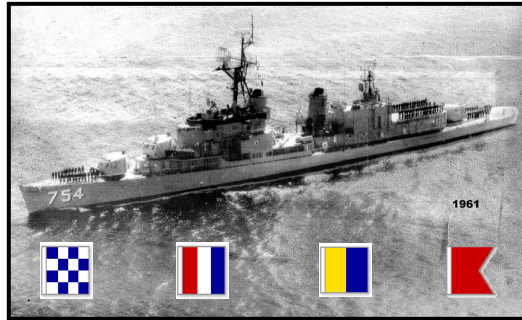


USS FRANK E. EVANS DD 754

WWII KOREA VIETNAM



FOOTLOCKER TALK NEWSLETTER NUMBER 93 — SECOND QUARTER 2024

AHOY SHIPMATES, FAMILY & FRIENDS

We are running a little late for this addition because we wanted to include information regarding the Grand Opening of the Nebraska Vietnam Veteran's Memorial (NVVM) in Papillion, Nebraska, Please take the time to read the article in this edition. We will continue in the next edition more information and pictures about the memorial. If for any reason you are in the area of Omaha, Nebraska, please include time to visit this fabulous memorial.

It may seem that efforts to get our "Lost 74" on the wall have slowed down, but that is not the case. Since the last update the Government Accountability Office (GAO) is well into their investigation and has completed their outreach and interviews with several survivors and relatives of the lost. A couple of our relatives of the lost addressed in their interviews how it appears the decisions of who has been added or not added since the wall was erected have been somewhat arbitrarily applied and that there does not seem to be a clear policy for inclusion, but rather the decision making appears to be purely political in nature. If the politics of the situation were removed, then we would be able to figure out how to overcome the logistical and funding obstacles. Our survivors related how they re-live that tragic night daily and drove home the point that our ship and crew were there for one reason and one reason only, to fight in the Vietnam War.

We are receiving great support from the Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). As you know the VVA has a resolution supporting the addition of the "Lost 74" names added to the Wall. For those that are not a members of VVA, please consider joining. More information will be forth coming regarding their thoughts going forward and how they are doing research in an effort to help or cause.

Hope to see everyone in Spokane in September, still time to make your room and reunion registration, see information on the following page.

"Lest We Forget"

Steve Kraus
Association President

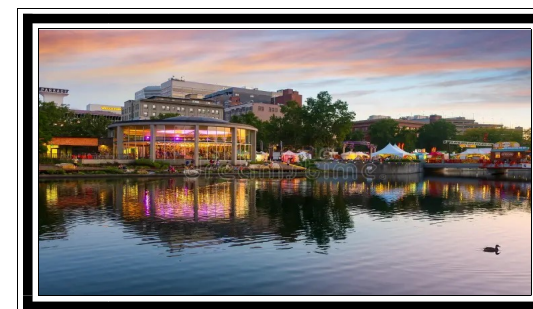
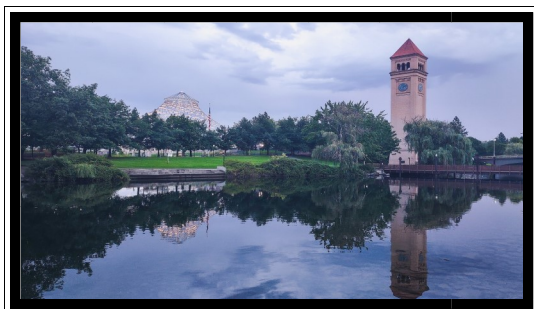
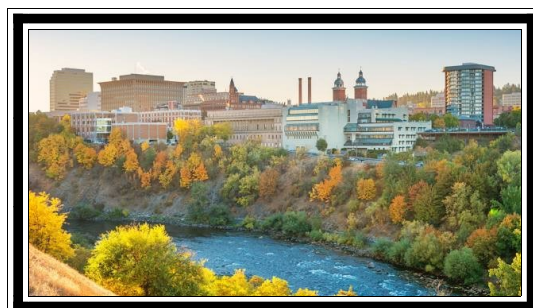
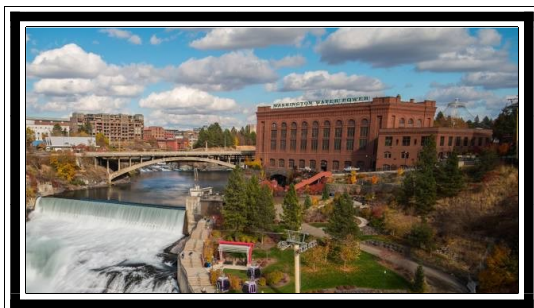
Terry Vejr
Association VP

