

## FRANK HENRY ELSASSER

Born: February 1, 1916

Where: Cincinnati, Hamilton County, Ohio

Parents: Frank Bernard Elsasser and Luella Rosenbaum

Brother: Edwin Elsasser

Sister: Loraine C. Elsasser (Fisher)

Married: Alfa Mae Seely

Children: Mary Janet Elsasser (J)

Frank Donald Elsasser (D)

Frances Luella Elsasser (F)

The family was mostly raised at 494 Mt. Hope Road, Cincinnati. Dad had to quit school at the age of 16 because his father died from cancer in 1933. He became responsible for helping the family so his brother and sister could continue their education. He joined the Navy prior to WWII because he was at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed on December 7, 1941 (more later).

Fran sent this picture of Dad at 494 Mt. Hope Road, Cincinnati  
age 12.





I (J) don't know what he did between quitting school and joining the Navy. Fran sent the following picture; Dad in front of his station at age 22, in 1938—written on the back of the picture is “Frank—I want this reserved—Aunt Irish 1938”. Don said Dad wanted to be a police officer but was below the height requirement.

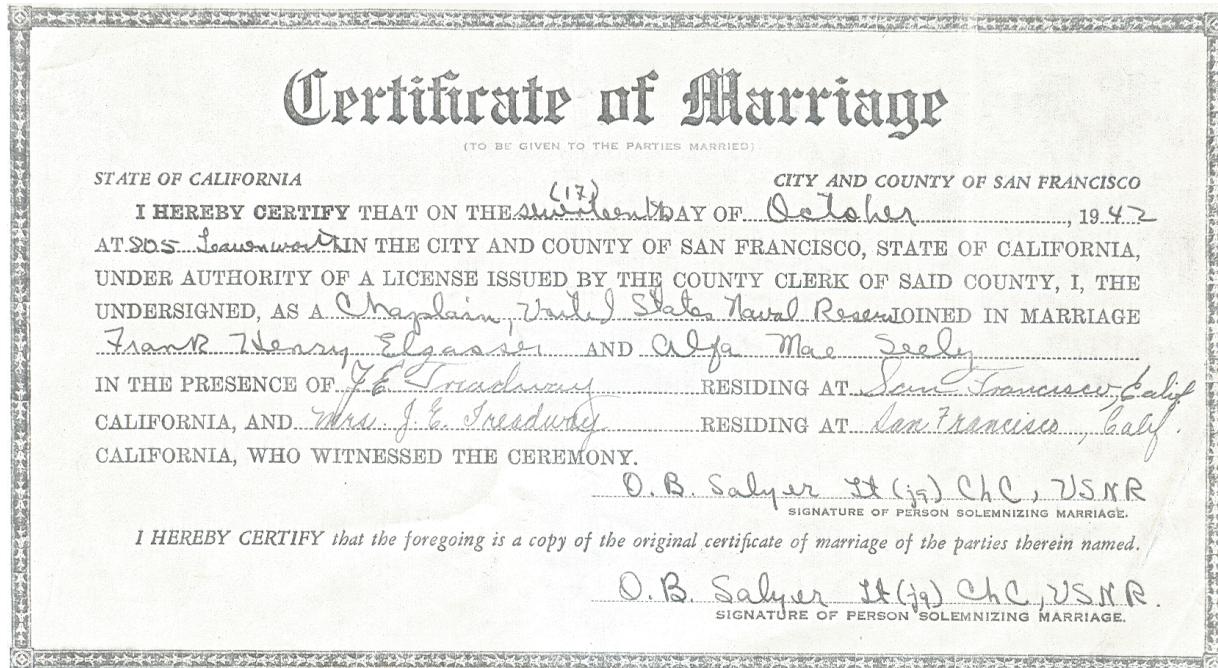


## YOUTH

- Dad and Edwin would go swimming in Al Capone's pool.
- On an occasion someone wrote Aunt Loraine a mash note. He and Edwin waited for the guy after school and beat him up.
- He played semi-professional baseball in Cincinnati.

## MARRIAGE

Dad met mom while he was on the USS Pennsylvania. His best buddy was Edward Treadway, who had married mom's sister Beth. Mother was keeping Beth company as she traveled from port to port following Uncle Eddie's ship. One evening Eddie asked Dad to take mom off their hands. He did—permanently. They went out a few times, wrote for a couple of months while his ship was at sea, and married on October 17, 1942.



As an early teen, Dad and I (J) were talking about baseball. I commented how cool it would be to catch a home-run ball. He said he did once. I asked where it was. He said the girl he was engaged to when he met Mother had it. **But don't tell your mother.** Ooo-kaay. Evidently she didn't know he was engaged when they met.

## PEARL HARBOR

Fran and I (J) separately saw the movie PEARL HARBOR. When we talked on the phone, we acknowledged that Dad had told both of us that he was at Pearl Harbor. But that's all he ever told me. I was in my early teens, and wasn't smart enough to ask any details; he didn't volunteer any information.

Fran had his military records. She didn't understand why there were two sets of discharge papers, 1946 and 1952, from two separate ships. I told her about how Dad got his Korean orders.

She had been online researching info on Pearl Harbor. I knew he had been on the USS Pennsylvania. Fortunately, the Pennsylvania was in drydock for repairs at the front of Pearl Harbor. Dad told Fran he was knocked out of his bunk during the attack.

From Fran: When I saw "Pearl Harbor", the movie, and understood that the attack was at 6:00 am, I believe, *then* I could understand how he was knocked out of his bunk. Dad had also told me that his ship was just moved out of one position in drydock to another the day before the attack. The ship that was moved into the position his ship had vacated the day before sustained far more damage than did Dad's.



Dad is sitting on the second row on the right.



Dad in uniform.



Pearl Harbor days



These two sites tell you about the Pennsylvania's history.

