

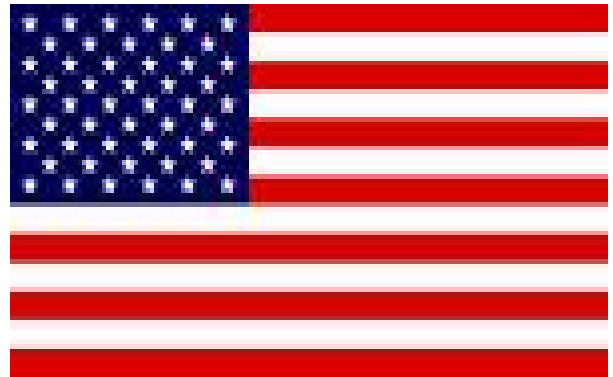


# USS Frank E. Evans DD-754 Footlocker Talk

Footlocker Talk  
Newsletter  
First Quarter  
2008

## New Guidance on "Saluting the Flag"

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Senator Jim Inhofe praised the passage by unanimous consent of his bill (S.1877) clarifying U.S. law to allow veterans and servicemen not in uniform to salute the flag. "The salute is a form of honor and respect, representing pride in one's military service," Senator Inhofe said. "Veterans and service members continue representing the military services even when not in uniform."



Unfortunately, current U.S. law leaves confusion as to whether veterans and service members out of uniform can or should salute the flag. Senator Jim Inhofe's legislation does clarify this regulation, allowing veterans and servicemen alike to salute the flag, whether they are in uniform or not.

"I look forward to seeing those who have served saluting proudly at baseball games, parades, and formal events. I believe this is an appropriate way to honor and recognize the 25 million veterans in the United States who have served in the military and remain as role models to other citizens." Those who are currently serving or have served in the military have earned this right, and their recognition will be an inspiration to others. This Bill was passed July 25, 2007. Let your veteran friends know about the Passage of this Bill.

## 2008 Reunion across the Bridge from Charleston, South Carolina

The hotel for this year's reunion has been selected and the contract signed. This years reunion will be held on September 11, 12 & 13 at the Holiday Inn at Patriots Point in the city of Mt. Pleasant close by to Charleston, South Carolina. For those that attended the 1996 reunion it is at the same place and hotel. The room rates have increased significantly since 1996 so we feel good that we were able to negotiate a \$ 99.00 room rate. We selected this hotel primarily because of the room rate and the close proximity to the USS Yorktown CV 10 and USS Laffey DD 724.

It is important that you make your room reservations early. The hotel has blocked rooms, however the availability of king size beds is limited and subject to first come availability. When making your reservation make sure you mention USS Frank E. Evans reunion. Call 1-800-290-4004 Holiday Inn at Patriots Point today. If you decide to come early or stay after the reunion the \$ 99.00 room rate will apply.



This year's room rate does not include breakfast. However, a hotel buffet breakfast will be available each morning. Another choice is a waffle house directly across the street from the hotel.

## A WALK DOWN MEMORY LANE

### USS Frank E. Evans DD 754 History

- Launched October 1944, Staten Island, New York.
- Named for Brigadier General Frank E. Evans (1876-1941) who fought as a Marine in the Spanish-American War and as an officer in World War I.
- Took part in Okinawa campaign during last year of World War II. Survived kamikaze attack.
- Participated in lengthy siege of Wonsan during Korean War. 18 June 1951 struck by 30 shrapnel hits; minor wounds to four of her crew.
- Bombarded targets, rescued aviators, and coordinated aircraft bombing missions during Korean War.
- Gave gunfire support off Tonkin Gulf coast during Vietnam War in 1968.
- 3 June 1969, was cut in half after colliding with the Australian carrier MELBOURNE in South China Sea. Bow section sank in two minutes; 74 men lost their lives.
- USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) struck from the Navy Register in July, 1969.

