

# USS FRANK E. EVANS DD 754

WWII KOREA VIETNAM



## FOOTLOCKER TALK NEWSLETTER NUMBER 89 — SECOND QUARTER 2023

**Ahoy Shipmates, Family & Friends**

After the disappointment of our Legislative Bills being dropped in the NDAA last December we finally received some good and hopeful news. Representatives Adam Schiff (D-Calif.), Kelly Armstrong (R-N.D.), and Joe Courtney (D-Conn.) introduced the USS Frank E. Evans Act on 31 May 2023. This is a bipartisan effort to ensure that the names of the “Lost 74” are added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

Representative Kelly Armstrong said “For years, I have been fighting to get the names of the crew members from the USS Frank E. Evans added to the Vietnam War Memorial. We cannot allow bureaucracy to deny them the recognition they deserve. It is long past due to add their names to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial so their fellow service members and loved ones can pay proper tribute to their memories.”

To view the entire bill click on the following link [https://schiff.house.gov/imo/media/doc/uss\\_frank\\_eevansact.pdf](https://schiff.house.gov/imo/media/doc/uss_frank_eevansact.pdf) Now is the time for us to take action by contacting your representative and inform them of the bill, and to ask them to co-sponsor the bill and tell them you support the addition of the “Lost 74” names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

In this edition of the newsletter we did not cover all the 3 June or Memorial Day Ceremonies, we will cover them in the third quarter edition.

Steve Kraus, Assoc. President

Terry Vejr, Assoc. VP

# **REUNION 2023**

**SEPTEMBER 27–30, 2023  
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS  
NORTHFIELD INN & SUITES**

## TENTATIVE REUNION EVENTS SCHEDULE

### Wednesday, September 27, 2023 Dress Casual

4:00 p.m.- 9:00 p.m. Motorheads (Yep, it's a crawl, only were driving)  
Hospitality Room Following Motorheads

### Thursday, September 28, 2023 Dress Casual

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Lincoln Museum & Downtown

#### Dinner On Your Own

7:00 p.m. – 10:00 p.m. Bingo, Hospitality Room, Drinks, Prizes  
Bingo packages and cards will be on sale for Bingo Thursday Evening  
HOSTS: Terry & Susan Vejr

### Friday, September 29, 2023 - Dinner Dress is Business Attire

10:00 a.m. – Noon Survivors Meeting “Free Time for Others”  
Afternoon “Free Time”

5:30 p.m. – Dinner, Memorial Ceremony and Live Auction  
Cash Bar – Visit Until Closing

### Saturday, September 30, 2023 – Dinner Dress is Cocktail Attire

9:00 a.m. – Business Meeting

11:00 a.m. Group Pictures (Everyone, Please Participate)

Afternoon – Free Time

5:30 p.m. - Dinner and Entertainment  
Cash Bar – Visit Until Closing

**SEE YOU IN SPRINGFIELD**

## **2023 REUNION AUCTION INFORMATION**

**MARNI & CARL HICKS WILL AGAIN HOST THIS YEAR'S REUNION AUCTION! IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON MAKING A DONATION, PLEASE CONTACT MARNI AT:**

**[FEE754AUCTION@GMAIL.COM](mailto:FEE754AUCTION@GMAIL.COM)**

## WEBSITE

Have you visited our website recently? If not, please take the time to see all the new additions and changes.

Our Webmaster, Larisa Reilly-Thomas has worked very hard to update our site, make significant additions and made improvements to the site. We now have a tab titled "Happenings" Within this section of the website are Reunion 2023, Newspaper Articles, In Memoriam, Memorials, Chaplin's Corner, Special Recognition and Did You Know. As Larisa receives emails and other media information she populates this information to the site. As an example, the registration for the reunion can now be made through the site, including completing all necessary forms and making payment. We have yet to include information for the Special Recognition and Did You Know Sections.

