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# U.S.S. EMMONS

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USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

April/May 2022

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- A Brother's Memory Lives On
- Veterans Memorial Honors Lost Shipmate
- Now HEAR This!

## **2022 REUNION**

Annapolis, MD  
September 22-25

Registration information  
enclosed and available on  
our Reunions Page at  
[www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org)

## **EMMONS FAMILY SETS ITS SIGHTS ON ANNAPOLIS.....AGAIN!**

**In-person gathering to return. Naval Academy tour highlights weekend.**

After retreating to Zoom for our past two annual reunions, plans are in place to again meet in person in Annapolis, Maryland, with our home base being the Crowne Plaza Annapolis, September 22-25.

### **U.S. Naval Academy Visit**

The Friday outing at the Naval Academy will include a behind-the-scenes tour, our annual memorial service honoring those lost at Okinawa, and lunch, before returning to the hotel for an evening buffet dinner and brief program.

Saturday starts with a morning meeting of the membership, followed by free time until our evening banquet program. Sunday morning's buffet breakfast together will allow for goodbyes until next year.

Of course, the hospitality room will be open throughout allowing for socializing and access to the *Emmons* historical artifact, documentation and other information.

We will be following all COVID restrictions that may still be in place come September. Attendees are being encouraged to be fully vaccinated out of an abundance of caution.

### **Register Now!**

Registration and hotel reservation information is enclosed and is available at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org). Come for some or all 4 days!!

Unable to attend? We value having been able connect with so many at the Zoom reunions, so we're exploring the potential for sharing reunion activities online. Stay tuned!

## **NEWSPAPER HIGHLIGHTS MEMORIES OF LOST SHIPMATE'S BROTHER**

Donald Yecke, the popular baker on the *Emmons*, was just 20 years old when he gave his life for his country off the shore of Okinawa. This past November, his brother, Dennis, was featured in a Sheboygan (MN) Press article sharing his memories of growing up with his big brother.

In the article, Dennis spoke of a recent visit to Sheboygan, reminiscing about their "wonderful" childhood there; about the City Bakery where he and Donald worked which still operates; swimming at the Sheboygan Quarry; and their confirmations at St.

Paul's Lutheran Church.

Dennis, just a boy when his older brother left to join the war effort, also tells how he remembers being called out of school one day in 1945, walking home slowly, knowing bad news was likely waiting for him when he got there.

The article also shares the *Emmons'* story and the work being done by the USS *Emmons* Association in honoring the memory of Donald and his shipmates.

Read the full article on our website's Photos/Videos/Articles page at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org).

## Lt. FISHER'S SACRIFICE HONORED BY HIS ALMA MATER

Last November, while honoring the service and commitment of all veterans in our armed forces, Bowling Green State University used the opportunity to dedicate their new Veterans Memorial.

The memorial features five pillars, representing the branches of the U.S. Military, inscribed with the



*The Veterans Memorial at Bowling Green State University*

112 alumni who died while serving their country. Among those names is Lt. (jg) Stanley L. FISHER, a 1936 graduate of BGSU, who gave his life aboard the *Emmons* at Okinawa, April 6, 1945. Norm GEER,

Lt. Fisher's son, attended the ceremony along with his family.

BGSU President Rodney K. ROGERS said, "Our newly dedicated Veterans Memorial is a place of reverence. It's a reminder that our work in shaping our Union at times requires deep loss. We will always owe a debt of grati-

tude to our veterans and this memorial will serve as a special reminder of their unwavering service to these United States." The USS *Emmons* Association honors the service and sacrifice of Stanley FISHER.

## Now HEAR This !

A virtual Zoom get together was held recently with sole surviving *Emmons* shipmate Grover McMICHAEL, along with Capt. FOSS' sons, George and Lyman, *Emmons* friend Dave BINGEMANN and Tom HOFFMAN.

