

USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) Association, INC.



Newsletter 63

4th Quarter
2016

www.ussfee.org

Foot Locker Talk - Newsletter

PLEASE - SEND YOUR NEWS! fjab333@earthlink.net johnjudyc@gmail.com
kraussa@cox.net rbuchner@sc.rr.com

Shipmates. Members, Family and Friends

This year's reunion was another high point in the history of our Association. The Millennium Hotel was outstanding. The hotel went out of their way to assure that our every request was satisfied. As in the past we started with a pub, crawl, then on Thursday we traveled to Niagara Falls Canada to marvel at the American and Horseshoe Falls, truly something everyone should put on their "Bucket List." Friday was our dedication of the stone and visit to USS SULLIVAN'S and USS LITTLE ROCK. The evening was fun packed with our live auction. We raised over \$3,000...the best auction ever, thanks to Donna Kraus, Randy Henderson and Doug Sage. Saturday we conducted our business meeting, took group pictures, awarded appreciation plaques and welcomed Del Francis and John Coffey into the "Golden Anchor" Circle.

On the extremely sad and low points of the year was the passing of long term members Marvin Jones (MM2 52-55), Earl Marchbanks (CD 63-68) and Ron Baker (CPO HMAS Melbourne R-21). All three men attended the 2015 reunion in Mobile, Alabama... All three men were victims of cancer. Lastly, our founder Nick Nichols had a major stroke in March, after almost 5 months in the hospital and rehab, we are happy to report he is back home and on the mend. We thank all of them for their dedication to the Association, We will never forget them!

Our 2016 Buffalo Reunion is now history. Hopefully everyone is looking forward to our 2017 Reunion, Sept 27 - Oct 1, in Branson, Missouri. Looking further into the future for 2018 our Association is considering: San Antonio, Texas; Rapid City, South Dakota; and Colorado Springs, Colorado.

J C Campbell, President

Steve Kraus, Vice President

2016 BUFFALO REUNION – RIDE FOR RECOGNITION

At the reunion Marie Buchner and John Coffey received recognition for helping Del Francis during his Ride for Recognition



Del Francis, Loretta McKay and Larry Cuzzupe with American flag flown over The US Capital on the day Del arrived in Washington, D.C.



2016 BUFFALO REUNION - BUFFALO NAVAL PARK



Ken Norton and the Buffalo Memorial Stone

2016 BUFFALO REUNION - BUFFALO NAVAL PARK (cont)

Rolf Buchner and Pete Peters at the Reading of "The Turn"



MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND DESCRIPTIONS

Memorial headstones set by family members of the "Lost 74"... To date, 51 personal memorial headstones have been located and documented. Thank you all who have cooperated or helped us.



SA Andrew Melendez
Resurrection Cemetery
Montebello, CA

CPO Willie King
Mt. Nebo Cemetery
Meansville, GA

MEMORIAL HEADSTONES AND DESCRIPTIONS (cont)



West Unity Ohio American Legion Post Renamed in Honor of the Uncle of Dean Wyse FTG2 67-69



VETERANS DAY - YUMA Arizona 2016



The USS Frank E. Evans Association's trailer "USS Tag-A-Long" participated in this year's Veterans Day Parade in Yuma, Arizona. At the invitation of the American Legion Post 19, Steve Kraus, Willis Zismer and Joey Boletti pulled "USS Tag-A-Long" through the streets of Yuma to over 100,000 attendees. Yuma is a military town and the streets were lined with flag waving enthusiastic people wishing their thanks and appreciation for all veterans for their service to our

country.

The parade had over 140 entries. We were well positioned right behind the model of USS Arizona (BB 39.) Included in the parade were marching bands from all over the state, community groups, Boy and Girl Scout troops, a large variety of floats and of course representative of every branch of the Armed Forces.

The USS Arizona model is incredible. It was recently over hauled by the City of Yuma in preparation for its shipment to Pearl Harbor for the upcoming 75 anniversary. This model is privately owned by Wanda Sartain, a resident of Phoenix. Wanda shares this model by taking it to parades, schools and other community groups who are interested in learning more about the ship and the 7 December 1941 attack on our country. We think there is a possibility USS Arizona will participate in our reunion in 2019 in Long Beach...we will keep our fingers crossed.



We had planned to dedicate a bench in the Armed Services Park in Yuma but do to a last minute snafu the dedication had to be postponed to another time in 2017. The bench was purchased and donated by our member Wills Zizmser BMSN 1952-54. The bench is dedicate to all that served onboard USS Frank E. Evans.

