

USS FRANK E. EVANS DD 754

WWII KOREA VIETNAM



FOOTLOCKER TALK NEWSLETTER NUMBER 88 — First QUARTER 2023

**AHOY SHIPMATES, FAMILY &
FRIENDS**

Hard to believe we are already 2 month into 2023. Plans are under way for memorials, our annual reunion and other events this year. Future events are listed on the Association's website.

This years reunion will be in Springfield, Illinois September 27-30. The airport name is Abraham Lincoln Capital Airport. Our hotel is the Northfield Inn & Suites, located at 3280 Northfield Dr., Springfield, IL 62702. The hotel offers free shuttle service to and from the airport. We recommend you make your airline reservations as early as possible to take advantage of lower price's. American, United and Allegiant fly in and out of the airport. Chicago and St Louis are a four hour drive from Springfield.



**NORTHFIELD INN AND SUITES
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS**

As of now we do not have the specific details on the reunion daily events but hope to have them in the mail to you late May or early June. There is lots to do in and around Springfield, make your plans now, we look forward to gathering again.

Steve Kraus, Association President

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
DC2 Roosevelt Beard	Birmingham, AL	Dec. 17, 2022
LTJG Jeff Covert	Mundelein, IL	Jan. 29, 2023
BM2 Brian Crowson	Arvada, CO	Feb. 29, 2023
BT1 Rudolph Hanna	Brandon, OR	Dec. 3, 2022
CS3 Carl Maiorino	Corona, CA	Nov. 21, 2022
SA Danny Salisbury	Independence, KS	Nov. 25, 2022

RELATIVES OF THE LOST

NAME	CITY/STATE	DECEASED
Lena Braren Norton	Southbury, CT	Nov. 24, 2022

MEMBER / RELATIVES

NAME	CITY/STATE	DECEASED
Georgianna Haugen	Billings, MT	May 29, 2021
Christeene Mann	Friona, TX	Jan. 11, 2023
Phyllis Vickers	San Jose, CA	Oct. 16, 2016



WREATHS FOR OUR MEMORIAL IN ILLINOIS

Shortly before Christmas this year, I received an email from Jeff Covert informing me that his Daughter (Julie) and his Grand Daughter (Emily) placed wreaths at the Gurnee, Illinois Memorial. Jeff was not able to go this year but he wanted everyone to know our memorial is still standing watch at the entrance road to the cemetery.

Terry and Susan Vejr went out to the cemetery the day before Jeff's funeral to check up on the memorial, note the picture and the wreath to the left of the memorial stone, still standing....



LTJG Jeffery W. Covert 1967 - 69 (S) age 78 passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on 29 January 2023. His wife, Susie reported that Jeff had been battling prostate cancer for the last ten years, and that the past two years of chemotherapy caused him significant adverse health conditions.



Jeff was born May 2, 1944 in Indianapolis IN. He received his BA from Purdue in Mechanical Engineering. He was a current member and former Decan and Elder at the Presbyterian Church in Libertyville and a founding member of the Hope Presbyterian church in Grayslake.

Jeff reported onboard USS Frank E. Evans on 11 February 1967 and rose to the position as engineering duty officer (EDO.) At the time of the collision on 3 June 1969, Jeff took charge in directing the efforts to perform damage control which kept the aft section of Evans afloat. His testimony at the court of inquiry was instrumental in providing key information as to the condition of the ship prior to and after the collision.

Jeff was a devoted husband, loving father and grandfather. Surviving are his wife of 55 years, Susie; 2 daughters, Jennifer and Julie, 3 grandchildren Jackson, Nicholas and Emily; his sister Helene and sister-in-law Lori. He was preceded in death by his parents, William and Dorthy and his brother Steven.

IN MEMORIAM

SA Danny W. Salisbury, age 74 died on 25 Nov 2022 in Independence, KS. He was diagnosed with lung cancer earlier this year. He underwent chemotherapy and had completed his treatments. He was feeling better and recovering when he got up one day from watching a ball game and fell, breaking his spine. The injury was severe enough to require immediate major surgery. The doctors indicated that chemotherapy made his bones brittle and after surgery he required long term therapy and convalescence.



Danny came onboard USS Frank E. Evans on 14 May 1969 while we were providing gunfire support for Operation Daring Rebel. Terry Vejr reported that if his math is correct, with the passing of Danny, only 6 survivors are remaining from First Division. Dan was honorably discharged from the Navy in December 1972. Following his discharge Dan was employed by Emerson Electric as a supervisor for 18 years. After his employment at Emerson Dan opened up the \$1 Shop and ran it for the next 12 years. Dan then worked part time at Auto Zone.

