

# USS EVERETT F LARSON DD/DDR 830

**SUMMER 2013** Official Publication of the U.S.S. Everett F. Larson Association  
Newsletter Address: 83 Stonehedge Lane South, Guilford, CT 06437  
[WWW.USS-EVERETT-F-LARSON.COM](http://WWW.USS-EVERETT-F-LARSON.COM)



## PRESIDENTS CORNER



The plans are set and Nashville is our next Port. I am really looking forward to our next reunion, I have been in contact with a couple new shipmates, both of them were on board in the early sixty's. Both showed an interest in the reunion.

If you have never been to Nashville, you are in for a real treat! The watering holes have live music, good restaurants, shops with western hats, boots and clothing. The hotel at the Grand Ole Opry is a must see – walk through gardens, waterfalls and even a rotating bar!! It's really something, Nashville is just a fun place to be. Jone and I are looking forward to seeing all of you and having another outstanding reunion!  
Liberty call 1600  
– Nick

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## From the Vice-President



The planning for the reunion has been completed., and reservations are coming in everyday. My wife and I are looking forward to seeing everyone. There will be some new faces at this reunion along with some familiar ones. Be safe, be well, and see you in September!  
– John Clements



### From the Treasurer

The 4/30/2013 balance in our account was \$9,983.01. Thank you for your continued support!  
Your Shipmate, Frank Wyzywany



### Notes from the Larson Historian

BIG NEWS! Thanks to Dick Cardozo, we are once again in possession of a DVD showing the Larson and it's crew in action in 1945-46, including scenes from Operation Road's End and liberty in Japan.

ALSO...as some of you know, I have been trying to put everybody in the US Navy Memorial that served honorably on the Larson. When a shipmate dies and hasn't taken care of this, I have to get what I can from family or from St. Louis. Those records from commissioning up to the early 50's are no longer available for free, and each year they close up another year. Plus the cost of photos, even when I go to St. Louis in person, is now almost \$4.00 each just to make a copy! (Two years ago it was 25 cents!). My pockets aren't as deep as my bar bill would make you believe! I will still keep up with the plank owners as best I can, but that's about all I'll be able to do pretty soon.

This being the case, I suggest everybody get on board and send me your photos and info NOW while you're still kicking so your service to our country will be properly (and accurately) recorded for prosperity. I figure that there must have been about 3,000 of us between 1945 and 1972, and this looks like the only way! (Also you will be able to use a photo you like to avoid be remembered by the "mug shot" ID photo that looks like you're in jail!)

Thanks - Gene



### From the Secretary

I'd like to repeat my request of last year for input to the Larson files. We are trying to establish as complete a file as possible of Larson Newsletters, Minutes of General Membership Meetings, and Minutes of Executive Committee Meetings.

If you think you may have some you would like to contribute, please email me at [tmw@sisqtel.net](mailto:tmw@sisqtel.net) and I will email you a list of what we currently have so that you can see if you have something that would fill a gap in our spotty file.

Thanks and look forward to meeting in Nashville.

- Terry Weathers



### In Memoriam Departed Shipmates (since last newsletter)

Chaplain Francis E. Juntunen

- LT Thomas J Doherty 1965-68 Passed 5/7/89
- SN Jose M Silvia
- LCDR Robert R Cochrane 1949-50 Passed 1/29/2006
- S2 Clarence A Schneider 1946 Passed 7/22/10
- MM2 William Molchan 1945-46 Plank Owner Passed 12/17/2011
- RD2 Eldon L "Punk" Fisher 1966-67 Passed 2/17/12
- LTJG John W Sjoberg 1945-46 Passed 2/21/12
- CSC J Clegg Ivey 1952-53 Passed 9/24/12
- LCDR Ronald E Vanelli 1945 Former XO Passed 1/14/2003
- SN James Sousa 1952-54 Passed 4/9/2013
- CS3 Stephen Stephanoff 1947-50 Passed 4/15/2013
- ST2 Bruce O Smith 1960's Passed 4/14/2013
- Alvin D "Dan" Manske 1948 Passed 4/30/2012
- Wallace J Bailey 1945-46 Plank Owner Passed 5/28/2013
- CAPT Frederick E. McCandless 1967-68 Former XO Passed 4/26/2013
- S1c Wallace J. Bailey 1945-46 (Plank Owner) Passed 5/28/2013
- MM2 Gene "Hoss" Hayhurst 1952-56 Passed 4/5/2013
- SN Leonello I. Barinello 1947-78 Passed 10/12/2012

## Mail Call

Dearest Larson shipmates & friends,  
Where do I begin to thank all of you for your love and support during the most sad and difficult time in my life with caring phone calls and so many lovely cards.

