

# USS EVERETT F LARSON DD/DDR 830

WINTER 2016 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)

## Venice Italy 1951-1955



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If shipmates are reading this, that means they survived another terrific reunion; this one in Jacksonville, FL hosted by Ellis and Marlene Warmkessell. If you weren't there, you not only missed out on our usual camaraderie, you missed out on a lot of good food prepared by Marlene. And get this, Ellis and Marlene have volunteered to host the 2017 reunion in Branson, MO.

Speaking of future reunions, Don and Pam Erskine are busy preparing for our next gathering in Las Vegas. See more information later in this newsletter. Please take advantage of the registration form and send it in early. You won't want to miss the good program planned for us. Remember, the reunion registration and the hotel registration are two separate things. By responding early, you will be helping Don and Pam in their planning and preparation.

A big BZ goes out to shipmates who have sent our editor Doug Rice their stories. One is Ken Lambert, a fellow Radarman I served with back in 1959-60. You will love his story later in this newsletter; particularly you shipmates who helped keep the aft section of USS Frank E. Evans afloat back in 1969. The Larson and Evans are STILL working together. While we are on the subject of newsletter stories, I encourage you to send your stories to Doug. I heard some terrific sea stories at the Jacksonville reunion. Some of them could even be published in our newsletter but not unless you send them to Doug. Even if it's just a response to something you read in a previous newsletter, I know Doug will welcome your input. Who knows, it might result in a regular "letter to the editor" section. That depends on all of us.

Art Jacobson is hard at work on research into a possible joint reunion with another "Tin Can" Association. Art suggested that we might consider such a joint venture since our ranks are growing smaller. Getting together with another ship's company for a reunion would probably help drive down hotel and other costs. I'm sure we can expect an update from Art at our Las Vegas gathering.

One last thing, if you owe Larson Association dues, please send them to David Pickett. His address is in this newsletter. (I had to say that; I think it's some kind of Federal Law or something). See you in Las Vegas.

Bill Forbes



**From the Treasurer**

Jacksonville was a great event!  
Come to Vegas and be a winner  
seeing your shipmates!

- Your shipmate, David Pickett



**Notes from the Larson Historian**

**PROJECTPIX**

If you haven't already sent me a photo of you in uniform for posterity, please scan or mail one to me. Similar pictures of Larson shipmates would be just as good, maybe even better, as long as you can identify them.

Let me know your name, rank/rate and when you were aboard so I can get them in some semblance of organization.

Even better, how about a picture of you in uniform and one as you are now? Should make a great display!

Can't wait to hear from you. And to see you all in Las Vegas - Gene Maresca

**PROJECTPIX (Example: Gene Then and Now!)**



**From the Vice-President**

See you in Vegas!!  
- John Clements



**From the Secretary**

Our Website has been undergoing an update and we could use some help from our members in ensuring its accuracy and getting it as complete as possible. If you're not familiar with our Website, it's what you get when you use a computer's information service, such as Google, and type in USS Everett F. Larson.

You can look up the years you were aboard Larson and see crew listings and photos from the period. I'd like to suggest you take a little time and check out what's there for accuracy. If you've got some additional information or photos that would make the Website more complete or accurate, please contact me (address and phone info is on Page 1 of this newsletter). Those of you who aren't into computers, call or write and let me know what years you were aboard Larson and I'll send you what's on the Website so you can review it.

Our President, Bill Forbes, Historian, Gene Maresca, and I will put this stuff together and help get it incorporated into our steadily improving Website.

- Terry Weathers



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

Chaplain Francis E. Juntunen

- SSML3 Richard J. Taylor - Plank Owner
- SN Paul F. Seidel
- F2 Bernard F. Cohen - Plank Owner
- ETM3 Arthur P. Floor - Plank Owner
- SSML2 Herbert L. Kaltz - Plank Owner
- S1 Dale E. Carson
- RDCM Joseph F. Yeaman
- RD3 Dale L. Lemonds
- SN Richard A. Turner
- SN Eugene W. Byrnes
- SO2 Del Pope
- SH1 Lester R. Wheeler - Plank Owner

## Mail Call

### Salute to CDR James Brent Allen USN (Ret)

My name is Kenneth E. Lambert. I was an RD3 aboard the USS Everett F. Larson (DDR 830) in 1959–1960. Let me tell you a story about a Navy Commander. First of all, I am now 76 years of age and my wife is in a Dementia facility in Hot Springs, Arkansas. I visit her at least 3 times per week.