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS\\_Pennsylvania\\_\(BB-38\)](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/USS_Pennsylvania_(BB-38))

<http://usspennsylvania.org/WarHistory.htm>

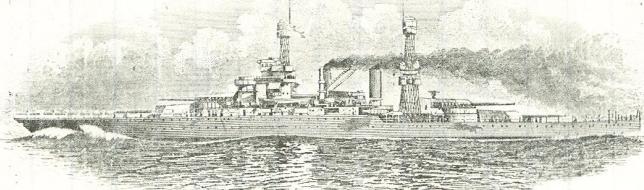
Map of USS Pennsylvania location at Pearl Harbor

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Image:Pearlmap2.png>

C2901960

Series C

# Honorably Discharged



from the  
United States Navy  
This is to certify that

FRANK HENRY ELSASSER

CHIEF ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN'S MATE USN

is Honorably Discharged from the POST DEMOBILIZATION SEPARATION ACTIVITY  
GREAT LAKES, ILL. and from the Naval Service of the United States  
This 22ND day of NOVEMBER 1946  
This certificate is awarded as a Testimonial of Fidelity and  
Obedience

N.C. Anderson  
V. C. ANDERSON, LT (JG) USN

450524

946-75

Authority for discharge BUPERS MAN. ART. D-9104 ALNAV 436-46

FOLLOWING DATA TRANSCRIBED FROM NAVPERS-553, NOTICE OF SEPARATION

Serial or file number 279 74 16

Date and place of birth 2-1-16 CINCINNATI, OHIO  
(Date) (Place)

Date of entry into active service 10-21-40

Highest rank or rating held CETM CR 1-1-46

Service (vessels and stations served on)

USNTS, GREAT LAKES, ILL.

USS PENNSYLVANIA

USS COLORADO

RADIO MATERIAL SCHOOL, NAVRESLAB., WASHINGTON, D.C.

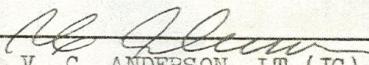
Remarks

AMERICAN AREA RIBBON

AMERICAN DEFENSE RIBBON

WORLD WAR II VICTORY MEDAL

GOOD CONDUCT RIBBON

  
V. C. ANDERSON, LT (JG) , U.S.N. (X)

Other entries previously made hereon now covered by NAVPERS-553, Notice of Separation.

FOR CONVENIENCE, A CERTIFICATE OF ELIGIBILITY NO. 65061 Cal 07 HAS BEEN  
ISSUED BY THE VETERANS ADMINISTRATION TO BE USED FOR THE FUTURE PURCHASE  
OF A LIFE INSURANCE BENEFIT UNDER TITLE III OF THE SERVICEMEN'S RECOMPENSE  
ACT OF 1944, AS AMENDED, THAT MAY BE AVAILABLE TO THE PERSON TO  
WHOM THIS SEPARATION PAPER WAS ISSUED. JUN 16 1949

## PROMOTIONS

### Promotions In U. S. Navy

From both east and west coasts Mrs. Frances Seely, 413-7th ave. has received word of promotion of two sons-in-law, both in the U. S. navy.

Frank H. Elsasser, an instructor at radio materiel school, naval research laboratory, Washington, D. C., has been advanced to chief electronics technician's mate. Mrs. Elsasser, the former Alfa Mae Seely, and daughter, Mary Janet, are with him.

Chief yeoman is J. Edward Treadway's new title at U S N R O T C processing unit, Stanford university, Palo Alto, Cal. His wife, Mrs. Beth Seely Treadway, and son, Randy, are making their home in San Francisco.

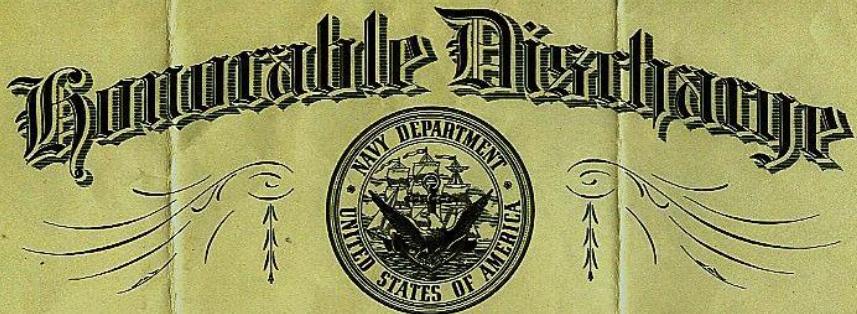
Former shipmates on the U S S Pennsylvania, both men recently were awarded a presidential unit citation for services aboard the ship.



Uncle Eddie Treadway, Dad, Don in front

## KOREA

I (J) remember the day Dad got his orders for Korea. He was in the Navy Reserves. I was next door playing with Paul Wayne Williams. Dad was in our driveway in a green knit shirt and slacks. The postman walked up to him and handed him a brown envelope. The postman said, "I'm sorry." It was Dad's orders to report for duty in Korea. Uncle Eddie (Treadway) told him to tell the Navy that Dad was married with 3 children. It took a couple of months to get released but he was only gone a couple of months. Then he got out of the Reserves.



from the Armed Forces of the United States of America

*This is to certify that*

FRANK H. ELSASSER

*was Honorably Discharged from the*

**United States Navy**

*on the 3rd day of November 1950 This certificate is awarded*  
*as a testimonial of Honest and Faithful Service*

*W. R. Deeths*  
W. R. DEETHS, LTJC, USNR

NAVPERS-860 (REV. 7-47)

Place of discharge U. S. NAVFECSTA, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF  
Authority for discharge A rt. C -10308 BuPers Manual & BuPers Ltr Pers-E324-AMC:sg of 10-20-50  
Serial or file number 279 74 16  
Date and place of birth 1 Feb. 1916 C incinnatti, Ohio  
(Date) (Place)  
Date of entry into active service 15 Sept. 1950  
Highest rank or rating held Electronics Technician Chief (ETC)  
Service (vessels and stations served on) U. S. NAVFECSTA, SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF

Remarks None

, SAN FRAN., CALIF. (DATE) 11/3/50  
RE-ENL. BONUS (-) YRS. \$ -  
4 DYS. ACCRUED LV. \$38.18  
NO. MOP  
T/A SF., CALIF. TO CALIF. (17) MI. \$85

*S. B. L. Duncan*  
S. B. L. DUNCAN, LTJG, SC, USN  
FOR: E. D. SPENCER, LT, SC, USN

*W. R. Deeths*  
W. R. DEETHS, LTJG, USNR, U.S.N.(R)

## TALENTED

Dad was very artistic. He had a workshop in the garage at our home at 3045 Avon Lane, San Pablo, California. He had nudie calendars. He either drew or traced a lady onto wood, cut it, painted it, and made it into the frontpiece of a lamp that he kept in the garage to work by. *From Fran:* This type of lamp art was unfortunately rather popular

at that time Dad also had a lamp with a lady's stocking-and-high-heeled leg as the base. I think Mom didn't have those lamps around for long.

