



Frank E. Evans Footlocker Talk

Newsletter
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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Ahoy Shipmates,

On behalf of the Board of Directors and the Officers of the Association, we send Happy New Year greetings to all USS Frank E. Evans shipmates and their family members. We wish each and everyone good health and much happiness during the 2007 year.

In 2007 we will continue on our mission and our mission is clear:

Our mission is to identify and locate those who have served on the USS Frank E. Evans; to promote a spirit of national patriotism; to help assure that the history of the USS Frank E. Evans is maintained, communicated and appropriately publicized; and to help commemorate those lost in action / lost at sea and deceased shipmates through timely ceremonies, publicity and memorials.

We made a decision to expedite the process for finding all that have served in USS Frank E. Evans by purchasing the ship's roster information between 1945 & 1969. The information is on micro fiche tape and requires that the names be abstracted. The Vietnam Archive Center at Texas Tech has volunteered to perform the abstract work if the Association agrees to donate the tapes upon conclusion of the project. We think this is a pretty good deal so hopefully we will have the list of all that ever served by this years reunion.

We look forward to hearing how you and your family are doing and hope you will continue to drop a short note to us.... especially if you are "under the weather".

Lest We Forget,

JC

Perpetual Watch

Frank Jablonski, our Historian and brother-in-law of survivor Steve Kraus, has graciously offered to lend his assistance to anyone attempting to locate family members of the 74 sailors who were lost in 1969. Frank has already located many family members and has resource options and tips for conducting a search. If you have adopted a sailor under the Perpetual Watch Program and need any help, contact Frank at fjab333@earthlink.net or call at 386-322-5523. Thank you, Frank, for offering your service!

SENTINELS OF THE TOMB

After World War I, the United States followed a custom initiated by its allied states: to bury an unidentified soldier in remembrance of the cost of war. Congress approved the burial of an unidentified American soldier on March 4, 1921 at Arlington National Cemetery. The bodies of four unknown soldiers were exhumed from French cemeteries, and one casket was chosen by decorated Army Sergeant Edward F. Younger to be interred at Arlington National Cemetery by President Warren G. Harding on November 11, 1921, Armistice Day.

The three sides of the Tomb that face Washington contain sculptures of the figures of Valor, Victory, and Peace. The side facing the plaza bears the inscription, "Here Rests in Honored Glory An American Soldier Known But To God."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower approved a similar tribute to Unknown Soldiers of World War II and the Korean War. In 1958, as was done for the Unknown Soldier of World War I, one Unknown Soldier from World War II was selected from 19 exhumed remains and one Unknown Soldier from the Korean War was selected from four exhumed remains. Both soldiers were given the Medal of Honor and interred next to their World War I comrade.

President Ronald Reagan presided over a third ceremony on May 28, 1984 when an Unknown Soldier from the Vietnam War was laid to rest next to the other three soldiers.

The Army soldiers who keep vigil over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier are called Sentinels of the Tomb, a privileged position held by very few individuals. Sentinels must possess exemplary qualities, such as stamina and discipline, and maintain a spotless military record. They are rigorously trained and must remember vast amount of information. The average age for sentinels is 22. Guards must be between 5'11" and 6'4" with a 30" waist.

The sentinel, dressed in Army Dress Blue Uniform, holds his weapon on the side of his body opposite the tomb as he takes exactly 21 steps across the 63 foot walkway in front of the tomb. At the end of each 21 steps, the sentinel faces the tomb for 21 seconds, then turns and pauses for another 21 seconds before walking 21 steps back to his starting position. The repetition of 21 steps and 21 second pauses is symbolic of the highest salute given to dignitaries in state and military ceremonies. Sentinels never interact with others and are silent while on guard, except in very rare instances. Sentinels are always guarding the Tomb, regardless of weather conditions.

THE SENTINEL'S CREED

My dedication to this sacred duty
is total and whole-hearted.
In the responsibility bestowed on me
never will I falter.
And with dignity and perseverance
my standard will remain perfection.
Through the years of diligence and praise
and the discomfort of the elements,
I will walk my tour in humble reverence
to the best of my ability.
It is he who commands the respect I protect,
his bravery that made us so proud.
Surrounded by well meaning crowds by day,
alone in the thoughtful peace of night,
this soldier will in honored glory rest
under my eternal vigilance.



NEW YEAR...NEW UNIFORMS

Navy officials recently unveiled new working and service uniforms, which will show up in Navy exchanges by June 2008. The two most concentrated fleet areas, Norfolk and San Diego, will receive the uniforms first. Once the new uniforms arrive, they will be phased in over a two-year period and take more than three years before every sailor is wearing them. The lengthy timetable is required to ensure that appropriate dress standards are articulated and put into place. Seven different styles of current working uniforms will be replaced by a single new working uniform, digital blue cammies. The new service

uniform contains permanent military creases and is made of a wash and wear blend, with several variations for male and female sailors. The new uniforms were created after years of comprehensive research, recommendations made by current personnel, data collected via surveys and interviews, and feedback by sailors who wore the uniforms for seven months. The new uniforms will eliminate the biannual uniform shift and save sailors time since they will only need to maintain one style of service dress.