We need your input for these sections! If you know someone who deserves special recognition, we need to receive that information. It only takes a few minutes to identify who, what, when, where and why the recognition is to be directed. Send to Steve Kraus [kraussa754@gmail.com](mailto:kraussa754@gmail.com)

With respect to the Did You Know Section; we want to populate this section with information, tidbits (or some may call it Trivia) As an example "the forward section of USS Frank E. Evans sank in 1,100 fathoms " or 6,600 feet or 1 1/4 miles. You can send your suggestions for this section to either Rolf Buchner [rb753754@gmail.com](mailto:rb753754@gmail.com) or to Larisa at [larisajoythomas@gmail.com](mailto:larisajoythomas@gmail.com)

## CHAPLAIN SECOND QUARTERLY PRAYER

BY AL COLLINS

God is with us during our good and bad moments of our lives through every season. His covenant was to put His law in our hearts and to write them on our minds. Our lustful flesh has been circumcised from our hearts as our minds dwells on His Gospel and He remembers our sins no more. He will rejoice over us with singing. He is here doing His Will and Purposes in our welcoming hearts. Hallelujah!

He is the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, the Messiah, our Savior, and He is the living lamb of God. We see Christ's attributes as characteristics to wear in our lives. The powers from His many Names we call upon by our knowledge of such is a reflection of God when we are weak or when we stumble or ask for His help that reveal His existence to others. Adonai our "master", we love You and walk humbly with You.

We can not serve any being other than Jesus. Only through Christ do we have any power or authority during our harvest walk. The first thing that comes to mind when we are attacked, feel helpless, or want to flee is Jesus Christ on the Cross of Calvary. We will obey, we will stand in the gap, we will serve our Savior. Thank You Jehovah Rapha our "healer." We will always follow Jehovah Nissi our "banner".

It can be difficult to comprehend that Christ's sacrifice extends beyond time. How awesome, hallelujah! We must live in, live by, and live with the God-breathed Word. Abba our "Father", thank You for calling us Your children. Such love is more than we deserve, yet we know You keep Your promises. When we call out to You and speak Your names, we are drawn closer to Your heart and love. We are Yours. Yahweh Shalom thank You for being us "peace".

Shekhinah, not in gospels, yet the concept is the presence of God felt; as with the burning bush, the cloud on Mount Sinai, Moses face after receiving the 10 Commandments, etc. We see it as manifestation of the divine presence of God as; dwelling in the activities of righteous men, firing of hearts for revival, and Hebrews 1:3. The more common references for Jesus are Savior, Redeemer, Bread of Life, Lord, Creator, Son of the Living God, Only Begotten Son, Beloved Son, etc. Whatever we call out to Him we pray for a deeper and deeper relationship to dwell with Him. AMEN!

## IN MEMORIAM

**MEA CULPA**– Please excuse the huge mistake in the first quarter newsletter obituary of Phyllis Vickers. I mistakenly picked up an obit on-line from the city of San Jose with the wrong picture of Phyllis. The following is the correct photo and obit.



Phyllis Jean (nee Rusch, Bell) Vickers passed from this life into the arms of Jesus December 16, 2021 at the Kaiser San Jose Hospital. She was born at home in the Maine Township, Marathon County, Wisconsin, to Alfred W. and Alice (nee Lemke) Rusch on June 8, 1929. Phyllis married Harry Bell of Merrill, Wisconsin on August 9, 1947 at Zion Lutheran Church Maine Township, Marathon County, Wisconsin. Her second marriage was 4 years after Harry passed away, to Aubrey Vickers at Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Cupertino, California February 14, 1987. Phyllis enjoyed Genealogy, gardening, and spending time with her grand-children and great-grandchildren. Phyllis was preceded in death by her son Gary and step-daughter Dawn (nee Vickers) Archambo, and sister Betty Retzlaff. She is survived by her husband Aubrey Vickers, daughter-in-law Sherry Bell, sister Donna Buss, step-daughters Linda Loomis and Lori Vickers, four grandchildren and twelve great-

grandchildren, and many other family and friends. Phyllis was a quiet, gentle soul who loved her family and we all loved her dearly. Burial took place at Mission City Memorial Park in Santa Clara, California. Memorial Services will be 11:00 AM February 26, 2022 at Lutheran Church of Our Savior, Cupertino, CA.

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Karen Baldwin, Association Member and wife of deceased shipmate Robert (Bob.) Karen died on 24 February 2023 in Auburn, California. If you recall Karen and Bob were the meal ticket takers at the reunion banquets for years; They would say “No Tickeeee, No Eateeee.”

