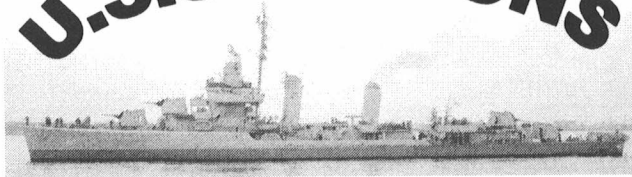


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USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

August 2021

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2021 REUNION

Annapolis, Maryland

September 23-26

Registration Form
Enclosed

Visit the Reunions page
on our website at
www.ussemmons.org

REGISTRATION DEADLINE DRAWS NEAR FOR ANNAPOLIS REUNION

Editor's Note: The board of directors continues to monitor concerns surrounding COVID's Delta variant. Should anyone wish to cancel their registration, a full refund of registration fees can be made until September 16th. In the event the board finds it necessary to cancel the reunion at any time, a full refund will be made. Hotel rooms may be cancelled up to 48 hours prior.

Home base for this our September 23-26 USS Emmons Reunion will be the Crowne Plaza Annapolis.

If you didn't receive the June informational mailing, visit our website's Reunions page for everything you need to know. The enclosed registration form can also be downloaded from our website. Registration deadline is August 25th.

If your schedule doesn't permit attendance for the entire weekend, come when you can! Arrivals begin Thursday when the hospitality room is opened for the weekend allowing

plenty of opportunity for fellowship with your Emmons Family.

Highlights will include Friday's Naval Academy tour where we'll also honor the lost shipmates, followed by lunch together before we return to the hotel for an afternoon program and dinner buffet.

Saturday evening's banquet will provide the opportunity to honor our scholarship recipients as we'll also hear from a special guest representing our Okinawa divers. Sunday morning we'll say our goodbyes at a breakfast buffet.

We remind everyone to book rooms early to take advantage of the \$149/night group room rate before all the rooms are gone and before August 25th.

CDC and local COVID restrictions will be adhered to. We ask all those attending be fully vaccinated out of an abundance of caution for everyone's safety. Watch our Reunions webpage for COVID guidelines.

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM CONTINUES TO HONOR EMMONS' LEGACY

Congratulations are warranted for all our 2021 scholarship applicants for the honor and respect exhibited for the Emmons and her crew through their participation in the scholarship program.

The essays, impressive academic records and letters of reference submitted by all the applicants

over the past 12 years assure us the Emmons crew's legacy will live on through our next generation Emmons Family members.

Once again this year, two students were each awarded a \$2500 scholarship. This year's recipients

(Continued—See SCHOLARSHIP on page 3)

SHIPMATE PARSLER TO BE HONORED AS "MOST VALIANT SON"

The new edition of the survivor accounts book continues to be a blessing to our outreach efforts. Most recently, we received an order from Stephen FISCO, a member of Protection Fire Company No. 1, Keasbey, NJ.

Stephen explained he's doing research for the fire company's local War Memorial Monument honoring their "Most Valiant Sons." The Memorial honors all sons of their volunteer fire company members



George Parsler MM1c (KIA)
Photo courtesy of Stephen Fisco

who made the ultimate sacrifice in WWI, WWII and Vietnam. Included is George PARSLER, MM1c, who gave his life aboard the *Emmons* at Okinawa.

Stephen stated how proud George's late father, a former Fire Chief, would be to know his son's last act was fighting fires as documented in the survivor accounts.

Stephen provided us a photo of George and looks forward to sharing George's story at their 2022 Memorial Day service.

DOCUMENTARY FEATURING EMMONS WRAPS UP PRODUCTION

USS *Emmons* shipmate Tony ESPOSITO will make his world premiere in a Japanese documentary due out this month. NHK-Japanese Public Television is wrapping up work on their documentary addressing the "End of WWII" featuring the kamikaze attack on the *Emmons*. Several interviews with Tony over the past year have proven to be a valuable source of infor-

mation, excerpts of which will be incorporated in the program.

Over the past year, researcher Keiko WINSCH has been tirelessly studying the encounter in an effort to get every detail of the *Emmons* and the attack as accurate as possible. Included will be a remarkable 3D *Emmons* model.

In addition to Tony's interviews and assistance from Kurt REESE, our friend and fellow *Em-*

mons Family member at Battleship Cove, Rich ANGELINI, has worked closely with Keiko this past year providing technical assistance to help ensure accuracy.

Keiko promises to share a copy of the program with us following its broadcast. The Association extended its appreciation to Keiko and NHK Television for sharing the *Emmons* story with their audience.

NEW CONNECTIONS WITH EMMONS FRIENDS & FAMILY FLOURISH

We continue to receive inquiries from new friends and family interested in the *Emmons* legacy. Most recently we heard from Stacey and Robert ANDERSON (son of Robert G. ANDERSON), Gina NELSON (granddaughter of Francisco S. ESQUIVEL), Lillian HARRINGTON (daughter of Anthony DI RUBBIO), and Ron LAFLEUR (nephew of Arsene L. LAJEUNESSE, KIA).

Robert shared with us that upon his father's passing, among his personal papers he found his father's handwritten survivor account written on the Red Cross stationery the survivors used to record what they witnessed during the kamikaze attack. Robert's grandmother told him he never talked about his experience that day but that it completely changed him. He also located a journal maintained by his father while



Arsene L. Lajeunesse F1c (KIA)
Photo courtesy of Ron LaFleur

aboard ship. The last entry was the day of the ship's sinking.

