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USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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2022 REUNION

September 22-25

Annapolis, MD

Information coming in the spring!

ZOOM AGAIN PROVIDES *EMMONS* FAMILY OPPORTUNITY TO REUNITE

Zoom and its comfort of home became the venue as four generations of *Emmons* family came together virtually September 24th to celebrate the legacy of our USS *Emmons* shipmates. The 2021 *Emmons* Association reunion was attended by 106 family members and friends, including 18 attending their first reunion.

Three Shipmates Attend

Those in attendance had the opportunity and honor to hear from the three shipmates in attendance, George FLORY, Grover McMICHAEL and Tony ESPOSITO. Although Zoom technical difficulties prevented a live visit with Tony, all were later treated to a viewing of his interviews included in a documentary shared with the group.

Following Acting President Dennis YECKE's welcome and some brief As-

sociation business, the agenda proceeded with the Griffin/*Emmons* scholarship awards, followed by correspondence and *Emmons* happenings over the past year.

Diver Friends' Report

The evening then moved into high gear with a report from our Okinawa diver friends, Kurt REESE, on the condition of the ship, and Mike BORING, who made a surprise presentation to the Association in honor of the *Emmons* shipmates (see story page 2).

The evening concluded with our annual memorial service honoring the lost shipmates and Kurt's moving video of the April memorial dive at the *Emmons* site.

The 2022 reunion is scheduled for September 22-25 in Annapolis, Maryland. Registration information will be forthcoming in the spring.

GRIFFIN/*EMMONS* SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS HONORED

As has become customary, our scholarship recipients were honored at the September reunion. And an *Emmons* reunion wouldn't be complete without hearing from our scholarship recipients or, as was the case this year, the family of our recipients.

First, Amanda JOLLY, granddaughter of shipmate Armand JOLLY, was introduced. Checking in from Bologna, Italy, where she is attending Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies, Amanda shared with everyone a reading of her scholarship essay.

An unfortunate scheduling conflict with our other recipient, Aidan MORLEY, great-grandson of James MORLEY, had him sitting for a chemistry exam during the reunion. His father, Shawn MORLEY, graciously stepped in to share Aidan's essay with the group. Shawn is James' grandson and we are grateful for his willingness to fill in for Aidan.

Visit our website's [Scholarship page](#) to read Amanda's and Aidan's essays that earned each of them a \$2500 award toward their educational expenses for the 2021-22 academic year.

HISTORIC ARTIFACT MAKES SURPRISE APPEARANCE AT REUNION

Following the kamikaze attack on the *Emmons*, the USS *Ellyson* was given the order to destroy the damaged hulk to keep it from drifting into enemy hands. Capt. Billingsley wrote in *The Emmons Saga*, "After ninety-six rounds of 5"/38 caliber AA common she capsized and sank at 0318 on April 7, 1945..."

In July, 2019, 74 years following her sinking, diver Mike BORING wrote from Okinawa of his discovery of the ship's wardroom clock. To his astonishment, the clock read 0317, the approximate time of the ship's sinking.

Realizing the rapid deterioration of the ship will soon result in the clock falling into the debris below,



covering it and presenting it to the Association. Mike stated, "It would be an honor to do this...in memory of the men who gave their lives and to all who served aboard."

After obtaining the *Emmons* Board of Directors' endorsement, the clock was recovered, restored to like-new condition by master restorer Scott CIARDI, and presented to the Association at the September reunion.

The restored clock will join the *Emmons* family at all future reunions, serving as a reminder of both, the sacrifice of the lost *Emmons* shipmates and all those who served, as well as the never-ending honor and respect shown by our Okinawa diver friends.

lost forever, Mike, Kurt REESE and Chuck DeCESARI agreed the clock is a highly symbolic artifact that must be preserved, marking that tragic day in April, 1945, and all the time that has past since.

Accordingly, they proposed re-

MIDSHIPMEN'S NOON MEAL FORMATION TO HIGHLIGHT REUNION'S FRIDAY OUTING AT U.S. NAVAL ACADEMY

After two attempts to bring everyone together in Annapolis for our annual USS *Emmons* Reunion these past two years, the Legacy Committee reports all systems are go to finally get there in 2022. And we're all looking forward to the behind-the-scenes tour of the U.S. Naval Academy.

A highlight of the tour will be the pageantry and tradition of the Noon Meal Formation. For over a century, every weekday at noon (weather permitting), from spring until fall, the Midshipmen march into Tecumseh Court for roll call.

The tradition started in 1905 to keep track of Midshipmen, and it's an evolution of the way in which troops were mustered, or assembled for roll call, during the Civil War. Today's version is more for pageantry than practicality, but it is just as important.

The Midshipmen enter the square separately as the six battalions comprising the Brigade. Outfitted in full uniform they all stand at attention as each battalion announces its presence. With a loud and

strong, "1st Battalion all present or accounted for," the opening line inspires a series of coordinated, crisp motions. The other battalions follow suit, all announcing their presence in the same manner, with the same motions.

