

# USS FRANK E. EVANS DD 754

WWII KOREA VIETNAM



## FOOTLOCKER TALK NEWSLETTER NUMBER 91 — FOURTH QUARTER 2023

### AHOY SHIPMATES, FAMILY & FRIENDS

For those that were unable to join us in Springfield, Illinois this past September, we certainly missed you. Springfield was a delightful city, known as the Land of Lincoln. We enjoyed learning about our 16th President with all the challenges of his time. We now move onto Spokane Valley for our 2024 reunion. Next year's reunion is in its planning stages. We will attempt to have the reunion packages out in early May of 2024. The reunion will be held September 11<sup>th</sup> to the 14<sup>th</sup> 2024 at the Mirabeau Park Hotel and Convention Center, Spokane Valley, Washington. Save the dates and mark your calendar now!

Don't have a calendar.... We have 25 Frank E. Evans Calendars left over from the reunion. They are on a first come first serve basis. When they're gone...they're gone! Text or email Steve Kraus if you would like to receive one. Steve Kraus 760-458-4295 or [kraussa754@gmail.com](mailto:kraussa754@gmail.com)

It's hard to believe 2023 is almost over. We wish everyone a happy, prosperous, and healthy New Year. Have a wonderful holiday season and we are looking forward to seeing you at the reunion in Spokane Valley.

*Steve Kraus*  
Association President

*Terry Vejr*  
Association Vice President

## TRIBUTES TO BEER!

"Sometimes, when I reflect on all the beer I drink, I feel ashamed. Then I look into the glass and think about the workers in the brewery and all of their hopes and dreams. If I did not drink beer, they might be out of work and their dreams would be shattered. I think, it is better to drink this beer and let their dreams come true, than be selfish and worry about my liver." Babe Ruth

"When I read about the evils of drinking, I gave up reading." Paul Horning

"24 hours.. a day and 24 beers.. a case. Coincidence? I think not." H. L. Mencken

"When we drink, we get drunk. When we get drunk, we fall asleep. When we fall asleep, we commit no sin. When we commit no sin, we go to heaven. So, let's all get drunk and go to heaven." George Bernard Shaw



The Beer That Made Subic Bay Famous!



Beer is proof that God loves us and wants us to be happy." Benjamin Franklin

"Without question, the greatest invention in the history of mankind is beer. Oh, I grant you that the wheel was also a fine invention, but the wheel does not go nearly as well with pizza." Dave Barry

"Remember 'I' before 'E,' except in Budweiser." Professor Irwin Corey

"To some it is a six-pack. To me, it is a Support Group. Salvation in a can." Leo Durocher

One night at Cheers, a TV Sitcom, Cliff Clavin said to his buddy, Norm Peterson: "Well, ya see, Norm, it's like this ... A herd of buffalo can only move as fast as the slowest buffalo. And when the herd is hunted, it is the slowest and weakest ones at the back that are killed first. This natural selection is good for the herd as a whole, because the general speed and health of the whole group keeps improving by the regular killing of the weakest members. In much the same way, the human brain can only operate as fast as the slowest brain cells.



## 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, Nerv- ing 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.

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MM 2nd Class Robert I Shaw, 89, of 72 Tollgate Hill, Reedsville, PA. passed away on 26 Oct. 2023, at home. He served in the Navy as a Machinist Mate 2nd class on USS Frank E. Evans from 9 March 1955 to 5 March 1959. On 26 May 1955, he married Patricia Shaw, who preceded him in death on 23 July 2023.

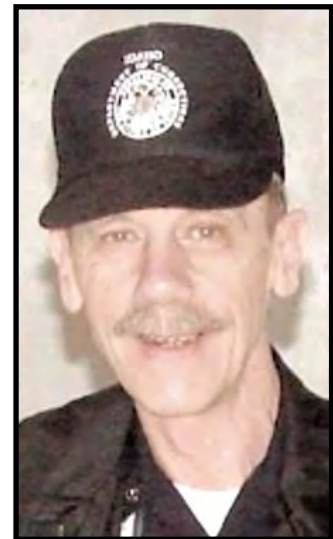
Robert was preceded in death by three sisters, Peggy Hefkin, Sally Stull and Judy Treaster. He was the last of his immediate family. He was employed and retired from the Standard Steel in the tool crib of the Machine Shop. A former member of Reedsville Lutheran Church, he served on the church council and served as President four times. He was a Sunday school teacher and choir member. He enjoyed doing woodworking, gardening and building models. He loved to read and do crossword puzzles. He also enjoyed singing and doing folk art painting on his woodworking projects. He enjoyed spending time with his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

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BTFN Wayne Tachell died on 23 July 2023 in Orofino, Washington. He reported aboard on 7 October 1965 and served until 1967. He was then transferred to USS Herbert J. Thomas and finally USS King. He was discharged in February of 1968.

