



## Calvin Franklin "Cal" Ennis

March 7, 1925 - March 6, 2016

Dateline: Alton

Heading: Calvin "Cal" Ennis

Calvin Franklin "Cal" Ennis, 90, died at 9:45 p.m. Sunday, March 6, 2016 at Alton Memorial Hospital. Born March 7, 1925 in Alton, he was the son of William Zachariah and Viola Ovila (Thompson) Ennis. He went to radio training school before enlisting in the U.S. Navy. He served during WWII in submarine service on board the USS Bluefish 222 and was a member of the VFW Post 1308. He enjoyed attending weekly meetings of his PTSD Group at Jefferson Barracks. A former member of Brown Street Baptist Church, Mr. Ennis sang in the choir, served as a Deacon and a Sunday school teacher for the young married couples class. As a woodworker, he volunteered his skills to the church where needed, including making cabinets for the church. He later became a member of Heartland Baptist Church and served as an usher and built the wooden cross that is hanging behind the choir. He also used his woodworking skills to build props for the Showtime Productions Dance Studio in Alton. On December 20, 1947 he married the former Virginia Moody in Alton. She survives. Also surviving are two daughters, Barbara J. (Ennis) Laslie of Godfrey, and Paulette Janine Ennis of Chicago, two grandchildren, David Laslie (Christopher Roberts) of Belleville, and Shaun T. Laslie (Laura) of Bethalto, three great grandchildren, Caden, Alaina, and Abigail Laslie. Along with his parents, he was preceded in death by his step father Frederick "Joe"

Burger, two sons, William Dwight and Calvin Brady Ennis, a son-in-law, David Wayne Laslie, and two sisters, Imogene (Ennis) Billings and Martha (Burger) Cunningham. Visitation will be from 12:00 noon until time of funeral service at 2:00 p.m. Monday, March 14, 2016 at Gent Funeral Home in Alton. Dr. Jim Grant will officiate as well as Chaplain Cynthia Wayne-Lupkey from Jefferson Barracks PTSD Group. Burial will be at Fosterburg Cemetery with full military honors by the VFW Post 1308. Memorials may be made to Disabled American Veterans or Heartland Baptist Church. Online guestbook and information may be found at [www.gentfuneralhome.com](http://www.gentfuneralhome.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

MAR 14. 12:00 PM - 2:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

## Funeral

MAR 14. 2:00 PM (CT)

Gent Funeral Home & Cremation Services  
2409 State Street  
Alton, IL 62002  
(618) 466-5544  
<https://www.gentfuneralhome.com/>

# Tribute Wall



“ Calvin Franklin "Cal" Ennis

January 28, 2023 at 10:19 AM



“ Calvin Franklin "Cal" Ennis

January 28, 2023 at 08:19 AM



“ 4 files added to the tribute wall



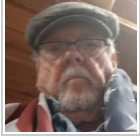
George Baker - March 13, 2017 at 08:59 PM



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



George Baker - March 12, 2017 at 07:23 PM



“ 3 files added to the tribute wall



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**George Baker** - March 12, 2017 at 05:58 PM



“ *It was with a heavy heart that I read of Calvin's passing recently. It was a great pleasure when he and four fellow shipmate's from the original Bluefish (SS-222) came to the Bluefish reunion in St Charles, MO in 2008. Those five guys were certainly a lively bunch, and would stay up well into the wee hours of the mornings to tell us stories about the war patrols during WWII, and answer the endless questions we had about their experiences. While we had some exciting times on the nuclear Bluefish, they were nothing compared what those guys went through.*

*Calvin had a great time during the reunion. No matter how late he stayed up entertaining us, he was always at the breakfast table first thing in the morning, looking totally refreshed and ready for another day. He was a wonderful man who enjoyed life to the fullest.*

*I still remember the looks of the faces of those five men when Admiral Kelso presented each one with a plaque made from the original wooden decking of the SS-222. Each one of them swelled with pride for that special gift, and most choked up a bit when they accepted their plaque. There were more than a few of us in the audience who also had a big lump in our throat as well. Those five guys were truly part of the aptly named "Greatest Generation", a distinction they fully earned.*

*Calvin, you have made your family, your shipmates, your Navy, and your Nation proud with your service. Farewell, my friend.*

*Mac McCowan  
USN (Retired)*

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**Mac McCowan** - March 15, 2016 at 12:34 AM

EM

*It was truly my humble privilege to attend Cal's celebration service. It honored a full life and an awesome faith walk. All the words and stories spoken and shared were genuine and heartfelt, especially the grandson's standing in unity. Thank you for your service & sacrifice to our country and be an amazing example to so many. Earl Meyers (U.S.S. Bluefish , SSN 675)*

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**Earl Meyers** - March 18, 2016 at 05:48 PM

GT

“ *My wife and I are very saddened by his passing. Thank you David for letting me know. It was a pleasure to know him even though it was just for a few years. We enjoyed every minute of his time with us at the reunions together. I know that he and Art Pietsch are setting around and telling stories. We will have a moment of silence for him next month at the Bluefish reunion. He won't ever be forgotten by any of us there that knew him. Give our love to Virginia and to the rest of your family. Gary and Brenda Tinney*

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**Gary Tinney** - March 13, 2016 at 06:10 PM

DC

“ *We will miss Cal. Being "neighbors" for 39 years and spending time with him at Brown St. gives many special memories. Talking to our son, Jonathan, the first thing he remembered was when Cal was burning a couch in the back and set the field on fire. He also remembers going to the woodshop a few times. We remember him with the hutch he made that sits in our bedrooms. We can't make the service due to work, but we will be praying for Ginny and the family. "Pastor Dave" and Joan Conrad*

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**David Conrad** - March 13, 2016 at 05:20 PM

RD

“ Please accept my deepest condolence.  
Cal's service on USS Bluefish SS222, in part allowed me to serve  
on USS Bluefish SSN675 for which I am eternally grateful.  
God speed Cal,  
Ross Dmochowski

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**Ross Dmochowski** - March 13, 2016 at 04:44 PM

BD

“ On behalf of the United States Submarine Veterans (USSVI), I offer  
our sincere condolences on Calvin's passing. You and your loved  
ones are in our thoughts and prayers. We are forever grateful for  
Calvin's service to our country in the U.S. Submarine Service. To  
our Brother of the Phin we say, "Sailor, rest your oar. We have the  
watch. May you rest in peace and may God bless your loved ones  
who remain. Thank you for your service to our country."  
"Now may the Lord of peace Himself give you peace always in  
every way." - 2 Thess 3:16.

*Calvin Franklin Ennis MOMMFN(SS), US Navy, Now on Eternal  
Patrol.*

*Fair Winds and Following Seas Shipmate*

*His record is now posted online in the Eternal Patrol file on the  
USSVI website.*

*Bill Dixon, National Chaplain United States Submarine Veterans,  
USSVI.*

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**Bill Dixon** - March 11, 2016 at 06:33 PM

JH

“ *Barbara, David and Shaun,  
I am saddened here in Washington State to learn of Cal's death. He  
was a gentleman and a gentle man through and through. I am  
thinking of you as you go through this difficult time. I regret not  
being able to share a hug with you.*  
*Jane Hill*

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**Jane Hill** - March 11, 2016 at 10:34 AM

DL

“ *1 file added to the tribute wall*



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**David Laslie** - March 11, 2016 at 10:01 AM

 Ed  
Baines

*What an awesome tribute to a fellow submariner. Fair winds and  
following seas.*

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**Ed Baines** - March 13, 2016 at 03:11 PM