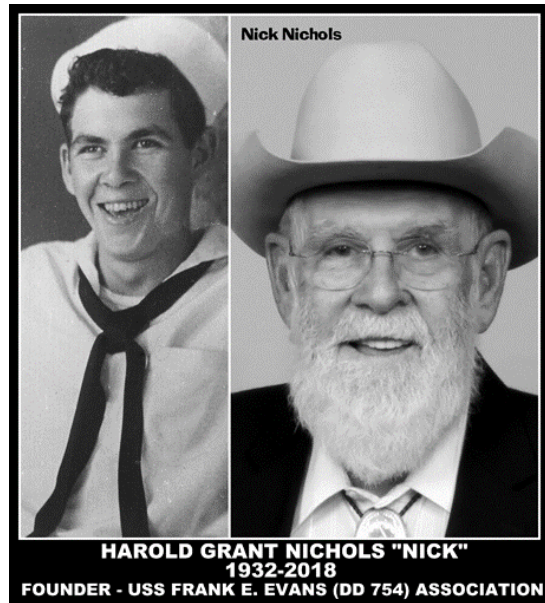
CHALLENGE — EVERYONE GETS 1 NEW MEMBER

HAROLD GRANT NICHOLS..."NICK"

Association Founder

Harold Grant Nichols was born on July 25, 1932, in LaRue, Texas, to Roy Gipson Nichols and Virginia Pearl (Gideon) Nichols. "Nick" passed peacefully at home in Tyler, Texas on November 27, 2018.

Nick joined the Navy at the young age of 17 and served our country during the Korean War as a Machinist Mate Third Class aboard USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) from 1950-1953. After returning from his service in the Navy, Nick met and married the love of his life, Billie Janet Purifoy of Hawkins, Texas, on December 4, 1954. They met when he was a lifeguard at Tyler State Park and they knew instantly that they would spend the rest of their lives together.



Nick and Billie shared a loving life, filled with hardships, adventures and lots of dancing. Each day had steady dose of teasing and laughter. One of the keys to Nick's longevity, in addition to having Billie by his side, was he lived every day with a positive and inquisitive mental attitude. He lived the Golden Rule and was one of the kindest and gentlest people you would ever meet.

As a member of First Baptist Church of Frankston, a Master Mason of the William Foster Lodge, a former Frankston ISD School Board member, former volunteer fireman and coach to his children's sports teams, Nick was always giving back to the community he loved.

In addition to his parents, Nick was preceded in death by his son, Roderick Nichols. He is survived by his loving family including wife, Billie Nichols; sister, Betty Jo Boles; son, Eric and wife Martha Nichols, daughters, Jennifer and Stacey Nichols.

The many job opportunities Nick undertook in his career spurred him to earn an AA degree attending classes at night at Kilgore College. He never met a problem he wasn't interested in solving.

The USS Frank E. Evans Association was literally started by Nick. In the late 80's and early 90's he reached out to fellow shipmates and encouraged them to formulate a bond by meeting up to "Drink Beer, Tell Stories and Remember the Good Ole Days." In the Ode it says, "At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them..." We certainly will never forget Nick Nichols. **Once a shipmate always a shipmate.**

In Memoriam

Eternal Father, strong to save, Whose arm hath bound the restless wave, Who biddest the mighty ocean deep Its own appointed limits keep; Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee, For those in peril on the sea!

BM2 James "Boats" Martenson passed away on 16 January 2019 in Buffalo Lake, MN. Boats had been in the hospital for the past five weeks fighting Pneumonia. Boats came onboard USS Frank E. Evans on 14 February 1965 and remained until 1967. He was a long-term association member and attended many reunions. He was cremated and then a memorial ceremony with honor guard was conducted. RIP, Boats, you fought the good fight.



Captain J. P. Stevenson AM. RAN. RTD of Sidney NSW passed away on 29 January 2019. J. P. Stevenson was captain of HMAS Melbourne (R 21) the Royal Australian Navy's flagship at the time of the collision. Stevenson, known by his crew as "The Skipper," passed away with his family by his side. He was 98. The Skipper's services were held on 15 February 2019 with full military honors at the Chapel at Garden Island in Sydney, Australia.



BT3 James 'Jim' Henry Burnett, of Jonesboro AK, passed away at his residence on Friday, 7 September 2018 he was 84. He served in the Navy for 4 years, reporting on board USS Frank E. Evans on 29 August 1950. He was only able to attend one reunion, however he was a loyal member for over 20 years. After the Navy, James joined the Air Force where he spent the next 20 years.



SF1 Gerald "Jerry" Yourczek, of Angora, MN passed away Saturday, 26 January, 2019. He was 92. He spent 25 years serving his country. He came onboard Evans on 10 March 1961 until 1962. He served as Chief Recruiter for the Navy in St. Cloud, MN before retiring. Gerald and his wife Wendy and family settled down on a farm in Angora, MN.