### 1993 REUNION DRAWS TEARS, CHEERS AMONG SHIPMATES (Written in the Hood County News, 1992)

H. G. "Nick" Nichols didn't see anyone else doing it, so in the summer of 1991 he decided to pursue the idea of a first shipmates' reunion for his ship U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754). Nichols placed notices in the service magazines and made scores of telephone calls trying to reach FRANK E. EVANS shipmates. He gathered enough interest to hold the first reunion September (1992) in Grapevine, Texas. Thirty-seven attended. For many shipmates it was an emotional time, especially for survivors of the collision in 1969. For some, it had been 40 years since they had seen each other. "They looked just like they always did. But almost all were either a little fatter, grayer or balder," laughed Nichols, a cheerful and lanky bearded oil business man from the East Texas town of Frankston. "On departing there were some tears," confessed one shipmate.

With help from fellow shipmate J.C. Campbell, a Granbury resident and longtime city councilman, the two headed the second reunion in The Lodge of Granbury last weekend. The word is spreading. About 50 attended (13 more than last year) to share their special memories aboard the destroyer.

Campbell and Nichols were on board U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS together for almost two years during the Korean War. Their enlistment stories are similar.

Campbell had graduated from Irving High School and he and his best friend signed up for the reserves. "At the time we were growing up, that was the thing to do," Campbell related.

"It was on the heels of World War II. We joined the reserves and for a year or so went to the Naval reserve station at Bauchman Lake in Dallas. They came in and told us they didn't really know what it was all about, but said it looked like they were going to start calling people up for active duty. My buddy and I made an agreement that if one of us was called up, the other would join too. It wasn't two weeks before he got a notice. So I signed up. We went to boot camp but my buddy had a broken ear drum or something. So he went back home. He received a medical discharge after six weeks. I've never forgiven him for that," Campbell laughed.

Campbell boarded U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS at San Diego and went on her second tour to Korea. "I had never seen the Pacific," Campbell said. "I had never seen so much water in all my life."

Nichols enlisted at the tender age of 17. "I went into the Navy right from the plow handle (on a farm near where he lives today)," he chuckled. "I quit school to see the world."

Nichols helped re-commission U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) in 1950, which was in "mothballs" in San Diego resting after often firing on enemy aircraft and surviving a kamikaze attack in World War II. "I was in the whole Korean War," Nichols said. "Two weeks before it started and two weeks after it ended."

Nichols and Campbell weathered typhoons and dodged plenty of shrapnel. The North Koreans frustrated Americans by having huge guns that ran on rail. "They's get the guns out of the tunnel, shoot them at us, and roll back into the cave," Nichols related. Were they ever scared? "We though we couldn't be hurt. Don't you know that's why they take youth in the service?" Nichols said. Campbell was probably

in the majority when he confessed, "I was scared to death. We got shot at and I was in a typhoon for three days. I was mess cooking and when I wasn't washing dishes, I was laying down sick. I couldn't eat anything but apples and crackers for 3 days."

Campbell, a fireman in the boiler room, recalls running guard for the heralded battleship U.S.S. MISSOURI, the scene of the Japanese surrender ending World War II. "Most of the time, if we were around, she'd ask for us, Campbell said proudly. "Of course, we thought we had the best ship in the Navy." Campbell is glad he was in the service. "It really helped me. I grew up."

### **SURVIVORS RECALL TORMENTING ESCAPE FROM SINKING SHIP**

Navy Radarman Tom Anthony was asleep aboard the ill-fated U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754) when a terrific jolt tossed him from his bunk. Instant chaos occurred. Sailors began screaming and water started pouring in. Anthony wasn't sure exactly what had happened, but he knew one thing: He had to get out!

It was 3 in the morning and the lighting was dim, but Anthony managed to maneuver his way to the ship's hatch. His heart sank when he learned that the hatch was jammed. But seconds later, with water rushing in and the World War II destroyer on the brink of sinking, someone (SN Robert Petty) opened the hatch from the outside. Anthony was able to see the nighttime stars. Anthony crawled out and jumped about 15 feet down to the water. His lifeguard skills paid off. He swam fast from the sinking ship because he knew when she went down, there would be a huge suction, which did occur. Some men were sucked under, but Anthony was able to swim far enough away. He found some debris in the water and hung on until he was picked up by a rescue boat.

