

**USS Frank E. Evans Association, Inc.**  
**Twelfth Annual Reunion**  
**Renaissance Hotel - Long Beach, AC**  
**Business Meeting**  
**9:00 AM - Saturday, 2 August, 2003**

I. The Business meeting of the twelfth annual reunion of the USS Frank E. Evans Association, Inc. was called to order by President J.C. Campbell (1952-53)

II. The Invocation was delivered by James Gatterdam (1966-69)

III. The lighting of the Unity Candle was performed by a sailor from each of the three decades:

- 1940's - Jack Van Pelt (1944-47)
- 1950's - Charlie Farnsworth (1952-55)
- 1960's - Terry Brown (son of Robert J. Searle, lost 3 June 1969)

IV. The Pledge of Allegiance was lead by Chief Reilly (1967-69 Survivor)

The "Ode to the Fallen" was given by Bob Winston, Australian Shipmate (HMAS - June 1969)

V. The president welcomed everyone to the business meeting.

- J.C. was pleased to introduce his captain and first time attendee Captain Nelson D. Salmon (1952-54) and his friend Commodore Bill Fisher.
- Other first time attendee's were introduced by the decades:
  - Lee Fisher (1956-59)
  - Jerry Haugen (1957-59)
  - Carl Smith (1958-61)
  - Richard Burke (1969 Survivor)
  - Bruce Caldwell (1965-67)
  - Charlie Fuchs (1967-69 Survivor)
  - Gus Gustavson (1967-69 Survivor)
  - Tom & Jean Ralston (1967-69)
  - Ron & Marlene Stephens (1967-69 Survivor)
  - Family members of 1969 lost sailors
    - Kerr - 4 family members
    - Reilly - 3 family members

The president recognized Australian friends and shipmates present: Ron Baker and Chris and Bob Winston and Special Guest Robert Tidwell, doctoral candidate from Texas Tech University and The Vietnam Center in Lubbock, TX.

VI. Approval of Minutes

Secretary/Founder, H.G. (Nick) Nichols (1950-53) called attention to the business meeting minutes in the registration folder.

- Aurora, CO September 8, 2001
- St. Louis, MO September 7, 2002

Tom Mc Millian (1968-69) made a motion both sets of minutes be accepted as presented. Chief Reilly (1967-69) seconded. Motion carried.

VII. Association officers were recognized and asked for reports and personal comments.

- A. Nick Nichols, founder, described how he searched out some former shipmates in 1991-92 and how the first reunion was organized for October, 1992 in Grapevine, TX.
- B. Pete Peters, (1966-69 Survivor) Director of Survivor Relations, welcomed shipmates to the Frank E. Evans DD754 home port of Long Beach, CA. but without the shipyard. He said he worked on the Evans where Pete Duke (40's) and Nick Nichols (50's) served and he was proud to say he served on the Frank E. Evans.

Pete announced plans for a survivor's gathering room at the 2004 reunion to toast the 74 lost shipmates and to share sea stories. Family members will be welcome to attend.

- C. J.C. Campbell noted the Frank E. was our Mother in the Navy---she kept us warm in the winter and kept us fed. Our shipmates were like brothers and he learned how lucky he was to be an American.

J.C. presented the Treasurer's Report: Income from dues, ship's store and donations were \$4,801.50 with expenses for printing, postage and office supplies, etc. of \$4,175.64 with a balance of \$625.86.

VIII. Old Business:

- A. Memorial Chairman, Cal Rankin announced the balance in the Memorial Account was \$7,419.63 as of 30 June, 2003.
- B. Membership Special Project Activities was given by Ken Adams. On December 11, 2001 Representative Stephen Horn (D-CA) sponsored H. R. 3443 bill seeking to get the 74 names on The Vietnam Wall. Senator Nighthorse Campbell (R-CO) sponsored a bill in the Senate. The bills were resubmitted in the 108th Congress in 2003.

On 25 May, 2003 the association was notified a Senate hearing would be held on 3 June in Washington D.C. on Bill S296 - "Fairness to all Fallen Vietnam War Service Members Act of 2003." One witness would be allowed to speak but written testimony could be submitted. With only a few days to prepare, 263 emails were sent and many personal telephone calls were made.

Written testimony was received from the following sources. 4 from the 50's (3 Board Members), 1 from 60's (Board Member), 9 Survivors, 2 Widows of the 74, 23 other family Members, 4 Australian Sailors and 3 friends of the association.

