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USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

July/August 2017

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2017 REUNION

Buffalo, NY

September 14 - 17

DEADLINES

Hotel Rooms--Aug 25

Registration--Aug 25

See story at right

REUNION REGISTRATION DEADLINE DRAWS CLOSE AS BUFFALO AWAITS OUR ARRIVAL

As the days of summer begin to wind down, anticipation builds among those planning to attend the upcoming 2017 Emmons Association Reunion, which will be held this year in Buffalo, NY.

The reunion will run from September 14 to 17 – our usual Thursday to Sunday schedule – at the Hyatt Regency, located in downtown Buffalo.

Never Attended? Make 2017 Your First!

If you've just discovered the USS Emmons Association or you've simply never been able to attend a reunion, why not come and meet your fellow Emmons family members and experience firsthand the special Emmons bond we all share by making this year your first?

Those in attendance include crew members, their spouses, siblings, children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces, nephews and friends. Aside from the new relationships you'll establish with your Emmons Family, we can guarantee you'll learn much about the Emmons and her crew and you won't go away disappointed.

While some are unable to arrive until Friday

or Saturday, the weekend's agenda will begin with registration and greeting of arrivals in the hospitality room on Thursday.

Friday morning, we'll meet in the hotel lobby and depart for the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park. There, we will honor the lost Emmons shipmates with our traditional memorial service, have the opportunity to tour three WWII ships and related exhibits (see story page 2) and have lunch together.

The group will return to the hotel in the afternoon and, after resting up, gather in the hospitality room for an information session, providing an update on activities of our Okinawa friends and other news and programs of the Association.

Honored Guests in Attendance

The Friday afternoon program will allow us to formally introduce Kevin and Jody KING, who we are so pleased are able to join us for the weekend. Kevin, who you'll remember, established the specialized Emmons diver certification program at Okinawa, will update us on his program and bring greetings and news from Okinawa.

(continued—see REUNION , page 2)

BIRD, STACK NAMED 2017 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The USS Emmons Legacy Committee is pleased to announce Isaac BIRD, great-nephew of Seaman O'Neil L. INFANTO (KIA) was selected as the 2017 recipient of our \$3000 Lt. John J. Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship award. Isaac was our Honorable Mention recipient the past two years. He is continuing his undergraduate work at Fordham University.

The Committee is also proud to announce Alexandra STACK, great-granddaughter of shipmate Homer TITTLE, as recipient of the \$1500 Honorable Mention award. Alexandra is our first great-grandchild recipient and begins her freshman year this fall at Bowling Green State University.

Isaac is the son of Lawrence and Sandra BIRD and grandson of Josephine MORROW, sister of shipmate O'Neil L. IN-

FANTO, who gave his life aboard the *Emmons* at Okinawa.

Alexandra is the daughter of Joseph and Jennifer STACK, and great-granddaughter of shipmate Homer D. TITTLE. Homer was a Fireman aboard the Emmons until 1943 when he was reassigned to the battleship New Jersey.

The Legacy Committee extends its appreciation to all five of this year's applicants for their participation and acknowledges their honor and respect for the *Emmons* and her crew as evidenced in their essays.

A formal announcement of the scholarship results will take place at the Saturday evening reunion dinner banquet. Both essays will be available at the reunion and later on the USS Emmons website.

EMMONS GRANDSON TURNS OVER COMMAND OF MONTEREY

On June 15th, Captain Chris DEGREGORY, USN, grandson of shipmate Thaddeus TENEROWICZ, completed his assignment as Commanding Officer of the the guided-missile cruiser **USS Monterey**.

The Change of Command Ceremony, a time honored U.S. Navy tradition, took place on the hangar deck of the cruiser before the assembled ship's company at the Monterey's



Rear Admiral James Malloy & Capt. Chris DeGregory

home port of Norfolk, VA. Capt. Dave Stoner, USN, assumed command of Monterey from Capt. DeGregory.

More than 50 family members and guests attended the ceremony, including Rear Adm. James J. Malloy, USN, commander of Carrier Strike Group 10. Honored to be there representing the USS Emmons Association were Tom and Diane HOFFMAN. Tom's father Ed served aboard the Emmons with Chris' grandfather, both survivors of Okinawa.

"Capt. Chris DeGregory was my eyes and ears on the frontlines when I could not be there," said Malloy. "I knew I had an outstanding warfighter with the innovation, sound judgment, and commitment to excellence with him here. He led the innovation of integrating a ballistic missile defense ship into a strike group with great results."

Capt. DEGREGORY addressed the gathering as the departing commanding officer. "I am truly honored and

humbled to stand in front of the most incredible and resilient crew on the waterfront," he said. "You guys are truly incredible. I would go to war with you any day."

In his remarks, he also acknowledged the legacy of his grandfather and his affiliation with the USS Emmons family.

His command of **Monterey** included a seven and a half month deployment to the Middle East, serving as a member of the Eisenhower Carrier Strike Group (CSG) which provided security and launched fighter planes that carried out missions against ISIS in Iraq and Syria.

Chris previously commanded the USS Bulkeley from May 2009 through March 2011. His new assignment keeps him at home with wife Holly and kids, where he reports to CSG-4 in Norfolk.

NAVAL PARK OFFERS OPPORTUNITY TO RELIVE OUR MILITARY HISTORY

The Friday tour on the 2017 reunion agenda will allow us to enjoy a trip through military history when we visit the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park. There, we'll board a WWII U.S. Destroyer, explore the passageways of a submarine that patrolled the Pacific in WWII, walk the deck of a guided missile cruiser, and experience other exhibits including aircraft and tanks.