Ron provided us photos of his uncle Leonard, as he was known, something the *Emmons* archive had been lacking. He explained he's in the process of creating a biography of his uncle to pass on to his cousins, children and grandchildren. In doing so, he cited the invaluable resources of the *Emmons* Association and survivor accounts documentation.

And finally, we heard from Jennifer LAUBEN, a student working toward her bachelor's degree in military history. She chose the Battle of Okinawa for a paper, which explains the order she placed for a survivor account book. We also provided her a copy of *The Emmons Saga* to add to her military library of books..

IN MEMORIAM

CHARLES E. UNTERBERGER

Kathy UNTERBERGER notified us that her father, shipmate Charles UNTERBERGER, passed away in March. Charles served as an Apprentice Seaman, going aboard the *Emmons* in September 1942. He was 96.

Kathy told us how proud her father was to have served and how he often spoke of his time aboard the *Emmons* and of his buddies who meant so much to him.

Charles was fittingly buried with military funeral honors, including a flag presentation, taps and 21-gun salute. Out of the kindness of other veterans, each of his seven children were presented American flags.

Now HEAR This !

We were sad to hear from Nancy ALFORD, niece of shipmate Clyde VEAL, her news that she and Mike will be unable to attend this year's reunion in Annapolis, albeit for a most joyous reason. She and Mike are anticipating the birth of their first grandchild in September.

While expressing how much she'll miss seeing everyone, she made it clear we'll see her in 2022. Congratulations Nancy and Mike!! We're excited for you and we wish all of you well during this exciting time!

* * * * *

In addition to the Japanese documentary being broadcast this month (see page 2), we recently

heard from Shiori KAI, with news channel "News Zero" for Nippon TV in Tokyo.

Shiori is working on a program covering the story of the *Emmons* and kamikaze pilots. Its focus is "to memorialize the many young people who died in the war which must be avoided in the future."

She explained her channel is comprised primarily of viewers in their 20s-40s and her belief this will be a wonderful opportunity to share this history and the horrors of war with that generation.

Although in Japanese, Shiori promised to share with us access to that report once it's available.

(SCHOLARSHIP Continued from page 1)

are Aidan Morley, great grandson of James E. Morley, and Amanda Jolly, granddaughter of Armand J. Jolly.

Aidan will be attending Florida Institute of Technology's College of Engineering and Science majoring in aerospace engineering. Amanda begins her studies at The Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies in pursuit of a Master of Arts in global risk.

This year's essay prompt asked applicants to address the critical role our nation's WWII sense of unity of purpose played in the *Emmons'* successes, why Americans unifying as a nation is still critical today, and what role the applicants, themselves, can play in today's world promoting that spirit of unity.

The Legacy Committee looks forward to formally announcing the awards at our upcoming reunion banquet and sharing the essays with everyone in attendance.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The USS *Emmons* Association respectfully acknowledges the following gifts received:

- ★ **In Memory of Frank Basile**
- ★ Jacqueline Basile
- ★ **In Memory of Ed Hoffman**
- ★ Yu Miyaji & Jan Lammerding
- ★ **In Memory of David & Lillian Jensen**
- ★ Patty Marcincuk
- ★ **In Memory of Armand Jolly**
- ★ The Jolly & Ciparelli Families
- ★ Yu Miyaji & Jan Lammerding
- ★ **In Honor of all *Emmons* Shipmates**
- ★ Kevin & Jody King
- ★ Bobby & Jenny Nims

The Association also extends its appreciation to the following who made an additional contribution to the scholarship fund with their survivor account book orders:

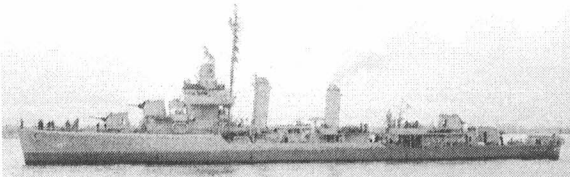
- ★ Nancy & Mike Alford
- ★ Carolyn Ayer & Mike Foster
- ★ Charles Bonhage
- ★ Chris & Holly DeGregory
- ★ Scharden Eggertsen
- ★ Norm Geer
- ★ Ed & Regina Hoffman
- ★ Tom & Diane Hoffman
- ★ Louis Hudson
- ★ Jim & Cathy Korney
- ★ Nancy & Rick Slimmer
- ★ Dennis J. & Cheri Yecke
- ★ Dennis E. Yecke

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USS Emmons (DD457-DMS22)

Visit us online at
www.ussemmons.org



JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP
USS EMMONS REUNION

USS *EMMONS* REUNION ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND SEPTEMBER 23-26

Registration Deadline - August 25th

Registrations continue to arrive as the *Emmons*
board of directors monitors COVID concerns.

(See story, page 1)

2021 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 U.S. Naval Academy – film, tour, lunch and memorial svc. \$ _____
Crew members attend at no charge, but a count is needed.

The tour is a 1 ½ hour, 1 mile, walking tour of the grounds and several buildings, including steps so be sure to wear comfortable walking shoes. For anyone who would have difficulty walking the tour, the Visitor Center offers two options, both led by one of their certified guides: 1) an "Armchair Tour" presentation in their theater, or 2) a riding tour of the grounds.

_____ Check here if anyone in your party will need the "Armchair Tour." This still requires 15 minute walks to and from lunch. Name(s): _____

_____ Check here if anyone in your party will need the riding tour. This still requires a 15 minute walk from lunch (must be requested here in advance; limit one companion).

Name(s) (limited to one companion): _____

_____ 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.

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 25th** 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 25th!