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# U.S.S. EMMONS

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USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

August 2014

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- 2014 Reunion Approaches
- 2014 Scholarship Award
- Emmons Featured in Navy Magazine
- Plaque to be Placed at US Navy Memorial

## **2014 REUNION**

Windsor Locks, CT  
September 18- 21

### **DEADLINES**

Hotel Rooms--Sept 5  
(860) 688-7500

Registration--Sept 5  
See story at right

## **WINDSOR LOCKS REUNION NOW ONLY A FEW WEEKS AWAY; ACTIVITIES CENTER AROUND CONNECTICUT CAPITOL**

The waning weeks of summer coincide with growing anticipation among Emmons Family members who will be gathering again in Windsor Locks, CT, for their 2014 Reunion.

The dates are September 18 to 21 at the Hartford/Windsor Marriott Hotel.

The registration mailing from Chairperson Wendy CIPARELLI earlier this summer listed the itinerary of events for the three days.

Friday's activities will center around the State Capitol in Hartford, beginning with a tour of the historic Capitol Building itself, then a visit and tour of the adjacent Museum of Connecticut History. We will return to the Capitol for our traditional memorial service and lunch together.

In the afternoon we will gather in the hospitality room for an update on activities from our growing number of friends at Okinawa and other programs of the Association. The evening will be given over to sociability at a buffet dinner hosted by the Association.

President Armand JOLLY will preside at the

annual meeting of the USS Emmons Association Saturday morning, with all Association members invited to attend and participate.

The Ship's Store has proven popular at recent reunions and will be open throughout with an offering of Emmons merchandise.

Climax of the week-end's activities, as always, will be the Reunion Banquet Saturday night. The evening will be highlighted by announcement and presentation of this year's recipient of the Lt. John J. Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship award.

Everyone is reminded to make reservations directly with the hotel at (860)688-7500, specifying "USS Emmons Reunion." September 5 is the deadline for obtaining our special room rate. Reservations include breakfast each morning, and the Association is hosting a farewell breakfast Sunday.

September 5 is also the deadline for submitting your registration form to the Association. The forms were sent out in the Spring, but can also be found by going to our website Reunion page at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org).

## **EILEEN KORNEY NAMED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENT**

The USS Emmons Legacy Committee is pleased to announce Eileen KORNEY as the 2014-15 recipient of our \$2000 Lt John J. Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship award. Eileen is the granddaughter of crew member James J. KORNEY, who passed away in December of last year, and daughter of James M. and Catherine KORNEY. She returns this fall to Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, to continue her undergraduate work toward a degree in Graphic Design Communications.

The committee reached its decision after careful review of Eileen's application, including supporting docu-

mentation and letters of reference, as well as scoring of her essay. This year, her application was the only entry submitted; however, the judges, who have no knowledge of the essay authors when they score the essays, awarded her essay one of the higher scores earned in the five years the scholarship program has been in existence. That tells us it would've taken some tough competition to unseat her from the #1 spot. Eileen earned the Honorable Mention award the past two years, and again exhibited her deep-rooted respect

**(continued....see SCHOLARSHIP on page 2)**

## NEW MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO EMMONS AND LOST SHIPMATES GROWS FROM NAVY MAGAZINE ARTICLE AT OKINAWA

Acts of homage toward the *Emmons* and the crew members who were lost with her sinking continue to emerge from the Okinawan community, this time from the Navy's main presence there – members of the staff of Commander Fleet Activities Okinawa.

We were first alerted to the most recent activity by a posting on Facebook showing the cover of *Windjammer*, the quarterly publication of CFAO. It displays the dramatic photo of Emmons dive friend Russell LEMASTER, showing No. 5 20mm gun, still pointing skyward and silhouetted by light from above.

Captions on the cover announcing the articles inside read "Remembering Sailors" and "USS Emmons Memorial Service." The first article relates the author's emotional experience as he dove on the ship and the history of the annual services conducted by our Emmons dive friends. The accompanying article describes the last battle and the continuing memorial tribute of survivors and their families through their Association.