The destroyer **USS The Sullivans**, a National Historic Landmark, is named for five brothers who lost their lives in the Battle of Guadalcanal when their ship, the **USS Juneau**, was sunk by a Japanese submarine. The brothers were adamant about serving together in spite of the Navy wartime policy to separate family members.

The destroyer served with distinction taking part in intense combat in the Marshalls, Carolines, Mariannas, and Philippines, earning 5 battle stars for her service.

Built as part of the WWII effort to assemble a major submarine force, **USS Croaker** was sent into the Pacific to wage a war of attrition against Japan's merchant marine and Navy. **Croaker** made six war patrols and is credited with eleven sinkings. Her war career typifies the success of the submarine war against Japan.

We'll honor the lost Emmons shipmates with the annual memorial service on the fantail of the **USS Little Rock**. Commissioned in June, 1945, this guided missile cruiser made four cruises to the Mediterranean and two to the North Atlantic. She served with distinction as flagship for both the Second and Sixth fleets.

Along with the memorial service and tours, we will enjoy a box lunch together on the fantail of the **USS Little Rock**.

REUNION (continued from page 1)

Following the afternoon program, we'll gather for a buffet dinner hosted by the USS Emmons Association.

The annual meeting of USS Emmons Association will be held Saturday morning. All Association members are invited to attend. The afternoon will allow time to visit any of the shops, galleries and other tourist features nearby.

As always, the week will climax with

the Reunion Banquet and program Saturday night where our keynote speaker will be Kevin KING.

Goodbyes for another year will be shared at the Sunday buffet breakfast.

Everyone is reminded to 1) submit a registration form to the USS Emmons Association and 2) make your hotel reservations directly with the hotel. The deadline for both is August 25th, but we recommend you book now to assure you get

one of the blocked rooms that have been set aside at the \$129 group rate and to get the type of room you want. Availability is limited to the number of rooms we have set aside.

A registration form with hotel information is included as an insert with this newsletter. Reunion information and registration forms are also available on our website at www.ussemmons.org or by calling Tom Hoffman at 610-691-7770.

IN MEMORIAM

It was with deep sadness that we recently learned of the passing of two members of the Emmons Family:

Shipmate **Ed GREENLAW** passed away on May 9, 2017. Ed, a Water Tender aboard the *Emmons*, served there from January 1942 through 1944.

He and wife Evelyn (Evie), proud and active supporters of the USS

Emmons Association, were married 71 years. Ed could always be seen each year at the reunion with a camera around his neck capturing all the activities on film which he would then share with his Emmons family.

Following a long struggle with cancer and related illnesses, **Dwain BOWER** died June 10, 2017, at home surrounded by family.

Until his illness set in, Dwain, along with brother John, were regular attendees at the Emmons reunions where they enjoyed the company of their fellow Emmons family members and honored the memory of their uncle, Harry Bower, who gave his life at Okinawa aboard the *Emmons*.

Dwain, himself, was a U.S. Navy veteran, having served in the the Korean War.

FAMILY INQUIRIES OF LOVED ONES CONTINUE

We continue to receive inquiries from friends and family members of shipmates looking to learn about their loved ones' experiences aboard the *Emmons* from shipmates who may remember them.

In addition to those listed in the last newsletter, we ask that any crew member who knew any of your shipmates listed below to please contact Eleanor Yates at eleya@optonline.net or 845-266-4361 and we'll put you in touch with their families.

John Borelli, S2c
8/12/43 to 4/6/45 (KIA)

Claude Preston, MM1c
12/5/41 to 2Qtr43

Vincent Tripodi, RdM2c
9/12/42 to 4/6/45 (KIA)

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The USS Emmons Association acknowledges the following memorial gifts received since our last newsletter. These gifts celebrate the lives of loved ones, while providing support for our ongoing efforts to keep the Emmons memory alive.

In Memory of Elsie Jolly
Warren & Fern Sparks

In Memory of Paul Dodd
Anne Marie Patton

In Memory of Bill Patton
Warren & Fern Sparks
Anne Marie Patton
Co-workers of Anne Marie Patton
Tom & Diane Hoffman
Ed & Regina Hoffman

In Memory of Wendy Ciparelli
Anne Marie Patton

In Memory off Bill Roberts
Anne Marie Patton

In Memory of Ed Greenlaw
Warren & Fern Sparks
Anne Marie Patton
Tom & Diane Hoffman

In Memory of Ed Hoffman
Pepper Jay



FOLLOW US ON TWITTER

Yes, thanks to recommendations by this year's scholarship applicants as to ways we can improve our effort to preserve the Emmons legacy, we've begun to further delve into social networking, starting with twitter. **Come follow us @ussemmmons.** The Legacy Committee thanks all our applicants whose social media and other ideas give them much to think about!

APPEAL FOR VETERANS' DONATIONS

Again this year, the Reunion Committee is asking attendees to bring toiletry or other personal items to the reunion for distribution at a local Veterans' Home and Hospital.

If you cannot attend the reunion, but would like to participate, items or contributions payable to USS Emmons Association may be sent to Jessica Ciparelli, 505 Twin Circle Dr., South Windsor, CT 06074.

This will be the seventh year for this continuing project in which Emmons family members have shown generous concern for others who have served our country.

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USS Emmons (DD457-DMS22)

We're on the web at

www.ussemmons.org



Follow us on Twitter



Don't miss another reunion!
Time's running out
to register.

