



**Delbert A. Francis**  
**Bio**  
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Del was born 22 May, 1942 and was raised in Denver, CO. He always assumed that he would join the Marines, because his brother, Gary always wanted to be a sailor. Del wanted to be tougher, so he thought he should be a Marine. During Christmas of 1957, Del spent time with Gary while he was in "CT" school in Imperial Beach, CA. Gary was able to get Del aboard the base and Del was impressed. Unfortunately, a couple months later Gary died in a motorcycle accident. His death sealed the deal, Del decided to become a sailor. He quit school and joined the Navy in September, 1959. He attended Radarman Class A school in Norfolk, VA and was assigned to the USS Boscawen CAG 1. He spent 4 years aboard the Boston and made 3 Med Cruises, a North Atlantic Cruise and several Caribbean Cruises. The Boston was the Com 2<sup>nd</sup> FLT flagship for both the Bay of Pigs and the Cuban Missile Crisis incidents.

Del was discharged on May 22, 1963. He returned to Denver and worked various jobs while attending the University of Colorado. Del married Karma Sandoval in Sept of 63 and in the following June, she gave birth to a wonderful daughter, Dana.

In September of 68 Del decided to rejoin the Navy. He believed the Navy would provide a wonderful collage program for him. It was his intention to finish Collage and make the Navy a career. Those plans abruptly changed on June 3, 1969 when the collision between USS Frank E Evans and HMAS Melbourne occurred. Del made the decision to leave the Navy.

Del performed a variety of jobs, ending up as a house mover and building contractor in Colorado. Del remarried in 1977 and in 1980 had a son, Tim. In 1982 Del made the decision to fire all of his employees, sell his companies and leave his wife and new son. Surprisingly his son wanted to live with his dad so in 1993, Tim moved in with his father in the mountains of Walden, CO. Del started a RV dealership and did RV repairs to keep busy.

When his son Tim left home and joined the Navy, Del started wintering in Texas. Del met a lovely lady (she became infatuated with his RV). They started dating and after a 10 year "shakedown" they got married in September 2019. Del and Lorretta now live happily ever after in Justin Texas. Del has 3 children 4 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren.

Del attended the 2<sup>nd</sup> Frank E Evans DD754 Association reunion in Granbury TX in 1993. He attended many reunions since and has become very active in attempting to get the names of the 74 shipmates lost on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Wall in Washington DC. Including riding his bicycle from Sulphur Springs Texas to Washington DC on his 74<sup>th</sup> birthday to raise awareness. Del continues to be active in the Associations leadership.