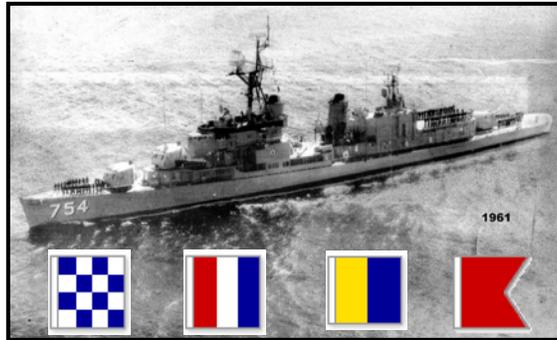


USS FRANK E. EVANS DD 754

WWII KOREA VIETNAM



FOOTLOCKER TALK NEWSLETTER NUMBER 95 — FOURTH QUARTER 2024

Hard to believe that 2024 is rapidly approaching its end. So much to do, so little time. As we reflect back on 2024 we had great hope that the GAO report might provide us a little more direction on going forward to getting the names of our “Lost 74” inscribed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial. Although the report was not overall disappointing, it did help clarify some issues regarding who makes the final decision. It is clear that the Pentagon, DOD and National Parks jointly make the decision and we now know the specific departments and names of individuals that we need to target.

In this edition we are sharing many pictures of the 2024 reunion in Spokane, Washington. Our thanks go out to Cindy Haulman for her expertise on taking the pictures at this year's gathering. In early 2025 Sondra Dutton will create our 2024 memories video, if you should happen to have any photos you would like to see included in this video, please send to Sondra at sondrathetexan@yahoo.com.

We believe in the saying “You can get excited about the future, the past won't mind.” In 2025 we must be present in all things, and thankful for what we have. We ask that you all take a leap of faith and begin this wondrous New Year by believing that good things are yet to come.

Wishing you a holiday season full of warmth, love and family.

Please stay safe and healthy!

Steve Kraus
Association President

Terry Vejr
Association V-President



2024 REUNION

The reunion this year had a wonderful turn out and fun was had by all. If you could not join us this year, the next few pages will show you some of the highlights.

SPOKANE, WASHINGTON & COUR D'ALENE, IDAHO SEPTEMBER 11-14, 2024



Pub Crawl took us to Boomers, VFW Post 1435 & Ichabod's



Marni Hicks (John Coffee's daughter) holds up John's jacket; he was with us in spirit!

Tour Downtown Spokane, Riverfront Park & Crosby House



GAME NIGHT!

Game Night continues to be a big hit on Thursday evening of the reunion. We had a full house and lot's of prizes.



Nick Hopfauf, wondering what the hell is this? Mary & Eric Lee, still looking for direction to the next event!

Tour Coeur d'Alene, Falls Park & Boat Trip on Lake Coeur d'Alene

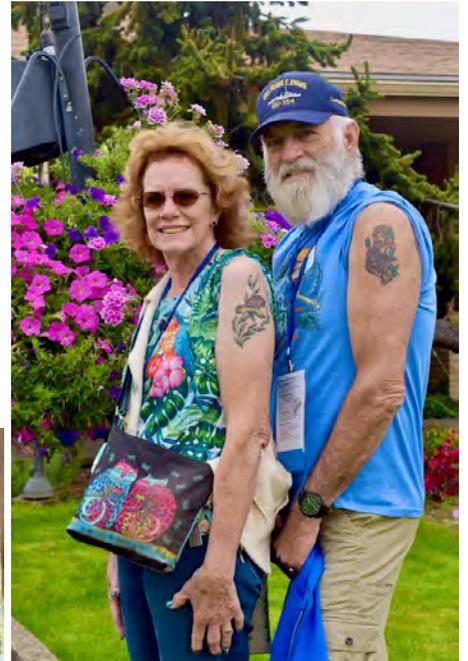




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FRIDAY NIGHT DINNER - REMEMBERING THE LOST 74



SATURDAY NIGHT DINNER

Remembering our Founders

HG Nichols

JC Campbell

Calvin Rankin

Sylvia Campbell

Each year we honor our founders by setting a table in recognition for their contributions and dedication to the USS Frank E. Evans Association.