The Board asked Jim Zumwalt to present testimony on behalf of the families and the Board. He presented a strong case showing the 74 deaths were a direct results of their service in Vietnam. Those attending the hearing were J.C. and Sylvia Campbell with Emmett (VAdm-Retired USN) and Muggs Tidd.

Nick Nichols' original purpose of our reunions was to get shipmates and wives together to renew old friendships and share "sea stories" with other shipmates of the Frank E. Evans. Each reunion since 1992 has been intended to provide more comradeship of those shipmates and to develop the Association into a family like atmosphere.

During the 1994 Third Reunion in Las Vegas a memorial program for the 74 missing was

present with one set of parents ( Mr & Mrs Corcoran) of the 74 lost, 11 survivors and 5 Australian sailors from the HMAS Melbourne Association present.

In 1995, the Board voted for the President to appoint a Memorial Chairman and to seek ways to honor the lost 74. Many suggestions on how and where have been discussed. Of course, money has always been a concern behind all ideas.

Since 2000 the Board has encouraged the membership to expand our reunions to include our children, grandchildren, brothers, sisters, friends and other interested parties. Our programs have been emphasizing patriotism, love of country and flag; honoring groups in our association; remembering those who have passed; and reviewing historical events.

Our focus will continue:

- to bring shipmates, their family members and friend together yearly
- to strive getting the 74 names on The Vietnam Wall
- to seek other avenues to remember the 74.....example: new destroyer named USS Frank E. Evans

#### IX. New Business

- A. Presentation for 2006 Reunion - Liz Mullis from the Farmers Branch, Texas Chamber of Commerce issued an invitation for the 2006 reunion. She presented a Texas Flag handbag to Ron Baker of Australia and another Texas Flag Bag for the shipmate who had the closest birthday to 2nd of August.
- B. Discussion of Site for 2004 and 2005 Reunions. J.C. explained illness and other factors had prevented a site survey trip to Milwaukee. He proposed the 2004 reunion be held in Lubbock, Texas. The site survey team would then have time to visit and to select a hotel for the 2005 reunion. Charlie Hoog (1952-55) made a motion to reverse the dates and to go to Lubbock in 2004. Eldon Kiehler (1945-46) seconded motion. Motion carried.
- C. The floor was opened for nominations for the 2006 reunion. Cities suggested were: Seattle WA; the State of Oregon; Biloxi, MS; and Farmers Branch, TX. After discussion the membership voted to go to Biloxi, MS for the 2006 Reunion. Richard Sawyer (1965-69) noted he and Mary will help when the site survey team makes a trip to the Biloxi area.
- D. Ron Baker announced the forthcoming USS Frank E. Evans and the HMAS Melbourne 35th Memorial/Reunion to be held in Adelaide, South Australia. The dates will be the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th of June, 2004.
- E. Richard Gleason (1957-58) discussed the possibility for a new Frank E. Evans ship. Congress has authorized 58 ships with 12 ships remaining to be named.

#### X. Election of Officers:

The offices for Secretary, Vice President and President/Treasurer were opened for nominations.

- A. Secretary: Willis Zismer (1952-53) made the motion that Nick Nichols be re-elected by acclamation. Bob Baldwin (1950-52) seconded. Motion carried.

- B. Vice President: Jack Sheehan (1952-53) made the motion that Ken Adams be re-elected by acclamation. Willis Zismer seconded. Motion carried.
- C. President/Treasurer: Ricky Brown nominated JC Campbell. Gary Guyer (6-3-69 brother) seconded. Charlie Hoog moved JC be elected by acclamation. Motion carried.

XI. Announcements:

- A. Ken Adams announced a Long Beach Navy Memorial is being developed by the City of Long Beach and Friends of the Navy. The project has been under construction for 2 years now. Dennis Swann was invited to discuss the project with the Board of Directors earlier in the week. The Board voted to donate \$3,600.00 to the cost of the Memorial. The 74 lost sailors' names will be listed in granite marble where it will remain as a lasting tribute to our shipmates. Paving bricks with individual names are available to be purchased and will be placed at the Memorial.
- B. Ron Baker was asked to pass Nick's hat for the association's general fund. A total of \$835.50 was collected.
- C. Captain Salmon related for all how the Frank E. Evans home port came to be in Long Beach, CA.

Jerry Simoneit (1966-68) made a motion for adjournment. Charlie Hoog seconded. Motion carried and adjournment followed. Group pictures were to follow.

Respectfully submitted,



H. G. (Nick) Nichols  
Secretary