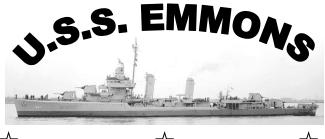
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Volume XXX, No. 2

USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

August 2018

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2018 REUNION

Saratoga County, NY September 20 - 23

DEADLINES

Hotel - Aug. 25 Registration Form - Aug. 25

For information, visit our website at

www.ussemmons.org or call us at

610-691-7770

RESERVATION DEADLINE FAST APPROACHING FOR SEPTEMBER GATHERING IN SARATOGA

ily's 2018 reunion September 20 to 23 at bers invited to attend. The remainder of the Hyatt Place Saratoga/Malta, 20 State the morning and afternoon are free to Farm Place, Malta, NY, 12020. A group explore the area. rate of \$109 is available.

tivities will begin with registration and highlight is the announcement and award greeting of arrivals in the hospitality room throughout the day on Thursday.

Battlefield Tour and Memorial Service

On Friday, we'll visit Saratoga National Battlefield where the Patriots claimed a crucial victory during the American Revolution.

the Saratoga National Cemetery where a military Honor Guard will participate in mons heroes and recently deceased.

Lunch will be on our own as we stop at a local favorite restaurant before return- reservations directly with the hotel, either ing to the hotel.

program will be held later that afternoon. USSE. A link to their online hotel reserva-A buffet dinner hosted by the Association tions is available on our website. The will be served Friday evening.

mons Association, Inc. will be held Satur- don't delay!

Plans are in place for the Emmons fam- day morning with all Association mem-

Reunion activities will climax with the Following our customary schedule, ac- banquet Saturday night. As always, a presentation of the Lt. John J Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship awards.

Honored Keynote Speaker

And this year we are especially hon-Historical Park to tour the Saratoga ored to have as our banquet's guest speaker Donald Emmons PEACOCK, greatgreat grandson of George Foster EM-MONS, the ship's namesake. This editor Following the tour, we'll proceed to had the opportunity to meet and talk with Donald during his visit to Philadelphia this past spring and I guarantee you won't the memorial service for our fallen Em- want to miss what he has to share with

Everyone is reminded to make room online at their website or by calling 518-Back at the hospitality room, a special 885-1109, option #3, using Group Rate Ggroup rate is available until August 25, The annual meeting of the USS Em- but only so long as rooms are available, so

2018 GRIFFIN/EMMONS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

The USS Emmons Legacy Committee is pleased to an- Alaina was also our 2016 award recipient. nounce Alaina SHORT as the recipient of the 2018 \$3000 Lt. John J. Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship cipient of the \$1500 Honorable Mention award. Troy is award. Alaina is the granddaughter of shipmate Paul F. the son of Gary & Cyndy (Pomykala) Biermann and grand-DODD and daughter of Thomas & Ann (Dodd) SHORT. She son of Joseph Pomykala. He is attending Northwestern is a student in the Doctor of Optometry program at Mas- University where he is a neuroscience major. sachusetts College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences.

We're also excited to announce Troy Biermann as re-

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

DELAYED TWO WEEKS FOR FOUL WEATHER, MEMORIAL DIVE CARRIED OUT BY OUR DETERMINED FREINDS

Disappointment was evident in his April 5 email when Darlene FONG, Masayoshi KONDO, Troy CLOWNFISH, poned due to an unfavorable weather forecast. He al- service. ways makes the effort to schedule the dive as close to the April 6 anniversary as practical.

ning photos, some of which are available on our website, able on our website.

Kurt REESE wrote to inform us the memorial dive at the Gary JOYCE, and Jonna MCGRAW. Susan LAMMER once Emmons site scheduled for April 8th had to be post- again provided the beautiful floral wreath used in the

The memorial dive was captured in a moving video produced by Kurt with a special guest introduction by The delay, however, did not deter the divers from Don WILDMAN, former host of Cities of the Underworld honoring our fallen heroes two weeks later. In addition on the History Channel, which featured a story on the to Kurt, participants included Chuck DECESARI (and his Emmons back in 2008. The memorial dive video will have boat), Mike BORING, who documented the event in stun- its first public screening at the reunion, then made avail-

SHIPMATE CHANTLIN HONORED BY AMERICAN LEGION

As this newsletter was preparing to go to press, we received word from Henry BATISTE of the Lake Charles, Louisiana, American Legion Post 551 of their plans to honor USS Emmons shipmate Clarence CHANTLIN, StMc1. Plans were to present a Dress Legion Cap and letter of appreciation for his service.

Clarence boarded the **Emmons** February 7, 1944, and was a survivor of the April 6, 1945 kamikaze attack. He recalls his experience of hearing the fourth kamikaze strike the ship



and upon reaching topside, finding the ship was torn to pieces with fire everywhere.

We are extremely excited to learn another of our **Emmons** heroes is still with us and we look forward to a long and lasting relationship with Clarence and his family.

Local news station KPLC reported on the presentation which you can view on our website. We can't agree more with Lake Charles American Legion Post 551 that said with the number of veterans from WWII on a rapid decline, you must always make time for a veteran in your life.