He was trained in electronics in the Navy. *From Fran*: He was the radio operator on his ship. When I asked him once, 'What did you do after the bombs started hitting?' he said, 'I had to get to the radio and send out messages.'

In the days of tubes and wires, he repaired everyone's electronics in the neighborhood, both in California and in Virginia after we moved there in 1956 (6805 Beechview Drive, Falls Church, Virginia). We had TVs, radios, record players, toasters, oscillators, schematics all over the basement. He was always repairing something. He loved it. In California he had drawers and drawers of <connectors>. The guy packing the garage for the move to Virginia stole most of them; Mom remembered him continually going to his truck. They were missing when unpacking in Virginia.

Dad also did artwork. The last thing I (J) remember him doing was gluing jewels onto black velvet.

He also completed the basement in our Virginia home. He taught Don, who taught his first son Jake. Don is now (2008) helping his other two sons Rocky and Lance to fix their homes.

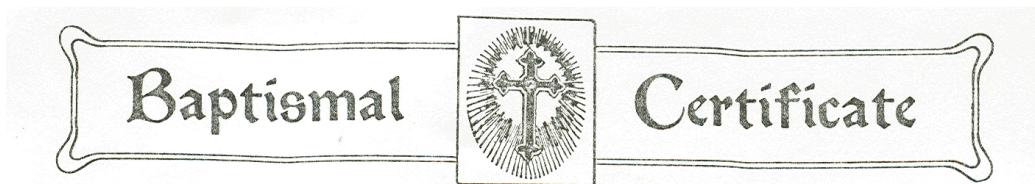
## **GARDENER**

Dad has the greenest thumb ever known. He could grow anything: cherry trees, tomatoes, a vegetable garden, flowers, azaleas, mimosa trees in the VA yard.

*From Fran*: Dad loved beautiful trees and flowers. He planted two gorgeous Mimosa trees in our front yard in Virginia—they have island-like green leaves, and bloom with the most beautiful pink flowers. He would take us on drives in neighborhoods nearby just to look at streets that were lined with beautiful flowering trees in the spring. We would go on drives into the mountains of Virginia during the fall, to admire the multi-colored beauty around us as the trees turned their golden, orange, red, and yellow hues of Autumn. He would often take pictures of beautiful trees and flowers—just to marvel at their beauty.

## **RELIGIOUS / CONVERSION**

Dad was raised staunch German Catholic in Cincinnati. He was always religious. He wasn't happy when the Catholic Church excommunicated him because he wasn't married by a Catholic Priest. In 1942 the Catholic Church made you sign papers that you'd raise your children Catholic. Mother refused to do it, even though she wasn't LDS active at the time, and they were married by the ship's captain. Ergo, the excommunication. I (J) remember going to Mass with Dad when I was 4 years old. I was fascinated by the kneeling and applying some liquid upon entering the church. My first name Mary came from Grandma Elsasser getting me christened Catholic before Mother could me blessed LDS (when I was 2-1/2). Evidently Catholics must have a saint's name, so she added Mary to Janet. Mother was not happy.



Saint Michael Church - 2110 St. Michael Street, Cincinnati, Ohio 45204

The Records of this Church certify, under date of Feb. 13 1916  
to the Baptism of Frank Henry Elsasser, born Feb. 1 1916  
of Frank Bernard Elsasser and Lucille Rosenbaum  
Place of Birth Cincinnati, Ohio

Said Record is signed by Rev. Louis J. Abt  
with sponsors, Francis Elsasser Jr. and Agnes

Rev. Fr. Valentino Samella

Date Jan. 21, 1977 -

I (J) remember Dad telling me that he said his prayers in the car on the way to work every day.

He got involved in the LDS activities because Mother never learned to drive. Dad had to drive us from San Pablo to Richmond, CA to the chapel. It was too long to drive back so he waited for us, sometimes attending church. He was baptized July 1956, a week before we moved to Virginia, where he was the ward basketball coach; we traveled all over VA, MD and DC playing other wards.

*From Fran:* I was told that Dad joined the Church when he saw the priesthood power that healed me after being run over by a truck. I'll try to make this story short...but, when I was 4 or 5, I was walking on a sidewalk, pulling a tricycle behind me, near my CA home when a neighbor was backing his 2.5-ton construction truck, loaded with bricks, into his driveway. I was on the blind-side of his maneuver, and too short for him to see me. His back fender knocked me down on my stomach, and the dual-back-wheels of his truck ran completely over my mid-body. He stopped before his front tires also ran over me, because he heard the scraping of my tricycle under his truck. I was not able to walk at first after that accident—the tires had run over me from my chest to just above my knees. Two Elders gave me a blessing, and it wasn't long before I was gradually able to walk again. Mom told me in later years that Dad knew the power of the priesthood was true, and that was the only way I survived that accident—and he therefore knew the rest of the Church had to be true. I think he was baptized about a year and a half after that accident.

But before that, in CA, he was a Scoutmaster, and played Santa Claus at the ward party (circa 1954).

*From Fran:* I pushed myself right up to the front of a pack of kids to receive whatever he was passing out, and attended church before he was ever baptized.



## CHURCH SERVICE

One of Dad's calling in Virginia was Ward Clerk. This was the day when the Ward Clerk was the man on the stand taking minutes, was also financial clerk and membership clerk. He did it all. He'd set up the card table in the living room after Church and spread out the information. Mom got a special calling to type the tithing receipts. He spent hours moving people in and out of the ward (it wasn't computerized then). Just keeping the ward roster up to date was a never-ending process. Mom was constantly typing dittos so it could be reproduced (copiers weren't big then either).