I recently noticed a new resident in the Memory Unit where my wife now lives. He was wearing a Navy baseball cap. Since I try to always speak with the residents, I went to the gentleman and asked him if he had served in the Navy. He said yes, he was the Captain of the **Frankie** Evans.

I did a search on the Internet and found two ships with the name of Evans. One was the Robley Evans, (DD-552) and the other was the Frank E. Evans, (DD-754). I rather assumed that the Frank E. Evans was what the man was trying to say. Staff members in the Memory Unit told me his name is Jim Allen.

That really intrigued me so I got on the Internet and found the Frank E. Evans website. I sent an e-mail to the President of the Evans Association, J.C. Campbell, requesting some information. That resulted in a message from Frank Jablonski, who has written several books about the Frank E. Evans. He is also the Evans Association historian. He provided me with a .pdf file that listed all 18 former commanders of the ship and, sure enough, there he was, CDR James Brent Allen as the 16th Captain of the ship. His tenure was from 1964 to 1966.

That's just three years prior to the disastrous accident where the HMAS Melbourne collided with the Evans in June, 1969. As you all know, this was an accident in which the Everett F. Larson lent a hand in preventing the rear section of the Evans from sinking. The entire front end of the Evans had sunk some 3 minutes after the collision. Incidentally, Frank Jablonski never served aboard the Evans but his brother-in-law did and was among the 199 men who survived the collision. Seventy four shipmates were lost that morning.

CDR Allen was born in Ogden Utah and served aboard several Destroyers. Being in a Dementia Unit, you never know what a patient may or may not remember. I walked up to CDR Allen on several occasions, trying to get further information from him. My search led me to finding out that he is the last surviving Commanding Officers of the USS Frank E. Evans.

The other day I was in the Memory Unit and I walked toward him, saluted and said, "Good afternoon CDR Allen, how are you today." He actually saluted back, with a smile and I had a nice conversation with him. His wife Joy is still living and does not have Dementia. I had asked her if she had a problem with me talking with him about the Navy and she said, "Not at all", so I kept talking with Jim. I asked him if he was a Lt. Commander or a Full Commander and he simply said "Full". He had served in the Navy on several destroyers in WWII, Korea and Viet Nam. He retired in 1973.

It breaks my heart to see someone who devoted so many years to our military to end up only a shell of himself in a Dementia Facility. He deserves much more than being a forgotten Sailor. I sent Frank Jablonski Jim Allen's mailing address. He will see to it that the remaining Evan's crew members get it and perhaps some will write to Jim. I also told Jim's wife that her husband may start getting letters that she can read to him. I will continue to salute him and call him Commander Allen. I do so with tears in my eyes and thanks from my heart.



## FROM A VETERAN TO A VETERAN

When a Veteran leaves the "job" and leaves for a better life, many are jealous, some are pleased, and others, who may have already left, wonder if he knows what he is leaving behind, because we already know.

1. We know, for example, that after a lifetime of camaraderie that few experience, it will remain as a longing for those past times.

2. We know in the Military life there is a fellowship which lasts long after the uniforms are hung up in the back of the closet.

3. We know even if he throws them away, they will be on him with every step and breath that remains in his life.

We also know how the very bearing of the man speaks of what he was and in his heart still is. These are the burdens of the job. You will still look at people suspiciously, still see what others do not see or choose to ignore and always will look at the rest of the Military world with a respect for what they do; only grown in a lifetime of knowing.

Never think for one moment you are escaping from that life. You are only escaping the "job" and merely being allowed to leave "active" duty. So what I wish for you is that whenever you ease into civilian life, in your heart you never forget for one moment that you are still a member of the greatest fraternity the world has ever known. NOW!

### Civilian Friends vs. Veteran Friends Comparisons

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Get upset if you're too busy to talk to them for a week. VETERAN FRIENDS: Are glad to see you after years, and will happily carry on the same conversation you were having the last time you met.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have never seen you cry. VETERAN FRIENDS: Have cried with you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Keep your stuff so long they forget it's yours. VETERAN FRIENDS: Borrow your stuff for a few days then give it back.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Know a few things about you. VETERAN FRIENDS: Could write a book with direct quotes from you.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will leave you behind if that's what the crowd is doing. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will kick the crowd's ass that left you behind.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Are for a while. VETERAN FRIENDS: Are for life.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Have shared a few experiences... VETERAN FRIENDS: Have shared a lifetime of experiences no citizen could ever dream of...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will take your drink away when they think you've had enough. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will look at you stumbling all over the place and say, "You better drink the rest of that before you spill it!" Then carry you home safely and put you to bed...

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will talk crap to the person who talks crap about you. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will knock the hell out OF THEM for using your name in vain.