IN MEMORIAM SHIPMATES

NAME	RANK	SERVICE	CITY/STATE	DECEASED
Robert Bacher	SN	50-51	McComb, MS	20 June 2011
Eddie Lee Knight	QMSN	51-54	Memphis, TN	22 Mar 2009
Darrell Simpson	MM3	50-54	Phoenix, A Z	3 May 2015

IN MEMORIAM RELATIVES

NAME	DECEASED	Relationship
Terry Mason	24 Jan 2019	Brother of Survivor Bob Mason

Meet USS KIDD'S Executive Officer

By Rich Alverdes

CDR Nathan S. Wemett is a native of Fair Field, California. He enlisted as a Hospital Corpsman in 1993 and was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program in 1999. He attended the University of Washington where he graduated and received his commission in 2001. His first tour of duty was aboard **USS LEYTE GULF (CG-55)**, as Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer and later, the Training Officer. In 2004, he reported to tours ashore including a staff tour at Commander, Pacific Fleet, He later was assigned to **USS BOXER (LHD 4)** where he served as training Officer. In 2009, CDR Wemett reported to **USS SAMPSON (DDG-102)** and served as the Operations Officer. He was then selected for Early Command and assigned to MCM Crew PERSISTENT. Upon completion of Executive Officer and Commanding Officer tours with CREW PERSISTENT, he served a follow on Early Command tour as the Commanding Officer of IA MCM Crew Olympian.



USS KIDD's Deployment

In conversations with CDR Matthew McNealy, current Captain, the ship has been undergoing training exercises for their next upcoming deployment, which should start sometime in early May 2019.

ALREADY SIGNED UP FOR THE 50TH AND WANT TO TAKE IN OTHER ATTRACTIONS:

For those who have decided to come early or stay after June 3rd you might want to see the sites of Los Angeles. If you are interested in an 8-hour tour that takes in all the main attractions and sightseeing of Los Angeles, Hollywood, Beverly Hills and Venice Beach, Sunseeker Tours offers such a tour by picking you up directly from the Queen Mary.

Sunseeker Tours can also arrange transportation for you to any of the main park attractions such as Disneyland and Knotts Berry Farm. Sunseeker Tours recommends you wait until you get to the Parks to purchase your Tickets. Too often certain offerings made over the internet may not be as advertised and visitors find their admission tickets invalid. Contact Sean Shans at Sunseeker Tours and don't forget to mention our PROMO CODE USS for a \$10 per person discount on all tours. For more details visit Sunseeker at: www.sunseekertours.com They are prepared to assist you or call (877)416-5460 or email Sean at sean@sunseekertours.com

AGENT ORANGE UPDATE

By CDR Wells, Military-Veterans Advocacy

The US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in an 8-3 decision ruled against the VA saying: "without any doubts, that Congress unambiguously referred, consistent with uniform international law, as serving in the Republic of Vietnam (the War Zone) as to meaning both its landmass and its 12 nautical mile territorial seas". So, the good news is we no longer need to have "Boots on the Ground" but we need to show that we were in the territorial seas of Vietnam, and that we have any of the known diseases associated with Agent Orange. Our Deck Logs prove we were there. Our Frank E. Evans Cruise Books show we were there. Your DD214 states you were there by showing you earned the Vietnam Service Medal.

I need to emphasize that the decision is not quite final. The court will have to issue what is called a mandate and we expect to receive that within a couple of weeks. In order to do that, they will need the approval of the Secretary, who is an attorney, and who is an intelligent man. When I met with him in December I felt that he understood the issue well. He did not say this, but he understood that there was significant scientific proof in support of our position.

Will the VA appeal? First of all they cannot appeal as there is no appeal as a matter of right from a decision by a federal Court of Appeals. What they can do is file a petition for certiorari with the Supreme Court of the United States. In order to do that, they will need the approval of the Secretary, who is an attorney, and who is an intelligent man. When I met with him in December I felt that he understood the issue well. Although he did not say it, he understood there was significant scientific proof in support of our position.

If the Secretary okays a petition it then has to go to the Solicitor General for review. Even if the Solicitor General approves it, which I doubt, four Justices have to vote to grant certiorari. This means a decision to the case. The Supreme Court grants certiorari for about 1% of the petitions filed. If the SCOTUS does grant certiorari, we feel fairly confident that we will prevail.

IMPORTANT: What you need to do now is this: IF you have filed a claim for presumptive exposure to Agent Orange and it is still active, you need to file (If you have not done so) a notice of disagreement if you have been denied. IF you have not filed a claim, you need to do so now.

Contact your local American Legion, VFW, or your lawyer who is knowledgeable in VA Claims for any help or assistance you need. As important, if your Vietnam Vet has died, you can still file a claim as the dependent. That is your right as well.