After he retired from the Navy Department, one of his assignments was the Stake Farm Treasurer. The Church owned a dairy farm in Maryland. Once a month he and Mom would drive to Maryland to check out the farm, collect payroll forms, and then write checks to the people who ran the farm.

He also loved to sing. He was always in the choir. Our family was raised on Lawrence Welk and the Hit Parade, popular TV programs in the 50s and 60s. Dad would occasionally break out his violin and play a tune. Then he and Mom would dance around the living room.

*From Fran:* Music. Dad could play at least four instruments that I remember, quite well—the piano, the violin, the harmonica, and the accordion. He was never formally taught to play any of these instruments—he taught himself to play, “by ear”. He would take these instruments out, on request often from me, and play them for us. I was awed by his talents. We never owned a piano in our homes, but I heard him play the piano at church (for fun, not formally) or some other places, and he was quite good. I always asked him to play a ‘boogie woogie’ beat that I still love. He always smiled when he

played an instrument. He also sang beautifully—a rich, full bass. He sang in choirs with Mom all the time—church, stake, etc.—and I often sang in the same choirs. I have a miniature Hymn book of his—with his name embossed on it—as well as a matching one with Mom's name on it. I have full copies of the “The Messiah”, too, one with Dad's name hand-written on it, and one with Mom's name hand-written on it. At times, Dad, Mom, and I used to sit on the front porch of our Falls Church VA home singing. I have always loved to sing, and so did Dad and Mom. Neighbors used to comment years later that they enjoyed hearing us sing on our porch.

Dancing. Dad and Mom both loved to dance. They told the story that they used to dance quite often, I think in the early days of paling around with Beth and Eddie mostly. They were doing a Mexican Hat Dance kind of dance at one time—I know Mom said that she was dancing around a straw Mexican-type hat on the floor, Dad holding her hand, but she twisted and broke her foot somehow. It was apparently a painful and long-to-heal break, and she said they just never went out dancing much after that. But every New Year's Eve, for as long as I can remember, they would watch a New Year's Eve show on TV, and near midnight, they would always dance a sort of quick-step dance right in our living room. They moved together like two pros, never missing a beat or a step in this close-hold dance with a lot more moves and steps than any of us teenagers knew at the time. I'm sure the dance style had a name—it was a typical 20's type dance, with changes of direction and fancy footwork, Mom sometimes kicking her foot out behind her, little skips—I don't know how to describe it, but they looked so happy when they did this little dance that probably had significant memories and meaning to them from their earliest New Year's Eve together. I could imagine how great they must have looked 'cutting a rug' in their early years. I could see the love they shared from the beginning and that held them together through all the years.

## **SECULAR ACTIVITIES**

When we lived in California, Dad belonged to a bowling team. Mom and I (J) would catch the bus on Friday night and watch his league bowl. While I was living with roommates, I'd meet him every Saturday morning and we'd bowl a few frames.

In California he took us kids fishing at various places. He loved to go out on San Francisco bay and fish for salmon. He'd bring home the catch; we'd all stand around and watch him clean the fish. Then Mom would freeze the salmon.

He would also take us kids pony riding before Church on Sunday. There are pictures in my “baby book.” It was a grand time as I remember.

In VA Dad coached Don's Little League team. Mom said the boys loved playing for him because he never told them, "Win, win." He just said to do the best they could.

FOR EASTERNs.

## F.C. Kiwanis Little League Officials Set

The Falls Church Kiwanis Eastern American Little League has elected Edward A. (Al) Root to the office of League president for the 6th consecutive time.

This latest honor is one of the many given to "Al" since he helped organize the first Falls Church Kiwanis Little League in 1951. Last year he was named as the "Man of the Year" by the four Falls Church leagues in recognition of its outstanding contributions to the Little League program.

The league also elected an almost complete slate of officers and managers for the 20 teams to take the field next year. Officers: vice president and treasurer, Lewis Scull; secretary, Ralph C. O'Connor; quartermaster, Carl Poore; chief umpire, Wallace Behrman; player agent, Ralph Evans; finance committee, Tom Wright.

Team Managers:  
Majors—Harry Hirsch, Cardi-

nals; Mike Foglio, Lions Club; Frank Elsasser, Raiders; Carl Poore, White Sox.

AAA Minors—Ed Boyd, Braves; Tom Wright, Civitans; Frank Gough, Dodgers; Nick Steere, Jets; Francois Austin, Komets; Bill Tavenner, Panthers; Pete Weddie, Rainbows.

AA Minors—James Swing, Atoms; M. R. Ashford, Broncos; Col. A. Irzyk, Bears; Joe Malaca, Kiwanis 7; Parnell Porter, Rebels; Ted Holden, Rotarians.

*From Fran:* I know I used to go with Dad and Don [as we called him then] to his games all the time. I liked to be around some of the cute boys that played on the team, and I liked to be with Dad. I would often just walk around the ball-field areas, most often looking for lost money. I seemed to have uncanny luck for finding lost coins and sometimes bills....I was most happy when I found enough money to buy a fudgesicle! To this day, I still find money when I walk around anywhere—most of all pennies, but the silver coins are a great find—and yes, I always pick them up. I have found many bills, too—two times having found \$100 bills, and other denominations from singles to \$20 bills. It's amazing!

## RETIREMENT

Dad retired after 29 years of service from civil service in 1970. The typed page below was probably prepared by Mom for the retirement officer to read. Fun stuff in it. Following are his commendations.

Frank H. Elsasser was born 68 years ago, the second son of Frank Bernard and Luella Rosenbaum Elsasser, on February 1, 1916. He spent his early life in Cincinnati, Ohio. When he was 16, his Father died and he went to work at a service station as its manager. In 1940 he received his draft notice, decided he didn't want what they would give him, so he joined the Navy. He was discharged in 1946 and was recalled to the Korean Conflict in 1950. When they found out he had 3 children, he was discharged.