2024 USS FRANK E EVANS REUNION

***COME SEE THE BEAUTY OF SPOKANE ,
WASHINGTON & COEUR D'ALENE, IDAHO***

DATES: SEPTEMBER 11- 14

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TO RECEIVED YOU REUNION PACKET
IT IS NOT TOO LATE!***



PAPILLION NEBRASKA ROLLS OUT THE RED CARPET

BY STEVE KRAUS

Papillion Nebraska certainly rolled out the red carpet not only for our “Lost 74” but for the USS Frank E. Evans Association on 6 June 2024. I was blown away with the warm reception we all received at the Grand Opening of the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Papillion, Nebraska. The memorial is located at 11691 South 108th Street, Papillion, NE 68046

On 5 June a pre-grand opening event was provided to special guests, association members, army crew members that once flew the UH-1 Huey aircraft and others that played a role in helping make the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial become a reality.. The Huey aircraft is permanently on display and a center piece of the memorial. The Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial Organization was able to locate, obtain and restore the aircraft to precision and perfection. On the ground below the helicopter is a statue of two army soldier’s carrying an injured veteran as they await for the chopper to land.



Directly in front of the nose of the helicopter is the memorial to our “Lost 74”. It is located at one of the two entry points for the Nebraska Vietnam Veterans Memorial grounds.



Emotions ran high as Gari Hodgson and her son Joshua Hodgson attended their very first USS Frank E. Evans Association gathering. I was able to locate Gari a few years ago and ask her to come to Papillion when her father would be honored along with the Sage Brothers as Vietnam Veterans that died from the state of Nebraska, she gladly accepted. In the pictures below you can see Josh and Gari identifying their loved one that they never got to meet. Gari was born in September following the 3 June collision.



The 4 from Nebraska included on the NVVM are RD2 Garry Bradbury Hodgson, BM2 Gary Loren Sage, RD3 Gregory Allen Sage and SA Kelly Jo Sage.



Of course the Sage family was out in force for this dedication. In the photo below is Doug Sage (surviving brother) and his son Casey Sage pointing out the names of their lost. On the lost 74 memorial stone In the photo to the right, Sara Vaa-Perez points out the names of the 3 Sage brothers.



On the backside of the wall are all 400 tiles representing the 400 names inscribed on the NVVM.



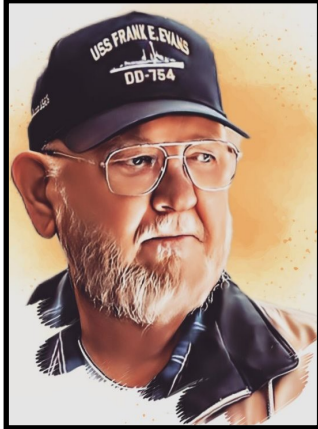
Bravo Zulu and our deepest thanks and appreciation go out to the entire Nebraska Vietnam Veteran's Memorial Organizing Committee. The Memorial is truly dedicated to those who served and is a reminder of the sacrifices made.

SPECIAL TRIBUTE

In Memory of John Coffey

9/27/1944 to 3/7/2024

There are special people in our lives who will never leave us. They leave us in body, but never in mind. John Coffey was one of those people. The days John was with us might fade away, but his memories, moments, quick wit and laughter, will never fade away!



John had an impact on each of us. He was not just a person; he was a force - a beacon of kindness, resilience, and unwavering love. You never left his presence without a smile. He never took life too seriously and lived life to the fullest everyday. The world is not the same without John Coffey.

This is what John wrote in his bio explaining how he grew up. It demonstrates his humor he put into every conversation.



It was a dark, cool, windy night on September 27 of 1944, when after hours of crying, sobbing, and more crying, my dad finally paid the hospital bill and was able to take me home for the first time. After graduating high school at age 17, I couldn't find a job because I wasn't signed up for the draft. So, I asked my father to sign the papers that would let me join the service, I almost burnt the soles off my shoes getting my father to the 5 & 10 cent store, where there was a notary to witness the signing. I was a company commander in the JROTC in high school, so I knew a little bit about the military. Two year's reserve was enticing, so off to the reserve unit I went. I attended NTC San Diego. I was given orders to report aboard USS Frank E Evans (DD754). Shortly after reporting aboard, I did a variety of painting jobs, they were endless. A few weeks later Evans headed to sea for shakedown training. While at sea I was assigned to paint a little square space about 3x3x3. It was two decks down in the bow of the ship, no ventilation, just paint fumes. I was getting sick when a voice called out, "Coffey". I knew I had led a life that would not warrant the voice of God calling me home, so I answered the call and was told to report to the Lieutenant. Still trying to keep from throwing up I entered his stateroom. The lieutenant told me I had good battery test scores and would I like to become a radarman. I was staring at his shoes, trying not to throw up, this was a chance to get out of painting. I said, "Hell Yeah". The Lt responded, "What?" Then I said "Sorry, sir, yes I would appreciate that opportunity. After being discharged, I went to work with the Atlanta Coca Cola Bottling as a route salesman and was advanced to Supervisor. I left after 15 years and ran beer routes. I eventually hired on with AT&T where I worked for a few years, until AT&T split and I went to Lucent Technologies. I became a manager, a report writer, and finally a financial analyst. I married Judy on December 31, 1993. I was very happy, having nothing to do but what my wife told me to do. Kind of makes me miss the Navy.

