

# USS FRANK E. EVANS DD

## WWII KOREA VIETNAM



## FOOTLOCKER TALK NEWSLETTER NUMBER 79 — FOURTH QUARTER 2020

### AHOY SHIPMATES, FAMILY & FRIENDS

The holiday season is rapidly approaching. We know this season will be different from years past. It is anyone's guess as to what is on the horizon. Please stay safe, we wish everyone a very joyous and blessed holiday season.

In this edition we are starting a new feature series on relatives of association members who are currently in the military service. On page 11 read the article about Jack Bittner, grandson of members Frank and Terri Jablonski and son of member Kristen Bittner. Please send any information you may have about your relative to Rolf Buchner [rbuchner@sc.rr.com](mailto:rbuchner@sc.rr.com) so we can do a story about your relative.

On Veterans Day this year we will dedicate the memorial stone in North Carolina for STG3 Melvin Hollman Gardner, RDC George Joseph LaLiberte and SN Thurston Perry Smith. This dedication has been somewhat complicated to schedule due to COVID restrictions. The last memorial stone to be dedicated and completion to our project is in Wisconsin. Because of the severe winter conditions, we anticipate the dedication to take place in the spring of 2021, we will keep you posted.

*Steve Kraus*  
Association President

*Terry Vejr*  
Association VP

## IN MEMORIAM

Turn Again to Life - by Mary Lee Hall

If I should die and leave you here a while, be not like others sore undone, who keep long vigils by the silent dust, and weep. For my sake - turn again to life and smile, nerving thy heart and trembling hand to do something to comfort other hearts than thine. Complete those dear unfinished tasks of mine and I, perchance may therein comfort you.

## SHIPMATES

NAME	CITY/STATE	DECEASED
EM3 Richard J. Doherty 50-54	Schererville, IN	26 Aug. 2020
FN Edwin O. Harris 63-64	Portland, OR	25 Oct. 2020

## MEMBER RELATIVES

NAME	CITY/STATE	DECEASED
David Lehman Son of Eugene Lehman, brother of Chief Mike Lehman	Neenah, WI	2 Jun. 2020

Long time Association member EM3 Richard J. Doherty passed away on 26 August, 2020 following a brief illness. Born 17 December, 1931 in Chelsea, MA. Richard is survived by his wife Nora, they were married for 62 years and his son John, He had 3 grandchildren. Richard served from 13 Nov. 1950 to 1954 onboard USS Frank E. Evans. He continued his service for the next 26 years in the Navy reserve, retiring as a Chief Electricians Mate. He was employed by AT & T for 30 years before retiring from that company. We used to kid Richard about his Irish accent, we wondered how he could still have an accent after all these years...He was a proud Irishman!



## SPOTLIGHT ON MM3 JACK R. SHEEHAN 1952 – 55

The Sheehan family surprised our shipmate Jack R Sheehan with several events over the weekend of October 24. Jack had no idea that his family had traveled across the country and had secretly planned several events for the weekend.

Jack was sitting quietly in his home in Norwalk California when he heard a commotion outside. When he went outside he saw a parade of city cars lined up in front of his home. What Jack didn't know was the Mayor of Norwalk (Jennifer Perez) and other city officials came to present Jack with a proclamation of appreciation for his military and community service to the city. Included at the presentation was Jacks family, friends and neighbors.



Next Jack, his family and friends went to the Long Beach Navy park. Jack goes there often, it is his stopping off place when he goes to remember his wife Peggy. Our memorial to the "Lost 74" are also in the park. The family thought they would liven things up and add some fun to the day. Someone should tell Jack, your not a kid anymore...

**GO JACK GO !**

Next, Jack had been promised by a local tour boat captain that he would take him



and his family out to the point where they had scattered Peggy's ashes 2 years ago. So the family took him up on his promises and out to sea they went.

In the photo from left to right are: son, Jack C Sheehan, MM3 Jack R. Sheehan, niece, Elaine Oliveira, daughter-in-law, Bunny Sheehan and son, Tom Sheehan.