The 1 1/2 hour gathering arranged by Dave featured an entertaining exchange of *Emmons* stories between Grover and those shared by Capt. Foss with George and Lyman.

Grover, who celebrates his 99th birthday June 4th, is still sharp as ever. He served aboard the *Emmons* from November 1942 until late 1944.

\* \* \* \* \*

Pricilla GRUBER, widow of *Emmons'* Lt. (jg) Douglas GRUBER, reached out to the Association to place in our care several items of interest.

Included are a copy of *The Emmons Saga*, signed by author E. B. Billingsley; past reunion programs; declassified Action Reports covering the Normandy invasion, bombardment of Cherbourg and invasion of Southern France; an

8x10 photo of the *Emmons*; and a copy of Douglas' 45 page memoir written for his daughters covering his college through post-war years, including his time aboard the *Emmons*.

We are grateful for Pricilla's trust in placing these items with the Association to be shared with the *Emmons* Family.

\* \* \* \* \*

Last spring we welcomed Lillian Di RUBBIO HARRINGTON, daughter of shipmate Anthony Di RUBBIO. This year Lillian introduced several additional members of Anthony's family to the *Emmons* story through our junior membership.

We welcome Anthony's great-grandchildren Colin and Cassidy BROWN, Lillian and Jack CONAGHAN, and Michael Di RUBBIO.

\* \* \* \* \*

We're also excited to have on board 2022 junior members Thea, Arlo & Rhys CIPARELLI, Katie DeGREGORY, Lilia JACOBSON, Edison & August IVILL, Beckett & Nahla JOLLY, Hudson & Ashton PALACIO and Bridget BROOKS.

We are especially pleased to have the *Emmons* story shared with our younger *Emmons* Family members, providing confidence the legacy will live on through these younger generations.

\* \* \* \* \*

Battleship Cove in Fall River, Massachusetts, is the world's largest collection of historic U.S. naval vessels. On March 19th, a memorial service there honored the service and sacrifice of their state's military personnel who had been killed during operation Desert Storm.

Attended by the Fall River Mayor, Chief of Police and the general public, the keynote speaker was CDR James M. KORNEY, USN (Ret.), son of late *Emmons* shipmate James J. KORNEY.

Young Jim, who served as Operations Officer aboard the USS Missouri BB-63, spoke on the Missouri's combat role in the Gulf War. Jim is a member of the *Emmons* Association's Board of Directors and the Legacy Committee. Well done Jim!

**2022 DUES:** If you have not yet submitted your dues, it's not too late. \$25 individual or \$40 discounted for couples and \$5 junior membership (18 yrs. + under). Checks payable to the USS Emmons Association may be sent to USS Emmons Association, c/o Tom Hoffman, Treasurer, 36078 Huntington St., Millville, DE 19967. You may also remit membership dues online at our website's [Membership page](#).

# IN MEMORIAM

We extend our sincere condolences to the families of the following *Emmons* Family members:

**GEORGE C. FLORY** Shipmate George Flory passed away November 20, 2021 in Sarasota, Florida. As Electrician's Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class, George was an Emmons Plank Owner.

He and wife Carol attended reunions regularly until health issues made the trip difficult for several years. His children, Michael and Susan, also attended and accompanied their father most recently to the 2019 Gettysburg reunion and 2020 and 2021 Zoom virtual reunions.

Son Michael shared that his father was extremely proud of his service with the *Emmons* along with the camaraderie of his shipmates. He was 98 years old.

**MADELINE BASILE** Daughter Jacqueline notified us recently that her mother, Madeline Basile, 96, passed away January 11, 2022, having been under hospice care during her struggle with advanced stages of dementia.

Madeline and her late husband, shipmate Frank Basile, were long-time supporters of the Association's efforts. Madeline continued attending Emmons Family reunions until her declining health precluded it.

Daughter Jacqueline expressed how her mother greatly enjoyed the reunions and friendships shared among everyone there.