Returning back home to Washington state, he met the love of his life, Suzette. They were married on 9 May 1970, in Silverdale, Washington. They had three boys together, and in May celebrated 53 years together.

Wayne grew up in Gig Harbor, Washington, and Alaska, with his mom and stepdad and four younger siblings. Four years ago, thanks to Ancestry, Wayne found his birth father. He had passed away years ago, but he was able to meet his brother, Owen Arnet, and family. He worked at the Idaho Department of Corrections in Orofino for 17 years and retired 26 Oct 2006.



He loved making people laugh! Anyone that knew Wayne knew that he had the biggest heart and brightest smile, followed by his funny jokes and teasing ways.



# USS KIDD DDG 100 UPDATE

By Mike Lehman

I have been in contact with USS Kidd since returning from the Evans reunion. It sounds like she is currently in a pre deployment leave and upkeep period. I asked the XO about letting the association members know that they will be gone over the holidays, and about the possibility of sending care packages. We did this a few years ago when they were deployed over the holidays. Renee and I sent a package to the OI division LCPO for the CIC gang, along with a card for any birthday folks, during the previous cruise, and intend to do so again.



Below is his response,

Mr. Lehman,

Glad to hear the reunion went well. The crew would of course be appreciative of any care packages during deployment, particularly over the holidays. The ship's mailing address is listed below. Restricted items would be any weapons, hazardous materials or aerosols, and adult/pornographic materials. As you know it can take a month to receive packages depending on where we are, so if people are looking to send perishable items or baked goods they should be well wrapped to avoid spoilage. Thanks again.

**USS KIDD (DDG 100)**

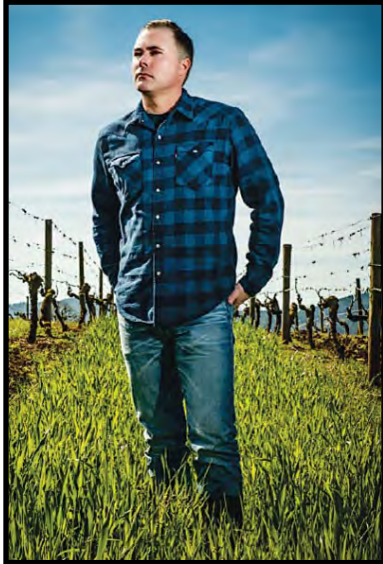
**Unit 100209 Box 1**

**FPO AP 96670-1212**



The above picture shows Kidd now deployed and underway with USS Carl Vinson CVN 70. Please reach out to the crew of KIDD and visit them on their Facebook page.

## WINE MAKER - JEFF VEJR



Jeff Vejr. Son of our our Vice President's (Terry Vejr), was recently featured in Wine & Sprints Magazine. The magazine wrote "Every year, our critics taste hundreds of wines from around the world. Golden Cluster peaked their interest in 2023 and will be on our radar to watch in 2024." "Bravo Zulu Jeff" The article read....

Jeff Vejr makes the wines at Golden Cluster, a collection of brands featuring off-the-beaten-path vineyards and varieties, whether that's Saperavi and Sagrantino from small plots in the Columbia Gorge, or 55-year-old plantings of Semillon put to ground by Charles Coury, Oregon's modern vine pioneer. He also makes Chardonnays from an old planting of an obscure clone (548) in the Tualatin Hills prone to *millerandage* (hens and chicks)—in 2019, he called one of them "Noburg, Oregon," and left it outside in a barrel that wasn't topped off, with the intent to oxidize the juice. Instead, the cold winter forced the wine into a reductive state. This portion, blended with another barrel of more typical *élevage*, made for one of the oddest, most compelling white wines we tasted this year, fiercely reductive and yet full of lively fruit. —P.J.C.

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## VA UPDATES

### Exploring psychedelics for the treatment of Veterans

VA is committed to safely exploring all avenues that promote the health of our nation's Veterans. In line with this goal, VA conducts studies under stringent protocols at various facilities nationwide to identify if psychedelic compounds can treat Veterans with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and potentially other mental health conditions. In the new podcast series, *New Horizons in Health*, Dr. Shereef Elnahal, VA under secretary for Health, leads a candid discussion on psychedelic assisted therapies for Veterans experiencing a number of mental health conditions. A Marine and Army Veteran who participated in a research trial nine years ago describes the experience and his life after recovery from PTSD and suicidal ideation.