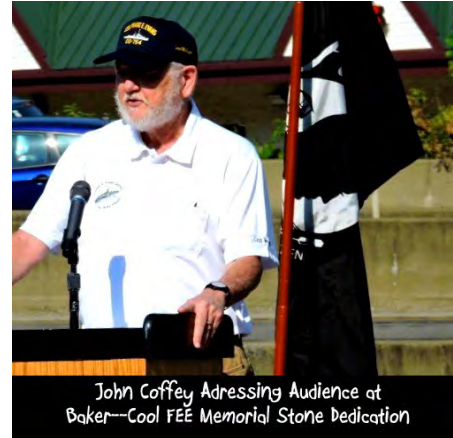
## MEMORIAL STONE DEDICATION WEIRTON WEST VIRGINIA

A memorial stone was installed and dedicated at the Brooke-Hancock Veterans Memorial Park in Weirton on 9 September 2020. The monument is dedicated to the memories of SN James Robert Baker, a Weirton native and ETN3 Larry Wayne Cool, from Clifftop, WV, both of whom were among the 74 lost in the accident of 3 June, 1969. RDSN John Coffey was master of ceremonies along with Terry Vejr and represented the USS Frank E. Evans Association. Terry made all the arrangements for the setting of the memorial stone and formulated the dedication ceremony.

A group of city residents, relatives of the lost and other guests gathered at the Veterans Memorial Park, welcomed by Ward 4 Councilman George Ash, to recognize the lives of Baker and Cool.

Since the collision took place outside the designated combat zone of the Vietnam war, the names of "The Lost 74" are not included on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. This dedication is part of the ongoing effort by the USS Frank E. Evans Association to recognize those who were lost by placing memorials in 28 states.

"It's always an honor for me to recognize our veterans," Mayor Harold Miller said. Among those on hand for the dedication was Baker's sister, Gerri Chappell, who said it has always been disappointing to visit the Vietnam Wall and not see her brother's name on it. She said, though, she is grateful for the efforts to remember Baker. Judy Cool Aker's, widow of Larry Cool said "Doing this today was wonderful." Judy indicated she married Larry in March 1969 during a surprise visit home.



In the upper left photo, from L to R is: Judy Cool-Akers, Terry Vejr. John Coffey, Tammy Chapple-Wounaris, Gerri Baker-Chappell and Terry Chappell.

## MEMORIAL STONE DEDICATION WILLIAMSTOWN, KENTUCKY

SA Thomas Fred Tallons' memorial dedication was held Wednesday evening, 9 September 2020 at the Kentucky State Veterans Cemetery North, Williamstown, Kentucky.

The dedication ceremony was held by Association Vice President, SA Terry Vejr and RDSN John Coffey. John and Terry drove about 5 hours from Weirton WV in order to meet closing time cemetery restrictions. Other restrictions made it difficult for the family members to attend in person so Nancy Tallon-Gerstle, widow of SA Thomas Tallon and their son Thomas participated in the dedication ceremony via Face Time. Terry and John were able to complete the ceremony just as the sun went down and the cemetery closed. Terry indicated that it was fitting to end the ceremony with the ODE since one of the verses in the ode say's...

*At the going down of the sun,  
and in the morning,  
We will remember him.*





# WATERLOO IOWA, HONORS BLACK HAWK COUNTY VETERANS

By Larry Webb

The Waterloo Field of Honor display at Veterans Memorial Hall honors Black Hawk County Veterans who gave their lives beginning with those who served in the U.S. Civil War and continuing through the present. Hundreds of flags were flown for those who gave the ultimate sacrifice leaving family and the nation to mourn. The Waterloo Field of Honor is a gift to the community made possible through donations, sponsorships, and the efforts of many dedicated volunteers.



The event was held the weekend of August 8 and 9, 2020. Hundreds of veterans and other people in the community came out to honor these veterans. Attendees also were able to see the USS Frank E. Evans Memorial Stone as they walked the display of flags. When in Waterloo visit the Veterans Memorial Park and see our Memorial Stone. The address is 104 West 5th Street, Waterloo Iowa.

## NEW MEMBERS

Welcome and warm wishes to all new members. Our success in part, is due to our members involvement in the Association. We ask new members to consider volunteering for some task or activity within the organization. Know any one interested in joining...go to our website [ussfee.org](http://ussfee.org) and click on the tab titled join association or contact the association Secretary Rich Alverdes at [richalverdessr@gmail.com](mailto:richalverdessr@gmail.com) or call him at (425) 367-9345

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	CITY/STATE
Kimberly Mulitsch	Daughter of FN Joe Mulitsch	Scottsdale, AZ

## USS KIDD UPDATE

By Rich Alverdes

The USS KIDD (DDG 100) arrived safely back home on 19 September, 2020 to Naval Base Everett after an eight and half month deployment overseas.