CIVILIAN FRIENDS: Will ignore this. VETERAN FRIENDS: Will forward this. A veteran – whether active duty, retired, or reserve – is someone who, at one point in their life, wrote a blank check made payable to "The Government of the United States of America" for an amount of "up to and including my life" . . . and military wives are as much veterans as their spouses.

From one Veteran to another, it's an honor to be in your company. Thank you.

## Zumwalt Destroyer Built in Bath, Maine



BATH IRON WORKS

# Largest Navy destroyer headed to sea for first time

By David Sharp  
The Associated Press

BATH, Maine — The largest destroyer ever built for the U.S. Navy headed out to sea for the first time Monday, departing from shipbuilder Bath Iron Works and carefully navigating the winding Kennebec River before reaching the open ocean where the ship will undergo sea trials.

More than 200 shipbuilders, sailors and residents gathered to watch as the futuristic 600-foot (183-meter), 15,000-ton (13,600-metric ton) USS Zumwalt glided past Fort Popham, accompanied by tugboats.

Kelley Campana, a Bath Iron Works employee, said she had goose bumps and tears in her eyes.

"This is pretty exciting. It's a great day to be a shipbuilder and to be an American," she said. "It's the first in its class. There's never been anything like it. It looks like the future."

Bath Iron Works will be testing the ship's performance and making tweaks this winter. The goal is to deliver it to the Navy sometime next year.

The ship has electric propulsion, new radar and sonar, powerful missiles and guns, and a stealthy design to reduce its radar signature. "Advanced automation will allow the warship to operate with a much smaller crew size

than current destroyers.

All of that innovation has led to construction delays and a growing price tag. The Zumwalt, the first of three ships in the class, will cost at least \$4.4 billion.

The ship looks like nothing ever built at Bath Iron Works.

The inverse bow juts forward to slice through the waves. Sharp angles deflect enemy radar signals. Radar and antennas are hidden in a composite deckhouse.

The builder sea trials will answer any questions of seaworthiness for a ship that utilizes a type of hull associated with pre-dreadnought battleships from a century ago.

Critics say the "tumblehome" hull's sloping shape makes it less stable than conventional hulls, but it contributes to the ship's stealth and the Navy is confident in the design.

Eric Wertheim, author and editor of the U.S. Naval Institute's "Guide to Combat Fleets of the World," said there's no question the integration of so many new systems from the electric drive to the tumblehome hull carries some level of risk.

Operational concerns, growing costs and fleet makeup led the Navy to truncate the 32-ship program to three ships, he said. With only three ships, the class of destroyers could become something of a technology demonstration project, he said.

Dear Doug  
I enjoy the Larson  
Assoc. news letter very  
much.

Enclosed is a little money  
to help with the postage  
was aboard J.A.N. 46 to  
Sept. 49, unable to  
attend the Reunions.  
Keep up the good work.

Thanks  
Thomas E. Abernathy

I still have many pleasant memories of the Pacific area 1946 helping in the cleanup after World War II. I remember the Captain telling us as we entered Nagasaki Harbor that the Larson was the 1st Man-o-war in, since the bomb was dropped.

I refused a medical discharge in 47 in order to take part in a good will tour in the Mediterranean, Adriatic, and Aegean areas. Great sea stories to tell about the voyage. I left the ship as SK2, later promoted to Chief Storekeeper during the Korean War aboard the USS Firedrake AE-14. Many of my fellow sailors will remember me as "AB", Ship's store operator.

Operation: Roads End Sinking 23 Jap Subs. Including one that sank The Indianapolis.

- Thomas E Abernathy

Below is a letter from Lester Wheeler on September 13, 2015. Sadly Lester passed away on January 19, 2016. He is survived by his wife of 63 years Kathleen Wheeler and many children, grandchildren and great grandchildren.

September 13, 2015

Hi Shipmate

I have been thinking of dropping you a note for some time. I am a plank owner on the Larson DD 830 and went to Bath, Maine to bring it to Boston. It was quite an experience for a 17 year old. It really opened my eyes when they gave me a 20 mm on the forward stack. I was a laundry man and shipstore man. I can only remember the name of one man that was a cook, Merritt Hann and the last name of another man - Shintcliff, and he came from Maine.

I Retired from the Navy in June of 1944 after 20 years. I still have quite a few things like a menu - commission invitations etc I left the Larson in Japan and went on the USS John Hood DD 665 and then the USS Hunt DD 674 then to the USS Roy O Hale DER 336. I am unable to go to Re-unions because of my medical problems. Wishing all Good Health.