CANNIBALS

(reprinted with permission from About.com)

Five cannibals were employed by the Navy as translators during one of the island campaigns during World War II. When the Commanding Admiral of the task force welcomed the cannibals he said, "You're all part of our team now. We will compensate you well for your services, and you can eat any of the rations that the Sailors are eating. So please don't indulge yourselves by eating a Sailor."

The cannibals promised.

Four weeks later the Admiral returned and said, "You're all working very hard, and I'm very satisfied with all of you. However, one of our Chiefs has disappeared. Do any of you know what happened to him?"

The cannibals all shook their heads no.

After the Admiral left, the leader of the cannibals turned to the others and said, "Which of you idiots ate the Chief?" A hand rose hesitantly, to which the leader of the cannibals replied, "You fool! For four weeks we've been eating Ensigns, Lieutenants, Lieutenant Commanders, Commanders, and even one Captain and no one noticed anything, then YOU had to go and eat a Chief!"



MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW

Please keep October 4, 5 & 6, 2007 open on your calendar for the 2007 USS Frank E. Evans Annual Reunion. We are in the process of firming up the contract, once it is in place we will notify the membership of all the details.

GERRY HEMPHILL

We recently received notice that our beloved Gerry Hemphill (sister of James Kerr, lost in 1969) has been diagnosed with ALS. Our hearts and prayers go out to Gerry and her family. The following is the e-mail we received we thought you would want to see it.

Hello!

Gerry saw the neurologist this week regarding her problem with hoarseness for a few months, and more recently, some difficulty with articulation and swallowing. The doctor is quite sure this is "ALS", commonly known as "Lou Gehrig's" Disease. This is a progressive degenerative neurological disease without a known cause or cure. She is starting an unproven medication that might possibly help slow the progression of the disease. We are also to see a "specialist" for this disease in Denver regarding a second possible medication protocol that might also help some. A few tests are pending to rule out any other possibilities.

We covet your prayers for the strength to live one day at a time, trusting the Lord for everything. We are obviously praying for a cure, if that is the Lord's will. But most of all, we pray, and ask you to pray that He will be glorified through whatever trials we must go through.

Thank so much,

Alan & Gerry

IS THE RAO FOR ME?

Have you ever wondered what the RAO stands for? The acronym stands for **Retired Activities Offices**, and they serve an important purpose. Most RAOs are operated by retired military volunteers. Each branch has their own RAO offices; however any active duty or retired military may utilize the services at any RAO. The RAO acts as a liaison between military persons and the government by providing assistance with pay and benefits. They also update ID cards, explain insurance options, locate counseling services, and assist with completing forms. The RAO guides families through the complex paperwork required when a service member passes away. Often surviving spouse's are unaware of how to report their loved ones death so benefits and pay are adjusted accordingly.

For those that have internet access go to:

www.npc.navy.mil/commandsupport/retiredactivites/rao+locator

To find an office near you or call the Navy Retired Activities Branch toll-free at 866-827-5672.

INITIATION PARTY OF BOATSWAIN MATE CHIEF WILLIE LEE KING



L-R sitting: BTC Hawkes, BMC King, RMC Bezotte, MMC Foust, GMGC Proctor
L-R standing: (?) STC Reidberger, EMC Hess, SKC Malilay, GMGCS Reilly

This photo was taken at the Chief's Club in Pearl Harbor in April, 1969. The celebration was for Willie King's promotion to Chief Boatswain Mate. The week previous to this photo the USS Frank E. Evans had left Long Beach for a 6 month deployment to the Far East.

Are Your Annual Dues & Contributions Tax Deductible?

The USS Frank E. Evans Association is classified as a non profit organization. Our Internal Revenue code qualifies the USS Frank E Evans Association as a 501 (c) (19) organization. We recently asked one of our attorney members to help clarify to what extent your dues and contributions are tax deductible. The following information is provided as information only and we recommend that you consult a tax expert should you have any questions:

1. The USS Frank E. Evans Association, Incorporated is a "non-profit organization" charter number 01536675-01 as filed on July 24, 2001.
2. The USS Frank E. Evans Association, Incorporated received its tax exempt Internal Revenue Code 501 (c) (19) status on January 28, 2002.
3. The USS Frank E. Evans Association, Incorporated meets the criteria as a "war veterans organization" as verified by the Internal Revenue in its January 28, 2002 notification letter.
4. Based on the tax information researched, your dues are tax deductible.
5. Other donations in excess of the annual \$ 30 are also tax deductible as long as the person making the donation does not receive personal gain for the moneys donated.