I am so proud and blessed to have shared 24 years with my best friend and the most wonderful man I've ever known, Sal Savarino. All the reunions and all of you are a significant part of those memories that I'll treasure for the rest of my life!

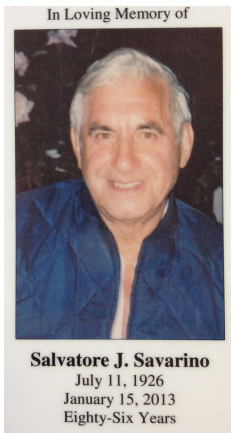
Although I am honored to have served in the US Air Force my ties belong to the US Navy and the crew of the USS Everett F Larson DD 830..."Bless he the ties that bind".

My broken heart was filled with joy when I received the lifetime membership card. This precious gift means more to me than you'll ever know...Thank you!

I pray that someday when you set anchor to celebrate another reunion, somewhere in this glorious country of ours, that I'll be able to join you. Until then, calm winds and a safe and happy journey.

With heartfelt love & blessings, your mascot and friend,

- Donna



**Salvatore Savarino, 86**  
**July 11, 1926 – January 15, 2013**  
**(newspaper article)**

Salvatore J Savarino, passed away at his home in Melrose on January 15, 2013, at the age of 86. Mr Savarino was born in Wakefield on July 11, 1926, to the late Rosario and Florence (Turco) Savarino. He was raised in Wakefield and Melrose, graduated from Melrose High School and attended Boston Trade School.

Sal entered the U.S. Navy after high school and served on the destroyer DD830 Everett F. Larson, fighting in the South Pacific during World War II. He and his fellow seaman was the original crew called "Plank Owners", because they were the first crew members to operate the ship when it was commissioned at the Charlestown Navy Yard. Later on in life, at the age of 63, Sal with the help of others organized the first reunion

of all his shipmates in 1989. It was an emotional reunion since they had not seen each other in over 50 years. He continued on with the tradition, organizing and attending many reunions across the United States over the years.

Mr. Savarino started his career working as a welder at the Charlestown Navy Yard. He went on to work for several Boston contractors learning his trade before starting his own business in the 1950's. Sal owned and operated S.J. Savarino Masonry and General Contracting, building homes and commercial buildings in Boston, Cambridge, Greater Boston, Magnolia, Gloucester and the North Shore. He was a member of the Boston Home Builders Association, was a member of the Saugus/Everett Elks and the VFW Harold O'Young Post #2394 in Melrose, where he was accomplished card player.

Mr Savarino was an avid sportsman who enjoyed hunting and pistol shooting, for which he received several awards, was lifetime member of Woburn Sportsman Club, a member of the Greater Boston Pistol League, G.O.A.L. and a proud member of the NRA.

He was an excellent cook, had a great sense of humor, could fix anything, loved to garden and grow Jade plants and was an accomplished wine maker. He enjoyed sharing his different wines with family and friends But above all he was a "great family man".

Sal was the devoted husband of the late Mary L. (DiSano) Savarino; Loving father of James R Savarino of N. Andover, John J Savarino of Reading; Paul R Savarino and his wife, Charlene of New Jersey, and the late Michael O Savarino; beloved grandfather of James, Olivia, Danielle, Joseph, Angela, Natalie and Paul; loving companion of 24 years to Donna Kendall of Danvers; brother of the late Betty Scanlon, Louis Savarino and Rosario Savarino Jr; also survived by many nieces nephews, cousins and friends.

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### **The Tin Can (Life on Board A U.S. Navy Destroyer)**

Originally designed to protect high-value battleships from enemy torpedo boats, the first destroyers were called "torpedo boat destroyers" they gradually came to be called destroyers, and in World War II they defended not only battleships but aircraft carriers, cruisers, and merchant ships.

While serving as a war correspondent on board the destroyer Farenholt (DD-491) during World War II, the Nobel Prize-winning author John Steinbeck composed the following tribute to the "busiest ships of a fleet":

A destroyer is a lovely ship, probably the nicest fighting ship of all. In the beautiful clean lines of her, in her speed and roughness, in her curious gallantry, she is completely a ship in the old sense...In a major engagement, they do the scouting and make the first contact. They convoy, they run to every fight. Wherever there is a mess, the destroyers run first. They are not lordly like the battleships, nor episcopal like the cruisers. Most of all, they are ships and the men who work them are seamen. In rough weather they are rough, honestly and violently rough. A destroyer man is never bored in wartime, for a destroyer is a seaman's ship. She can get under way at the drop of a hat. She will go ripping along at 35 knots with the spray sheeting over her and she will turn and fight and run, drop depth charges, bombard and ram. She is expendable and dangerous.

