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2020 REUNION

Join us online in the safety of your home for our virtual reunion!

October 2nd 7pm EST

See details and register now on our website's **Reunions page!**

EMMONS TRADITION NOT DETERRED BY COVID-19 plans to next year, September 23-**2020** Reunion goes virtual;

Annapolis moved to 2021

Although we've been forced to put aside until next year September's weekend together in Annapolis, plans are in place to take to the internet to stay connected.

Directors Put Safety First

In hopes the safety concerns surrounding COVID-19 would subside, the Emmons Association directors held off as long as possible on a final decision regarding the Annapolis, MD, reunion.

As June arrived, it was clear cancellation was the only responsible option considering the uncertainty that still existed at that time and keeping everyone's health and safety at the forefront of the decision. In hindsight, we trust everyone agrees.

The good news, however, is twofold. First, our Annapolis hotel and the Naval Academy have agreed to simply roll over our contracts and

26, 2021. Mark your calendars now! In addition, a one-hour online "Virtual USS Emmons Reunion" has

been scheduled for October 2nd at 7pm EST. Everyone's invited!!

Virtual Reunion Highlights

Using the now-popular Zoom video-conferencing platform, we'll have the opportunity to come together for a brief program highlighted by introduction of the Griffin/ Memorial Scholarship Emmons award recipients, our annual memorial service for the lost Emmons shipmates and presentation of the 2020 Okinawa Memorial Dive Video.

Registration is required to attend so visit our website's Reunions page now to register. With no expense nor need to travel, we're expecting this year's reunion to be well attended so don't be left out! Register now!

We hope to see you then!

ASSOCIATION AWARDS 2020 SCHOLARSHIPS TO DEGREGORY/DEVERS

Applicants for this, our 11th year of the Lt. John J. Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship, were all sumes her studies in Nursing this fall at Cal State fourth-generation Emmons Family members. Rising to the top to each receive the \$2500 scholarships and is the great-granddaughter of shipmate John H. were Jacob DEGREGORY and Lyuka DEVERS.

Jake lives in Chesapeake, VA, and is the greatgrandson of shipmate Thaddeus T. TENEROWICZ and cants for the honor and respect exhibited for the son of Holly and Navy Cmdr. Chris DEGREGORY. He Emmons and her crew through your participation in begins his freshman year at Penn State University the scholarship program. studying Business/Marketing.

Lyuka, also a recipient of a 2019 scholarship, re-University, Long Beach. She resides in Long Beach DEVERS and daughter of Lena DEVERS.

Congratulations to Jake, Lyuka and all the appli-

LOST SHIPMATES HONORED WITH NEW MEMORIAL PLAQUE IN PREPARATION FOR 75TH ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL DIVE

April 6th marked the 75th anniversary of the Japanese kamikaze attack on the Emmons that resulted in her sinking and the loss of 60 shipmates.

Once again, on April 4th, Okinawa divers led by Kurt REESE honored those shipmates who made the ultimate sacrifice with their annual Emmons' final resting place. The first public screening of Kurt's video of the 2020 memori-

al dive will be presented at this fall's virtual Emmons reunion.

Held annually on or about the date of the attack, this year's preparation first involved replacing the original memorial plaque with an exact replica in March. A



Our Okinawa friends prepare to take the replica builder's memorial dive at the plaque and memorial plaque down to the Emmons. Pictured clockwise from lower left: Darlene Fong, Austin Alverson, Chuck DeCesari, Matt Lewis, Kurt Reese, Angie Austin-Boys, Anthony Pamintuan, Mike Boring and Doug Bennett.

Photo courtesy of Mike Boring

video of the plaque replacement, along with photos of the memorial dive, can be viewed on our website's Photos/Videos page.

To honor their lost shipmates, the Emmons crewmembers had the original memorial plaque mounted on the ship in 2003. It will now be restored and given its new place of honor on display at the USS Emmons Training Center at Camp Shields, Okinawa.

The purchase of the replacement plaque was made possible through the generous contributions by many of our members and friends in last year's fundraising campaign. Thanks to your support, the new plaque now rests with the ship

where it will continue honoring the lost shipmates while providing a reminder of the sacrifices made.

We extend our sincere thanks to everyone involved in making this happen.

EMMONS FEATURED IN TV DOCUMENTARY SERIES

fate as never seen before.

Using the latest sonar technology, National Geographic Channel's Drain the Oceans program provided stunning computer-generated video of the kamikaze attack on the Emmons and images of her in her final resting place.

We reported last year on the work being done by National Geographic Channel (NGC) to produce the documentary and, with the Association receiving notice only hours in advance, the episode aired on June 16th.

Not to worry, however, as the episode, The Last Wrecks of WWII, can still be viewed online at www.nationalgeographic.com by those of you who

Innovative technology presented Emmons' receive NGC with your cable subscription. If you're among those who do not receive NGC with your cable subscription, you can purchase the program on YouTube for \$1.99.