Danny enjoyed camping, and fishing, he was a member of the VFW 113, Fortitude 107 Masonic Lodge where he served as past Master, Independence Shrine Club where he served as past President, and a long term member of Frank E. Evans Association. Dan was preceded in death by his grandparents and his parents. Those left to cherish his memory include his wife Rhonda, two daughters, Sarah (Ben) Long, Independence, KS; Susan (David) Bryant, Shawnee, KS; three grandchildren, Riley Salisbury, Wyatt Long, Jase Bryant, and one sister Jean Ernest, Caney, KS.



Christeene Mann, 91 mother of member Joe Bob Mann passed away 11 January 2023 in Friona, Texas. Christeene was born July 9, 1931 in Mobeetie, Texas to Thomas Edward and Bertha Alice Dean Hurst. She later married Bobby Joe Mann February 7, 1948 in Clovis, NM.

Christeene was a rural route mail carrier, Stanley Products Representative, and longtime employee of Holly Sugar. She was a member of the VFW, Friona Fire Department and American Legion Women's Auxiliaries, and Federated Order of Eagles, a leader for both Friona Boy and Girl Scouts, and was past Membership Chairperson for the Friona Credit Union. She was a homemaker that loved to cook and sew.

Those preceding her in death include her parents Thomas and Bertha, 1 brother-Leo Hurst, and 1 sister-May Green. Those to carry on her legacy include her husband Bobby Joe Mann of Friona, 1 son-Joe Bob Mann and wife Dale of Friona, 2 daughters-Carla Scott and husband Mike of Friona and Joy Bauer and husband Dwayne of Halltown, Missouri, 6 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)



MM3 Jack R Sheehan 1952- 53 passed away in his sleep on January 22, 2023 from natural causes. Jack had recently been in the hospital and had stints placed in his heart. Most recently he had indicated he was feeling really well and was getting back to normal.

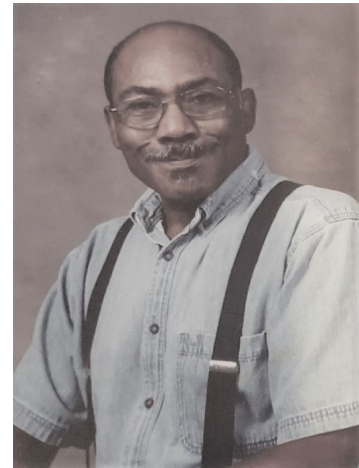
Jack came aboard USS Frank E Evans on 14 Feb. 1952 and was assigned to M Division. He participated in the Korean War and he really cherished the brotherhood of serving his country in the US Navy. Throughout the years he further enjoyed maintaining the camaraderie with all of those that served on the ship through the Frank E. Evans Association. Jack was a long term proud member of the association. He and his wife Peggy participated in memorials and reunions for over 20 years.

His oldest son Jack shared that his father was a loving husband, father, grandfather, and great grandfather to all of us, we were truly blessed to have him lead this family. He was always supportive of my brother Tom and I regardless of the mischief or actual trouble we were in, or even actually caused, and was proud of our achievements as his sons, and as parents ourselves.

At this time, there are no services scheduled, and he will be buried at sea with his wife, Peggy, who preceded him. The family is considering a memorial service sometime around Jack's birthdate in early May.

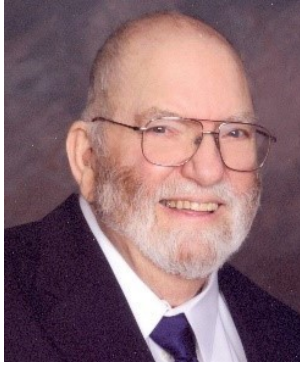
DC2 Roosevelt Beard 68-69 (S) age 79 died 17 December 2022 in Birmingham, Alabama. He was the youngest of six children. He was educated in the public schools in Pickers County. He graduated in 1960 from RJ Kirksey HS. He then joined the Navy in 1961. He came onboard USS Frank E. Evans on 5 Oct. 1968. Following the collision he served in the Navy until 1981 when he retired. After retirement he worked for Veterans Affairs for awhile then worked as a correctional officer.

Roosevelt leaves to cherish precious memories of his loving wife Jean Ford Beard, 4 sons, 1 daughter and 3 stepchildren. He had a host of grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and cousins. Roosevelt accepted Christ as his personal savior at an early age enjoyed fellowship with fellow Christian.