Anthony was one of the 200 lucky ones. Unfortunately, 74 of his shipmates weren't. They died as the result of the accidental collision during maneuvers on 3 June 1969, in the South China Sea. The destroyer, screening the Australian carrier HMAS MELBOURNE R-21, took a wrong turn and put itself on a collision course with MELBOURNE. The carrier cut FRANK E. EVANS completely in two. The destroyer's bow section, where Anthony had been asleep, sank in just two minutes. Only 10 of the 84 sailors in the bow survived. The dad included three brothers from Nebraska. The aft section remained afloat. For a time she was tied up to MELBOURNE who plucked the survivors from the water. Helicopter crew members were shooting nosy sharks.

Anthony, a Mansfield, Texas resident, joined about 50 sailors last weekend who served on board EVANS. 1991 was the sailors' first reunion and some were reunited for the first time at last weekend's Granbury gathering.

Granbury resident J.C. Campbell, who served aboard FRANK E. EVANS 1953-54 during the Korean War,

arranged the reunion with help from H.G. "Nick" Nichols who brought the buddies together to Grapevine last year for the first gathering.

The reunion drew former U.S.S. FRANK E. EVANS shipmates from all over the country. Like Anthony, there were those who were aboard when she sank that terrible morning. Some were there when she was commissioned in 1945 and participated in Naval battles during the latter part of WW II. And some, like Campbell and Nichols, served aboard when she saw action throughout the war in Korea.



"General Granbury" Howard Clemmons welcomes shipmates J. C. Campbell & "Nick" Nichols



Del Francis of Denver & Florentino Macayan of California were among the 278 survivors in the 1969 collision. Seventy-four died.

Del Francis, now living in Denver, was among the group of smiling and back-slappin' former shipmates. He enjoyed seeing his buddies, but there's one hero that he misses and he believes he may be alive. He's the sailor who opened the hatch to free the trapped shipmates.

## Many Faces of Old Glory

Vane Scott our special guest and entertainer on Saturday night of our 2007 reunion shared special information about the many faces of Old Glory. The program majestically caught everyone's attention as Vane demonstrated and explained the changes that have occurred during the last 200 years that helped give us the flag as we see it today.

In Vane's introduction he emphasized that every American should know the story of America. Each generation must be reminded that freedom is not free, the men and women of today are obligated to pass on to future generations the great gift of freedom for which our forefathers gave their all.

It is no wonder that we ended up with the colors of red, white and blue after seeing all the changes that led us to the stars and stripes as it is today. The creation of the flag starts clear back in 1770, when the 13 original colonies formed on the East coast of America. It wasn't until 1777 that congress finally defined that the flag of the United States shall be 13 alternate red and white stripes and 13 white stars in a blue field representing a new constellation.



Vane presented about fifty styles of flags that have either been proposed or actually flown over our country for the past two-hundred years. He related historical and interesting information for each presented flag. In the background his wife Barbara and daughter Gayle provided assistance as each flag was displayed then reverently folded up again. Thanks Vane, and crew, for a job well done. **“Bravo Zulu.”**

## Edwards: A New Day for America's Veterans

### New Congress Keeps Promises As Historic Funding Increase Becomes Reality

(Washington, DC)— U.S. Representative Chet Edwards (TX17) hailed the President's release of \$3.7 billion in additional veterans funding provided by Congress. The \$3.7 billion above the President's budget request for 2008 was designated as emergency funding under the final 2008 appropriations bill authored and passed by the Democratic Congress in December, 2007. Edwards authored the VA provisions in the bill, which increases funding for veterans health care and benefits by \$6.6 billion above the 2007 level, the largest single increase in the 77-year history of the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

“This historic funding increase represents a new day for America's veterans and their families, and says clearly to all who have served in uniform that as you have kept your promises to our country, we will keep our promises to you,” said Edwards, Chairman of the House Military Construction and Veterans Affairs Appropriations Subcommittee.

“For 5.8 million veterans, this new funding means more qualified doctors and nurses to improve medical services. For the 400,000 veterans, including combat wounded vets, who are having to wait too long to have their benefits cases reviewed, this bill means over 1,800 new VA case workers to reduce the unacceptable delays in receiving earned benefits,” said Edwards. “For veterans with traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, mental health care issues, and lost limbs, this bill means renewed hope to rebuild their lives. For many of the 200,000 homeless veterans in America, it means the dignity of not having to sleep on the streets and hope for a better future.”