### Caregivers Want Answers to Mystery Link Between ALS, Military Service

Darrell Lee has lost almost all control over his body as he grapples with the relentless grip of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), also known as Lou Gehrig's disease. The quest for a cure or a cause remains elusive, with only a small fraction of cases showing hereditary links and a few medications that slow the disease's progression. Yet, hidden in Darrell Lee's past is a clue to why ALS chose him: he's a Vietnam U.S. Air Force veteran. Studies indicate that people who served in the military are 1.3 to 2 times more likely than the general population to die of ALS. Data suggests this elevated risk of death occurs regardless of war or branch, or even if a vet served during peacetime. The association holds true for other countries, too, such as Denmark. In 2008, recognizing ALS as a service-connected injury, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs began covering 100% of treatment for veterans who served 90 days or more. Still, advocates are pushing for more research, more recognition and more support for veterans and their caregivers

## BRIDGE DEDICATION—BM3 PATRICK G. GLENNON

On September 30, 2023 a memorial bridge dedication was held at the James River Bridge outside of Fessenden, North Dakota, in honor of BM3 Patrick G. Glennon. Relatives of Patrick were in attendance for the dedication. Patrick's brother Jim, sister-in-law Jeannie, stepbrother Kurt, sister-in-law Jeanne, stepbrother Paul, and step sister Kay & brother-in-law Greg. Community members and the family of the late Navy sailor Patrick Glennon gathered Saturday to pay him tribute by dedicating a bridge near the Fessenden farm where he grew up.

The Fessenden American Legion Post 33 presented the Colors. Kathy Muscha, with the American Legion Auxiliary, tossed flowers over the bridge in a traditional salute. The crowd of about 80 people released balloons before moving on to lunch at the First Lutheran Church, joined by a train of about a dozen motorcycles in honor of Glennon's love for Harley Davidsons.



The bridge dedication was the first of three dedications being held following action last spring by the North Dakota Legislature. House Bill 1352 named three bridges for veterans, including the N.D. Highway 30 bridge over the James River in Wells County as the Petty Officer Third Class Patrick G. Glennon Vietnam Bridge and 73 other sailors who were killed when a portion of their ship went down in the South China Sea on 3 June 1969.

Because of that injustice, Jim Nelson (Left in Photo) legislative director for the North Dakota Veterans Legislative Council, Bismarck, put Glennon's name at the top of the list in working to establish a program to name bridges in the state for veterans. Nelson was serving as a signalman on another ship that was among the first to arrive on the scene of the collision of the Evans and Melbourne. With Jim, is a Survivor from USS Frank E. Evans, RM2 Richard Grant.



**GROUP PHOTO'S 2023 REUNION  
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS**



**SAVE THE DATE FOR THE UPCOMING EVENT**  
**STATE OF NEBRASKA'S VIETNAM**  
**VETERANS MEMORIAL DEDICATION**  
**D-DAY 6 JUNE 2024 PAPILLION, NE**  
**74 LOST WILL HAVE THEIR NAMES ON**  
**THIS STATES MEMORIAL**

**GROUP PHOTO'S 2023 REUNION  
SPRINGFIELD ILLINOIS**



**NEXT REUNION IS IN  
SPOKANE WASHINGTON  
SEPTEMBER 11—14 2024  
LOOK FOR FUTURE ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## REUNION RECAP 2023

Springfield, Illinois was a terrific city selection for our 2023 reunion held at the Northfield Inn and Suites Hotel between Wednesday September 27—30.

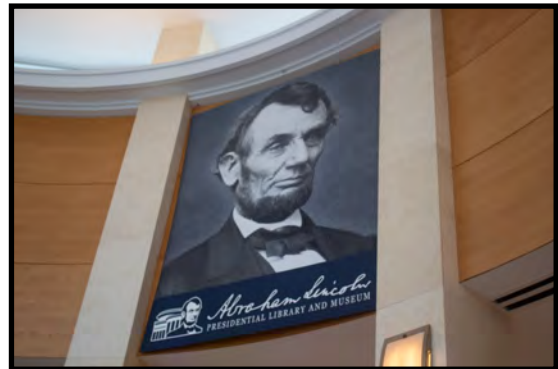


Dulce Huggins, Kim McFadden  
& Margeret Campbell

Our gathering started on the early evening of 27 September with a trip to Motorhead. Motorhead is a converted old

Stuckey's building made into a museum filled with old auto related cars, motorcycles, gas station and auto parts. The evening was perfect for outdoor dining and dancing. Since the event fell on 27 September (John Coffey and Donna Kraus's birthdays) we took time to wish them happy birthdays with cake for everyone.