Karen was born in Auburn, CA to Barbara and Ralph Mallery. Karen never got the chance to meet her father. He was officially recorded as missing in action while on a mission, taking motion pictures, with the U.S. Army Air Corps in 1943 during WWII. She grew up in Auburn with her mother, "daddy " Alvin Toelke, and brother Paul. Growing up, Karen spent a lot of time visiting her Nana and Papa at the Pilliard Ranch north of Auburn. She attended Placer High School, graduating in 1961.

Karen met the love of her life, Bob Baldwin, and they married in 1962 and lived happily ever after ranching and traveling. They were inseparable until his death in 2016. Soon after getting married, they built their first house on the Pilliard ranch, then bought their own ranch in Stockett, Montana, and moved there in 1967. They moved back to the Pilliard ranch in 1981, and proceeded to raise Black Angus cattle until retiring. They built a beautiful house of Karen's dreams in 2001. Keeping the ranch in the family, it is now operated by their Grandson and his family.

She is survived by her children: Anetta Baldwin (Wayne Romans), Auburn, CA, and Becky (Lorenzo) Cloutier, Auburn, CA. Grandchildren Kashia (Jeremy) Herring, Helena, MT, Brandon (Lindsey) Yurek, Auburn, CA, Brandy Alvis, Auburn, CA, Billie Jo Alvis, Battle Mountain, NV, Great grandchildren Charlie Espinoza, Oscar Espinoza, Acelynn and Jocie Yurek. Brother Paul (Kim) Toelke and family, Fresno, CA. and many nieces and nephews and great friends.





## IN MEMORIAM CONTINUED

SA William Edward "Bill" Schuller passed away 10 December 2022 at his home in Palmdale, California. He is survived by his sister Barbara Schuller-Richardson.

Bill reported onboard USS Frank E. Evans DD 754 on 10 October 1967 to 1969. When the Evans left Long Beach on March 29, 1969, for another West Pac tour, Bill remained in Long Beach in the hospital due to a broken ankle from an injury playing basketball. He was finally cleared to return to the ship. However, just days away from being transported, the accident occurred. After the collision Bill was assigned to the USS Mansfield on June 19, 1969. Although he was not involved in the collision, the loss of so many of his shipmates and friends hit him very hard for many years afterward.



Larnce Eugene Ward, known as Gene "Beaver" Ward, 77 years of age, passed on Monday, February 20th, 2023, at his home in Hayden Lake. Gene was born 27 March 1945, in Blackwell, Oklahoma to the late Clara Ward. He was the oldest of four children, two preceded him in death. Gene joined the Navy at 17 and fought in the Vietnam war. Serving on the USS Frank E. Evans.

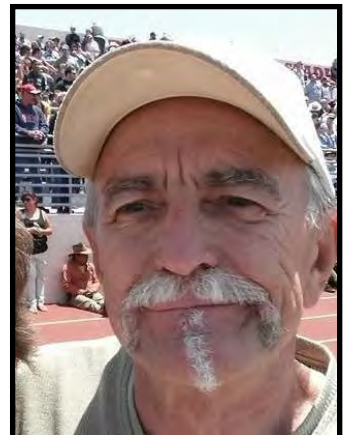
Gene married Rebecca Ward in 1986. Gene traveled the country doing construction and logging. Gene settled in Hayden Lake in 1996. He loved riding his Harley, playing with his grandchildren, and building things in the garage. He was a support to many and always there when someone was in need.

Gene leaves to cherish his memory his wife Rebecca Ward; His brother and sister-in-law Russel and Kim Ward; 3 children and their spouses Cari Maitland, Mandi and Larry Fugate, Mikey and Nancy Maitland; 6 Grandchildren, 2 Great grandchildren, 2 Nieces, and 2 grand nieces.

William "Bill" Motyka died at home in Santa Maria California on 20 March 2023, he was first cousin to our historian Frank Jablonski Jr.

Bill was born on 10 October 1945 in Chicago, he graduated high School in 1963 and then served in the US Air Force. He was a retired construction professional and oil refinery maintenance mechanic.

Bill was preceded in death by his parents Wally & Marion Motyka. And his wife Janet. He is serviced by sisters Marilyn Beale and Joyce Robba and step brother David, sons William and Greg, daughters Michelle and Wallenie.