When Democrats took control of Congress in 2007, they made the health care needs of veterans a top priority, and provided \$11.8 billion overall in increased funding, \$3.4 billion increase in the fiscal year 2007 continuing resolution( CR), \$1.8 billion in the May 2007 Iraq war spending bill, and the \$6.6 billion in the fiscal year 2008 VA bill.

“The new Congress delivered on our promise to America’s veterans and their families by enacting a historic increase of \$11.8 billion in our first year on the job, and our veterans have earned every dime of this through their service and sacrifice for country,” said Edwards. “This increased funding for veterans is a historic accomplishment, but this isn’t about dollars. It’s about fulfilling a moral obligation to those who have served. It is about remembering that our veterans’ sacrifices don’t end after they return home, and neither should our commitment to them. For some, that timely care could be the difference between health and depression, for others, the difference between life and death.”

This increase won widespread support and praise from America’s leading veterans’ organizations including the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Military Officers Association of America, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and Disabled American Veterans. “In all my years with The American Legion, this budget stands out as a monumental achievement,” said Marty Conaster, national commander of The American Legion. "This budget puts veterans first, which will help ensure the VA remains a world-class healthcare system that is accessible and responsive to those who may require a lifetime of care for their physical and mental injuries," said George Lisicki, a Vietnam veteran from Carteret, N.J., who leads the 2.3 million-member Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S. and its Auxiliaries.

## **Key Veterans Accomplishments in the 110th Congress**

### **Historic increases in support for the VA health care system: \$11.8 billion in increases over 12 months**

- \$3.4 billion increase to FY07 CR
- \$1.8 billion in Supplemental funding in May 2007 Iraq war spending bill
- \$6.6 billion increase in FY08 bill (last \$3.7 billion as contingency)
- 30% increase in the VA funding baseline from January 2007 (from \$33.1 billion to \$43.1 billion)

### **Other key increases since January 2007 (when the budget was frozen at FY06 levels)**

- Medical Services \$29.1 billion (from \$22.5 billion, a 29% increase)
- Medical Administration \$3.5 billion (from \$2.9 billion, a 21% increase)
- Medical Facilities \$4.1 billion (from \$3.3 billion, a 24% increase)
- Medical Research \$480 million (from \$412 million, a 17% increase)
- Substance Abuse \$428 million (from \$358 million, a 20% increase)
- Homeless veterans \$130 million (from \$63.6 million, a 104% increase)

### **240% increase in non-recurring maintenance at VA facilities since January 2007 to prevent a Walter Reed-like tragedy**

- \$415 million in FY 2006, \$1.08 billion in FY 2008 bill.
- VA’s Asset Management Plan notes that to adequately maintain the \$40 billion in infrastructure they have, between \$800 million and \$1.6 billion is required annually.

### **Focusing on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injury**

- Required the VA to spend at least \$2.9 billion on mental health care. (In FY06, the requirement was a minimum of \$2.2 billion, making this a 32% increase.)
- Added \$66 million for a new Level 1 Polytrauma Center in San Antonio
- Added \$100 million in the Iraq supplemental (5/07) for mental health care.
- Added \$8 million for additional Polytrauma support clinic teams
- Added \$5.4 million for additional Polytrauma points of contact
- Required that current level I Polytrauma centers and the centers of excellence for Mental Health and PTSD will be fully staffed and operational in FY2008

## Senator John McCain – The Pledge of Allegiance

In light of the recent appeals court ruling in California, with respect to the Pledge of Allegiance, the following recollection from Senator John McCain is very appropriate:

As you may know, I spent five and one half years as a prisoner of war during the Vietnam War. In the early years of our imprisonment, the NVA kept us in solitary confinement or two or three to a cell. In 1971 the NVA moved us from these conditions of isolation into large rooms with as many as 30 to 40 men to a room. This was, as you can imagine, a wonderful change and was a direct result of the efforts of millions of Americans on behalf of a few hundred POWs 10,000 miles from home. One of the men who moved into my room was a young man named Mike Christian. Mike came from a small town near Selma, Alabama. He didn't wear a pair of shoes until he was 13 years old. At 17, he enlisted in the US Navy. He later earned a commission by going to Officer Training School. Then he became a Naval Flight Officer and was shot down and captured in 1967. Mike had a keen and deep appreciation of the opportunities this country and our military provide for people who want to work and want to succeed.