Phyllis Vickers died on October 17, 2016 in San Jose at age 78. We didn't learn of her death until this year when her husband FT2 Aubrey Vickers 56-57 notified us that he had moved from San Jose, California to Rogers, Arkansas following selling his house after Phyllis passed away. Even though they were never able to attend reunions they always kept contact with the association and kept his membership current. Our records show Aubrey started his membership in 1998.

IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)



BT1 Rudolph "Marlin" Hanna 68-69 (S) died on 3 December 2022 at the Southern Coos Hospital in Bandon, Oregon in the bed next to his wife while they were holding hands. They were both hospitalized with pneumonia and covid. The hospital staff was so good to the family. It isn't a common thing to put a husband and wife together in the same room. They will never know how comforting it was.

Marlin was married to Brenda Nix Hanna, whom he met in Selma, CA on 17 December 1966, they married 28 days later. Love at first sight. They were married just short of 56 years. They had three sons, Michael Hanna, John Hanna, James Hanna, four grandchildren, John Hanna II, Ryan Hanna, Ginny Hanna and Brenda Boge, 3 great grandchildren, Kiley Hanna, Haylee Hanna and Harley Hanna. His parents and his son James preceded Marlin in death.

Marlin joined the Navy in 1960 and retired in 1987. He joined the Navy as a high school dropout, got his GED and retired as a Chief Warrant Officer 4. He came onboard USS Frank E. Evans on 21 Nov. 1968. Marlin was on the ship USS Frank E. Evans at the time of the collision and was on the aft section that stayed afloat. God was keeping his hand on him.

BM2 Brian Crowson 66-69 (S) died on 14 Feb 2021 at age 76 in Westminster, Colorado. He married Mitzi Hetletvedt in Golden Colorado, they had a daughter Kira.

Brian came onboard USS Frank E. Evans on 4 May 1966 and reported to 1st Division. Over the years he deployed twice to Vietnam. He became a Boatswain mate 2nd class in 1968 and was starboard side Boatswain mate in charge of approximately 20 sailors. Those survivors that knew him indicated he was fair and just with his crew.



Georgianna Haugen, association member and wife of former shipmate and member Gerald (Jerry) Haugen passed away on 25 May 2021. She married Jerry on 9 September 1957 shortly after Jerry got out of the Navy. Most of us remember them as being from Cody, WY because, at the time they were the only association members from that state. In 2014 following the reunion in Seattle Jerry was killed in a terrible traffic accident in Wyoming. Georgianna joined the association and maintained her membership until 2021.

Georgie (as she liked to be called) was immensely proud of her family and leaves behind beautiful memories. She instilled traditional family values and life skills in her children. She often said her greatest accomplishment was raising her 6 children, sons Jim, Lawrence, Lee and Michael and daughters Lisa and Joelyne. In addition she leaves behind 8 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

LADY OF THE SEA MONUMENT

BY TERRY VEJR

The Lady of the Sea Monument located in Hampton Beach, New Hampshire is a memorial to honor all New Hampshire sons and daughters lost at sea in defense of their country. Native sons RD2 Ronald Arthur Thibodeau and QM3 Gary Joseph Vigue's name will be added to the monument. The dedication ceremony will be held Saturday, 3 June 2023. No start time has been set as details are being worked out.

Several years ago, I started searching for "Lost at Sea" memorials and came across this memorial. I sent several emails and voicemails to the New Hampshire State Parks Department asking for information about adding Ron and Gary's name. I never heard back from anyone. I stopped reaching out to them during COVID.

While at last years reunion in Portland, Maine, Pete Peters and I met Rob Biron. Rob is from Manchester, NH and was staying at the Doubletree Hotel prior to attending a ZZ Top concert. Rob saw all the Evans hats, shirts etc. He is a Navy veteran and wanted to know more about our ship. We told him our story and I mentioned I was trying to get Ron and Gary's name on the New Hampshire memorial as well as the VVMW. The next morning, I met him in the lobby where he said he wanted to help so we exchanged each other's information. He made calls to the NH State Parks Department, his congressman and wrote a letter to Governor Sununu. Rob made this happen. I've been in contact with American Legion Post 35 in Hampton, NH. They are taking the lead in organizing the memorial service. The Commander of Post 35 is hopeful there will be a large turnout of Evans shipmates, families and friends. If anyone has any questions give me a call or send me an email. My wife, Susan and I will be attending the ceremony.



WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard to our two new members, we are so happy you have joined the USS Frank E. Evans family. Thank you for joining , we are thrilled to have you as members and look forward to meeting you and seeing you at our annual reunion.