Congratulations Clarence and thank you for your service to our great county! You are not forgotten.

(SCHOLARSHIP...continued from page 1)

Five students submitted applications, including three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. The academic performance, references and essays of all five applicants made the committee members proud to know these students are part of the Emmons family and the future of the Emmons legacy.

This year's essay asked them to address two excerpts from FDR's February 23, 1942, "fireside chat" regarding the American spirit during times of crisis.

Official announcement of the awards will take place at the reunion's Saturday evening banquet program.

3D TECHNOLOGY ALLOWS RESEARCHERS TO EXPERIENCE EMMONS FIRST-HAND

A type of sonar is being used by researchers to generate 3D models of the *Emmons* to be used for research and monitoring the condition of the archeological remains in hope of learning how to preserve such historical landmarks.

Professor Hironobu KAN of Kyushu University's Research Center for Coastal Seafloor has been working with archeologists in Okinawa for six months to create a 3D image of the Emmons using 1800 pictures. The 3D data obtained from this process makes it possible to share the site

information of war ruins that are difficult to observe first-hand, to move or that should remain undisturbed as war graves.

The 3D image is also being used as an educational tool at the university where history students are shown the destruction caused by the kamikaze attacks. Professor KAN tells his students that because those who experienced the war are aging, it's up to young people to keep the memories of the tragic past alive.

Visit our website to see an article about the study and the 3D images.

IN MEMORIAM

A message from his wife Fern advised us of the passing of our beloved Shipmate Warren G. SPARKS, 97, on May 12th. Warren went aboard the Emmons as a Yeoman 3rd Class in January, 1942. Working up through the ranks, he received his commission resulting in his transfer off the Emmons near the end of 1943. His service to our country continued until his retirement as a Lieutenant. He settled in Vermont where he was Professor of Mathematics at St. Michael's College for 27 years.

Warren served faithfully as Director and Vice President of the USS Emmons Association since its inception. He and wife Fern, along with his children and their families, have been regular attendees at the annual reunions where his cheerful demeanor will be missed. Warren has been an avid supporter of our efforts to preserve the Emmons legacy and the memory of the shipmates lost at Okinawa.

Heartfelt sympathy is extended from all the Emmons Family.



Now HEAR This!

We recently heard from Mike SOLOMONS, son of the late Joe SOLOMONS, who served as the Ship's Cook aboard the Gleavesclass destroyer USS Jeffers.

Like the **Emmons**, the **Jeffers** participated in the Normandy Invasion and Southern France, and was subsequently converted to a minesweeper before heading off to Okinawa. Unlike the Emmons, however, the Jeffers survived her kamikaze attacks, later sailed into Tokyo Bay and was present for the surrender ceremonies.

Mike pointed out the USS Jeffers Facebook page he established using Dwight Shepler's Target of Opportunity painting of the **Emmons** to illustrate the battle scene at Normandy. Well done Mike!

Kevin KING's book, Diving the USS Emmons, is getting great reviews based on his sales since the order form went out to all of you with the last newsletter. Another 11 books were ordered. Kevin will have books available at the upcoming reunion or you may simply email him at divetheblues@hotmail.com.

And to further help the cause, Kevin reports that Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) in Okinawa has agreed to carry the book,

starting with an initial buy of 25 books. If that works out well, they'll come back for 100 more.

As noted in the past, Kevin does this at no profit to himself. It's just his way of helping in our effort to keep the Emmons legacy alive. He says, "It's important that we continue to tell her and her crew's story, and I'm only happy to be a small part of that effort."

Due to the deterioration of the ship and the concern for preservation of the memorial plague placed there honoring the 60 lost shipmates, we began exploring the possibility of replacing it with an exact replica and giving the original plaque a permanent place of honor on loan at the USS Emmons Training Center building at Camp Shields, Okinawa.

Word from Kurt REESE is that our contacts at Camp Shields are excited about the prospect of adding the plaque to their Emmons display already on site.

Before that occurs, a joint fundraising campaign to raise the \$3500 needed for the new plaque will soon be underway both with our diver friends in Okinawa and here within the Association. Stay tuned....

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of Dwain G. Bower

John Bower

In Memory of Billy Ray Deese, Bob Glutting, Ed Greenlaw, Richard Kidd and Joseph Pomykala

Warren & Fern Sparks

In Memory of Warren Sparks

Eleanor Yates

Nancy & Rick Slimmer

Ann & Tom Short

Dennis & Donna Jolly

Armand Jolly

Tom & Diane Hoffman

APPEAL FOR VETERANS' **DONATIONS**

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

If you cannot attend the reunion, but would like to participate, items or contributions payable to USS Emmons Association may be sent to Jessica Ciparelli, 505 Twin Circle Dr., South Windsor, CT 06074.

This will be the eighth year for this continuing project in which Emmons family members have shown generous concern for others who have served our country.

USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION

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E-mail: ussemmons@gmail.com



USS Emmons (DD457-DMS22)

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

HAVE YOU REGISTERED FOR THE REUNION YET?



Don't be left out! Deadline is August 25th. See story page 1.