As part of the change in treatment, the Vietnamese allowed some prisoners to receive packages from home. In some of these packages were handkerchiefs, scarves and other items of clothing. Mike got himself a bamboo needle. Over a period of a couple of months, he created an American flag and sewed on the inside of his shirt. Every afternoon, before we had a bowl of soup, we would hang Mike's shirt on the wall of the cell and say the Pledge of Allegiance. I know the Pledge of Allegiance may not seem the most important part of our day now, but I can assure you that in that stark cell it was indeed the most important and meaningful event. One day the Vietnamese searched our cell, as they did periodically, and discovered Mike's shirt with the flag sewn inside, and removed it. That evening they returned, opened the door of the cell, and for the benefit of all of us, beat Mike Christian severely for the next couple of hours, then they opened the door of the cell and threw him in. We cleaned him up as well as we could.

As I said, we tried to clean up Mike as well as we could. After the excitement died down, I looked in the corner of the room, and sitting there beneath a dim light bulb with a piece of red cloth, another shirt and his bamboo needle, was my friend, Mike Christian. He was sitting there with his eyes almost shut from the beating he had received, making another American flag. He was not making the flag because it made Mike Christian feel better. He was making that flag because he knew how important it was to us to be able to Pledge our allegiance to our flag and country.

So the next time you say the Pledge of Allegiance, you must never forget the sacrifice and courage that thousands of Americans have made to build our nation and promote freedom around the world

You must remember our duty, our honor, and our country.

"I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."



Good News! The Association received a check from GoodSearch in December for \$ 50.66. For all of you that are using GoodSearch as your internet browser THANK YOU. If you have yet to try GoodSearch, please at least try it. For every search conducted the Association receives a penny. As you can see the pennies add up.

It's easy to make the change from your current browser. Just go to your control panel, select Internet Options type in <http://www.goodsearch.com/> in the home page section, then click OK

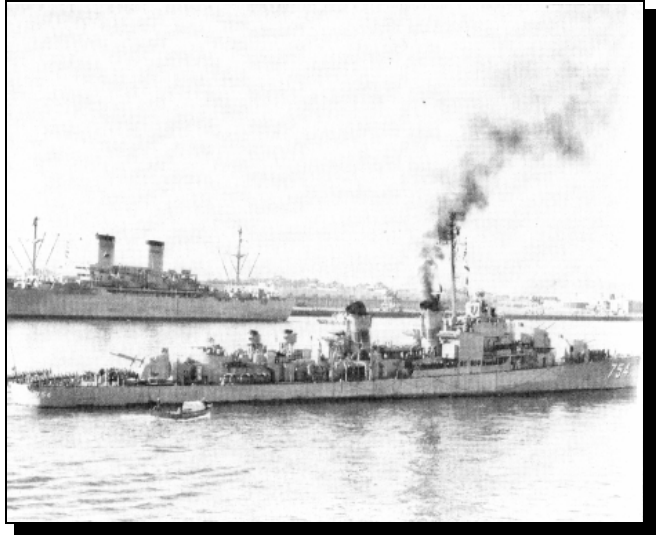
When the GoodSearch browser opens the next time you do an internet search you must type in USS Frank E Evans Association in the "Who Do You Search for" box. Actually once you start USS Frank E Evans the name should appear.

Good luck and good searching!

## Wonsan, Korea 16 February 1951

On Tuesday, 2 January 1951, USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD754) departed San Diego for duty with the 7<sup>th</sup> fleet, underway for Korea. On Friday, 16 February 1951, the longest sustained naval bombardment in history had its start when an armada of 50 United Nations ships laid off the shore of Wonsan and razed that large eastern seaport. 2 battleships, 3 cruisers, 34 destroyers, and 11 frigates participated in this siege. USS FRANK E EVANS (DD 754) was present shortly after the beginning, and actively participated in 11 duels with enemy shore batteries. During these actions she received many near misses, some of which sprayed shrapnel or splashed water on board. During the shore bombardment a total of 71,800 rounds of ammunition were pumped into the area. 6000 enemy troops were eliminated in a single day's bombardment.