He was a family man--he loved his family of one sister and one brother, and he loved this family. He never said an unkind thing about anyone, nor did anything unkind. He was very even tempered until he or his family's character was impugned. He was always on call for all the neighbors, anything that needed to be fixed--sometimes right during dinner. That's how he learned to eat cold meals, before Micro-wave. He was a handy-man with a capital H. He loved people <sup>well</sup> and worked <sup>well</sup> with them. He learned about electronics in the Navy, and has probably fixed every radio and TV in the neighborhood. He made lamps out of shells that he had pried off underwater rocks in the San Francisco bay in California. He carved a horse out of wood that was turned into a lamp. His hooked-rug schooner sails over our TV. He glued butterflies in velvet and made jewelry. He loved music and played the violin and the piano by ear. He enjoyed singing in the choir. He and his son constructed a bedroom and half-bath in their Falls Church home, and closed off the laundry room and his workshop.

Frank served from 1940-1944 aboard the USS Pennsylvania. He was at Pearl Harbor when it was bombed. In 1944 he was transferred to the USS Colorado in the radio room receiving messages. One day in Long Beach the Colorado dropped anchor out beyond the breakwater. Someone phoned from shore and said, "We have our 16" guns trained on you--identify yourself." The Ensign froze at the microphone. Frank came up behind him and yelled, "We are friendly."--How typical.

When they were in Attu, Alaska, the word came down that there would be a shore party going for bear. Anyone interested should step forward one foot. Frank characteristically stepped forward. The bear <sup>hunt</sup> turned out to be loading ammunition on a freighter.

Frank played semi-professional baseball in Cincinnati. He was a Little League manager from the time his son was 8 years of age up through Babe Ruth League. His two daughters were great rooters. He never told his boys to go out and win, but just to go out and do their best. That's all he asked of anyone.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS NAVAL MATERIAL COMMAND  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20360

IN REPLY REFER TO

18 MAR 1970

From: Chief of Naval Material  
To: Mr. Frank H. Elsasser, MAT 04T1

Subj: Meritorious Civilian Service Award

Encl: (1) Certificate and Pin

1. It is a distinct pleasure for me to approve the Meritorious Civilian Service Award for you in appreciation of your outstanding accomplishments as Head of the Training Material Support Staff.
2. This Staff is responsible for the overall effectiveness of the Training Material Support effort within the Naval Material Command and was established only in May 1967. You have been responsible for its operation from the beginning; this involved the organization of a staff, the development of procedures for the planning, coordination, progress, implementation and appraisal of the program, the establishment and maintenance of effective working relations with various other offices such as the Chief of Naval Operations, the Systems Commands Project Offices, and others, and the resolution of all the problems associated with a new and growing organization.
3. Under your leadership, the status of the Training Material Support Staff has been greatly enhanced; among your personal accomplishments have been the initiation of a Guide formalizing the Navy training plans process, scheduled for publication in September of this year, your services as Chairman of a DOD Interdepartmental Task Group for life cycle costing of training, and your Chairmanship of a Naval Material Command Working Group to develop a uniform reporting system for training requirements to be used as the base for establishing priorities, allowance changes and budgetary support. In all of these tasks you have demonstrated the greatest resourcefulness, industry and leadership ability. These qualities, in turn, have led to unparalleled advances in the field of Training Material Support.
4. The foregoing is necessarily only a summary of your achievements; the problems you faced were difficult and complex and your resolution of them has involved the exercise of mature judgment and tact. You have shaped the Staff into a smoothly functioning and responsive organization, serving the Naval Material Command most effectively, and have done so in the face of limited personnel resources. I consider this recognition most well deserved and approve this Award with warmest appreciation for your personal contributions to our success in our training program.

*J. Galantin*  
J. J. GALANTIN



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
HEADQUARTERS NAVAL MATERIAL COMMAND  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20360

IN REPLY REFER TO

18 MAR 1970

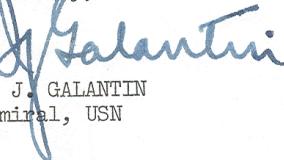
Dear Mr. Elsasser:

Your retirement from Federal Service on 31 March 1970 after over 29 years of service will be a great loss to the Headquarters, Naval Material Command. This occasion is one of personal regret to me, and I am sure it is also to those who have had the pleasure and privilege of working with you over the years.

It is also an occasion of pride for both you and the Navy as we look back over your varied career during the period from 1940 to 1970, including your military service during the entire period of World War II. As Chief of Naval Material I am impressed with your rise from an Electronics and Material Inspector at the Naval Supply Depot, Clearfield, Utah through successively more responsible positions in the Bureau of Ships and finally your positions in the Headquarters, Naval Material Command. I am sure that you are most proud of your many contributions to the Navy throughout your career, and more recently your contribution in establishing and organizing the Training Material Support Staff, of which you became its civilian head.

Your initiative, industry and dedication have been recognized and have rightly earned for you the Navy's "Well Done." You have my personal thanks and good wishes, and the good wishes of your friends and fellow workers for good health and a bright future.

Sincerely,

  
I. J. GALANTIN  
Admiral, USN

Mr. Frank H. Elsasser  
Headquarters, Naval Material Command  
Department of the Navy  
Washington, D. C. 20360

# Department of the Navy



## MERITORIOUS CIVILIAN SERVICE

*This certificate of award is  
presented to*

**Frank H. Elsasser**

*in recognition and appreciation of  
Meritorious Service which has been  
of high value and benefit  
to the Navy*

18 MAR 1970

*Date*

I.J. GALANTIN  
ADMIRAL, USN  
CHIEF OF NAVAL MATERIAL

## DEATH

Dad had smoked since he was 9 years old. I (J) remember him taking out his pouch of tobacco, patting it into the paper, and winding the ends. There weren't filter cigarettes during my childhood. He tried to quit many times, but never succeeded in finally stopping. He suffered through 8 years of emphysema, congestive heart failure, carrying his own oxygen tank, and finally being diagnosed with lung cancer just a few weeks before his death, dying from a heart attack. Per the death certificate, the causes of death included: Hypotension, Cardiac Arrest, Cerebral Anoxia, and Squamous Cell Carcinoma of Lung. He usually weighed around 180; he weighed 118 pounds when he died on October 14, 1984.

## COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA—CERTIFICATE OF DEATH

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH—BUREAU OF VITAL RECORDS AND HEALTH STATISTICS—RICHMOND

REGISTRATION AREA NUMBER <b>129</b>	CERTIFICATE NUMBER <b>1674</b>	STATE FILE NUMBER
1. FULL NAME OF DECEASED <b>Frank Henry Elsasser</b>		2. SEX <b>XX</b> male <input type="checkbox"/> female
3. RACE <b>Caucasian</b>	4. DATE OF DEATH (mo.) (day) (year) <b>October 14, 1984</b>	
5. AGE <b>68 years</b>	6. IF UNDER 1 YEAR months <input type="checkbox"/> days	7. IF UNDER 1 DAY hours <input type="checkbox"/> minutes
8. DATE OF BIRTH (mo.) (day) (year) <b>Feb. 1, 1916</b>	9. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO	
10. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION OF DEATH (if none, so state) <b>Fairfax Hospital</b>		11. STREET ADDRESS OR RT. NO. OF PLACE OF DEATH <b>3300 Gallows Road</b>
12. CITY OR TOWN OF DEATH <b>Falls Church</b>		13. COUNTY OF DECEASED'S RESIDENCE <b>Fairfax Co.</b>
14. STATE (OR FOREIGN COUNTRY) OF DECEASED'S RESIDENCE <b>Virginia</b>		15. ZIP CODE <b>22042</b>
16. CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE <b>Falls Church</b>		17. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER OF DECEASED <b>Luella Rosenbaum</b>
18. NAME OF FATHER OF DECEASED <b>Frank B. Elsasser</b>		19. BIRTH PLACE (STATE OR COUNTRY) <b>Cinn. Ohio</b>
20. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY <b>U.S.A.</b>		21. NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input type="checkbox"/> 22. IF MARRIED OR WIDOWED, NAME OF SPOUSE <b>Alfa Mae Elsasser</b>
22. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER <b>288-03-6505</b>		23. USUAL OR LAST OCCUPATION <b>Gen. Indus. Specialist U.S. Gov.</b>
24. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY <b>Frances L. Hicks - Daughter</b>		25. INFORMANT - OR SOURCE OF INFORMATION
26. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (A), (B), and (C). PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY:  IMMEDIATE CAUSE (A) <b>Hypotension</b> DUE TO (B) <b>Cardiac Arrest</b> DUE TO (C) <b>Cerebral Anoxia</b>  Conditions, if any, which gave rise to immediate cause (A), stating the underlying cause last.  PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION LISTED IN PART I. <b>Severe anemia</b> <b>Cell Concussion of Lung</b>		
26a. IF FEMALE, WAS THERE A PREGNANCY IN PAST 6 MONTHS? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO <input type="checkbox"/> UNKNOWN		26c. IF EXTERNAL CAUSE, IT WAS PRIMARY <input type="checkbox"/> OR CONTRIBUTING <input type="checkbox"/> TO CAUSE OF DEATH NOTE: IF EXTERNAL CAUSE, NOTIFY MED. EXAMINER
26e. TIME OF INJURY (mo.) (day) (year) A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M. <input type="checkbox"/>		26f. INJURY OCCURRED while at work <input type="checkbox"/> not while at work <input type="checkbox"/> 26g. PLACE OF INJURY (home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.) 26h. (city or town) (county) (state)
26i. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at <b>6:33</b> (a.m.) on the date and place and from the cause(s) stated. ACTUAL SIGNATURE <b>William Reardon MD</b> DATE SIGNED: <b>Oct 14 1984</b> NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN <b>William Reardon MD</b> ADDRESS OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN <b>Falls Church Va</b>		
27. BURIAL REMOVAL CREMATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BURIAL <input type="checkbox"/> Cremation		28. PLACE OF BURIAL/REMOVAL, ETC. <b>Quantico National Cemetery Prince William Va.</b>
29. SIGNATURE OF FUNERAL DIRECTOR OR PERSON ISSUING THIS CERTIFICATE <b>Colonial Funeral Home Falls Church</b>		
30. SIGNATURE OF REGISTRAR <b>Janet S. Elsasser</b>		DATE RECORD FILED: <b>10-23-84</b>

This is to certify that this is a true and correct reproduction of the original record filed with the **FAIRFAX** Department of Health **FAIRFAX**, Virginia.

Date Issued **12-28-84**REGISTRAR OR DEPUTY **Janet S. Elsasser**

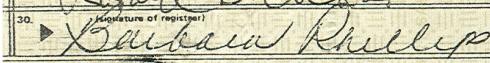
(SEAL)

ANY REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS PROHIBITED BY STATUTE. DO NOT ACCEPT UNLESS IT BEARS THE IMPRESSED SEAL OF THE **FAIRFAX** DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH CLEARLY AFFIXED.

SECTION 32.1 - 272, CODE OF VIRGINIA, AS AMENDED

Mom died 6 weeks later on November 25 from bone and breast cancer. Per Mom's death certificate: "Progressive Multiple Myeloma", which in itself mostly refers to bone cancer—but the final doctor who cared for her in Woodbridge, VA, in the very last weeks of her life said there was cancer in her breasts; indeed, I (F) saw an open sore on the underside of one breast as I bathed her one day—we moved her to my (Fran's) house after Dad died. She saw me grimace as I saw this sore, and she said "It's eating through, isn't it?" That last doctor in Woodbridge said that bone cancer never migrates to breast cancer, it's the other way around—breast cancer can migrate to bone cancer, and he felt that they had missed the breast cancer, that her cancer originated in the breast. She discovered the bone cancer because she'd had a pain in her leg for months, but the doctor didn't take an X-ray until she complained again of the pain. He saw the tumor had almost eaten through the bone in her leg. Dad told him to get out of the room when the doctor visited Mom in the hospital.

**COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA—CERTIFICATE OF DEATH**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH—DIVISION OF VITAL RECORDS AND HEALTH STATISTICS—RICHMOND**

REGISTRATION AREA NUMBER	CERTIFICATE NUMBER			STATE FILE NUMBER	
175	292			84-039419	
1. FULL NAME OF DECEASED (first) (middle) (last)			2. SEX <input type="checkbox"/> male <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> female		3. RACE <input type="checkbox"/> White
Alfa Mae		Elsasser			
4. DATE OF DEATH (mo.) (day) (year)	5. AGE	IF UNDER 1 YEAR months    days	IF UNDER 1 DAY hours    minutes	6. DATE OF BIRTH (mo.) (day) (year)	7. WAS DECEASED EVER IN U.S. ARMED FORCES? <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NO
Nov 25, 1984	69 years			April 28, 1915	
8. NAME OF HOSPITAL OR INSTITUTION OF DEATH (if none, so state)			DOA <input type="checkbox"/> OUT PAT. <input type="checkbox"/> Emer. Rm. <input type="checkbox"/> Inpatient	9. COUNTY OF DEATH (if independent city, leave blank)	
Potomac Hospital				Prince William	
10. CITY OR TOWN OF DEATH			Inside city or town limits? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	11. STREET ADDRESS OR RT. NO. OF PLACE OF DEATH 2300 Opitz Blvd.	
Woodbridge					
12. STATE (OR FOREIGN COUNTRY) OF DECEASED'S RESIDENCE			13. COUNTY OF DECEASED'S RESIDENCE (if independent city, leave blank)		
Virginia			Fairfax		
14. CITY OR TOWN OF RESIDENCE			Inside city or town limits? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> no	15. STREET ADDRESS OR RT. NO. OF RESIDENCE 6805 Beechview Drive	ZIP CODE 22042
Falls Church					
16. NAME OF FATHER OF DECEASED			17. MAIDEN NAME OF MOTHER OF DECEASED Frances Fisher		
Don Ralph Seely					
18. CITIZEN OF WHAT COUNTRY	19. BIRTHPLACE (state or country)	20. NEVER MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> DIVORCED <input type="checkbox"/> MARRIED <input type="checkbox"/> WIDOWED <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	21. IF MARRIED OR WIDOWED, NAME OF SPOUSE Frank Elsasser		
U.S.A.	Utah				
22. SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER	23. USUAL OR LAST OCCUPATION	24. KIND OF BUSINESS OR INDUSTRY	25. INFORMANT—OR SOURCE OF INFORMATION Frances L. Hicks		
529-10-8164	Homemaker	Own Home			
26. CAUSE OF DEATH (Enter only one cause per line for (A), (B), and (C). PART I. DEATH WAS CAUSED BY:			INTERVAL BETWEEN ONSET AND DEATH 21/2 yrs		
IMMEDIATE CAUSE (A) <i>Progressive multiple myeloma</i>					
DUE TO (B)					
Conditions, if any, which gave rise to immediate cause (A), stating the underlying cause last.					
DUE TO (C)					
PART II. OTHER SIGNIFICANT CONDITIONS CONTRIBUTING TO DEATH BUT NOT RELATED TO THE TERMINAL DISEASE CONDITION GIVEN IN PART I (A)			26a. AUTOPSY? AUTHORIZED BY: <input type="checkbox"/> YES <input type="checkbox"/> NO		
26b. IF FEMALE, WAS THERE A PREGNANCY IN PAST 3 MONTHS? <input type="checkbox"/> yes <input type="checkbox"/> no <input type="checkbox"/> unknown			26c. IF EXTERNAL CAUSE, IT WAS PRIMARY <input type="checkbox"/> & CONTRIBUTING <input type="checkbox"/> TO CAUSE OF DEATH NOTE: IF EXTERNAL CAUSE, NOTIFY MEDICAL EXAMINER		
26e. TIME OF INJURY (mo.) (day) (year) A.M. <input type="checkbox"/> P.M. <input type="checkbox"/>			26f. INJURY OCCURRED <input type="checkbox"/> white at work <input type="checkbox"/> not white at work		
26g. PLACE OF INJURY (home, farm, factory, street, office bldg., etc.)			26h. (city or town) (county) (state) Sentry SA		
26i. To the best of my knowledge, death occurred at _____ (a.m.) (p.m.) on the date and place and from the cause(s) stated.			DATE SIGNED 11/28/84		
ACTUAL SIGNATURE 			ADDRESS OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN 1986 Opitz Blvd Woodbridge Va.		
NAME OF ATTENDING PHYSICIAN AND HIS HOME ADDRESS Dr. Daniel Katcher					
27. BURIAL REMOVAL CREMATION <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>			28. PLACE OF BURIAL, REMOVAL, ETC. (name of cemetery or crematory) (city or county) (state) Quantico National Cemetery Quantico, Virginia		
29. (Signature of funeral director or person legally filing this certificate) 			NAME OF FUNERAL HOME AND ADDRESS Colonial Funeral Home Falls Church Va.		
30. (Signature of registrar) 			DATE RECORD FILED: 11/29/84		

This is to certify that this is a true and correct reproduction or abstract of the official record filed with the State Department of Health, Richmond, Virginia.