On Thursday morning the group gathered for a quick breakfast then off to downtown Springfield to visit the President Lincoln Museum. By surprise we were able to see more of the city because our driver thought we were going to a sign company first. Once at the museum we toured the museum. The remainder of the afternoon the group was on their own until we headed back to the hotel.



After dinner we gathered in the ball room for several rounds of Bingo. Great prizes were awarded to the winners. The main cash prize was over \$600. It was for our last game of the night...black out bingo . It was won by Marc Rosen, shown in the picture to the left. In the photo to the right, Donna Albert displays her prize of 5000 ideas when visiting our 50 states. On consensus, the group loves Bingo and Trivia nights.



## RANDOM REUNION PICTURES



Friday was a free day for attendees to go on their own and visit more sights Springfield had to offer. Tony Cuzzupe (Son of ICFN Larry Cuzzupe 1965-66) rolled up in the parking lot with his fully restored 1983 CJ-7 Jeep. This Jeep was restore as a tribute memorial to the Lost 74. On the engine hood all 74 names are displayed. The license plate reads 3 JUNE 69. On display is another plate with our logo and DD-754. When it came time to take the Survivors group pictures, there was no better place then around this master piece.

The jeep wasn't the only master piece on display at this year's reunion. Check out the model tailer, a replica of USS Tagalong, our Associations' Trailer. This model, along with a Jeep truck to pull it was brought to this years reunion. Both were built by Association Member, Bill Coulter IV son of Carol and Bill Coulter. This photo is just a teaser, in the 1st quarters newsletter in 2024 we will provide you more pictures and all the details behind its construction. To say we have talent in this Association is a understatement!



Next, guess who showed up at the Saturday Evening Banquet, none other than "Honest Abe, Himself." Following dinner he spoke to the group for almost an entire 1 1/2 hours, reciting President Lincoln's most famous speeches. When the floor was open for Q & A, the first question asked was...Where you talking about the period of time then or now? Seems times are not that much different then they were 150 years ago.





## BOARD OF DIRECTOR CHANGES

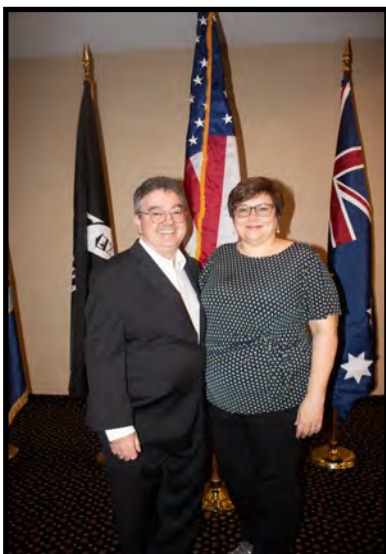
At this years Board of Directors meeting our Historian RM2 Frank Jablonski USS Okanagan APA 220 informed the Board he was resigning from the Board and also from his Historian position. As painful as it was for him to step down, we certainly respect his decision.

As you are aware Frank has been diligently working since 2007 to research not only the history of the ship but our shipmates as well. Frank has recapped over 4200 former shipmates and written 7 books about USS Frank E. Evans DD 754. He truly is our “Superman.” In the photo to the right, Frank stands with his wife Terri in front of Clark Kent’s (Superman’s) Telephone Booth. As a high lite to this years reunion, Frank was inducted into the Golden Anchor Circle on Saturday night.



Also, at the Board meeting MM3 Richard Alverdes (1966-69) informed the Board that he too toiled over the thought of resigning from the board, however, his doctors strongly recommend he step down and the real boss (Teri his wife) concurred with that decision. Rich stepped in as Secretary of the Association and Board following the death of Sylvia Campbell. Even though Rich knew nothing about the job duties, he jumped in with booth feet and did an outstanding job for the last 5 years.

The members then discussed two people that were highly recommend as additions for the Board. Margret Campbell (daughter of Joel & Monica Campbell, granddaughter to JC & Sylvia Campbell) and Tim Wendler (son of RM2 Ron Thibodeau and wife Lynn.) The Board was unanimous on the selection and approval for Margeret and Tim.



At Saturday’s Business Meeting, Margeret was recommended for the position of Secretary of the Association and Board Secretary. She was nominated and approved unanimously. Tim will serve as Legislative Director and continue as Liasson to the Relatives of the Lost.







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

**MARK YOUR  
2024 CALENDARS  
3 JUNE MEMORIALS  
6 JUNE VIETNAM  
MEMORIAL DEDICATION  
PAPILLION, NE  
2024 REUNION  
SPOKANE, WASHINGTON  
SEPTEMBER 11—14**



**HAPPY  
Holidays**