**NEXT YEARS REUNION WILL BE IN
OKLAHOMA CITY**

OKLAHOMA

SEPTEMBER 14 — 17 2025

IN MEMORIAM



On July 5, 2024, RD3 Orion "Ron" Koppang passed away peacefully at home with his family following a long battle with COPD. Ron was born in Kalispell, Montana on March 17 1943 to Astrid Koppang (Prestybe) and Orion "Buddy" Koppang. Ron grew up in Kalispell and Columbia Falls, graduating from Columbia Falls High School in 1961. Ron pursued the love of his life, Karalee Stewart and they married on June 2, 1966 in Long Beach, CA. Ron left a few days later for two tours to Vietnam aboard the destroyer, the Frank E Evans. Ron reported onboard 28 May 1965 to the OI Division. Following his naval service, Ron and Karalee stayed in Southern California where Ron worked at McDonnell Douglas Aircraft. In 1971 Ron and Karalee moved to Oregon City, OR and took a job as a State Farm Agent. Ron was an active member in the early '70's on the Oregon City School Board and Jaycee's. He and Karalee raised two daughters Riona and Shanin.



Timothy James Francis, 44, passed away Oct. 31, 2024. He was born Aug. 19, 1980 in Denver, CO to parents, Kristine Weber and Delbert Francis. He is preceded in death by his grandparents, Joe and Grace Francis; and fur baby, Admiral his cat.

Timothy grew up in Walden, CO where he attended North Park High School. He graduated in 1995 with his class of 11. He then proudly followed his father's footsteps and served in the US Navy aboard the ship, USS Nitze DLG 94.

Timothy later worked as an Oil Technician for The Halliburton company. He was a great cook. He enjoyed the mountains, fishing and archery. He was a Colorado State Bow hunter of the year. Timothy was super intelligent and so knowledgeable about everything. He was always an avid reader and s a wordsmith in his younger years, he sent a letter to the Editor that he was proud of. Tim was an excellent father to his daughter, Giosetta, she was his world.



Timothy is survived by his daughter, Giosetta Francis, father, Delbert (Loretta) Francis; mother, Kristine Weber; sister, Dana Francis; nieces, Jessica Spindel and Crystal Kirklin; nephew, Dylan Milroy; cousins, Gary (Cindy) Haulman, Joseph Haulman, and Danielle (Sebastian) Estenssoro; mother of his child, Dominique; former in-laws, Dominic (Diane) DeLorenzo; his four legged companion, Great Dane, Justice; and a host of family and friends. Timothy will always be remembered for his sweet, gentle, loving soul.

IN MEMORIAM



Association member SO2 Lynn Garrett went home to be with the Lord and his beloved wife, Bonnie, on Tuesday, October 1, 2024 just one month before his 90th birthday.

Lynn was born in Lakewood and later moved to Avon where he graduated amongst a class of 28 students in 1952 from Avon High School. Following a brief time at Temple University in Philadelphia, Lynn joined the Navy in 1953. He came aboard USS Frank E. Evans on 15 July 1954 and reported to the 3rd Division where he trained and worked as a Sonarman. After Naval travels to Japan, Guam, Hong Kong, Singapore, and Melbourne, he returned home to Avon in 1957 and was married to Bonnie in 1958. She died in 2021; they had been married for 63 years. Lynn was an avid reader especially of history, enjoyed various art forms, and listening to music including bag pipes, Irish folk, and orchestras.

He is survived by his three children: Beverly (Marty) Lescher of Elyria OH, Kimberly (Gary) Peaco of Mars PA, and Dale (Beth) Garrett of Avon OH; his eight grandchildren: Bethany, Brittany, Megan, Matthew, Ryan, Evan, Lincoln and Lena; his great-grandson Leon; his cousin Jay Cinco of Euclid OH; his cousin Tim (Jeanne) Potter of California; his brother-in-law Bill Mahon of Westlake, OH and his nephews David (Debra) Mahon and James (Rebecca) Mahon. He was preceded in death by his wife of 63 years Bonnie, his parents George and Marion, and his sister Karen (Bill) Mahon.

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Tom Vargo 1968-69 (S) sent this Christmas Card to his Grandmother in 1968, she didn't receive until early 1969. If you have any mementoes of the ship you would like to share please send them to us along with a short story.