**LORENE VEAL** On January 25, 2022, Lorene Veal, widow of shipmate Clyne Veal, passed away. They had been married 67 years at the time of Clyne's death in 2016.

Several years ago Lorene, of Buford, Georgia, shared with us her family's pride in her husband's humility regarding his service and how he was one of the last off the *Emmons* at Okinawa as he rendered care to his injured shipmates. She was 93.

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The USS Emmons Association respectfully acknowledges the following gifts received:

### In Memory of Peter Ciparelli

Fern Sparks

### In Memory of Tony Esposito

Dolores Bartram

Donna & Al Cappelli

Centennial Hose

Edith Cennane

Danielle Clarkin

Maria DiDomizio

John & Pat Esposito

Michael & Judy Esposito

Rosemary & Denny Evaul

Joanne Fitzgerald

Diane & Tom Hoffman

Ricky & Noreen Hunt

Dennis & Donna Jolly

Jan Lammerding & Yu Miyaji

Joseph Malloy

Lucretia Martuscelli

### IMO Esposito continued

Anne Marie & T.J. Patton

Stephen Shumway

Nancy & Rick Slimmer

Fern Sparks

Charlene & Augustine Westerhuis

Keiko Winsch

Eleanor Yates

### In Memory of George Flory

Diane & Tom Hoffman

Donna & Dennis Jolly

Nancy & Rick Slimmer

Eleanor Yates

### In Memory of S. Gerald Horwitz

Martha Eskesen

### In Memory of David, Gerald and

Leon Horwitz

Jeffrey Horwitz

### In Memory of Armand Jolly

Fern Sparks

### In Memory of Jim Korney

Brian Korney

### In Memory of Edward I. Kurtzman

Daniel Kurtzman

### In Memory of Bill Patton

Susan McLeish

### In Memory of Dick Shaub

Jane Shaub

### In Memory of Homer D. Tittle &

Jackson Tittle

Barbara Tittle

### In Honor of all Emmons Shipmates

Bobby & Jenny Nims

Tom & Ann Short

Donna & Ted Wells

## APPLICATION DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR FOR GRIFFIN/EMMONS SCHOLARSHIP

\$5000 in academic scholarships will once again be awarded for the 2022-23 academic year. Deadline for submission is May 31st. For information, visit our website at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org).

## STILL RECEIVING A PAPER NEWSLETTER IN THE MAIL?

If so, and you'd prefer to receive it electronically by email, simply email us at [ussemmons@gmail.com](mailto:ussemmons@gmail.com) to let us know.

## USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION

c/o T. Hoffman  
36078 Huntington St.  
Millville, DE 19967

Phone: (610) 417-5163

E-mail: [ussemmons@gmail.com](mailto:ussemmons@gmail.com)



*USS Emmons (DD457-DMS22)*

**Visit us online at**  
**[www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org)**



JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP  
USS EMMONS REUNION

# **EMMONS FAMILY REUNION**

## **ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND**

### **SEPTEMBER 22-25**

## **REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

### **ENCLOSED.**

*See story, page 1.*

# U.S.S. *EMMONS* ASSOCIATION

www.ussemmons.org



Dear *Emmons* Family Members:

If this sounds familiar, it's because we've tried this the past two years. We're excited to once again invite you to join us for our annual USS *Emmons* Association Reunion! It will be held September 22-25 at the Crowne Plaza Annapolis, 173 Jennifer Rd., Annapolis, Maryland. As always, feel free to come for some or all of the weekend.

A block of guest rooms is being held at a group rate of \$149 plus tax. And you may extend your stay a few days before or after at that same rate! The block of rooms at that rate will be held until August 25<sup>th</sup> or until they are all gone, whichever comes first, so **book early so as not to miss out on the \$149 group rate**. You may cancel reservations up to 48 hours prior to arrival.