<u>NAME</u>	<u>CITY/STATE</u>	<u>Notes</u>
Donald Kelsall	Claysville, PA	Don was best friends with deceased member Ed Holsopple, Don joined in Eds honor.
Denny Houska	Kearney, NE	Denny organizes the 3 June Memorial in Niobrara each year.
Reva Alcoser	Holly Hill, FL	Wife of shipmate MM3 Ben Alcoser

Please take the new member challenge by asking your best friend to join the association. Dues are \$30 per year.

WHERE IN HELL DID THEY GO?

Rolf Buchner took this off Face Book

They were famous throughout the Navy. The Gut in Barcelona; East Main Street, Norfolk; Flatbush Ave, Brooklyn; The Combat Zone, Boston; The Pike, Long Beach; Market Street, San Francisco; Broadway Street, San Diego; Hotel Street, Honolulu; The Honcho, Yokosuka, China Town and Sakuragi-cho in Yokohama; Wanchai, Hong Kong; Buggis Street, Singapore; Magsaysay, Olongapo; and all the other places where fleet Sailors congregated. People ask, "Where did they go?" Well shipmate,s they didn't go anywhere. You're asking the wrong question. You should ask, "Where did all the fleet Sailors go?"



Long ago, on payday night and in the nights following, these streets were a paradise to the North American Blue Jacket. A person could look down the street and see neon signs advertising beer and bars and a sea of white hats bobbing up and down as Sailors made their way from bar to bar.



At liberty call these places became a shopping center for intoxicating beverages and other unmentionable things. In some places a PO2 could get that new First Class crow sewn on or that old Third Class crow sewn back on. No need for crows these days. It is all collar and hat devices. It seems the only time uniforms are seen is when ships are leaving or returning from a deployment.

The smoking lamp is cold and probably over the side or being saved for recycling. Instead of trading useless gear to Mary Soo for painting the ship, the Navy now recycles and lets a multi-thousand dollar contracts go to get the job done. Smoking is now frowned upon. Surface ships limit smoking to a tiny, uncomfortable topside space.

With time people change, things change and places change, progress goes on but one thing remains, the dedication a sailor has to his shipmates, the Navy and his country.



MEET THE NEW COMMANDING OFFICER — USS KIDD DDG 100



Commander Parina Somnhot

Commanding Officer USS Kidd DDG 100

Commander Somnhot became Captain of KIDD on November 22, 2022 replacing the former CO Commander Wemett. Commander Parina Somnhot is a native of Fairfax, Virginia. She studied Print Journalism and International Relations at Boston University, where she received her commission through the Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps in 2005.

Commander Somnhot completed her Division Officer tours in USS WASP (LHD 1), where she was assigned to engineering and combat systems departments, and USS MOMSEN (DDG 92), where she served as Fire Control Officer. As a Department Head, she completed tours as Operations Officer in USS WAYNE E. MEYER (DDG 108) and USS HUÉ CITY (CG 66). Following her Department Head tours, she commanded USS TYPHOON (PC 5) while deployed to Manama, Bahrain. She most recently served as Executive Officer in USS KIDD (DDG 100). She has deployed to every fleet area of operation, supporting Joint Task Force Lebanon, Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM and Operation INHERENT RESOLVE.

Ashore Commander Somnhot earned a Master of Science in Mechanical Engineering from the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, California. She also served as the Operations Officer on the staff of Commander, Naval Surface Group Western Pacific in Yokosuka, Japan.

Commander Somnhot's awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and various unit, service, and campaign awards.

OSC(SW/CC) Mike Lehman USN and his wife Renee have stepped forward and volunteered to take on the position as Liaison's to USS Kidd DDG 100. Chief Mike, son of our lost Eugene Lehman exceeds qualifications to be the Associations contact person with Kidd. When asked to take on the position, he responded, I can't do it without the help of Renee.



In January we provided Chief Mike's BIO to the CO, XO and CMC. They responded back that they look forward to working with Chief Mike and Renee.

You can track Kidd's activities by going to their Facebook page. Mike and Renee's email is mk3pb758@yahoo.com.

PROJECT 74 UPDATE

By Steve Kraus

This is an update on what has taken place since we learned that our amendments were dropped from last year's NDAA. We have agreement from the Senate Majority Leader, Chuck Schumer, to send a letter to the US Government Accountability Office to request a study of the logistics (i.e., costs, room remaining on the Wall, etc.) to add our 74 names to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. It's our understanding that a request like this coming from someone in Senator Schumer's position and role is generally done without question and we would hope would accomplish the goal of one of our proposed amendments to the NDAA. We need a report from the GAO to help stop misleading arguments opposed to adding the names to "The Wall."