Lester Wheeler 58 Beech St - Keene NH 03431

**Welcome to Las Vegas, Nevada**  
**2016 USS Everett F. Larson Association Reunion**

- Reunion Dates – Wednesday November 9th – Sunday November 13th
- Hotel – Best Western Plus Henderson Hotel, 1553 N. Boulder Hwy, Henderson NV 89011
- The reservation number is 702-564-9200 M-F 7:30am-5pm PT. Be sure to identify yourself as part of the USS Everett F. Larson Navy group.
- The room rate is \$75 a night plus tax. Good for 3 days before and after, based on availability and includes breakfast each day. The hotel offers Free Parking. Street Parking is prohibited.
- Hotel Registration must be made by September 30th to get the Larson reunion rate.

Date	Event	# of People	Total Amount
Wednesday Nov 9	<b>REGISTRATION</b> , informal gathering w/ pizza, salad, desserts \$8.00 per person		\$
Thursday Nov 10	<b>Hoover Dam Tour</b> Lunch included & Memorial Service \$65.00 per person – Lunch Choice below Croissant sandwich w/salad ___Turkey ___Ham ___Tuna		\$
Friday Nov 11	<b>Nellis AFB Thunderbird Museum/Air Show</b> , Lunch Included \$60 per person – Lunch choice below ___Southwest Chicken ___Salisbury Steak ___Grilled Tilapia		\$
Saturday Nov 12	<b>Morning:</b> Executive Committee meeting, Membership Meeting, Raffle <b>Evening:</b> Cash Bar, Banquet & Music Barbeque Buffet Style (smoked chicken & brisket sliced) \$60.00 per person		\$
Sunday Nov 13	<b>Breakfast &amp; Checkout</b> Thanks for a great time, see you next year in Branson!		
<b>TOTAL AMOUNT ENCLOSED</b>			\$

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name for Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse/Guest: \_\_\_\_\_ First Name for Name Tag: \_\_\_\_\_

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

City/ ST / Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

What years did you serve on Larson? \_\_\_\_\_

**Please complete this form and make your check payable to:**  
**Don Erskine 115 Laguna Ln, Boulder City, NV 89005**  
**Please return your registration to Don by Sep 30, 2016.**  
**The earlier the better to help Don and Pam complete arrangements.**  
**Don (702) 293 2024 e-mail: [dtersk38@embarqmail.com](mailto:dtersk38@embarqmail.com)**  
**Pam cell (702) 358-1850 e-mail: [serenitea3@gmail.com](mailto:serenitea3@gmail.com)**

If you have a Larson lanyard for your name tag, please bring it with you. Don't forget an item for the raffle; not mandatory but appreciated. We want to see you at the reunion, raffle item or not.

**\*\*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](mailto: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!

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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](http://www.embroiderycreations.com) or [info@embroiderycreations.com](mailto:info@embroiderycreations.com)

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

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**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 354 Newsletters and Emails 141 Newsletters to members. **Please let Doug Rice ([drice@ctslabs.com](mailto: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**



Middle is Jake Jacobsen MM3 - Hong Kong 1965 or 1966

**Attention on Deck!**

The members present at the San Francisco reunion voted to increase our dues. Effective March 1, 2015, annual dues are \$20 and Lifetime Membership is \$150.

As you know, once you pay a Lifetime Membership, you no longer pay annual dues. If you were already a Lifetime member, you **do not** owe anything more.

There is more than one reason the increases are necessary. (1) The Association paid more than \$1,400 last year on newsletter postage. The Postal Service NEVER decreases the cost of postage. (2) There is a cost to keep our web site active ( <http://uss-everett-f-larson.com/> )

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**NOTICES**

Wendall S. Ward (Plank Owner) died June 10, 1992. His son Wendall Jr., 910-324-6132, would like to hear from people who knew his dad. Wendall tried to reenlist in the Navy, but flunked the physical because of his hearing so he enlisted in the Air Force and retired from there in 1965.

Robert L. Gabrielson, who was on a NROTC Midshipman cruise in 1958, would like to locate a 1958 Cruise Book for purchase or pay for a copy to be made. Please contact Bob at phone: (858)271-0436 or 10965 Negley Avenue, San Diego, CA 92131.

We have been asked the question "Can you provide me with information on living shipmates?" We have a listing on over 1000 shipmates that we have located. We list them as Regular, Deceased or Not Current Address (no forwarding address). So unless we are notified of a shipmate passing, we assume they are still living.

To answer the question, please contact Doug Rice for a particular shipmate name, so a listing is available through Doug Rice (e-mail [drice@ctslabs.com](mailto:drice@ctslabs.com)). Thank you.