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USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

April/May 2016

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2016 REUNION

Portsmouth, NH
September 22-25

DEADLINES

Hotel-August 31
Registration Form– Sept 4

To receive a registration
form, email us at
ussemmons@gmail.com
or call
610-691-7770.

EMMONS FAMILY HEADED TO PORTSMOUTH, NH, AND HISTORIC SHIPYARD FOR SEPTEMBER REUNION

Facilities of one of our country's oldest and most historic Naval sites – the Portsmouth (NH) Naval Shipyard – will anchor activities for the 2016 Emmons Association Reunion in September.

Dates of the annual gathering are September 22-25, with our hospitality headquarters at the Holiday Inn, Portsmouth, NH, located just off Interstate 95.

The Naval Shipyard was founded in pre-Revolutionary days when it built ships for His Majesty, the King. It was established as a United States facility by President John Adams and continued building US sailing vessels through the 1800's.

Became Submarine Center

Early in the last century, the Shipyard began construction of submarines and remained the pre-eminent builder of the undersea craft through both World Wars and into the nuclear age. The Yard is now charged with modernization and repair of our submarine fleet.

Hotel and registration information packets have already been mailed. Reunion activities will get underway Thursday with registration and greeting of

arrivals in our hospitality room at the hotel.

The Shipyard's Office of Public Affairs has been most helpful in handling all arrangements for our Friday visit to the Yard. Our traditional Memorial Service will be in the Thresher Chapel, followed by a tour of the Shipyard and lunch at the Tirante Tavern Restaurant.

Association Programs

Friday afternoon we will gather in the hospitality room for an information session and update on recent activities among our friends at Okinawa and programs of the Legacy Committee. Socializing will continue in the evening at a buffet dinner hosted by the Association.

President Armand JOLLY will preside at the annual Crew/Association meeting Saturday morning.

Activities will climax Saturday night at the Reunion Banquet with the presentation of the John J. Griffin/USS Emmons 2016 Scholarship awards.

Everyone is reminded to make hotel reservations directly with the hotel by August 31 to receive our group rate.

OKINAWA CHAPTER OF EMMONS ASSOCIATION CARRIES OUT 71ST ANNIVERSARY MEMORIAL DIVE

For the second consecutive year, the Far Eastern weatherman smiled favorably and our Okinawa Emmons friends were able to carry out the 71st anniversary Memorial Dive on the planned date, April 2. Reporting in an email the next day, Kurt REESE said, "We met at Chuck's (DECESARI's) port at 0630 to get his boat in the water and start setting up gear. It was a nice day with a

bit of haze in the air – anything beats wind and rain, so we were pleased with what we had. The forecast called for two-foot seas at six-seconds – we're usually good with anything three-feet or less, as long as they're far enough apart.

"After descending, Massayoshi KONDO placed the

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

DIVER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM HONORS EMMONS LEGACY; FOCUSES ON EMMONS HISTORY AND RESPECT FOR WRECK

Retired Naval Aviator and Okinawa scuba diving instructor, Kevin KING, wrote notifying us of a new diving specialty allowing divers to get certified in diving on the USS Emmons. He explained the goal of this specialty would be three-fold:

- 1) to promote the historical importance and impact of the USS Emmons and the bravery and suffering of her crew.
- 2) to educate divers on specifics of the wreck during guided tours, em-

phasizing wreck preservation and respect.

- 3) to provide \$50 of every certification tuition directly to the USS Emmons Association.

Kevin recently notified us that the first six certifications have been awarded, resulting in a \$350 contribution to the Lt. John J. Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship Fund. The Association is grateful for the respect and honor bestowed on the Emmons by

Kevin and we congratulate him on what we expect to be a successful program.

He concluded by stating, "I consider it an honor to promote your Association and the role that the USS Emmons played so long ago in 1945. I would like to help ensure that the younger generations in our military today know their history and heritage of yesteryear."

REPORT ON EMMONS DETERIORATION

In a follow-up to his account of the Anniversary Dive, Kurt REESE passed along observations of continuing deterioration of the *Emmons*.

"I noticed two major differences since my last time out: The hole in the bow has grown considerably, and a piece of the ship structure that had been covering the entrance to the wardroom has broken free, leaving the entrance completely exposed.

"I think the bow is taking the lead in its deterioration. If the current is running right, it flows through the hole in the port bow, pushing pieces

out of the way. The collapse hasn't reached open hatches leading to the upper handling room of Gun One and the Chief's Quarters, but it's creeping ever closer.