John Coffey Tribute Continued

USS Frank E Evans records indicate RDSN John David Coffey dropped his seabag on the Quarter Deck of Evans on 4 January 1963. Like those sailors before him, his on-the-job training started with a chipping hammer. The Navy knew his aspirations were higher than chipping paint on the main deck so they moved him up a few decks and introduced him to chipping paint where the wind blew harder and the air was cleaner.

John finally got his chance to be a scope dope (Radarman.) He trained and learned the duties of a Radarman for the remaining time he had in the service. John fit in with his other shipmates, he worked hard, played hard and kept his focus on completing his obligations to the US Navy in 1964.

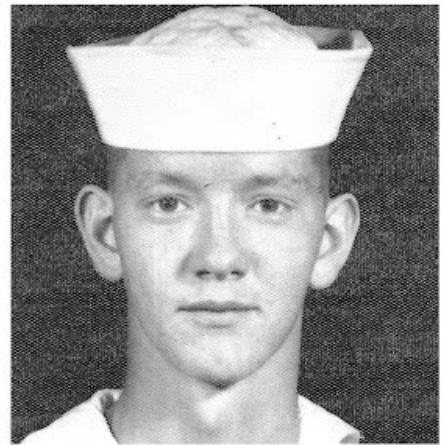
John was sarcastic, funny, loving, and a no BS man; he told you what he thought whether you liked it or not. He loved his family, friends, grandchildren, Judy, CJ (his adored chihuahua), dirty jokes (the raunchier the better), University of Georgia and Kennesaw State football, NASCAR, and the Waffle House. Marni tells a story that, when growing up, if she needed her dad, she would call the nearest Waffle House to his home and ask for “the man sitting alone and reading a book” to which they always handed the phone to her dad.

Fast forward to 1992, the date is 25 September 1992, the place Hilton Conference Center, DFW/Grapevine, Texas, first official USS Frank E. Evans DD 754 crew reunion. The Association had yet to be formally organized. Who pops into meet the attendees, John D. Coffey, he thought there was free beer... It was free because John was buying it.

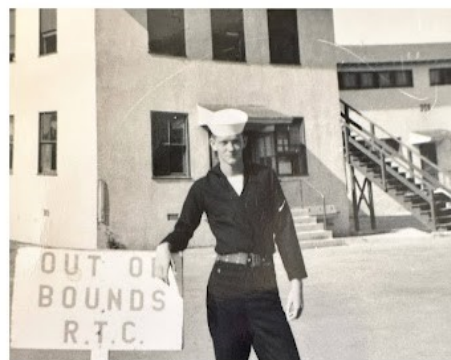
October 2014 John attends his first Board of Directors meeting as a guest at the Doubletree Hotel, Seattle Washington. In 2015, in Mobil Alabama, John was elected to the Board to fill a new position; Director of Communications. John soon found out that there wasn't any free beer at the board meetings either. John remained on the board for the next 10 years providing ideas for better communication, upcoming events and ways to make the board more effective. John volunteered for whatever and whenever, never complained (well almost never complained) and completed his projects on time. John took over the position of notifying Association members on deaths, needed prayers, upcoming events and general announcements through email. John created the very first Face Book page and posted to it until he was jailed by the Face Book Police. They considered his postings inappropriate. Another task he performed was master of ceremony for the dedication of eleven (11) out of 28 “Lost 74 Memorial Stone Dedications.”

John is survived by his daughter, Marni and husband Carl Hicks; grandkids, step-son Steven Polvere and wife Laura; step-daughter Amber Polvere; grandson Jarrett Hicks and Fiancé Tabitha Brewer; and grand daughter Jordan Keller and husband Trey Keller.

John Coffey—Boy to Young Man



JOHN COFFEY—NAVY DAYS



John Coffey—His Smiling Face



IN MEMORIAM



Our beloved Relative of the Lost and long-term association member Ann Armstrong-Dailey passed away peacefully surrounded by family on Wednesday, May 22, 2024 after battling congestive heart failure. Ann was born on August 13, 1940 in San Francisco, California.