Dear Frank,

Due to age and health inconvenience I will not be able to attend the 2013 reunion for 4 days. If possible maybe I can be there for the first 2 days. I served aboard January 1946 – September 1949, called back 1951–1953 (Korean War) USS Firedrake (AE-14).

Many Thanks, Thomas Abernathy

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Dear Frank,

I put a couple years in the Pacific. Started out running landing craft, until I lost my hearing. Then they put me in Engine Room, aboard the USS Arided AK73 for a year, then they sent me back to main to pick up the Larson DD830.

That was like a rest camp, get up anytime, and tell the cook what you wanted for breakfast, The only requirement was that we had to go down to the ship everyday and get familiar with the engine rooms, crossover lines and familiar with the layout of the ship.

I don't remember if we picked up our crew in Bath, Maine, or when we went to Boston. Our shake down was by Cuba, then back in Pacific. The war was over then, but we had to escort the Boxer – an aircraft carrier – over to China. As the story I got – there was a bunch of Japs that wouldn't surrender.

On our way back, the old man blew up a Jap gun boat. Then we ran into a typhoon, waves 76 ft high, wind 110 mph. That was a wild ride! But not a man got sea sick. We had to watch for mines that broke loose and were floating. We got back to Okinawa to pick up our mail, but NO mail, as the mail boat sank in the harbor typhoon. I left the Larson in to come back to states on a Troop Transport in January 1946. A lot more little things and places to write about.

My wife of 63 years passed away last month. If I still have my health I would like to make it to our next reunion. I enjoy the news letters.

– Orville Swick

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Greetings,

Wanted to pass on that my wife and I went on a trip this past weekend and among other things, we visited the former USS Everett F Larson on display under the watchful eye of a South Korea guard post on the eastern shore of South Korea. It was interesting to walk aboard the old ship, and found it ironic that had this great ship not been transferred to the Korean Navy many years ago, it would have met the scrap as many did in the 1970's. As luck would have it, though, it is now on permanent display. I took one or two shots of the ship if you would like to see it as of May 12, 2013.

Respectfully, Ed Wiessing

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*This was published in an AF Village monthly news publication. Elmer Bendiner was a navigator in a B-17 during WW II. He tells this story of a World War II bombing run over Kassel, Germany and the unexpected result of a direct hit on their gas tanks:*

"Our B017, the Tondelayo, was barraged by flak from Nazi antiaircraft guns. That was not unusual, but on this particular occasion our gas tanks were hit. Later, as I reflected on the miracle of a 20 millimeter shell piercing the fuel tank without touching off an explosion, our pilot, Bohn Fawkes, told me it was not quite that simple.

"On the morning following the raid, Bohn had gone down to ask our crew chief for that shell as a souvenir of unbelievable luck. The crew chief told Bohn that not just one shell but 11 had been found in the gas tanks...11 unexploded shells where only one was sufficient to blast us out of the sky. It was as if the sea had been parted for us. Even after 35 years, so awesome an event leaves me shaken, especially after I heard the rest of the story from Bohn.

"He was told that the shells had been sent to the armorers to be defused. The armorers told him that Intelligence had picked them up. They could not say why at the time, but Bohn eventually sought out the answer.

"Apparently when the armorers opened each of those shell, they found no explosive charge. They were as clean as a whistle and just as harmless. Empty? Not all of them! One contained a carefully rolled piece of paper. On it was a scrawl in Czech. The intelligence people scoured our base for a man who could read Czech. Eventually they found one to decipher the note. It set us marveling. Translated, the note read: This is all we can do for you now

Dear Frank,

I was on the Larson August 1968 through January 1969 (between my first and second tour of Vietnam). I made BM3 September 1968 and shortly after that, shipped out to Vietnam for a tour on the ground. Some duty for a sailor who loved being on a ship!

I am currently building a model of a Gearing Class Destroyer to represent the Larson. I can find few few photos of her as she appeared during the Vietnam service era. Any would be helpful. I build "museum quality" stuff and want this one to be accurate. Any help would be welcome! Also please note change of address.

Thanks, Dave Thompson

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**A Sailor's Prayer**  
**Joseph Anthony Welteroth, U.S. Navy**  
**Winter 1945, Pacific Ocean**  
*"War is hell"*

We will not go gently into this dark night,  
For the love we carry will guide the light,  
And hold our tears til the morning's bright.

