

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



FOOT LOCKER TALK-NEWSLETTER
NEWSLETTER # 74 - 3RD Quarter 2019

50TH GATHERING

31 MAY - 3 JUNE 2019

QUEEN MARY - LONG BEACH, CALIFORNIA

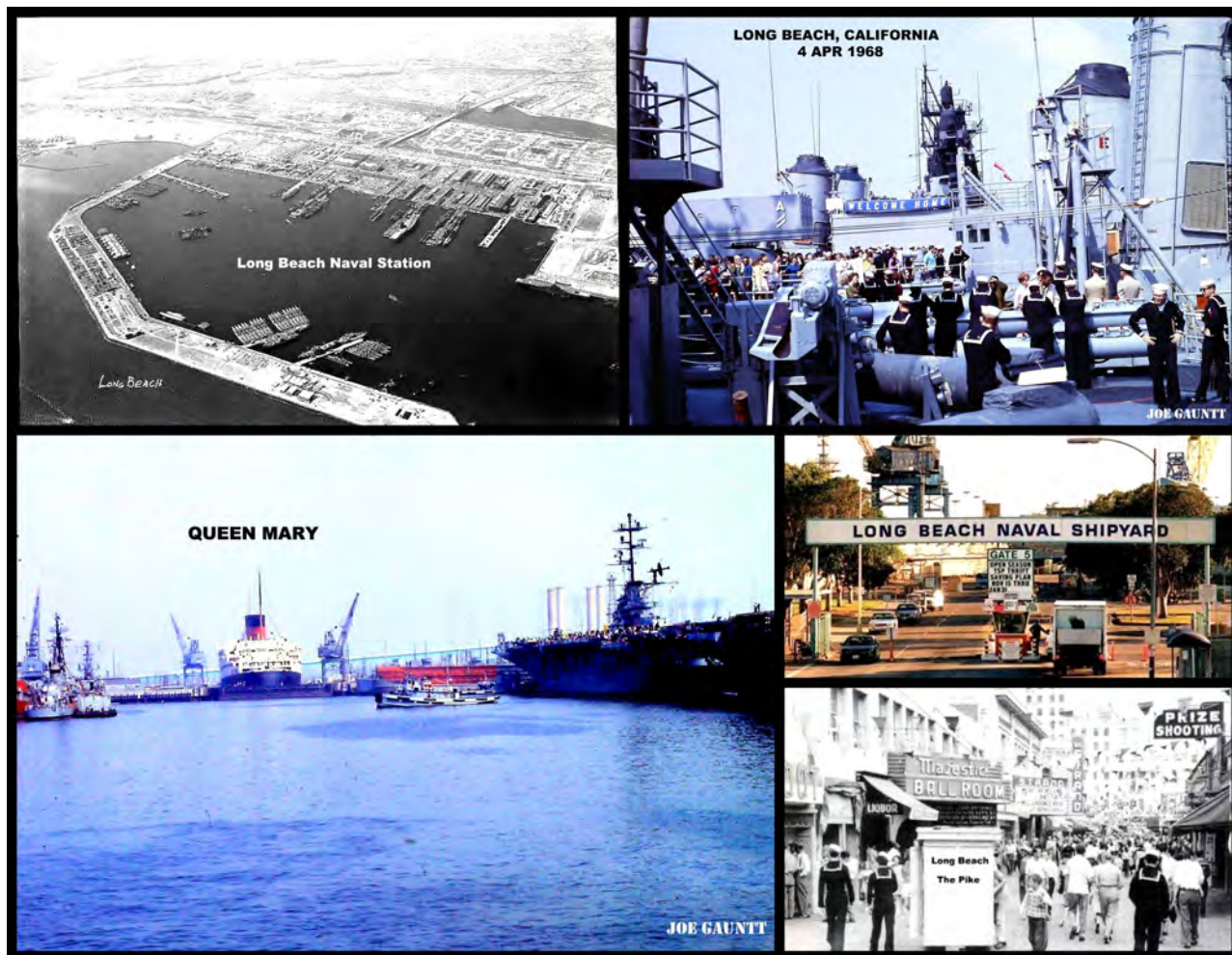


THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES

WE WILL ALWAYS HAVE LONG BEACH

It was only 25 years ago that Long Beach was home port for 120 ships and 45,000 Navy personnel. Sailors used to flood the city's waterfront, ducking into nostalgic places like the Cruiser or Midway Bars. Most sailors found themselves wandering through the Pike, with its roller coaster and tattoo parlors or maybe even meeting the girl of their dreams. We all have our special memories of Long Beach. After 50 year since the collision, this was our home coming.

Below, see the base as it was in the 1960's, The Queen Mary as it completed its very last cruise and was ushered into the dry dock for preparation of its new home port, USS FRANK E EVANS (DD 754) returns home from deployment and a variety of memorials of the old base and the pike.



LONG BEACH 2019

HMS Queen Mary became a museum and tourist attraction in 1969. Surrounding her is the Port of Long Beach, a massive port used for importing and exporting products from the West Coast of the United States. Still trying to find the pike, a sailor from the past (RD3 Del Francis) stumbles through Long Beach. The small picture of Navy Park (where our memorial to the Fallen 74 is erected) was taken by Gary Haulman from his drone. Right corner is a group getting ready to explore Long Beach.