FROM OUR CHAPLAIN - THIS IS WHO I AM

By His Grace - Al Collins, Chaplain

In the discharge of our normal duties in private life, how often do we extend ourselves to others without regard to self? To discharge our duties selflessly in any vocation is serving the Lord. Therefore, the workings of a Veteran is being conscious of himself in his own gratitude and compassion of his fellow man and viewed therefore as a servant like Jesus. Who lifts their voice to say that; "I am less than my comrades and willing to place an effort towards their betterment and the community thereof by being such a servant."?

The servant is not elated with any extraordinary gift bestowed upon him, but gives all his success to the power, grace, glory, and Spirit of God. Servants treat no man with contempt or disdain, nor claim dominion over men, nor seek honor nor riches for self, nor even what he has a just right to. His service is to the maintenance of the people, labored with his own hands, and for the sole necessity of others; comrades and shipmates. Two examples are cited:

To date, over 2,000 people have credited Facebook "Ride for Recognition" by 74-year-old Del Francis who is riding his bicycle from Sulphur Springs, TX to Washington, DC to honor 74 shipmates who were lost in Vietnam. He rides with humility under the protection of our God Almighty. As he nears Washington, DC I can hear those Lost 74 cry out "Bravo Zulu" and our Lord say "Well done, good and faithful servant."

As a WWII Veteran, Steve Braun, still lives the servant life approaching his 90th birthday. A parishioner at St Joseph's Church who has ushered over 30 years, his service to the VFW Post 2075 Honor Squad and still serves as Officer of the Day. He can be seen on frequent days watering the plants, pulling weeds, and picking up any trash around the VFW property. He has been recognized by the City of Hawthorne several times with the Volunteer Award. Another job well done!

VA UPDATES

VETERANS LEGACY PROGRAM

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced the launch of the Veterans Legacy Program to memorialize Veterans' service and sacrifice through public educational programming. The program uses the rich resources found throughout VA national cemeteries, Soldiers' lots and monument sites.

"The Veterans Legacy Program is meant to bring to life the stories of Veterans buried in the VA national cemeteries through lesson plans, interactive maps and video vignettes," said Secretary of Veterans Affairs, Robert A. McDonald. "Behind every marker is a story—a story of what it meant to be a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine and Coast Guardsman at a particular moment in time. Our goal is to ensure that our nation does not forget their stories and their sacrifice."

Using online educational products such as lesson plans, interactive maps and short video vignettes, the VA, through the Veterans Legacy Program, will engage the general public, students and educators. The VA launched this initiative earlier this year at two pilot sites: Beaufort National Cemetery in South Carolina and Riverside National Cemetery in California. Over the next several years, online educational products and programs will be developed for all the VA national cemeteries.

The VA has also formed a partnership with the American Battle Monuments Commission (ABMC) to co-sponsor a "Teachers Institute," a workshop for educators who will conduct research at the VA and the ABMC cemeteries. Information about the program may be found at www.cem.va.gov/cem/legacy/.

More than 4 million Americans, including Veterans of every war and conflict, are buried in the VA's 133 national cemeteries. The VA also provides funding to establish, expand, improve, and maintain 100 Veterans cemeteries in 47 states and territories including tribal trust lands, Guam and Saipan. For Veterans not buried in a VA national cemetery, the VA provides headstones, markers or medallions to commemorate their service. In 2015, the VA honored more than 353,000 Veterans and their loved ones with memorial benefits in national, state, tribal and private cemeteries. For more information about the history of VA national cemeteries, visit www.cem.va.gov/history.

VA HEALTHCARE VERSUS MEDICARE

You can have both Medicare and Veterans Affairs (VA) benefits. However, Medicare and VA benefits do not work together. Medicare does not pay for any care that you receive at a VA facility.

- In order for Medicare to cover your care, you must receive care at a Medicare certified facility that works with your Medicare coverage.
- In order for your VA coverage to cover your care, you must generally receive health care services at a VA facility.

Medicare Part B and VA Coverage:

Many Veterans use their VA health benefits to get coverage for health care services and items not covered by Medicare, such as over-the-counter medications, annual physical exams and hearing aids. However, you may want to consider enrolling into Medicare Part B (medical insurance), even if you have VA coverage. Part B may cover services you receive from Medicare-certified providers and provide you with medical coverage outside the VA health system. In addition, if you do not enroll into Part B when you are first eligible to do so, you will most likely incur a Part B premium penalty for each 12-month period you were without Medicare Part B coverage. In addition, you may also experience gaps in coverage.

Medicare Part D and VA Coverage:

Some Veterans only use their VA drug coverage to get their medications, since VA drug coverage may offer more generous prescription drug coverage than Medicare Part D, the Medicare prescription drug benefit. Since VA drug coverage is considered creditable, meaning it is as good as or better than the Medicare prescription drug benefit, you can delay enrolling into Medicare Part D without penalty. If you do lose VA drug coverage, make sure you enroll into a Part D plan within 63 days of losing your VA benefits.