Once this ceremony is complete, the USNA band breaks into the Naval Academy's anthem and fight song, "Anchors Aweigh," and then the powerful Marines' Hymn (the oldest song in the U.S. Military) "The Halls of Montezuma." They've also been known to play other songs, including the theme song from *Top Gun* (on bagpipes, no less).

The officers are dismissed after their battalions, and the band is the last to turn and march into Bancroft Hall, the largest dormitory in the U.S., where they all move in perfect unison towards King Hall for lunch.

Our viewing of the Noon Formation will take place at the end of our Friday morning 1 1/2 hour walking tour of the grounds, followed by lunch at the Academy Club.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep sadness that we pass along the loss of the following Emmons Family members:

PETER F. CIPARELLI

Daughter Jessica shared with us the sad news of the passing of her father, Peter Ciparelli, August 22 following a valiant fight against cancer. He was 69.

Peter and his late wife, Wendy (Jolly) Ciparelli, arranged and hosted several reunions and were

active and passionate supporters of the Association's efforts.

ANTHONY S. ESPOSITO

Shipmate Tony Esposito passed away October 8 at the age of 97. As a plank owner and survivor of the Okinawa attack, Tony served aboard the *Emmons* from her December 5, 1941, commissioning to

the ship's demise, April 6, 1945.

Tony and, until her passing in 2013, wife Betty, attended and hosted reunions and enthusiastically supported our efforts of preserving the memory of his lost shipmates.

Tony's smile and warm personality will be missed at reunions.

DeGREGORY RETIREMENT MARKS 30 YEARS OF SERVICE

We are proud to announce and extend our sincere congratulations on the May 21, 2021, retirement of U.S. Navy Captain Chris DeGREGORY, grandson of *Emmons* shipmate Thaddeus TENEROWICZ.

Chris previously honored his *Emmons* Family by serving as the 2012 and 2019 reunions' keynote speaker.

Following his service aboard the USS Denver (LPD 9) Stethem (DDG 63), Elliot (DD 967), James E. Williams (DDG 95), and Harry S. Truman (CVN 75), Chris served as commanding officer of the USS Bulkeley (DDG 84) and USS Monterey (CG 61)

Ashore, he commanded Afloat Training Group, Norfolk, served as chief of current operations for U.S. Central Command in Tampa, Florida, and as chief of staff for Commander Carrier Strike Group (CSG) 4. His final Navy assignment was as the chief of staff for Commander, Naval Surface Force Atlantic.

Chris lives in Chesapeake, Virginia, with wife Holly and children Jake and Katie.



Shipmate Ed Hoffman with Capt. DeGregory at 2015 USS Monterey Change of Command Ceremony

REUNION VIDEOS ARE NOW AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE'S REUNIONS PAGE.

Included are the reunion itself, excerpts from a documentary highlighting the kamikaze attack on the *Emmons* featuring interviews with shipmate Tony ESPOSITO, and Kurt REESE's video of the April memorial dive. Visit www.ussemmons.org/reunions.

ATTENTION STUDENTS!!

2022 Scholarship Application
\$5000 in Awards

Application available NOW!

www.ussemmons.org/scholarship

TREASURER'S REPORT

July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021

OPERATING FUND

Operating Fund Balance Reported 7/1/20	6,475
Receipts	
Dues	2,866
2021 Reunion Income	550
General Fund Contributions	516
The <i>Emmons</i> Saga Book Sales & Royalties	84
Misc Income (CapOne VISA Rewards)	43
	4,059
Disbursements	
Survivor Report Book Pkg Supplies & Postage	(824)
2020 Reunion Expenses	(45)
2021 Reunion Expenses	(50)
Newsletter Expense	(366)
Website Expense	(276)
Office Expense	(401)
Taxes	(25)
Misc. Expense	(59)
Correct Prior Year 2021 Reunion Deposit Expense	1,200
Operating Fund Balance 6/30/21	9,688

SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Scholarship Fund Balance 7/1/20	97,591
Receipts	
Survivor Report Book Sales Receipts & Contributions (a)	6,308
Scholarship Fund Memorial Gifts	1,540
Okinawa Fundraising	2,805
Association Challenge Coin Sales	112
Investment Div and Cap Gain Income	4,089
Investment Market Gain/Loss	8,380
	23,234
Disbursements	
Survivor Report Book Publishing Expense (a)	(5,899)
2019 Scholarship Awards	(5,000)
Misc. Postage	(89)
Scholarship Fund Balance - 6/30/21	109,837

NOTES:

a) 232 survivor account books were published and 148 were sold. All proceeds go to the scholarship fund. The \$5899 cost to publish the books has been recouped. With all costs regarding the books now covered, all remaining sales beyond the \$5899 are 100% profit for the scholarship fund endowment.

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USS EMMOMS (DD457 / DMS22)

**We're on the web at
www.ussemmons.org**

 **JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP
"USS EMMONS REUNION"**



The Emmons Family looks forward to its long-awaited visit to the U.S. Naval Academy as plans are once again in place to gather together in Annapolis, MD next September.

WARMEST WISHES TO OUR EMMONS FAMILY FOR THE UPCOMING HOLIDAY SEASON!