

Frederick (Fred) D. Jackson
United States Naval Academy
Class of 1948
Biography
December 2006



I was born in Boston on 30 March 1925, brought up in Durham, New Hampshire and attended High School in nearby Dover, NH for 3½ years. I left high school (not graduating) mid senior year to attend the Univ. of New Hampshire completing 4 semesters in Electrical Engineering before entering the Naval Academy. When in college, I was drafted and rated 4-F due to a shoulder injury sustained playing sand-lot football in grade school. I passed a pre-entrance medical exam to the Academy pending successful correction of the shoulder injury.

My major extra curricular activities at the Naval Academy were continuing my choral singing as a member of Prof. Donald Gilley's Chapel choir and in the Glee Club, then directed by a midshipman, and as Photo Editor of the 1948 Lucky Bag.

On graduation, I joined the Service Force as a cargo officer on Chikaskia (AO-54) and ran oil from the Persian Gulf to Japan. I suddenly found the buoyancy and stability course we took at USNA (and wondered why) of very high importance. From there I was assigned to the Electronics Maintenance School at Great Lakes where I continued my choir singing at a local church and met a pastor and music director who became lifetime friends. I was then assigned to the Des Moines (CA-134) for 2½ years and spent several months in the 6th fleet in the Med. In 1953 I joined other 48's at the Postgraduate School in Monterey to learn Engineering Electronics graduating with a Masters Degree. While in Monterey, I helped establish a new Methodist church. Then, back to the Service Force in San Diego for two years to an Electronics Technical Unit. There, my designator was changed to EDO and I moved on to the New York Naval Shipyard. Duties there were very interesting and enjoyable but almost all assigned to New York hoped they would close their activity. The commuting to work was not high on the "things I like to do" list.

My reward for four years in New York, was two years in London on CINCUSNAVEUR's staff with TDY trips throughout Europe. From there, I was assigned to duty with BUDOCKS and sent to Dallas to build a Very Low Frequency radio transmitter and then taking it to the Northwest Cape of Australia for installation. From there I returned to NAVELEX to finish up my time before retirement in 1968. While at NAVELEX, I met the

secretary of one of our contractors. I went to work for General Electric in Syracuse and we commuted between Washington and Syracuse until we married in 1969. The 21 year wait to marry was the smartest thing I have ever done. Unable to have our own children, we adopted two from Vietnam; a 15 month old girl, Jennifer, in 1972 and an 18 month old boy, Christopher, in 1973. In 1972 I returned to NAVSEC in Washington as a civilian until I rejoined NAVFAC to work with them in their part of the VLF and ELF transmitter programs. With the successful completion of the ELF program in 1987, I retired from the government a second time. During the year prior to retirement I attended courses in church business administration at the School of Theology at Emory University in Atlanta. That led to "work" in my home church in Bowie, MD until 1992 when my wife, Frances, became a Grand Officer in the Eastern Star and we spent a year traveling the state of Maryland. This appointment put a delay in our planned move to Montana.

While in the Washington area, we lived in Maryland and watched the city move out into the country. We decided we had to move and wanted a place with little to no humidity. That was to be the Bitterroot Valley of Montana. We found "our" place on a trip in 1991, built in 1993 and moved in 1994. It was about the second best thing I did in my life. Here, we have made many friends and found a place to serve in our church, in our Eastern Star and in my Masonic activities, in four of which I am secretary/treasurer. Each day remains busy, full and enjoyable. Fran spent a year in a Grand Family of the Eastern Star of Montana and we have widely traveled this state, west to east, south to north and into Canada. But, our home is Hamilton and we love it. We have space for visitors and you are welcome. Just please buy a round trip ticket.