Awakened again into the night,  
We will not go gently into this dark night.  
The day surrounds us without its light,  
And silence falls, come soon the night.

Where shadows cast past fire's light,  
We will not go gently into this dark night.  
The paths before us, the dark, the light.  
We ask for nothing, we know what's right.

The truth, the glory, it's found its fight.  
Our strength, our courage, our guiding light.  
We will not go gently into this dark night,  
And give our life without the right.

To call the sun into the night,  
And question the question, what's wrong, what's right.  
We will not go gently into this dark night.

For the love we share will guide the light,  
And pray someday you find what's right?  
We pray someday you find the light.  
We will not go gently into this great night.

The paths before us, the dark, the light.  
Tomorrow comes and so the fight.  
Where Heroes fall but still we fight.  
Their voices call into the night,  
This war won't end, no end in sight.

We ask for nothing, we fight this fight.  
We ask for nothing, we know what's right.  
We ask for nothing.  
We found the light.

Gene,

I located the Larson in Korea on Google Earth, maybe some of the crew would like to take a look! (You have to download "Google Earth" to your computer) If you type in the location, Google Earth takes you there and then using the Latitude and Longitude reading at the bottom of the open page scroll down and over to the shore line and at the location I entered you will be about where the gangway would be, the Larson is there.

Location: 34deg 43' 03.66" North  
129deg 00' 19.45" East  
Elevation 42ft

- Will Myers

Dear Terry,

This letter is with reference to an article written by you in our Winter 2013 Journal, in which you wrote "A model of the Everett F. Larson has been located in St. Lucia, Florida. It is not Peter Kope's model. We are checking to find out the background: one of the members presently lives in St. Lucia and volunteered".

Well your volunteer need not look any further than me. I, Dr. Domenick Scarlato, is the owner of this outstanding 3ft x 1.5ft model which is on loan to the St. Lucie County's Veterans Office in Florida, and is proudly displayed in a plexiglass case for all veterans who seek help, to view.

To relate how this beautiful 3ft x 1.5ft high destroyer is an exact scaled model, which is encased in a large plexiglass case, I must go back to 1947 when I served aboard the Larson as a Fireman 1st class with the "A" gang. My love for the sea was born aboard the Larson, and I always wished to have a model of my ship.

In 1965 I was employed in the New York Naval Shipyard, commonly called the Brooklyn Navy Yard, as a Welding Supervisor. I developed a very close relationship with a Model Maker John Erikson, who worked in the Design Department. I managed to commission him to build an exact scaled model of he Larson for a nominal fee. He agreed and said there is no problem because he can get all the pictures and specifications he needs. The only problem he said it will take a lot of time. Possibly twelve to eighteen months as he will do this at his home.



Exactly twelve months later John delivered to my home in Bellrose, Queens, New York, a three foot exact scaled model enclosed in a plexiglass case. The detail of the ship was remarkable. Every item from its 5" gun turrets, the 40mm, 20mm, Radar Antennas, the torpedo tubes and even the anchor chains, rope lines, brass screws, fire extinguishers, etc. was unbelievable.

This professionally made model could be used in a Hollywood movie and would pass as a real combat ship! If anyone is ever in Port St. Lucie West, please visit the St. Lucie County's Veterans Office. Say hello to the Director Donna Carlson, and when you view the Larson you will feel the roll of the ship and the smell of the salt air, I still do. Incidentally for the record I was the second elected President of the U.S.S. E.F. Larson Association in 1991 and conducted the reunion at Norfolk Naval Base. I also served the Board of Trustees for three years. I would love to hear from my shipmates.

Fair Winds and Calm Seas  
Dr. Domenick "Nick" Scarlato  
1-772-343-8477 (AM)



**\*\*CURRENT EVENTS - PLEASE READ\*\***

**WE NEED MORE STORIES!!!**

We have received some very interesting and personal emails and letters from those who served on the Larson, that you will find under the "Mail Call" heading.

There have to be hundreds of these stories. We would ask you to think back to those years on the Larson and email it or write it down and send it to drice@ctslabs.com or Doug Rice, 83 Stonehedge Lane South, Guilford, CT 06437. Give us as much detail as possible, with dates, names and we will share it with the Larson crew in our next newsletter!