We are working with the Ridge Policy Group to possibly add additional Senators to the request and make sure we address all areas for the information that we need. As in the past we will keep you posted on the progress. If you want to know what you can do, keep your representatives updated and should you have a new representative in Congress, we ask you to reach out to them and update them on our cause.

We have now reached out to Speaker McCarthy, informing him our request to add the 74 names to the wall. We will solicit his support as soon as we hear back. FYI, when a new congress convenes it is almost like having to start over in many aspects. Just so you are aware we are still full steam ahead.

UPCOMING EVENTS

The American Legion, Post 21

"See the following page for the Invite"

Invites you and your friends to our Memorial Day Observance.

Monday, May 29, 126 NE Atlantic St, McMinnville, Oregon, Hours 1-3

For questions, please call Bob Berweger @ 503, 583-0773



3 JUNE 2023 MEMORIAL CEREMONIES

Long Beach, CA

10 AM at Shoreline Park

Contact Pete Peters rep1029@aol.com

310-947-5823

Niobrara, Nebraska

Town Square

Denny Houska dennysbuzz@gmail.com

308-233-1133

Gurnee Il

1475 N. Cemetery Way

Chuck Huber at cghmh1@gmail.com

847-308-8445

Fairfax Virginia, American Legion Post 177

3939 Oak St

Carol Coulter at cricoulter@gmail.com

571-317-9951

Independence, MO

Mt. Washington Cemetery

Ben & Pam Chilcutt at benchilcutt@gmail.com

816-525-7772





**The American Legion, Post 21,
Invites you and your friends to our
Memorial Day Observance.**

**Monday, May 29, at, 126 NE Atlantic St, McMinnville, Oregon,
between the hours of 1 and 3 PM**

**Each year we recognize fellow Veterans
who have passed in the previous year.**

**In addition, this year we are recognizing the service of Garry Brad-
bury Hodgson. Garry was killed in the tragic accident June 3, 1969,
while serving on the USS Frank E Evans in the South China Sea.**

**Through the efforts of Senator Brian Boquist's office, a State Sen-
ate Resolution was passed allowing a sign being posted on a State
Highway in recognition of Garry's sacrifice.**

**Several individuals and organizations contributed to the effort
raising funds for the sign.**

**Benevolent and Protective Oder of Elks, Corvallis, Oregon
American Legion, Post 21 McMinnville,
Post 10 Albany,
Post 58, Stayton
Individuals
Charlie McCarthy
Dan and Shirley Brown
Bob Berweger**

For questions, please call Bob Berweger @ 503, 583-0773

VA UPDATES

All Veterans enrolled in VA health care will be eligible for new toxic exposure screenings

Department of Veterans Affairs medical centers and clinics across the country will offer enrolled Veterans a new toxic exposure screening. These screenings are a key part of the PACT Act, a new law that empowers VA to deliver care and benefits to millions of toxic exposed Veterans and their survivors.

The screening takes five to 10 minutes and begins by asking Veterans if they believe they experienced any toxic exposures while serving in the armed forces. Veterans who answer “yes” are then asked about specific exposures, including: open burn pits, Agent Orange, radiation, contaminated water, and other exposures.

Veterans enrolled in VA health care will be offered an initial toxic exposure screening then follow-up screenings at least once every five years.

“These screenings are an important step toward making sure that all toxic exposed Veterans get the care and benefits they deserve,” said VA **Secretary Denis McDonough**. “At the end of the day, these screenings will improve health outcomes for Veterans—and there’s nothing more important than that.”

VA will prioritize delivering benefits to Veterans with cancer under PACT Act

The Department of Veterans Affairs announced it will prioritize the processing of Veterans’ benefits claims for cancers associated with the PACT Act. VA will expedite these claims to ensure Veterans with cancer are getting timely access to the care and benefits they need and deserve.

The PACT Act added presumptions of service connection for more than 20 new conditions, including various cancers. These presumptions help Veterans get their earned benefits by reducing the evidence necessary for VA to find that a condition was caused by burn pits or other toxic exposures. They also simplify the claims process by eliminating the need to establish a link between the Veteran’s service and the claimed condition .



WELCOME & CONGRATULATION

GRAHAM JOSEPH MCFADDEN

5 JANUARY 2023

PROUD PARENTS

RYAN & KIMBERLY (MULITSCH) MCFADDEN

GRANDFATHER JOE MULITSCH