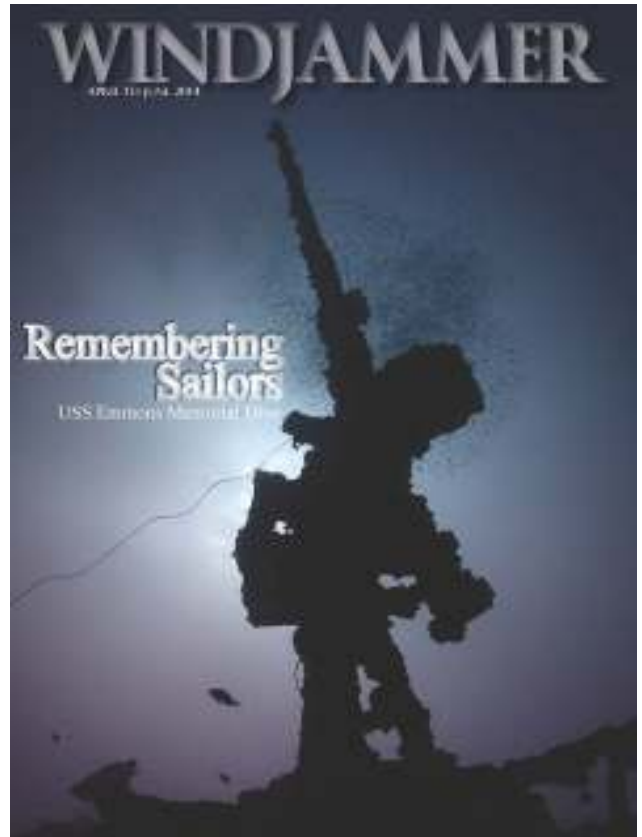
Author of the articles is Benjamin Stevens, a Mass Communications Specialist on the Fleet Activities Commander's staff. While your Editor was composing an email to commend and thank him for the articles, another posting arrived from Ben that read as follows:

"Myself and some Chiefs have worked with several other departments and are naming a building after the *USS Emmons*.

"The Chiefs' Association is working hard to make the dedication and unveiling of the building successful."

Ben has already contacted Kurt REESE regarding history and background and anything that might be suitable for museum-type display after the building is dedicated.

He is also hopeful of being able to



Cover of the April—June *Windjammer* issue

supply copies of the issue of *Windjammer* for viewing at the Reunion. In the meantime, a link to the issue is available by going to the USS Emmons Reunion Facebook page or by visiting our USS Emmons website at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org).

### (SCHOLARSHIP....continued from page 1)

and admiration for the *Emmons* and her crew, this year regarding the *Emmons'* role at Normandy.

Formal announcement of the scholarship results and award presentation will take place at the reunion dinner banquet.

The application for the 2015-16 academic year will be available January 1st at our website located at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org) or by emailing the committee at [ussemmons@gmail.com](mailto:ussemmons@gmail.com).

### APPEAL FOR VETERANS' DONATIONS IS RENEWED

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

This will be the third year for this continuing project in which Emmons Family members have shown generous concern for others who have served our country with delivery of such items to veterans' facilities in the New England area.

## IN MEMORIAM

All the Emmons Family will be saddened to learn of the death of Shipmate **James A. MOONEY** April 5 at his home in Edison, NJ, following a period of declining health.

Jim was a Storekeeper on the *Emmons* and a Survivor. He will be remembered by Shipmates and Reunion attendees alike for his cheerful and sometimes mischievous personality.

It is notable that his passing occurred on the 69<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Emmons'* sinking (US time).

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

GIVEN BY

IN MEMORY/HONOR OF

Samuel Horwitz

Lt. (jg) David Horwitz

Okinawa Dive Friends

USS Emmons

David R. Shaub, Jr.

John L. Donaldson

### PLAQUE TO HONOR EMMONS AT US NAVY MEMORIAL

Finally acting on recommendations from several Emmons family members, the USS Emmons will soon have a permanent memorial at the US Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. Placement of a USS Emmons memorial plaque on the Commemorative Plaque Wall there will ensure the Emmons legacy lives on for generations to come.

