



Quartermaster Rating



Ellis Roland Warmkessel
Quartermaster Second Class U.S. Navy
7 July 1967 – 3 July 1971

Ellis was born on 30 April 1949 in Maxatawny, Pennsylvania. He attended Lower Saucon Elementary School and graduated from Emmaus High School in 1967. Ellis enlisted in the Navy as a Seaman Recruit on 7 July 1967 while living in the village of Weilersville, RD#1 Alburtis, in Lower Macungie Township, Pennsylvania. He underwent basic training at the Naval Training Center, Great Lakes, Illinois, followed by advanced training for the Quartermaster Rating (QM) at Newport Naval Base, Newport, Rhode Island, and Anti-submarine Warfare training at Long Beach Naval Base, Long Beach, California. QM duties include standing watch on the bridge as Helmsman and Assistant to the Officer of the Deck and the Navigator. On 18 January 1968 Ellis reported for duty aboard the destroyer *USS Everett F. Larson (DD-830)* Kaohsiung, Taiwan, in the 7th Fleet in the Pacific, and served off the coast of Vietnam where the ship regularly used her five-inch guns for shore bombardment during Vietnam War operations. She also served as a plane guard for aircraft-carrier flight operations during the conflict and was in the Sea of Japan for several weeks after North Korea captured the intelligence ship *USS Pueblo (AGER-2)* in January 1968. In early June 1969, while conducting combined exercises involving ships of the U.S. and Allied Navies, *USS Everett F. Larson* came to the assistance of the destroyer *USS Frank E. Evans (DD-754)* and towed her stern section into Subic Bay in the Philippines after she was cut in two in a collision with the Australian aircraft carrier *HMAS Melbourne*. For his service, Ellis was awarded the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Vietnam Service Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal, and Republic of Vietnam Gallantry Cross Unit Citation. Ellis was discharged on 3 July 1971 with the rating of Quartermaster 2nd Class. He returned home to Alburtis for a short while before marrying **Gail Ann Yost** (16 November 1938 – 12 March 2003) on 8 January 1972 in Elkton, Maryland. Ellis graduated from Lincoln Technical Institute (formerly Ryder Tech) in Allentown, Pennsylvania, in October 1974. Over the years he worked as a Draftsman, first at Fuller Company in Fullerton, PA, and then at Mack Trucks in Allentown. He then became an Instructor teaching Engineering at Lincoln Technical Institute. Ellis and Gail lived successively in Allentown and Emmaus where they raised 3 children: **Kimberly**, **David**, and **Marcie**. In 2006, Ellis moved to Cressona, Pennsylvania, near Pottsville. Ellis's parents were **Harold Irwin Warmkessel** (6 June 1929 – 21 May 2001) and **May Florence Reith** (born 2 May 1929).



USS Larson (DD-830)



USS Pueblo (AGER-2)



USS Larson towing stern of USS Evans