



ROY "PETE" PETERS
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Roy "Pete" Peters was born on 29 October 1946 at Prestonsburg General Hospital in Prestonsburg, KY. He was the second son to Bill and Maudie Peters. He lived in Kentucky, and for a short time in Indiana. For economic reasons in 1952 his family moved to Munith, Michigan. Pete worked at various small job and auto repair shops before and after high School.

In March 1966, he joined the Navy. He attended basic training at Great Lakes and then received orders to USS Prairie (AD-15) in Long Beach, CA, where he was assigned to "A" Gang and Boat Division. The USS Prairie sailed to Pearl Harbor in 1966 and in September of that year, he received orders to USS Frank E. Evans (DD-754). It took three weeks travel for him to catch up with the ship in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. Soon he was underway on Evans to Vietnam for Naval Gunfire Support operations.

On Evans Pete was assigned to "M" Division as an undesignated engineering Machinist Mate striker. He was assigned to forward engine room operating and repairing various steam driven pumps, valves, and turbines. He made two more West-Pac tours and was promoted to E-4 in April of 1968. On the morning of 3 June 1969, he was on mid-watch as a training officer when the collision with the Australian aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne (R-21) occurred. He was trapped in the engine room and scalded by the 600 pound 850-degree super-heated steam. He was hospitalized ten days at Cubi Point Navy Hospital and remained in Subic Bay to testify at the Joint Board of Inquiry. Upon completion of his testimony he received orders to USS Edson (DD- 946) in Long Beach. He was later returned to Subic to re-testify at the Joint Board regarding the exact time of the collision. Pete was discharged from active duty on 1 December of 1969. Pete had met Karen in 1967 and in February of 1970, they were married in Las Vegas, NV.

On 13 December 1969, Pete gained employment as an auto mechanic for a major retail store in Inglewood, California. After management/sales training, he was promoted to department manager and he opened a new retail store in Cerritos, CA. Pete changed careers in 1974 and joined Metropolitan Insurance Company. He worked in the sales force and attended college to study various insurance and loss prevention courses. In 1977, Pete and Karen purchased their insurance agency.

Pete found the USS Frank E. Evans Association website online on a Friday afternoon in 1997 while surfing the web. In 1998 He and Karen attended their first reunion in Alexandria, VA. In 1999. He and Karen organized and coordinated the stateside reunion in Niobrara, NE, the home town of the three Sage Brothers who were lost in the Evans / Melbourne collision. In September 2001, Pete was elected to be the Director of Survivor Relations and joined the Evans Association Board of Directors. He continues to hold this position. Among his various duties, he coordinates memorial ceremonies at reunions, organizes and conducts the 3 June Memorial Ceremony in Long Beach, participates in the Memorial Day ceremony at Green Hills Cemetery and coordinates insurance coverage for the Evans Association. Pete is very active in his community and has served in a variety of leadership positions within the Lions Club, VFW, and American Legion, and he remains active in AmVets and Moose.