Friday morning we'll enjoy a guided bus tour of the U.S. Naval Academy, allowing us to disembark at several spots along the way. We'll also honor the lost *Emmons* shipmates with our annual memorial service and enjoy lunch together at the Naval Academy Club before returning to the hotel for an evening buffet and brief program. **Access to the Academy grounds requires each of us to present proper identification (see enclosed "Additional Reunion Information").**

Everyone's invited to the Saturday morning *Emmons* Association business meeting, after which your time is free until the 6:30 p.m. banquet. Use your free time to enjoy what the area offers, including its colonial history and culture, unique local shops, watching the boats come in on the Chesapeake or driving the 30 miles to visit Baltimore Inner Harbor or Washington, D.C.

And this year we're excited to introduce the WALL OF HONOR (see enclosed "Additional Reunion Information").

If you haven't attended in the past, we're always delighted to meet and welcome new *Emmons* family members for what we expect to be another memorable weekend.

Two steps to register:

- 1) Complete the enclosed registration form and return it to us by **August 25<sup>th</sup>**.
- 2) Reserve your hotel room at the \$149/night group rate by contacting the Crowne Plaza Annapolis, no later than August 25<sup>th</sup> through one of two methods:
  - a. Call the hotel at 410-266-3131. Specify our USS *Emmons* group code **USE**.
  - or
  - b. Reserve online by visiting the **Reunions Page of our website at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org)**

Everyone will be a guest of the Association at no cost for the Friday buffet and Sunday breakfast. The Association will also cover the cost of the Friday tour and Saturday banquet for crew members.

We hope to see you in September!

Sincerely,  
Tom Hoffman  
Email: [ussemmons@gmail.com](mailto:ussemmons@gmail.com)  
Phone: 610-417-5163

# **2022 USS *Emmons* Reunion Itinerary**

**ALL TIMES ARE TENTATIVE – FINAL ITINERARY WILL BE PROVIDED UPON ARRIVAL**

Hospitality Room – Queen Anne Ballroom

Friday & Saturday Breakfast – Hotel Restaurant Buffet

Friday Dinner, Saturday Banquet and Sunday Breakfast – Arundel A Ballroom

Contacts: Tom Hoffman 610-417-5163; Donna Jolly 860-916-1496

## **Thursday, September 23:**

Arrive at Crowne Plaza Annapolis Hotel. Hospitality room opens at 3pm. Dinner on your own.

We invite family & friends to recognize your crew member on our “Wall of Honor” in the hospitality room.

## **Friday, September 24:**

Complimentary buffet breakfast (2 per room and, if more than 2 are staying in your room, up to 2 additional \$5 off coupons per room provided at check-in)

8:30 a.m. - Board bus to travel to U.S. Naval Academy for tour, lunch and memorial service.

- **You must have valid identification to access the grounds (see enclosed “Additional Reunion Information” for a list of acceptable USNA documentation).**

3:00 p.m. - Board bus to return to hotel. Hospitality room will be open.

6:00 p.m. - Buffet dinner in Arundel A Ballroom followed by brief program in hospitality room.

7:00 p.m. - Hospitality room will remain open until last person leaves.

## **Saturday, September 25:**

Complimentary buffet breakfast (2 per room and, if more than 2 are staying in your room, up to 2 additional \$5 off coupons per room provided at check-in).

9:00 a.m. – USS *Emmons* Association business meeting in hospitality room – all members are invited.

REMAINDER OF DAY IS FREE to visit local attractions, shopping and relaxation.

6:30 p.m. - Cocktail hour (cash bar) in Arundel A Ballroom.

7:00 p.m. - Banquet and program in Arundel A Ballroom.

## **Sunday, September 26:**

8:00 – 10:00 a.m. – Breakfast hosted by Association and goodbyes in Arundel A Ballroom.

## **Donations for Veterans Home**

We will again collect items for a local Veterans Home. Personal items are needed such as: Toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, deodorant, combs, brushes, razors, socks, warm hats, scarves, etc. Please drop donations at the hospitality room by 5pm Saturday.

