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USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

December 2014

## *In This Issue*

- Reunion Highlights
- Scholarship Award Presentations
- A Letter of Thanks
- NOTES From the Reunion Log
- Commemorative Plaque Dedication

**JOIN US!!  
FOR THE EMMONS  
MEMORIAL PLAQUE  
DEDICATION**

**WASHINGTON, DC.  
MARCH 21, 2015**

**DETAILS ON PAGE 4**

## **HARTFORD'S HISTORIC FEATURES, VISIT BY OKINAWA FRIEND HIGHLIGHT REUNION'S RETURN TO WINDSOR LOCKS**

Four generations of the Emmons Family expressed hearty enjoyment upon returning to Windsor Locks, CT for their annual reunion in September. The familiar and comfortable Hartford/Windsor Hotel was again home base for the gathering hosted by the JOLLY family.

The program for the three days followed the traditional pattern of events arranged by the committee, but this year included an unexpected added feature.

The Friday trip to nearby Hartford afforded opportunity to view and enjoy the Capital City's historic and elegant architecture in a tour of the Legislative Building and the Capitol itself. Our tour ended at the Old Judiciary Room, which provided a gracious setting for our memorial service and where we enjoyed lunch together.

In the afternoon, the hospitality room was the setting for an information ses-



*Connecticut State Rep. Linda Orange welcomes the Emmons Family to the State Capital prior to the memorial service.*

sion, viewing Kurt REESE'S video of this year's Memorial Dive at Okinawa and the video of John Palacio's interviews with crew members done last year at the Fall River, MA, reunion.

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

## **GRIFFIN/EMMONS SCHOLARSHIP AWARD GOES TO EILEEN KORNEY; PRESENTATION AT BANQUET**

Our annual reunion banquet included presentation of the \$2000 Lt. John J. Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship Award to Eileen KORNEY, granddaughter of the late James J. KORNEY, and daughter of Jim and Catherine KORNEY.

A junior at Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, where she continues her undergraduate work toward a degree in Graphic Design Communications,

Eileen shared her essay with all those in attendance at the banquet. Official presentation of the scholarship award followed.

The scholarship application for the 2015-2016 academic year is now available and can be downloaded at the USS Emmons web site at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org) or by emailing us at [ussemmons@gmail.com](mailto:ussemmons@gmail.com).



# IN MEMORIAM

We recently learned of the August, 2013 passing of shipmate William E. HENWOOD in Voorhees, NJ.

Bill was a Fireman on the *Emmons* and a survivor of the final attack. He had been a regular attendee at Reunions until declining health prevented traveling, but had maintained contact with shipboard buddies.

Shipmate Arthur L. BLUMER, longtime Chaplain of the Emmons Association, died August 13, 2014 in Allison Park, PA.

Art was an active and dedicated member of the Association from its earliest days, setting the pattern and conducting our Reunion Memorial Services each year until declining health limited travel.

He and his wife Rita also hosted memorable Reunions in Pittsburgh in 1996 and again in 2004.

Art was a Signaller on the *Emmons* and a wounded survivor. He is survived by seven children, all of whom have attended Reunions, 14 grandchildren and a great-grandson.

Anthony J. SIRAGUSA died September 27, 2014, at Academy Manor Nursing Home in Andover, MA.

A native of Lawrence, MA, Tony was a Water Tender and a Plank Owner on the *Emmons*. He served also in the Korean War, and completed a total of 10 years Navy service.

Tony was an enthusiastic attendee at Emmons reunions until restricted by an ongoing program of dialysis therapy during the last several years.

## NOTES . . . . . From the Reunion Log

Chuck DESESARI's brief remarks will long be remembered by the more-than 80 persons present at the Reunion Banquet.

Chuck is a retired Marine with several deployments to action zones during his service. As operator of a charter service at Okinawa, his boat has carried many persons to dive at the Emmons site.

He said that everyone, especially on their first dive and view of the wreck, experiences an overwhelming emotional feeling. "They recognize," he explained, "that they're part of something much bigger than themselves."