Pub Crawl 2019 Malainey's Bar and Grill—Queen Mary Hospitality Room

What would a reunion be with out a pub crawl. Over 200 signed up for the crawl about 300 showed up. Malainey's Grill and Bar was at full capacity for this event. Besides a live band for dancing we had our very first Money Booth. Tickets were sold for a chance to enter the booth. 10 winners were selected and in all they took home about \$ 600.



And to all a good night!

ITS NEVER TOO LATE - MEDALS FOR 17 AUSTRALIAN HEROES

By Steve Kraus

In late March 2019 the USS Frank E. Evans Association received a query regarding 17 shipmates that were aboard HMAS MELBOURNE (R-21) on the dreadful morning of 3 June 1969. According to the communication it was believed they had been recommended for a Navy Commendation clear back in October 1970. However, they were never presented the medals because Australian law prohibited Australian Military personnel from wearing a foreign country's medal.

The Association's immediate response was that we knew several sailors aboard HMAS MELBOURNE (R-21) who had acted in a heroic manner during the recovery of USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754) Sailors, but we were unsure of their identities.

Upon further investigation we learned that 17 of HMAS MELBOURNE'S crew members had been recognized by the United State Navy and recommended for receipt of medals. Those recipients are:

Navy and Marine Corps Medal:

LEUT Robert Burns
AB Alan Evett
AB Patrick Richardson

Air Medal:

LCDR Leslie Powell
LCDR Des Rodgers
CMDR Geoffrey Vickeridge

Navy Commendation Medal:

EM Wayne Baldwin
OS Chris Harris
LCDR Colin Patterson
NA Ian Hartley
EM Kerry James
NA Robert Winston

AB Lewis Farkas
CMDR Errol Stevens
LEUT James Buchanan
CA Stanley Heares
LS Liam McDonald

The plan was to present the medals on 3 June 2019 in Sydney, Australia. However, it was determined that three of the recipients had made plans to attend the 50th Remembrance gathering in Long Beach, California. Plans went in motion to present the medals at one of the evening banquets, but it was important for this to be a complete surprise! It stretched our imaginations on how to pull off such a presentation.

The Association requested Commodore Gabriel Varela USN to be the keynote speaker at the 3 June evening banquet and to present the medals. To surprise the Australians, Commodore Varela began his speech with "Shipmates, Mr. Richardson, Mr. James, Mr. Winston, friends and family of the Frank E Evans Association. I am honored to be here with all of you today to remember the 74 Sailors who lost their lives 50 years ago today, and to specifically recognize the heroism of three men, who exhibited extreme bravery during the aftermath of this terrible accident."



ITS NEVER TOO LATE Continued

Commodore Varela went on to say "No matter what country's military you serve in and in what capacity, one of the very first thing you learn is that you are part of a team and the men and women in that team are a family and you are part of that family and it is your duty to protect that family. These 3 men are exemplified in a bible passage in Psalm 107: "They that go down to the sea in ships; That do business in great waters; They see the works of God and his wonders of the deep."

For the official presentations of the medals, Commodore Mathew L. Hudson, CSC, RAN and Association President Steve Kraus joined Commodore Varela on stage. (Commodore Hudson had presented a wreath during the morning memorial ceremony on behalf of Australia.)



Left to Right: Commodore Mathew L. Hudson RAN, Kerry James, Robert Winston, Patrick Richardson, Steve Kraus & Commodore Gabriel Varela

3 AWARDED NAVY AND MARINE CORP COMMENDATION MEDALS at
3 June 2019 Banquet.

CERTIFICATION THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA HAS AWARDED THE NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL TO ABLE SEAMAN QUARTERMASTER GUNNER PATRICK J. RICHARDSON.

This is to Certify that the President of the United States of America has awarded the NAVY AND MARINE CORPS MEDAL to Able Seaman Quartermaster Gunner Patrick J. Richardson, Royal Australian Navy for heroism on 3 June 1969. The citation reads:

For heroism on 3 June 1969 in connection with a collision involving HMAS MELBOURNE (R-21) and USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD-754) while engaged in a combined exercise in the South China Sea, resulting in the sinking of the forward half of the U.S. destroyer, and the evacuation of the after half.

Exercising exemplary initiative, Able Seaman Quartermaster Gunner Richardson led other Sailors from MELBOURNE to life rafts which they inflated and towed several hundred yards toward the forward section of EVANS. He personally assisted in bringing two U.S. Navy survivors to a life raft where he tended to them until he was able to summon aid from a passing cutter. By his cool courage and decisiveness in an emergency, Able Seaman Quartermaster Gunner Richardson reflected great credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of the Naval Service.



NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL
TO ENGINEERING MECHANIC KERRY R. JAMES, RAN



For meritorious achievement on 3 June 1969 in connection with a collision involving HMAS MELBOURNE (R-21) and USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) while engaged in a combined exercise in the South China Sea, resulting in the sinking of the forward half on the U.S. Destroyer and the after half, serving as auxiliary machinery watchkeeper aboard HMAS MELBOURNE. Engineering Mechanic James entered the water and assisted in freeing life rafts from MELBOURNE and in towing these rafts toward supervisors from the forward section of EVANS.