Note that although you can have both Medicare Part D and VA drug coverage, the two do not work together. VA benefits only cover the drugs you get from VA pharmacies and Part D plans usually only cover drugs you get from pharmacies that are within the plan's network. You may want to join a Part D plan in certain situations. You may want to enroll in a plan if you move into a nursing home outside of the VA health system and need coverage for medications from the nursing home pharmacy. You may also want to enroll in a Part D plan if you qualify for Extra Help, the federal assistance program that helps people with Medicare afford their Part D drug costs. If you have questions about VA benefits and coverage, contact the VA Health Administration Center at 1-800-733-8387. For questions on Medicare benefits and coverage, contact the Social Security Administration at 1-866-964-7594.

MILITARY RETIREMENT AND VA BENEFITS

If you are retired from the military and are also eligible for VA disability compensation, determining how much you get paid, and from where, can seem complicated. You see, until 2004, it was against the law to receive military retirement pay and VA disability compensation at the same time. Retirees had to choose which pay they wanted to receive, and if they chose to receive their VA disability compensation,

those funds were "offset," or deducted, from their military retirement pay. There have been two major changes to this law in the past decade, and some Veterans may be eligible to receive their full military retirement pay along with their VA disability compensation.

Military retirement pay and VA disability compensation are entirely separate forms of compensation. They are paid from different agencies, and paid from different sources of money. They also represent two different forms of compensation. Military retirement pay is a pension that is based on your years of service. VA disability compensation is a monetary award that is based on your decreased ability to perform work after leaving the military. Military retirement pay is taxable by the federal level, and is taxed by most states (some states do not have an income tax or do not tax military retirement pay). VA disability compensation, however, is considered non-taxable income by the federal government.

What Happens When You Are Eligible to Receive Retirement Pay & Disability Compensation? To best answer this question, we need to examine your disability rating. If you have a combined disability rating of 50% or greater, you should be eligible to receive CRDP. If you receive CRDP, you will receive your full military retirement pay along with your full VA disability compensation. There will be no reduction to your military retirement pay. If you have a combined VA service-connected disability rating of 40% or lower, then you are not eligible for CRDP and your military retirement pay will be offset, or deducted, by the amount of VA service-connected disability compensation you receive.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

The soul of the association is its members. We have a unique association full of genuine, giving, loving, and enthusiastic members. Our association is a family! We welcome our new members into our family.

SHIPMATES

NAME	RANK	YEARS ONBOARD	CITY	STATE
Robert Gile	LTJG	56-58	Concord	NH

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	CITY	STATE
William Hollywood	Went to A school with Larry Cool	Ketchikan	AK
Karin Pipa	Friend of Richard Cooke	Norwich	CT
Marc Rosen	Son-in-law of Tom Ralston	Troy	NY
Capt. Floyd Samms	Naval Academy with Scott Pattee	Rancho Palos Verdes,	CA

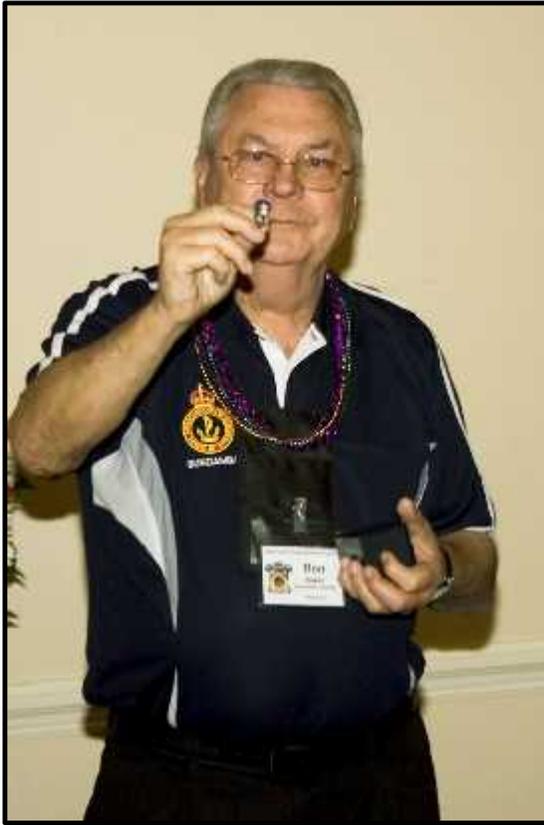
IN MEMORIAM

NAME	RANK	SERVICE	CITY/STATE	DECEASED
Ron Baker	CPO		IPSWICH,AU	17 Oct 2016
James Glantz	EMMC	68-69	Pensacola, FL	13 Sept 2016
Bob Baldwin	SM2	50-52	Auburn, CA	29 Oct 2016