USS KIDD UPDATES

The USS KIDD has been extremely busy this last quarter. Some highlights of what the crew has accomplished:

- Participated in Rim of the Pacific (RIMPAC) 2024, the world's largest naval exercise with over 40 countries' naval and marine forces participating. KIDD acted as a task group commander for a multi-national group including vessels from Canada, Italy, and Brunei. It also supported weapons and sensor testing for future capabilities. The ship's softball team won first place in a multinational tournament, and the command as a whole came in second overall in the sports competition.
- Served as the flag ship during Exercise Pacific Dragon with ship's from Australia, Japan, and South Korea to improve coordinated air defense capabilities.
- Participated in Submarine Commanders' Mini Wars where the ship practiced hunting U.S. submarines to prepare their crews for deployment.
- Conducted routine operations in the Alaskan operating area to support a free and open Indo-Pacific.

CDR Pilcher relieved CDR Somnhot of command at the end of June. The new XO is CDR Chris Gans.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Welcome aboard to our 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>
Robert Hughes	West Chester, PA	Was onboard DESRON 23 3 June 1969.
Micheal Jones	Spokane, WA	Mike was onboard USS Kearsarge 3 June 1969.
Keven Freedman	West Hills, CA	Photographer onboard Kearsarge 3 June 1969.
Terry Nykoluk	Suisun, CA	Shipmate / Survivor 1967-69.
Jeffrey Fox	3 River Falls, MN	Son of shipmate Jerald Fox.
Jason Fox	Crooks, SD	Son of shipmate Jerald Fox.
Collen Billings	Oceanside, CA	Friend of Donna Kraus.
Jane Brunst	Oceanside, CA	Friend of Donna Kraus.
Charlie Bauguness	Bluefield, VA	Friend of Judy Cool - Akers.
Brittany Berry	Syracuse, NY	Niece of Lost Lawrence John Reilly Jr.

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

VA UPDATES

Eligible Veterans who do not have a VA-issued Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC)—as well as eligible caregivers—can now enroll for installation access at the visitor center using their REAL ID Act-compliant driver's license or non-driver's identification card. This means these individuals no longer need to present a VA-issued caregiver patronage letter, VA-issued service-connected disability letter, or VA Health Eligibility Center Form H623A to enroll for installation access.

To enroll for reoccurring installation access, eligible Veterans and caregivers must establish identity, fitness, and purpose on their first visit to each DOD installation they wish to access at the visitor's center. As part of enrollment, you must:

1. Present an acceptable credential (VHIC or REAL ID) to establish identity;
2. Undergo an on-the-spot criminal record and terrorism check to establish fitness; and

Have your eligibility for on-installation benefits verified electronically to establish purpose. If your purpose is for health care, and the DOD installation doesn't have a commissary, exchange or authorized MWR service, then proof of appointment will need to be provided.

When entering a DOD installation, Veteran and caregiver eligibility is now verified electronically. Following enrollment for reoccurring installation access, Veterans and eligible caregivers can enter the installation by presenting the same VHIC or REAL ID they enrolled with.

Enrollment is typically valid for one to three years, or one year after the last visit to the given DOD installation. If a patron's VHIC or REAL ID expires, they will need to reenroll with their new VHIC or REAL ID. Termination of a patron's eligibility will automatically result in the termination of installation access enrollment.

Using ID.me to Access VA Online Services and Exclusive Discounts

ID.me helps millions of Veterans, beneficiaries and caregivers access VA's online services, including and otheVA.gov, the VA:Health and Benefits mobile app, AccessVA, and other VA online services. Along with accessing VA accounts, Veterans can use ID.me's digital wallet to receive exclusive military discounts from hundreds of top brands, all in a way that puts Veterans in control of their data. Creating an ID.me account is safe, free and easy. ID.me is a digital wallet that helps people like you easily prove your identity so you can access online services and benefits online. This is to help make sure you're you—and not someone pretending to be you.

ID.me provides the strongest identity verification system available to prevent fraud and identity theft, and it uses bank-grade encryption to keep your personal information safe. Users can control which services and businesses they share information with. ID.me does not sell your data.