Larson hats, shirts and jackets will be available from EMBROIDERY CREATIONS, 5050 Nebraska Avenue, Ste. 8, HUBER HEIGHTS, OHIO. Phone: 937-235-0441. Fax: 937-235-0487. Contact Chuck Hertzman Website: www.embroiderycreations.com or info@embroiderycreations.com

LARSON PATCHES AVAILABLE - Vern Smith, 1855 E. Oakmont Ave., Fresno, CA 93720, (e-mail: yttim2@dslextreme.com) has Larson Patches available and the cost is \$4.00 which includes mailing cost.

**THIS IS NOT A DRILL**

**Its still important to get dues paid and to get new members. We need to do both! DONATIONS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!**

**Get Your Larson Newsletter Via Email**

With every edition, your Association mails out 383 Newsletters and Emails 170 Newsletters to members. Please let Doug Rice (drice@ctslabs.com) know if we can just provide you with the email version. With the rising costs of stamps, envelopes and printing, we would appreciate your help in cutting our costs. Thank you for your help.

**WE ARE STILL LOOKING FOR SHIPMATES**



OI Division Radarman 1960's

**Attention on Deck!**

Fill out this form, send it and your check made payable to: **USS Everett F. Larson DD-830** with a self addressed envelope to:

Frank Wyzywany, Treasurer  
12 Ashleigh Court  
Lansing, MI 48906

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZipCode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please Check One:**

\_\_\_ \$10.00 per year Full Membership

\_\_\_ \$120.00 Lifetime Membership (w/ spouse)

\_\_\_ \$5.00 per year Associate Membership  
(no voting rights at meeting)

Years beng paid for: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mailing Address:**

Are you current? Take a moment to check to see if you need to update information. \*Send in the changes to Doug so you will receive your copy of the Larson Newsletter in a timely and cost efficient fashion.

Doug Rice  
83 Stonehedge Lane South  
Guilford, CT 06437

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/Town: \_\_\_\_\_

State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zipcode: \_\_\_\_\_

Tel #: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Rate & Years on Larson: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**Nashville TN - Everett F Larson Reunion  
2013**

**Sept 4 – Sept 8, 2013**

The 2013 USS Everett F Larson reunion will be held Wednesday September 4 until Sunday September 8, 2013. Our location is the

Radisson Hotel Nashville Airport  
1112 Airport Center Drive,  
Nashville, TN 37214  
(615) 889-9090

There is also complimentary shuttle service from the airport with service within a 3 mile radius.

Room rates are \$95.00 plus tax per night. The room cutoff date with the hotel is August 1, 2013. The room rate will be available for the 3 days before and after the reunion. Breakfast is included each day for two at the hotel. The hotel phone number direct is (615) 889-9090 and you must tell them that you are with the group to get the rate.

We will tour the Battle of Franklin and Carnton Plantation on Thursday September 5th. Lunch will be on your own. The memorial will be held at The War Memorial in town after lunch.

Friday the 6th is on your own with the banquet Friday evening which will have a live band.

Saturday the 7th we will be going to the Grand Ole Opry in the evening. Also Saturday we will have the raffle and business meeting.

Sunday the 8th farewell breakfast and safe travel to all.

**FILL OUT ATTENDANCE FORM!!!**



**U.S.S. Everett F. Larson 2013 Reunion**  
 Wednesday September 4th to Sunday September 18th

- Wednesday, Sept 4, 2013 Hospitality room will be open for early arrivals. Check into the Radisson Hotel Nashville Airport. Casual welcome dinner in the hospitality.
- Thursday, Sept 5, 2013 Tour Battle of Franklin & Carnton Plantation - Greatest story of the Civil War, Lunch on your own. Afternoon memorial held in town at The War Memorial.
- Friday, Sept 6, 2013 Evening Banquet music & entertainment.
- Saturday, Sept 7, 2013 Raffle & business meeting. Grand Ole Opry in the evening
- Sunday, Sept 8, 2013 Daily complimentary breakfast buffet for 2 in hospitality room

**Return by July 15th 2013**

Check payable to John Clements  
 John Clements, 195 Elm Street, New Rochelle, NY 10805  
 Home# 914-235-1964 Cell# 914-882-4314

=====  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Years aboard Larson \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

- 1) Wed. Sept. 4th Informal supper, pizza & desserts  
 Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - 2) Thurs. Sept. 5th lunch on own, tour Battle of Franklin & Carnton Plantation  
 Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$47.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
  - 3) Friday Sept. 6th Evening Banquet music & entertainment.  
 Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$47.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Prime rib # \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken Marsala # \_\_\_\_\_
  - 4) Sat. Sept. 7th Grand Ole Opry in the evening  
 Number of Persons \_\_\_\_\_ x \$47.00 each = \$ \_\_\_\_\_
- Grand Total = \$ \_\_\_\_\_