FROM COMMANDER NATHAN WEMETT, CAPTAIN USS KIDD:

DEAR KIDD FAMILY Writing to share that our long deployment is coming to a close. We have an official homecoming date in late September. Please understand that this can ALWAYS change based on operations and the needs of the Navy, but as of now the date is set. Your Sailors are all excited to get back to you, and our challenge now is to keep everyone focused on the remaining weeks of the mission, and on bringing the ship safely home. Like the rest of the country right now, this return will be different than what many of you may be used to. Due to precautions for preventing the spread of COVID-19 we will not be inviting large groups of people onto the pier. There will be some provision to get new parents onto the pier, and we are hosting a raffle for a "first kiss" and a "first hug" but the majority of family and friends will wait for their Sailors near the Navy exchange. We are excited to get home but we are focused first on finishing strong. See you soon! Very respectfully, XO

In September, in an all-hands evolution lasting more than eight hours, KIDD sailed through the Panama Canal and back into the Pacific.



On behalf of the USS Frank E. Evans Association, we welcome home the crew of USS Kidd (DDG 100) We are proud of what you had to endure for last nine months. We all know how difficult it is just to be deployed, but having to deal with a worse enemy COVID was another unanticipated road block. Bravo Zulu to the crew!

"ON TO VICTORY"

"LEST WE FORGET"

## CHIPPING PAINT... IF IT DON'T MOVE, PAINT IT!

Article Submitted by Frank Jablonski

I enlisted in the Navy at 18, 3 days out of high school. From Tomahawk, Wisconsin, I was eager to see the world, learn a trade and defend my country. Instead, after 18 months, it's been spending time chipping off old paint and applying new paint to the destroyer USS FRANK E. EVANS.

Chipping and painting has been the bane of sailors since ships became metal. Painting and chipping...the most hated job aboard ship, followed by cleaning heads and working in the mess deck. Nobody's self-esteem was ever enhanced by chipping and painting. It's an absolute burden. Saltwater takes a brutal toll on a ship, eating away paint, immediately rusting any surface left unprotected.



The average ship requires enough chipping and painting annually to keep 16 sailors busy full time! Chipping and painting is something the recruiter doesn't tell you about...they push the hope of getting technical training in electronics, computers or modern weapons systems. Many young sailors are shocked at how much of their time is spent painting. Chipping and painting was so onerous that the Marines used it as punishment for enlisted men. Every former sailor has a story, memories about chipping and painting... The captain, after the ship had been at sea for weeks, denied liberty until painting work was finished. Back in the late 1950s a sailor painted himself into a corner below decks and then passed out from the fumes. They had to carry him up three decks.

Historically, the Navy used low-cost paint, and had the unfortunate effect of requiring numerous paint jobs on the same surfaces in short periods of time. You'd think that no business, would take entry-level employees, spend time and money to train them in technical skills, instill them with the lofty values of the organization, and then make them do a job that is tedious, repetitive and totally unrelated to their career goals.

Nobody comes into the Navy to chip and paint...No, we're supposed to be war fighters, not chippers and painters.



## FOURTH QUARTER CHAPLIN REPORT

By Al Collins

I pray for the health and safety upon my beloved Veterans here at home, across the United States, and down under to our dear Australians.

The previous Chaplain Messages for 2020 were tied together with the amor of the soldier, his ammunition, and finally the intelligence report. Some have viewed the 1965 intelligence report as prophecy; makes you think about existing morals and ethics in our current society.

This last quarter of 2020 is filled with opportunities to give thanks as families, friends, neighbors, and others gather. Thanksgiving in America is a wealthy tradition compared to third world countries. Surely, we are abundantly blessed. And we may appear a little larger after Thanksgiving Dinner.

The bearing of gifts at Christmas time is enjoyable for all ages as family's gather together. Neighborhoods decorate their homes and share with open hearts. Some of us sing on the neighborhood streets of leave gifts unannounced. Come along side those left behind or ailing. So rejoice in our God-given freedom and share our blessed-love with all.

Make sure you don't take things for granted and go slack inworking for the common good; share what you have with others. God take particular pleasure in acts of worship – a different kind of "sacrifice" – that take place in the kitchen and workplace and on the "streets" Hebrews 13:16

### OFFICERS AND BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Steve Kraus (President)  
Kraussa754@gmail.com

Terry Vejr (Vice President)  
trvejr@gmail.com

Rich Alverdes (Secretary)  
richalverdessr@gmail.com

Donna Kraus (Treasurer)  
krausdf@gmail.com

J.C. Campbell  
jcsylvia@charter.net

John Coffey  
Johnjudyc@gmail.com

Del Francis  
hcrv754@yahoo.com

Ed Holsopple  
doned444@aol.com

Frank Jablonski  
jabski36@gmail.com

Pete Peters  
rep1029@aol.com

Sharon Shirack  
sharon@ranack.com

# “WHITE HAT”

by Frank Jablonski, Historian USSFEE Organization

You can give them a distinctive style all your own. It can be squared, rolled, crushed, fitted with 'gull wings' or simply worn as it comes from small stores... unfortunately...