# **2022 USS *Emmons* Reunion Registration Form**

**RETURN FORM WITH PAYMENT BY AUGUST 25TH**

NAMES: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Primary e-mail address and/or phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

**Please indicate the number of people attending each event below:**

# \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$10 per person registration fee (required for each person attending) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50 per person - Naval Academy – film, bus tour, lunch and memorial svc. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Crew members attend at no charge, but a count is needed.**

**See enclosed "Additional Reunion Information" for ID required to access the grounds.**

# \_\_\_\_\_ Friday buffet dinner as guests of USS *Emmons* Association No cost

**Indicate number attending. No charge, but a count is needed.**

# \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$50 per adult meal for Saturday evening banquet. Note entrées below. \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Crew members attend at no charge, but a count is needed.**

Entrée Choices: \_\_\_\_\_ Salmon \_\_\_\_\_ Chicken \_\_\_\_\_ Beef

# \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$15 per child for Saturday evening children's dinner (chicken fingers\fries) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

# \_\_\_\_\_ Sunday breakfast as guests of USS *Emmons* Association No cost

**No charge but please indicate only the number you are certain will attend.**

**The Association must pay for all meals based on this count even, no-shows.**

**AMOUNT REMITTED (make checks payable to USS *Emmons* Association) \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Include a note regarding any dietary restrictions and we'll see what accommodations can be made.

Send completed form with payments **by August 25<sup>th</sup>** to:

USS *Emmons* Association

c/o Tom Hoffman

36078 Huntington St.

Millville, DE 19967

Did you remember to  
indicate your entrée choices  
for Saturday's banquet?

**REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR HOTEL RESERVATION AND SUBMIT THIS FORM BY AUGUST 25<sup>th</sup>!**

**ADDITIONAL REUNION INFORMATION**  
**USS Emmons Reunion September 22-25, 2022**

**COVID INFORMATION**

We ask out of abundance of caution that attendees be fully vaccinated. Mask mandates are lifted; however, private businesses you may visit on your own are free to put in place their own policies or guidance. Accordingly, you should continue to carry a mask, as a contingency, should wear be required situationally. Of course, individuals may still choose to wear masks at your own discretion.

Indoor and outdoor venues including all restaurants, indoor entertainment venues, and all outdoor entertainment, art, and all ticketed sports venues, are permitted to resume normal operations and all capacity restrictions are lifted.

Any updates regarding changes to COVID restrictions that may have an impact on our visit will be shared in advance with all those attending.

**ACCEPTABLE DOCUMENTATION TO ACCESS NAVAL ACADEMY GROUNDS:**

To enter USNA grounds, anyone 18 years of age or older must present a valid, unexpired original photo ID card issued in the U.S. (e.g. state issued driver's license or identification card); or an original, unexpired passport. In lieu of this, you must present two additional acceptable identifications such as a SSN card, birth certificate, or voter registration card.

Visitors who are NOT U.S. citizens MUST present an original unexpired passport for entry.

Those under 18 years of age accompanied by an adult will be granted access. Contact the Visitor Center with any questions at 410-293-8687.

**PROHIBITED ITEMS ON THE NAVAL ACADEMY GROUNDS:**

- Weapons/Knives
- Bags larger than a typical purse (e.g. duffle bags, backpacks, large camera bags)
- Coolers
- Boxes
- Mace
- Anything considered a threat by a screener

**USS EMMONS CREW MEMBER WALL OF HONOR**

To honor the lives and memories of the crew of the USS Emmons, the Association will have a "Wall of Honor" located in the hospitality room so all can see which crew member is attending in spirit through family and friends.

Family members and friends of a crew member will be invited to write his name, post his photo, and write a few words about him or his service aboard the Emmons. Then, you'll be invited to share some thoughts or memories about him during our Friday program if you wish. Photos may go back home with you following the reunion.