IN MEMORIAM RELATIVES

NAME	RELATIONSHIP	CITY/STATE	DECEASED
Brad Stone	Father-in-Law of Christine Stone	Santa Fe, NM	10 Oct 2016

RON BAKER CPO (RET) 1944-2016



Ron Baker was born on 8 October 1944, in Darlinghurst, New South Wales, Australia. He was the youngest of 10 children, and the heaviest at 13 lbs. In June 1962, when he was 18 years old, Ron joined Her Majesty's Royal Navy and was discharged 20 years later. He transferred to the Naval Reserves where he served his country for another 10 years. Ron was married to the love of his life, Jenne Schaefer-Baker for 30 years. Besides his wife he leaves behind six children: Samantha Anne (48), Jamie Wilson (45), Tiffany (30), Felicity (28), Kimberley (26), and Jeremy (23).

Ron was the radio operator on duty that fateful morning of 3 June 1969. Like so many survivors, after the collision Ron went on with his life. Not until he heard about the USS Frank E. Evans Association did Ron start speaking out about his experiences at the time of the collision. In 1994, he and four HMAS Melbourne shipmates attended the Evans reunion in Las Vegas, Nevada. At that time the Australian's made a commitment... a representative would be present at every forthcoming reunion. Ron attended 19 reunions!

Ron was the key individual who formed many reunions in Australia and assisted in establishing memorials. Ron was selected to be the Australian Liaison; he took his duties seriously. Ron has been instrumental in growing the Australian representation in the USS Frank E. Evans Association.

Ron's ashes will be taken to sea by an Australian Navy ship and scattered there. The date has yet to be determined. If you would like to send the family your condolences, the mailing address is 9 Holmes St, Raymond's Hill, Queensland, 4305, AU.

The Sea

The sea! That vast, majestic plain
Of foam-flecked wave and windswept rain
And howling gales that bend the brain
And fill brave men with dread.

The sea! That sparkling crystal pool
Bedecked with phosphorescent jewel
Where dolphins play the merry fool
And Neptune makes his bed.

The sea! That final resting place
For sailing men of every race
Where seaweed shrouds are commonplace
Among the grateful dead.

No grave for me, nor crypt nor tomb
Nor roaring furnace in curtained room
But Nature's cool and watery womb
Is where I'll lay my head.

By Ron Baker

The following individuals have volunteered to head up various areas of responsibility within the association. Our sincere thanks and appreciation goes out to each of them, "Bravo Zulu" for a job well done. Please maintain the personal information, it is provided for your personal use only.

J.C. Campbell - Vice President (h) 817-236-4644 (c) 760-458-4295 Email jcsylvia@charter.net	Steve Kraus - Vice President (h) 760-941-8184 (c) 760-458-4295 Email kraussa754@gmail.com
Donna Kraus - Treasurer (h) 760-941-8184 (c) 760-521-4700 Email krausdfm@gmail.com	Terry Vejr - Secretary (h) 503-746-7177 (c) 971-645-8655 Email trvejr@gmail.com
John Coffey - Communications (h) 706-335-0724 (c) 404-861-7984 Email johnjudyc@gmail.com	Frank Jablonski - Historian (h) 386-322-5523 Email jabski36@gmail.com
Pete Peters - Survivor Relations (h) 310-542-3609 (c) 310-947-5823 Email rep1029@aol.com	Sharon Shirack - Memorials (h) 970-635-0828 (c) 970-567-8665 Email sharon@ranack.com
Tim Wendler - Liaison, Relatives of the Lost (h) 625-794-6389 (c) 626-221-7222 Email timwendler85@yahoo.com	Jim Lyall - Australian Liaison, (h) (c) Email jwl1302@bigpond.com
Dean Wyse - Liaison to American Legion, VFW, Amvets & others (h) 520-568-4264 (c) 626-221-7222 Email timwendler85@yahoo.com	Mary Gregg - Ships Store (h) 760-659-6068 (c) 949-290-1400 Email marystomp@att.net
Roff Buchner - Newsletter (h) 803-932-9250 Email rbuchner@sc.rr.com	Rich Alverdes - Liaison, USS KIDD (h) 360-568-9345 (c) 425-367-9345 Email tralverdes@gmail.com
Al Collins - Chaplin (h) 310-643-6198 (c) 310-251-9490 Email eacollinsjr@yahoo.com	



FROM THE HANDS OF A
FEW

Cooke
Huber
Cantwell
Gile
Thomton
Clark
Campbell



LEST WE FORGET... OUR "LOST 74" EARNED THEIR PLACE ON THE VIETNAM MEMORIAL Wall