> The aim of the documentary is to commemorate the end of the war and all those who made the ultimate sacrifice. The Emmons is featured in Hollywood's dramatic style as they explain Japan's kamikaze campaign in the Pacific beginning at 24:35 of the program.

> The Emmons Association expressed our appreciation to producer Rob Myler for sharing the Emmons story with the NGC viewers. And we are especially grateful for the technical and historical assistance provided during production by our own Rich ANGE-LINI and Kurt REESE.

IN MEMORIAM

The USS Emmons Association ex- EUNICE KAMINSKY tends our sincere condolences to the families of the following Emmons May 7th passing of her grandmother, mons shipmate Arthur L. BLUMER, Family members:

CHRISTINE YARBROUGH

Christine YARBROUGH passed away April 30th, having recently been ESPOSITO and daughter of Mike ES- 1945 off the shore of Okinawa, Japan. forced limited travel. POSITO.

Patrick, were among the large contingent of Tony's family attending the 2011 reunion in Newburgh, NY.

Sue KAMINSKY notified us of the BOSKI.

With the help of her granddaughever since.

RITA BLUMER

Rita BLUMER, widow of USS Em-Eunice KAMINSKY. Eunice was the passed away July 11th at the age of sister of shipmate Kenneth JACO- 95. Residents of Allison Park, PA, just outside Pittsburgh, Rita and Art host-Kenneth went aboard the Emmons ed the 1996 and 2004 Pittsburgh rediagnosed with cancer. Christine was July 1944 and was among those who unions. Both were regular attendees the granddaughter of shipmate Tony gave their lives for their country April at reunions until declining health

Following Art's passing in 2014, Christine, husband Mike and son ter Sue, Eunice discovered the Em- Rita made one final visit with her Emmons Association in 2011 and has mons Family at the 2015 reunion in been an avid supporter of our efforts Groton, CT, along with daughters Deborah, Lisa and Amy.

HEAR This ! Now

We were pleased to hear from George NEWTON who reached out to us recently having seen our reunion announcement in the Tin Can Sailors publication. George is the son of late Emmons shipmate Richard H. NEWTON S1c, an Okinawa attack survivor.

We're proud to pass along that, like his father, George is also a Tin Can Sailor. He served from 1968 to 1972 aboard the cruiser USS Northampton CC-1 and later the destroyer USS Charles S. Sperry DD697.

We were also happy to hear from Temple TOUCHETTE, daughter of Lt. Temple LYNDS, who gave his life aboard the Emmons at Okinawa.

As second in command, Lt. Lynds was the chief navigator and, during the attack, was officer in charge of CIC (Combat Information Center) where one of the five kamikazes directly struck the Emmons leaving no CIC survivors.

*

Mike MONAHAN, son of late shipmate and Emmons Plankowner Edward T. MO-NAHAN S1c, wrote after having seen the Emmons featured on National Geographic's Drain the Oceans program.

Like many of us, Mike spoke of how the program brought back memories of his father and reminders of how proud his dad was of having served on the Emmons.

He shared with us photos of his father which are now available on our website's photo archive. And we're proud to report Mike's stepson, Ariel FRANCISCO, is stationed in Virginia as part of the US Navy's Nuclear Maintenance Crew.

Work continues on the transcribed edition of the USS Emmons Survivor Reports as it nears completion. The compilation of over 60 hand-written accounts of the Okinawa attack penned by the shipmates as they were evacuated from the area is expected to be available this fall.

Names for US Navy ships have traditionally been chosen and announced by the Secretary of the Navy, under the direction of the President in accordance with Congressional action. It's not unusual to see ships with names borne by previous ships which distinguished themselves in service.

With this knowledge in hand, Lyuka DEVERS, an Emmons Memorial Scholarship recipient, has taken it upon herself to petition the President to consider naming a future Navy destroyer "USS Emmons." She stated that even after

MEMORIAL **CONTRIBUTIONS**

The USS Emmons Association re-**★**★ spectfully acknowledges the follow-************* ing memorial gifts received: In Memory of Emmons Shipmate **Charles Cordrey** Barbara Cordrey In Memory of Leon Horwitz **Eleanor Yates** Diane & Tom Hoffman In Memory of Josephine Morrow Lowell & Janice Davis **Richard Arena**

In Memory of Aunt Pepe and her brother, Emmons shipmate O'Neil Infanto

Theresa Scrano

In Memory of all Emmons Shipmates and all who served our country

Kevin & Jody King

Bobby & Jenny Nims

submitting her scholarship application, it was the essay prompt that kept her considering various ways to keep the Emmons legacy alive and what she could do to ensure the sacrifices made were not in vain.

Well done Lyuka! We look forward to hearing more.

★★★



USS EMMONS VIRTUAL REUNION October 2, 2020, 7pm EST Everyone's invited! See page 1 for details.