She was the Founding Director of Children's Hospice International, she spent much of her life pursuing her passion to ensure that children with life-threatening conditions and their families would receive the care and compassion they needed.

Ann is survived by her children – Peter & Karen Dailey and Patricia Dailey; grandchildren – P.J. Dailey, Jessica Lowe, and Grace Lowe; her sister Patricia Armstrong; her niece Marian Fowler & her family; her nephew Alan Armstrong; her uncle Glen Rice; as well as her cousins. A Catholic Mass will be offered on Friday, June 28, 2024 at 10:00a.m. at St. Charles Catholic Church, 3304 Washington Blvd, Arlington, Virginia.

A Memorial tree was ordered in memory of Ann Armstrong-Dailey by the USS Frank E. Evans Association. In our tribute we said "Our Hearts go out to the Armstrong and Daily family during this time of sorrow. Ann was an active member of the USS Frank E. Evans Association. She grieved for the loss of her brother killed onboard USS Frank E. Evans on June 3 1969. She worked tirelessly over the years to help gain recognition to have Ensign Allen Herbert Armstrong's name added to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C. Ann was a soft spoken individual who cared about others before herself. The association grew to love Ann not for the work she did but for who she was; kind, considerate, caring, helpful and most of all loving, she will be sorely missed."

Former association member Nora P. Doherty, 90, formerly from Lynn and Salem, MA passed away Thursday, August 3, 2023 following a brief illness. She was born June 5, 1933 in Macroom, Co. Cork, Ireland to Richard and Albina (Horgan) Browne. She immigrated to the United States in 1954 and was always proud of having become a US citizen.

Nora was preceded in death by her husband EM3 Richard Doherty who served on the USS Frank E. Evans from 1950 to 1954 during the Korean War. Nora and Richard attended many Evans reunions over the years. They were married for over 62 years.

Upon retirement from the Lynn School Dept. in 1995, Nora moved from Salem with Richard to Schererville to be with the grandchildren who were their pride and joy. Nora was a person of deep faith and was actively involved at Our Lady of Consolation Church.



IN MEMORIAM (CONTINUED)

Shipmate and active Association member QM2 Charles “Chuck” G. Huber, age 81, passed away peacefully on Sunday, 21 April 2024. He was born in Chicago, IL on 12 January 1943. He was a beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, friend and shipmate. He was an artist and photographer. Traveling, especially long road trips, was a favorite pastime. Chuck had a strong faith and trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. Chuck’s children and grandchildren were the highlights of his life. He loved spending time with them.



Chuck was very proud of his 2 years of active military service in the Navy as a Quartermaster. He served on 2 ships during the Vietnam War; USS Frank E. Evans DD 754, from 1963— 66 and USS Savage DE 386. After being honorably discharged from active duty he taught navigation at the Chicago Armory for 2 years.

Chuck was survived by his beloved wife of 54 years, Maryann (nee Dudek); children, Patrick (Jenni) Huber and Jennifer (Matthew) Baker; grandchildren, Morgan Huber, Ethan Huber, Megan Baker and Ben Baker; sibling, Patricia Weber; other family; sister in law; Joan Kwasiborski, Janet Sippel, Helen Wilson (Jack), Anne Dudek, Kathleen Shershen (Mark), Carolyn Cahill (John) and many nieces, nephews, and great nieces and nephews.



Jane Patrick West Myers age 72 of Bowman, SC and relative of the lost of SA Henry Dennis West III, died on 22 January 2024. Jane was born in Orangeburg, SC, a daughter of the late Henry Dennis West, Jr. and Annie Dee Smoak West.

She was a graduate of Bowman High School and Winthrop College. Jane retired from Clark's Restaurant and was a former kindergarten school teacher. She was a former co-chair woman for the Farm Bureau Board and committee member for Relay For Life. Jane was a member of Wightman United Methodist Church and a member of the Ebenezer United Methodist Women of Faith bible study group and community bible study. Ebenezer United Methodist church is where SA Henry Dennis West III memorial stone is placed in Bowman, SC. Along with her other areas of interest She was an avid Clemson fan.

In addition to her husband of forty-nine years, Jane is survived by her sons, Patrick J. Myers (Libbi) of Bowman and Dr. Denny R. Myers (Kelli) of Piedmont; granddaughters, Olivia and Avery Myers; brother, Don West (Kathy) of Bowman; sisters, Talley Sowell (Whit) of Easley and Becky Evans (Jimmy) of Bowman; and brother-in-law, Alvin Lunsford of Bowman. She was predeceased by her parents; brother, Henry Dennis West, III; and sister, Susan West Lunsford.