DEC 18 1984

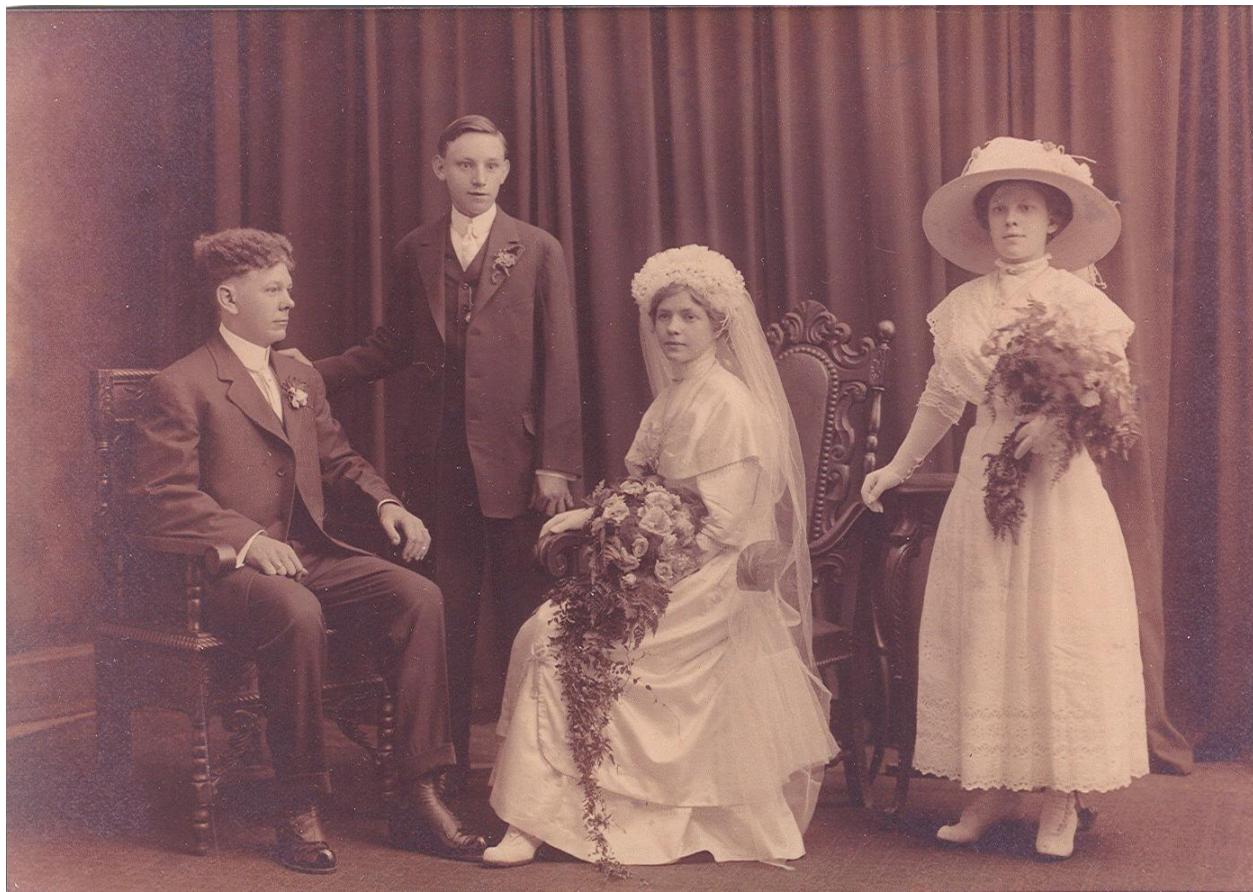
Date Issued

RUSSELL E. BOOKER, JR., State Registrar

ANY REPRODUCTION OF THIS DOCUMENT IS PROHIBITED BY STATUTE. DO NOT ACCEPT UNLESS ON SAFETY PAPER WITH THE VITAL STATISTICS SEAL CLEARLY IMPRESSED.

Section 32.1-272, Code of Virginia, as Amended.

## MORE PICTURES



Marriage of Frank Bernard Elsasser and Luella Rosenbaum  
August 28, 1912

Witnesses: Joseph Elsasser and Agnes Rosenbaum



One of the few pictures of both the Seely and Elsasser grandmothers, 9/48.

Luella Rosenbaum Elsasser  
Janet Elsasser  
(Frank) Donald Elsasser

Frances Edith Fisher Seely  
Randy Treadway  
Terry Treadway



Marriage of Loraine C. Elsasser and Harry Bernard Fisher, June 27, 1936

Left to Right

Edwin H. Elsasser  
Frank Henry Elsasser  
Harry Bernard Fisher

Lorraine Caroline Elsasser (Dad's sister)  
Unknown  
Virginia (Ginny) Elsasser  
(wife of Edwin, Dad's brother)



Lorraine Elsasser  
and Grandma  
Luella Elsasser





Harry and Loraine  
Elsasser Fisher



The Harry Fisher Family



**1945**  
Harry Fisher  
Lorraine Elsasser Fisher  
Butch (Harry)  
Judith Ann  
Bob  
Raymond

Harry Bernard Fisher and Loraine C. Elsaser Fisher family



Frank Henry Elsasser and Alfa Mae (Amy) Elsasser, 1944

Mom called herself Amy after she married Dad. Her initials when typing a letter were AME. So her boss starting calling her Amy. It stuck.



Frank Henry Elsasser and Alfa Mae (Amy) Elsasser, 1982

## OBITUARIES

**ELSASSEE**—Frank, beloved husband of Luella Elsasser (nee Rosenbaum), Wednesday, October 11, 1933, at 1:10 a. m., aged 47 years, of 494 Mt. Hope rd. Funeral from the John J. Radel Co.'s Funeral Home, 652 State ave., Saturday, October 14, at 8:30 a. m. Requiem high mass at Holy Family Church at 9 a. m.

Dad's father.

### **FRENCH-ELSASSER**

Luella R. (nee Rosenbaum), beloved wife of Clem C. French, devoted mother of Mrs. Loraine Fisher, Edwin and Frank Elsasser; also nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren; Wednesday, August 7, 1963; residence, 494 Mt. Hope-rd. Funeral Monday, August 12 from the John J. Radel Co. Funeral Home, 652 State-av, at 8:30 a. m. Requiem High Mass, Holy Family Church, 9 a. m. Friends may call Sunday after 3 p. m.

Dad's mother. Her second marriage was to Clem C. French from Indiana. He was the only Grandpa we knew.

**ROSENBAUM**—Henry J. Rosenbaum, beloved husband of Agnes Brinker Rosenbaum (nee Meyer), Friday, April 6, 1923, at 3:30 a. m., in his 55th year. Funeral from his late residence, 2355 Wilder av., Monday, at 8:30 a. m. Requiem high mass at Blessed Sacrament Church at 9 a. m. Friends invited.

Great-grandpa, grandma Elsasser's father.



3045 Avon Lane, San Pablo, California  
(between 1949 and 1956)



Easter 1953



*Grandma Elsasser*



TOP: Mom, Grandma Seely, Aunt Beth Treadway (Janet and Don)

LEFT: Grandma Elsasser and Frank Henry Elsasser

RIGHT: Dad, Grandma Elsasser, Mom



LEFT: Mom, Janet and Don

RIGHT: Dad and Janet



Grandma Luella Rosenbaum Elsasser

Mom's broken foot