Do we still need HR 299? YES! HR 299 is first the backup plan. Second it covers some Thailand spina bifida dependents and some Korea DMZ vets because they are not in the scope of the Procopio ruling. Additionally, HR 299 has the look back requirement to reopen previously denied claims, Procopio does not.

PTSD APP FOR YOUR PHONE

PTSD Coach was designed for those who have, or may have, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD). This app provides you with education about PTSD, information about professional care, a self-assessment for PTSD, opportunities to find support, and tools that can help you manage the stresses of daily life with PTSD. Tools range from relaxation skills and positive self-talk to anger management and other common self-help strategies. You can customize tools based on your preferences and can integrate your own contacts, photos, and music. This app can be used by people who are in treatment as well as those who are not.

PTSD Coach was created by VA's National Center for PTSD and DoD's National Center for Telehealth & Technology. It is simple to download. From your phone go to the App Store and search PTSD Coach, it will be one of the first items, it was created by the Department of Defense, follow the instructions.

VA Video Connect Expands Veterans' Access to Health Care

More and more Veterans are receiving health-care treatment virtually, thanks to efforts by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to expand telehealth.

One of the recent successes has been with VA Video Connect, which allows Veterans to connect with their health-care teams over live video from a computer, tablet or smart phone from the comfort of their homes, thereby increasing their access to VA health care and reducing travel times.

To learn more about VA Video Connect, visit the VA App Store at: mobile.va.gov/appstore (<https://mobile.va.gov/appstore>)

VA and U.S. Digital Service Launch New Web Tool to Help Veterans Track their Benefits Appeals

The tool, which went live March 21 on VA's [Vets.gov website](https://www.vets.gov) (<https://www.vets.gov/?next=%2Ftrack-claims>), will allow Veterans to access detailed information about the status of their benefits appeals and will include alerts about needed actions, as well as estimates of how long each step of the process takes.

Deck Log from USS Noa DD 841 which relieved us on May 15, 1969. This can be of use to prove you were in the combat zone.

NAVPER 3100/2 (1-66)
(Formerly NAVPER 719)

DECK LOG--REMARKS SHEET

S/N-0105-404-1560

USS NOA (DD-841) ZONE DESCRIPTION -8H DATE THURSDAY 15 MAY 19 69
(Day) (Date) (Month)

AT/PASSAGE FROM II CORP AREA OFF PHAN THIEP TO T CORP AREA

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
0800		
L _____	BY _____	
λ _____	BY _____	

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
1200		
L _____	BY _____	
λ _____	BY _____	

POSITION	ZONE	TIME
2000		
L _____	BY _____	
λ _____	BY _____	

LEGEND: 1-CELESTIAL
2-ELECTRONIC
3-VISUAL
4-D. R.

REMARKS

06-03 STEAMING INDEPENDENTLY OFF THE COAST OF SOUTH VIETNAM ENROUTE TO RENDEVOUS WITH USS EVANS (DD-754) IN THE T CORPS AREA TO PROVIDE NGES AS UNIT OF TU 70.8.9 IN ACCORDANCE WITH COMSEVENTHFLT QUARTERLY EMPLOYMENT SCHEDULE MATERIAL CONDITION YORE AND CONDITION OF READINESS IF ARE SET IMMEDIATE SENIOR IS COMDESRON 14 EMBARKED IN USS MULLINIX (DD-944). OTC IS COMMANDING OFFICER USS NOA (DD-841). COURSE 352°T SPEED 13 KTS. 0107 C/C TO 326°T 0143 C/S TO 12 KTS 0158 C/C TO 330°T 0214 C/C TO 326°T.

T. A. Withey
T. A. WITHEY, LTJG, USN

03-06 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE 0300 C/C TO 270°T 0305 C/S TO 11 KTS 0335 C/C TO 260°T 0340 C/C TO 240°T 0400 C/C TO 230°T 0445 C/C TO 260°T 0455 C/C TO 280°T 0503 C/S TO 16 KTS 0514 C/C TO 295°T 0515 C/C TO 300°T 0515 C/S TO 12 KTS 0535 MANUEVERING AT VARIOUS COURSES AND SPEEDS WHILE RENDEVOUSING WITH USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754)

R. M. Keating
R. M. KEATING, LTJG, USN

06-09 UNDERWAY AS BEFORE. 0610 ALL ENGINES STOPPED. 0611 ANCHORED IN 9 FATHOMS OF WATER WITH 35 FATHOMS OF CHAIN TO THE PORT ANCHOR IN MUD AND ROCK BOTTOM. ANCHOR BEARINGS: RIGHT TANGENT OF HON TAI ISLAND BEARS 000°T, RANGE TO HON TAI ISLAND IS 8.1 MILES. SHIPS PRESENT INCLUDE THE USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754), 300 YARDS ON THE STARBOARD BEAM AND VARIOUS UNITS OF AMPHIBIOUS TASK GROUP 76.4. 0835 EVANS WEIGHED ANCHOR AND DEPARTED THE AREA.