The idea was first brought to our attention in 2007 by David "Dick" SHAUB, nephew of John DONALDSON, who gave his life at Okinawa. Unfortunately, at the time our attention was focused on establishing the scholarship fund and obtaining our charitable 501(c)(3) exempt status. Then, last year, Jim and Ginny DONNELLY brought it to our attention after learning of a friend's ship that was honored on the wall.

Well, we didn't have to be told a third time. Preliminary research was done and the decision to move forward was made easier as a result

of a \$2000 contribution to the project made in memory of shipmate James J. KORNEY by his sons, John, Kevin, Tom and Jim.

The total cost to place a plaque on the Commemorative Wall is \$3000. As the Legacy Committee discussed plans to raise funds to cover the remaining balance, Dick Shaub, who was made aware of the plans to finally move forward with his suggestion, forwarded a \$1000 memorial gift in honor of his uncle, to be used toward placement of the plaque.

Jim KORNEY has been working closely with Navy Memorial staff to design the plaque honoring the service of the Emmons, complete with a digital image of the Emmons, her five battle stars and text honoring the 60 crew members who made the ultimate sacrifice. Upon completion of the plaque, it will be publicly displayed at the Navy Memorial and on their website. In the mean-

time, Cindy Wagner, daughter of our late Robert "Doc" Wagner, also brought the Commemorative Wall to our attention following her visit to the Navy Memorial. After talking with representatives there, she took the initiative to reserve a place on the wall for us.

We'll keep all of you updated on the progress and we thank Dick Shaub and the Korney's for their thoughtfulness in supporting our continued effort to preserve the Emmons legacy through the memorial gifts. We can't think of more fitting way to honor their loved ones who served so courageously aboard the Emmons.

**Have you ordered your USS Emmons challenge coins yet? They make great Christmas gifts and stocking stuffers for Emmons family members. They're available at the Ship's Store on our website. All proceeds benefit the USS Emmons scholarship fund.**

## USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION

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*USS Emmons (DD457-DMS22)*

We're on the web at

**[www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org)**



## Now HEAR This!

Kurt REESE, gave us up-close exposure to Typhoon Neoguri (minus the wind and water, thanks to Facebook) as the storm hit Okinawa in early July. Although it was downgraded from a super typhoon just as it approached, it was still marked as one of the heaviest storms in some years.

Emmons folks will remember that it was such a storm in late 1999 that stirred up the ocean bottom, leading to discovery of the wreck of the *Emmons* by divers a little over a year later.

Kurt had made a photo dive on the ship just prior to the storm's onset and will be able to ascertain any changes in follow-up dives. He had already observed and reported progressive deterioration in recent months, especially the focsle area.

\* \* \* \* \*

The 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of D-Day, the Invasion of Normandy, brought a great deal of

media coverage, recognizing it as one of the major events in world history and paying just homage to those who gave their lives making it so

One of the better television treatments was NBC's "Journey to Normandy." It followed personally four actual D-Day participants from the various services and the locales of their involvement, including Omaha Beach from seaward. One of these was a survivor from the *Corry*, one of only two Navy ships lost at Normandy. Action footage showed the *Fitch* coming to *Corry's* assist – both were destroyers from our old DesRon 10.

\* \* \* \* \*

Josephine MORROW, sister of lost shipmate Neal INFANTO, spotted a painful error in one magazine's recognition of the D-Day 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary and took steps to correct it.

Upon purchasing a copy of "World War II Quarterly," she discovered that the *Emmons* was mis-identified in the cover photo of Dwight SHEPLER's much-displayed "Target of Opportunity" painting. The hull number was credited to the *Doyle*. She immediately called the publisher who promised to address it.

\* \* \* \* \*

Shipmate Richard KIDD has moved south, where he will be residing with family. His new address is: 5512 Livonia Cove, N. Charleston, SC 29420.

\* \* \* \* \*

Shipmate Bob GLUTTING thanks everyone who sent letters for his Honor Flight. These were in response to a quiet appeal from daughter-in-law Annie to give him "the most of anybody on the plane." Bob said the Honor Flight trip to DC and the WWII Memorial was "one of the greatest things I've ever done."