(Continued on next page)

3 AWARDED NAVY AND MARINE CORP COMMENDATION MEDALS at 3 June 2019 Banquet Continued

He personally assisted two U. S. survivors into rafts and tended to them until they were taken to MELBOURNE by a powerboat. By his courage and initiative, Engineering Mechanic James reflected credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of Naval Service.

Given this 10th Day of September 2018. Originally awarded on 19 October 1970 BY SECRETARY OF THE NAVY JOHN R. CHAFEE.

NAVY AND MARINE CORPS COMMENDATION MEDAL TO NAVAL AIRMAN AIRCRAFT HANDLER Robert W. WINSTON, RAN

For meritorious achievement on 3 June 1969 in connection with a collision involving HMAS MELBOURNE (R-21) and USS FRANK E, EVANS (DD 754) while engaged in a combined exercise in the South China Sea, resulting in the sinking of the forward half on the U.S. Destroyer and the after half, serving with flight deck handling team two aboard HMAS MELBOURNE. Naval Aircraft handler Winston was the second man to board the stern section of EVANS.



He assisted in the movement of U.S. Navy personnel to the fantail, and helped in the preparation of their transfer to MELBOURNE. He also conducted a personal inspection of all accessible compartments to assure himself that all survivors had been moved to safety, remaining on board until ordered to leave. By his courage and initiative, Naval Airman aircraft Handler Winston reflected credit upon himself and upheld the highest traditions of Naval Service.

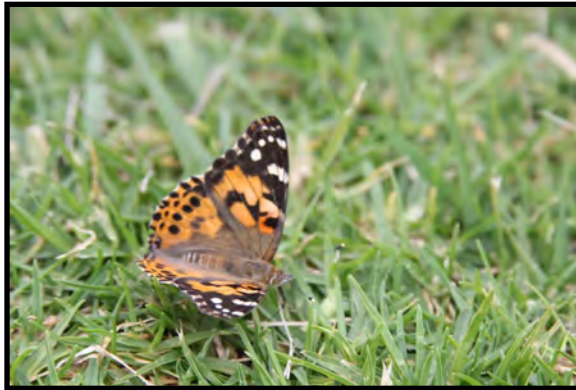
Given this 10th Day of September 2018. Originally awarded on 19 October 1970 by Secretary of the Navy John R. Chafee.

The USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) Association congratulates all 17 Medal awardees and extends its sincere appreciation to all who assisted in the recovery of the 199 survivors from EVANS. We recognize many others onboard MELBOURNE assisted in a large variety of tasks during the recovery and without a joint effort on part of all the crew the tragedy may have been much worse.

USS IOWA (BB 61) TOUR



USS IOWA (BB 61) namesake is the State of Iowa, ordered for construction in 1939 the ships hull was laid down 27 June 1940 and first commissioned 22 February 1942. The ship was commissioned / recommissioned three times, last decommissioned in 1990. The IOWA served in WWII and Korea. USS IOWA was struck from the Navy registry on 17 March 2006 and its fate became a museum ship. Surprisingly the ship had three nicknames, The Big Stick (1952,) The Gray Ghost (Korean War and The Battleship of Presidents. The ships motto was "Our Liberties We Prize, Our Rights We Will Maintain." During its service to our country the ship received 11 Battle Stars



Top l:- wreaths and fallen 74 banner,
 Top r: Tom & Jean Ralston & Gary Trumble
 Middle l: Fire boat salute
 Middle r: Bob Mason and Butterball Conley
 Bottom l: Butterfly release
 Bottom r: Eric Lee & Al Collins
 Bottom: Areal view from Drone, flown by Gary Haulman



Approximately 350 were in attendance for the 3 June Memorial Ceremony, largest memorial ceremony to date. The Memorial Ceremony for the fallen 74 is held every year on 3 June at 10 a.m. in the Navy Memorial Park, Long Beach.

SPECIAL AWARDS



Terry Vejr—Receives Special award for his Dedication and Motivation



Mary Gregg—Receives Presidents Award for Excellence



Donna Kraus—Receives the very first Humanitarian Award from the USS Frank E. Evans Association for her inner strength, courage, persistence and determination

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome and warm wishes to all new members. If you know someone who is interested in joining please have them contact Donna Kraus at krausdfm@gmail.com or 760-521-4700, or go to our website @ www.usffee.org

NAME	RANK / RELATIONSHIP	SERVICE	CITY/STATE
Kenneth Stone	ETN2 Shipmate	Navy	Lewis Center, OH

IN MEMORIAM

NAME	RANK	Relationship	CITY/STATE	DECEASED
Bill Hollifield	MM3	Member / Shipmate	Sun City, CA	10 July 2019



USS FRANK E EVANS ASSOCIATION
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Carlsbad, CA 92008

CHECK OUT OUR
Revised & UP-
DATED WEBSITE

USSFEE.ORG

Our Next
Reunion is in
San Antonio
Texas, Fall
of 2020