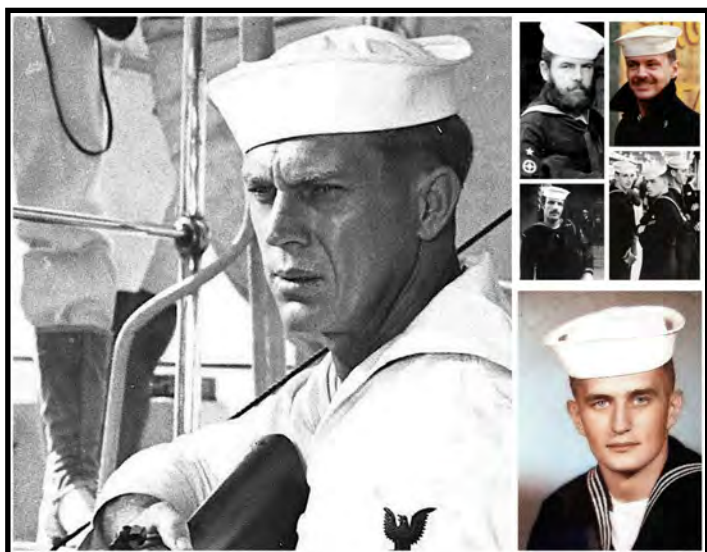
Current Navy uniform regulations say

“THE HAT MUST BE WORN ‘WITH THE LOWER FRONT EDGE APPROXIMATELY ONE-HALF INCH ABOVE THE EYEBROWS AND NOT CRUSHED OR BENT IN THE MIDDLE.”



That's what the "regulations" say... For more than 100 years, by reshaping the white hat or 'dixie cup' to suit their personal style, sailors have been expressing some measure of individuality in a uniform world....

Uniform regulations may technically forbid reshaping, but few sailors can resist, changing what feels like a bowl sitting on top of your head. There must be something to change it, for example, the first step is to roll it down halfway to loosen it up. (Like in the picture. Keep your hats rolled like this while being stowed. Once the hat is loosened up, it can be subtly "adjusted" to your taste. Make sure the adjustments are "subtle." You too can "look more like a Sailor" rather than a guy on a box of Cracker Jack...



## JACK G. BITTNER JOINED THE U.S. NAVY

by Frank Jablonski, Historian USSFEE Organization

Jack G. Bittner... my grandson Jack in three words... comedian, swimmer, drummer... Jack... what a wonderful surprise! Officially, it happened in early February, 2020 before anyone even heard of COVID- 19.... but not to worry! By 16 Jun 2020, despite the insanity of COVID 19, Jack left home for a 14 day restriction of movement (ROM) period at a closed down water park resort for all incoming recruits. After a few bumps in the road, Jack, 19, graduated from RTC at Great Lakes. Unfortunately, the ceremony had none of the "panache" of the past, and no families were allowed as the new Sailors "passed in review" dressed in fatigues and face masks. FN Jack Bittner is currently in EM "A" school at the Navy Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, SC.



So, you may ask, "How did this come about? What does it take to be a Navy Nuc and why would anyone want to do it, e.g., the standards for selection are so high and you had to sign up for 6 years... and the 18 months of training... physics, chemistry, mathematics, electrical engineering, and thermodynamics ???"



"I was interested in aerospace nuclear propulsion... and a company as 'big' as the United States Navy, with the same nuclear safety rating is non-existent! The \$38,000 enlistment bonus??? It was just icing on the cake to a person fresh out of high school," Jack said.

To be selected for nuclear training, Jack had to be: a U. S. Citizen and high school graduate with the ability to do algebra; meet age, physical and security requirements; AND, had to score above the minimum requirements on the comprehensive Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) of tests in eight areas.

Normally, upon enlistment a recruit is paygrade E1. As a Nuc, Jack was an E3. Once he completes "A" school for Electrician Mate, he will advance to E4 and then attend Nuclear Power School (NPS) in Charleston to learn the theory and practical application of nuclear physics and reactor engineering. Following that will be prototype training at one of two Nuclear

Power Training Units. Upon graduation, Jack will be assigned to sea duty. Nucs are normally found aboard submarines or aircraft carriers which is most likely where Jack will wind up, and since he's always wanted to go to Japan, hopefully he will be stationed in Yokosuka aboard USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN 76).

Congratulations Jack on becoming a United States Navy Sailor...Bravo Zulu... May you always have fair winds and following seas, and may the sun shine continually upon your face... Please keep in touch!



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

**WISHING YOU A  
VERY HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING,  
A MERRY  
CHRISTMAS  
AND  
A  
PROSPEROUS  
NEW YEAR  
THE BEST IS YET  
TO COME!**

