

22 June 2009

Welcome Aboard Shipmates, Family Members and New Friends,

As you scroll the website of the USS Frank E. Evans (DD 754) Association, I hope you find each section to be informative and interesting. Thank you for your interest in the association and the men who have served aboard our beloved destroyer. We appreciate the comments we have received in the past and ask for your understanding as we continue to update and expand the information on the site.

Our association consists of a group of former sailors and shipmates who, at different times in our lives, served aboard the DD 754 destroyer from 1945 thru 1969 during and/or between the wars or conflicts. However, we are all shipmates from "The Fighter". If you are a former crew member or know of someone who served aboard **FRANK E. EVANS**, we would like to hear from you. The history of our ship is important to us and we are constantly seeking information and knowledge from FRANK E. EVANS crew members.

We held our 17th reunion in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina in 2008. We had a good time and enjoyed sight seeing with family and friends. This year, 2009, marked the 40th anniversary of the 3 June 1969 collision with *HMAS MELBOURNE*. Instead of a reunion, memorials were held in Long Beach, California, and Ipswich, Queensland Australia, on 3 June. We will be hearing about the 2009 Memorial Services from Pete Peters and his California group, and from Jack Sheehan and others who represented the Association during the ceremonies in Australia. I send a BIG "Thank You" to all who were able to attend these very meaningful ceremonies.

Our membership is looking forward to the next reunion in the fall of 2010. San Diego, California has been selected as the site of our 18th Annual Reunion. During the summer of 2009, several officers will be visiting hotels in and around the San Diego area. Many of our "older" members will remember San Diego as being the homeport of **Frank E.** In March 1952, we left San Diego on our first tour to Korea. We returned to Long Beach, our new home port. Today, I have good memories of both cities!

Please start planning for the 2010 San Diego reunion now! Additional information will be forthcoming as plans are finalized. Stay in touch and keep your Email and mailing address current.

Finally, I send "Congratulations" to a member of our association, Captain Paul Sherbo, who has completed his book about **FRANK E. EVANS** and the 1969 collision. The title is "*Unsinkable Sailors*" -- "The fall and rise of the last crew of **USS FRANK E. EVANS**". We offer our sincere thanks and appreciation to Paul for all his hard work and dedication toward telling the story.

May you all have "Fair Winds and Following Seas."

J. C. Campbell, President
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