

## NAMESAKE

Named in honor of Brigadier General Frank Edgar Evans, USMC.

- Born 19 November 1876, Franklin, Pennsylvania
- Graduate Princeton University
- Infantryman Spanish-American War
- Commissioned USMC 15 February 1900
- Served in Philippines 1st Marine Brigade
- Award Navy Cross for Gallantry – Belleau Wood
- Retired 1 December 1940
- Deceased 25 November 1941
- Buried Arlington National Cemetery

## CONSTRUCTION

During the height of WW II construction began on USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754), her mission was to provide service as a surface attack vessel, submarine hunter and submarine and aircraft defense.

- Bethlehem Steel Company, Staten Island, New York
- Allen M. Sumner Class Destroyer
- Keel Laid 21 April 1944
- Launched 3 October 1944
- Commissioned 3 February 1945
- Sponsor Esther Caldwell Townsend Evans, Wife
- First Commanding Officer Commander Harry Smith, USN

## HISTORY

USS FRANK E. Evans (DD 754) served in WW II, Korea and Vietnam. She was decommissioned and re-commissioned twice. Her shakedown training took place out of Guantanamo Bay, Cuba in February 1945. Upon completion of training and some alterations she deployed to the Pacific via the Panama Canal in May 1945. Her original home port, through 1951 was San Diego. In 1952 her homeport was changed to Long Beach, California. She spent her first Christmas in Tsingtao, China and her last in Long Beach. When deployed to Korea in 1951, four crew members were slightly wounded when the ship took several hits from shrapnel. She completed a total of six deployments during the 1950's. She visited many ports of interest but probably the most memorable was her trip to Australia in which many of the crew had the opportunity to visit the 1956 Olympic Games. In 1961 the ship underwent a FRAM II modernization. Once complete a new wave of anti-submarine warfare training began. As the Vietnam War escalated she once again began deployments in support of the war effort.



## CHARACTERISTICS

### SHIP

- Length 376 feet, 5 inches
- Beam 41 feet, 1 inch
- Displacement 2, 200 tons
- Draft 15 feet, 8 inches
- Speed 34 knots
- Main Propulsion 60,000 SHP
- Power Source General Electric Turbines
- Crew 336

### WEAPONS

- 6 - 5 inch / 38 dual purpose guns
- 12 X 40 mm AA
- 11 X 20 mm AA
- 10 X 21 torpedo tubes (2 x 5)
- 6 X depth charge projectors
- 2 X depth charge racks

### POST FRAM II, COMPLETED OCTOBER 1961

- 6 - 5 inch / 38 dual purpose guns
- 2 dash helicopters
- 2 MK 32 triple torpedo mounts, holds 6 homing torpedoes
- 2 MK 10 7.2 inch hedgehog projectors
- Variable depth sonar
- Crew 322

## AWARDS & MEDALS

- 11 Battle Stars
  - 1 - World War II
  - 5 – Korea
  - 5 – Vietnam
- Navy Unit Commendation
- China Service Medal
- Navy Occupation Service with Asia Clasp
- Korean Service Medal
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal
- Vietnam Service Ribbon
- Republic of Korea Presidential Unit
- Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit
- United Nations Service Medal

## COLLISION

During a SEATO exercise code named "Sea Spirit" the Australian carrier HMAS MELBOURNE (R21) collided with United States Destroyer USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754).

- 3 June 1969 (2 June 1969 in the United States)
- 0315 Hours South China Sea
- Clear, Moonlit, Calm Seas
- 110 Degrees 47.7 Minutes East, Longitude
- 08 Degrees 59.2 Minutes North, Latitude
- 1,100 Fathoms (1.09 miles), Depth
- USS FRANK E. EVANS Struck at Frame 92
- 110 Nautical Miles from Designated Combat Zone
- 200 Nautical Miles from Closest Point of Main Land Vietnam
- 775 Nautical Miles from Manila Bay
- 74 Sailors Lost
- 1 Sailor's Body Recovered
- 3 Brothers Were Lost (Gary, Gregory & Kelly Jo Sage)
- Senior Master Chief Reilly Served with His Son, His Son Was Lost
- 204 Survivors from USS FRANK E. EVANS
- All Survivors Recovered by 0340 hours
- Ships on Station at Time of Collision
  - USS FRANK E. EVANS
  - HMAS MELBOURNE
  - HMS CLEOPATRA
  - HMNZS BLACKPOOL
  - USS JAMES E. KYES
  - USS EVERETT F. LARSON
- Commanding Officer USS FRANK E. EVANS: Albert McLemore
- Officer of the Deck USS FRANK E. EVANS: LTJG Ronald Ramsey
- Junior Officer of the Deck: LTJG James Hopson IV

The Commanding officer and officer of the deck were found guilty of dereliction of duty and sentenced accordingly.



29 March 1969  
USS FRANK E. EVANS (DD 754)  
Underway to Westpac  
Long Beach, California