G. H. Flynn
G. H. FLYNN, LTJG, USNR

09-12 ANCHORED AS BEFORE

F. R. Grause
F. R. GRAUSE, LT, USN

Bill Thibeault Recognition Tour

Bill Thibeault is on a mission. He's a Vietnam Veteran and survivor of the worst naval disaster of the Vietnam War. He lost 74 of his shipmates when his ship USS Frank E. Evans collided with the Australian aircraft carrier HMAS Melbourne on June 3, 1969. At about 3:15 am the Evans accidentally crossed the bow of the carrier and was sliced in two, with the front half sinking in 3 minutes.

This year will mark the 50th Anniversary of the sinking and Thibeault will be attending the 50th Anniversary Gathering and Memorial Ceremony in Long Beach, CA on May 31 - June 3. Even though they were in the Vietnam War, the 74 names are not on the Vietnam Wall because the collision happened outside the combat zone. In 2018 Congress passed an amendment to the National Defense Authorization Act to get the names on the Wall but it did not pass in the Senate.

Hearing this news frustrated Thibeault, and being a singer/songwriter, he wrote a song in July 2018 called "Recognition" about the Evans and the lost 74.

His tour will be called The Recognition Tour and will include appearances in Mayville NY, Butler PA, South Bend IN, Waterloo IA, Omaha NE, Denver CO, Las Vegas NV, Long Beach CA, Phoenix AZ, Albuquerque, NM, Sulphur Springs TX, Branson MO, Nashville TN, Macon GA and other locations to be determined.

He has just released "Recognition" on an album of the same name and will be traveling across America May 11 - June 28 singing his song to honor and raise awareness of his lost shipmates.

CONTACT

Bill Thibeault
Norwich, CT
860-373-5341

bill.thibeault@yahoo.com
www.billthibeault.com
<https://store.cdbaby.com/cd/billthibeault2>

BILL IS WILLING TO MAKE A STOP IN YOUR TOWN ON HIS WAY TO THE 50TH, CONTACT BILL AND LET HIM KNOW YOU ARE INTERESTED

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

Every December, Wreaths Across America places wreaths on the graves at National Cemeteries across the country. Why? There is Veterans Day in the fall and Memorial Day in the spring, but our service members, preserve our freedoms, sacrifice their time and safety every single day of the year.

In the photo: Carol Preston Coulter at Chestnut Grove Cemetery, Herndon, VA. "Bill & I placed wreaths for my brothers YN2 Earl Preston (one of the Lost 74 and Carol's twin) and Doug (USS Kearsarge,) and my father (Earl Preston, USS Harveson.). It was pouring rain, but there was a massive turnout!!!



Many homes, have an empty seat for one who is serving or one who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country. There is no better time to express our appreciation than during the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season. More than 1,400 participating locations showed our veterans and their families that we have not forgotten... We will never forget! This year, a staggering 1.75 million wreaths were shipped to 1,640 locations that held ceremonies across the U.S.

AN AWESOME DAY



Today was an awesome day, a wonderful VIP Brunch at Mission BBQ & boarding Air Force One! It was so special to enjoy a delicious brunch while watching our hosts at Mission BBQ in Chantilly, Fairfax County, VA, introduce World War II Vets to each other & listening to their conversations about the war days.

MISSION BBQ opened its doors for business on September 11, 2011, 10 years after our world changed forever. In some small way we wanted to change it back. As the founders of MISSION BBQ, we strive every day to remind everyone what makes Our Country great – its heroes. Who are we? Two friends passionate about BBQ, patriotic for Our Country, and who believe in running a business with meaning and purpose.

We believe there is nothing more American than BBQ. And nobody more American than the brave men and women who have sworn to protect and serve Our Communities and Our Country. We do what we do for the love of our soldiers, firefighters, police officers, first responders—all our loved ones in service.

At MISSION BBQ, we are Proudly Serving Those Who Serve.

Come help us complete Our Mission.

Bill Kraus & Steve Newton



BRAVO ZULU TO MISSION BBQ FROM THE USS FRANK E. EVANS ASSOCIATION. WE SALUTE MISSION BBQ FOR THEIR CONTINUED DEDICATION AND HONOR TO OUR VETRANS'S



USS FRANK E EVANS ASSOCIATION
2286 Morgan RD.
Carlsbad, CA 92008

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATION FOR THE 50TH REMEMBRANCE?

WHEN: MAY 31 TO JUNE 3 2019
WHERE: LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA
HOTEL: QUEEN MARY HOTEL
CONTACT: DONNA KRAUS (760-521-4700)

"LEST WE FORGET"

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