# QUILTS OF VALOR

By Carol Coulter



Quilts of Valor are groups of volunteers who get together to sew and award quilts for veterans to say "Thank You for Your Service."

The mission of the Quilts of Valor Foundation is to cover all service members and veterans with a comforting and healing Quilt of Valor. The members award the QOV quilt to the service member or veteran in a group event or privately with family and friends present. This is not done as a surprise or as a gift for events such as birthdays or Christmas. This is done to honor the service of our Veterans.

I am Carol Coulter. My twin brother is one of the Lost 74 (Earl F. Preston Jr.). I have been making quilts for Quilts of Valor for several years. Most have been for veterans I don't know. I'd love to make these quilts for our USS Frank E. Evans veterans or veterans who are members of our Association. I've been honored to make QOV quilts for a couple of our Evans veterans however, some have said "thank you, but no thank you. I don't deserve one." I believe that every Veteran deserves a quilt and should be recognized for the sacrifice they made for our country. If any of our Evans veterans or veterans who are members of our Association would like one, I'd be honored to make it & arrange for it to be awarded to you in your hometown or at a ceremony of your choosing or at our Reunion. To be awarded a Quilt of Valor quilt you need to be nominated. To nominate you I will need your name, address, email address, phone number, current status (active or veteran), dates of service, branch, and last rank.

If you would like a Quilt of Valor quilt, please contact me.

Carol Coulter  
Cell: 571-371-9951  
Email: [crlcoulter@gmail.com](mailto:crlcoulter@gmail.com)

The quilt pictured is a special Evans quilt that I made & not a QOV quilt. It will be auctioned at the Reunion. If you are interested in one please let me know.

## MEET THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER — USS KIDD DDG 100

Commander Kevin A Pilcher

Executive Officer USS Kidd DDG 100



Commander Pilcher is a native of Fairfax, Virginia. He graduated from the University of Florida magna cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in History and received his commission via the Naval ROTC program.

His assignments at sea include serving as the Electrical Officer and Fire Control Officer onboard USS ANTIETAM (CG 54), Chief Engineer onboard USS AVENGER (MCM 1) and USS PIONEER (MCM 9), Operations Officer onboard USS HUÉ CITY (CG 66), and Commanding Officer of USS CHOSIN (CG 65) during the ship's Service Life Extension. He's conducted multiple deployments to the Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Fleet areas of operation in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Operation IRAQI FREEDOM, NATO tasking, and counter-piracy missions.

Ashore, he served at U.S. Southern Command JTF Haiti during Operation UNIFIED RESPONSE, the Secretary of the Navy's White House Liaison Office, Naval Surface Squadron FOURTEEN as Operations and Training Officer (N3/N7), & Afloat Training Group Pacific Northwest as Dir. of Engineering Training.

Commander Pilcher holds a Master of Arts in International Affairs and U.S. Foreign Policy from American University. His awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy Achievement Medal along with various unit AND service awards.

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### UPDATE FROM USS KIDD

Kidd has been busy the past 3 months away from homeport, conducting training and getting updates to their Combat Systems suite. I always thought it would be tough to be stationed in Everett with the 16 hour sea detail, but having to leave for training and workup has got to be challenging.

Chief Mike

### XO's REPORT

Mr. Lehman,

KIDD is currently in its integrated training phase as part of Carrier Strike Group ONE (CSG-1) and Destroyer Squadron ONE (CDS-1). The crew recently returned to Everett after a three-month period in the Southern California and Hawaii operating areas while participating in a Surface Warfare Advanced Tactics and Training (SWATT) exercise and Group Sail. During that time KIDD honed its warfare skills with other CSG-1 and CDS-1 units, to include a live missile firing exercise. Before returning to Everett, the ship visited Naval Base Ventura County in Port Hueneme, California, for extensive grooms to its combat systems suite, and was visited by the Board of Inspection and Survey (INSURV) for a periodic material inspection. The crew performed admirably through every challenge and returned to Everett more capable and combat ready.

Please let me know if there are any questions. We look forward to seeing the next newsletter.

v/r  
CDR Kevin Pilcher







### 3 JUNE MEMORIAL CEREMONIES CONTINUED

Once again the overcast early morning cleared to allow the California sunshine to come through. About 50 attendees gathered for the 3 June Ceremony in Long Beach.