After months of searching, Frank Jablonski has found all the names of the officers who led EVANS during that eventful time.



### The following lists those officers:

CDR G. I. Christie, Commanding Officer  
LT C. L. Gowler, Operations Officer  
LT V. D. Maynard Jr., Engineering Officer  
LTJG S. W. Damon, Supply Officer  
LTJG J. W. Hayes, Assistant CIC Center Officer  
LTJG C. L. Scott, Gunnery Officer  
LTJG E. H. Tidd, Assistant Engineering Officer  
ENS J. F. Burke, First Lieutenant  
ENS F. S. Mendel, Assistant Operations Officer  
ENS R. F. Wilson, Assistant Engineering Officer

LCDR L. D. Chansler, Executive Officer & Navigator  
LT J. H. Maguire, Assistant Engineering Officer  
LTJG M. F. Currier, Division Medical Officer  
LTJG J. E. Davis, Assistant Communications Officer  
LTJG R. E. Hersman, Assistant Gunnery Officer  
LTJG M. G. Stephenson, Combat Information Center Officer  
LTJG J. A. Widman, Division Chaplain  
ENS J. E. Henry, Communications Officer  
ENS J. R. Patterson Jr., Assistant Gunnery Officer

## IN MEMORIAM

### The Sailor's 23rd Psalm

The Lord is my pilot, I shall not go adrift;  
He lighteth my passage across dark channels;  
He steereth me through the deep waters,  
He keepeth my log.

He guideth me by the evening star for my safety's sake.  
Yea, though I sail mid the thunders and tempests of life,  
I shall fear no peril, for Thou art with me,  
Thy stars and heavens, they comfort me.  
The vastness of thy sea upholds me.

Surely fair winds and safe harbors shall be found  
All the days of my life;  
And I shall moor, fast and secure, forever.

*Amen*

Since our last publication of Footlocker Talk we were saddened to hear of the loss of the following shipmates:

### SHIPMATES:

**Jack Dalton** from New Baltimore, Michigan died on October 30, 2007 following a fight of cancer for the last few years. Jack's funeral was held at Genderlick's funeral home on November 2, 2007. A special memorial fund was set up in Jack's name at the Josephine Ford Cancer Center.

Jack Dalton      1965-1967 Onboard USS Frank E Evans      New Baltimore, MI      Oct 30, 2007

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**Johnny L Yearwood** from Snellville Georgia died on December 23, 2007. Following the military, he graduated from Georgia Southern in 1971 and worked for Eastern Airlines. He was also a teacher at Rockdale County High School for many years and Heritage High School.

Johnny L. Yearwood      Hospital Corpsman      1962-1964 Onboard USS Frank E Evans      Snellville, GA.      Dec. 23, 2007

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We were also saddened to hear of the loss of our members relatives:

### FAMILY & FRIENDS

**Richard Mason** was living close by to Bob & Dixie this past year so they could help him during his illness. Richard attended the Milwaukee reunion in 2005 with Bob & Dixie. We are glad that Richard was able to spend time with us and get to know some of the Association membership.

Richard Mason Sr.      Father of Robert & Dixie Mason,      Mishawaka, IN      Oct. 31, 2007

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**Pat Sutton** the wife of member Jerry Sutton passed away on January 12, 2008. Jerry talks often with Sylvia Campbell and he was planning on attending the last reunion in Excelsior Springs but his wife's condition prevented him from attending. Pat had a number of heart attacks prior to Christmas and her condition weakened. We send our best to Jerry and hope to see him in Charleston in 2008.

Pat Sutton      Wife of Jerry Sutton      Acworth, GA      Jan. 12, 2008

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During this time of grief we offer our deepest condolences and want those affected by these deaths to maintain courage by remembering:

“Expect trouble and sadness as an inevitable part of life  
and when it comes, hold your head high,  
Look it squarely in the eye and say “I will be bigger than you.  
You cannot defeat me.”

by  
Ann Landers