"The wardroom hatch had earlier been partially blocked by a semi-circular piece of steel that I think was from one of the 20mm. gun tubs. It has slid down the starboard side, coming to rest where it hit the sand.

"I plan to get out to the Emmons again soon and document her condition as fully as possible."

(DIVE...continued from page 1)

wreath above the Memorial Plaque. Darlene FONG followed behind and placed our Flag beneath. Once the wreath and Flag were in place, everyone dispersed to dive different areas of the ship and document her condition."

"On our second dive, we took group photos around the Memorial Plaque, wreath and Flag and then called it a day."

In addition to Kurt and Chuck, the following participated in this year's memorial dive: Nicholas CHRISTENSON, Darlene FONG, Michael DUENAS, Masayoshi KONDO, Ryo IMAI, Gary HUGHES, Kevin KING, Benjamin FAVORITE Jr, Matt LEWIS and Dan KOSLOWSKI. Kurt noted that Masayoshi KONDO and Ryo IMAI also placed a wreath at the airplane engine which lies in the debris field near the wreck of the *Emmons*.

Video coverage of the Memorial Dives can be viewed online on the Emmons Reunion Facebook page.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of Elsie Jolly

Jessica Ciparelli
Billy Ray Deese

In Memory of Shirley Unterberger

Charles Unterberger

In Memory of Eugene N. Foss 2nd

George E. Foss III

Please pardon our website while it is temporarily unavailable for maintenance.

IN MEMORIAM

Elsie JOLLY, wife of Emmons Association President Armand JOLLY, passed away January 22 following a lengthy, confining period of illness.

Elsie was beloved by all the Emmons Family, having been a cheerful, smiling figure at Armand's side and assisting in all activities of the Association from its earliest days. Her warmth and friendliness added much to the growth and spirit of the organization.

Elsie and Armand had been married 68 years.

Now HEAR This!

Tim GLUTTING, son of our late Shipmate Bob and Carol GLUTTING, shared a description and pictures of the memorial tribute to his dad in a moving posting on our Facebook page last month:

"On March 5, 2016 my father's remains were laid to rest at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.

"It was arranged by my wife Annie who had the Navy Honor Guard come and present my mom with the American Flag and to play taps, followed by Deacon Jim who spoke and prayed with us. About 60 of my father's friends here in Florida attended.

"It's been a little over a year since my father passed. I know this ceremony comes a little late, but it was worth the wait.

Thanks to Annie, the Navy Honor Guard, Deacon Jim, all of my father's friends, all who served on USS Emmons, to all who have served our country and to all who are in this group."

* * * * *

For the past number of years, the floral wreaths used in the Memorial Dives at Okinawa have been made for



The late Bob Glutting poses with the Stars & Stripes.

the occasion by Susan LAMMER who, with husband Josh, was part of the original dive group.

Susan continued to make and send them even after moving back to the States two years ago. This year, however, the wreaths came from a reserve supply, as she was understandably oc-

cupied at Dive time.

Now residing in Connecticut, Susan and Josh became parents of a baby boy in January. Weighing in at eight pounds, nine ounces, brother Wesley Edward joins sisters Charlie and Jacqueline.

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Once again, the generous donations of personal items by those in attendance at the Emmons reunion are making a difference in the lives of our veterans. Jessica CIPARELLI delivered the 2015 donations to South Park Inn, a shelter located in Hartford, CT.

The shelter sees 55,000 people come through its doors each year. The donations were used to make care packages for the Veteran's Drop-In program, a program that started in 2007.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

Applications for the \$2500 Lt. John J. Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship awards are still being accepted. The deadline for submission is May 31st. Our website is down for maintenance, but you can email us for an application at ussemmons@gmail.com.

2016 DUES: Treasurer Tom HOFFMAN extends his appreciation for the positive response to the recent dues reminder letter. Every dollar of dues **received** directly supports our efforts throughout the year. If you have not yet sent yours, there's still time. Annual dues are

\$25 (discounted to \$40 for both husband and wife). Checks may be made payable to USS Emmons Association and sent to: Tom Hoffman, Treasurer, 3136 Northampton St., Bethlehem, PA 18020. Note "2016 Dues" on the memo line of your check.

USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION

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USS Emmons (DD457-DMS22)

**Our website
www.ussemmons.org
will be back online soon!**



Divers pose for a photo following the 2016 EMMONS Memorial Dive (see story on page 1).