However this year something happened that was mystic yet wonderful. A few minutes before the start of the ceremony a young lady named Susan Wettstein stood off to the side with her companion dog named Belle. She indicated she was standing about 100 yards away when Belle started pulling her over toward our group. Susan indicated Belle had never done that before and she didn't want to intrude. It seems Belle was a retired Marine Corp demolition dog. Susan had taken him out for his daily walk and somehow they found their way to Shoreline Memorial Park.



Photo to the left  
L/R  
Steve Kraus  
Susan Wettstein,  
Eric Lee,  
Ben Alcoser,  
Butterball Conley  
and Pete Peters  
Belle needs no  
introduction

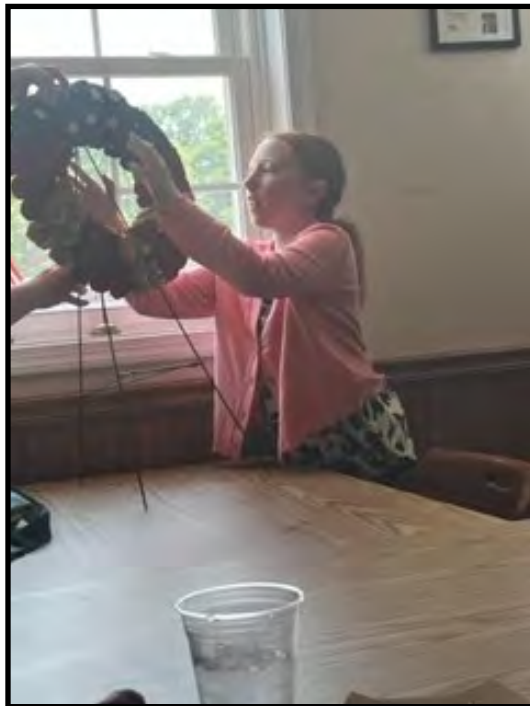


The US Coast Guard Fire Boat provided their honor water salute while the Hawthorne HS NJROTC Honor Guard, Susan and Belle stood by. Off to the side is Nancy Collins and Susie Rice. The remainder of the ceremony was our traditional reading of the names and ringing of the bell while Nancy Collins and Susie Rice let 74 balloons loose.

### 3 JUNE 2023 MEMORIALS CONTINUED



Carol Coulter organized this gathering through a variety of time changes, but finally pulled it off. The attendees sat around tables and reminisced about the lost 74, read the names and rang the bell. In the photo to the left is L/R *Dave & Amy Turner, Richard Rines, Bill Coulter, Bill Coulter Jr., Carol Coulter, John Coffee, Page Coulter, Kathy & Doug Coulter*. Sometimes small and intimate is just the right ingredients to make for a great day.



Page Coulter (Granddaughter to Bill & Carol Coulter) places the wreath in honor of her Uncle, Yeoman 2nd Class Earl Frederick Preston Jr. and his other 73 shipmates lost on 3 June 1069





## PLAQUE OF SA THURMAN PERRY SMITH JR



Somehow this dedication slipped by us. On October 26 2019 T. J. and Betsy Smith-McCorkle dedicated a flag and a plaque in honor of Betsy's brother SA Thurman Smith. The memorial plaque was installed at the base of the flag pole at the Umstead Pines Golf Club in Durham, NC.

The American Legion Post 7 rifle team did the volley firing and taps were played to honor the Lost 74. Included in the dedication was a verbal scenario of the USS Frank E. Evans accident with details of what happened that fateful night.

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## VFW STATE CONVENTION FIRST PRIZE

Carolyn LaLiberte wins first prize with her display at the Virginia VFW State Convention. It was a last minute decision by Carolyn to create a memorial to the Lost 74 that would not only tell the story of the collision but to honor the fallen. She knew the state convention was being held over the 3 June weekend and she had little time to create something that was meaningful.

She created a "Buddy Poppy" for each of the Lost 74, which include a photo of each of the lost. She then created a display board using key ingredients such as our brochure, news paper articles and a variety of poems related to the collision. "Bravo Zulu" Carolyn for a job well done!





**USS FRANK E EVANS ASSOCIATION  
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Carlsbad, CA 92008**

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RESERVATION  
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