Chuck is one of the lead persons maintaining vigil and conducting memorial services at the Emmons site. He said this attitude of reverence and respect continues to exist with each member of the Emmons dive group.

Chuck was presented with a copy of "The Emmons Saga," signed by each crew member present, as a remembrance of his visit.

MORE SURPRISE ATTENDEES. Chuck DECESARI made us aware that two members of the early Emmons dive group – Josh and Susan LAMMER -- are now in the States and residing in eastern Connecticut.

A quick invitation was issued, and they were able to join us, with children Charlie and Jackie at the Banquet Saturday night.

Susan made the floral wreaths that have been placed at the Memorial Plaque at the annual Emmons memorial services, including this year's after they had moved from Okinawa.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Emmons reunion group was greeted by two Connecticut state representatives, Linda ORANGE and Al ADAMOLFI, as they gathered in the Old Judiciary Room of the state capitol.

Representative ORANGE extended official welcome and paid tribute to the

crew of the Emmons and all veterans in brief remarks prior to our memorial service.

\* \* \* \* \*

Our Reunion received extensive coverage from the Hartford media.

Local network TV stations ran interviews conducted with crew members during our visit to the Capitol. Leading newspapers did the same, expanding interviews into feature stories.

\* \* \* \* \*

For the third year, attendees responded generously with personal care items that were then delivered to the Veterans Home and Hospital in Rocky Hill, CT.

Especially notable among the items were several beautifully designed and crafted shawls, knitted by the ladies of her church, and sent to us by Eunice KAMINSKY, younger sister of lost shipmate Kenneth JACOBOSKY.

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*USS Emmons (DD457, DMS22)*

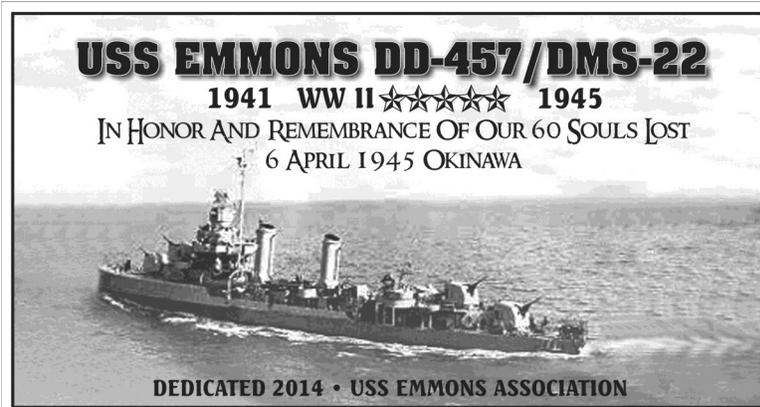
**We're on the web at**  
**[www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org)**

## PRE-REGISTER NOW TO ATTEND THE EMMONS MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATION!!

In August, we reported the **Emmons'** lost shipmates will be memorialized with a commemorative plaque at the U.S. Navy Memorial Heritage Center in Washington, D.C. Dedication of the plaque will be held

especially for us on Saturday, March 21, 2015.

Arrangements are in the works for hotel accommodations for Friday and Saturday nights for those interested. The day will include the dedication ceremony in the morning, with time allowed afterward to experience the interactive exhibits at the Center, followed by lunch at the



Heritage Center. The remainder of the day will be free, with so much to see in the area such as the World War II Memorial.

If you feel you may be interested in attending, **contact us by December 12th**, and once plans are finalized, we'll send

you a registration packet with all the information and costs so you can decide. Simply **email or call our coordinator, Donna Jolly by December 12th at [dojolly@comcast.net](mailto:dojolly@comcast.net) or 860-228-4396.**

We hope you'll be able to join us for this memorial event!!

**BEST WISHES FOR WONDERFUL HOLIDAYS AND A HAPPY, HEALTHFUL NEW YEAR**