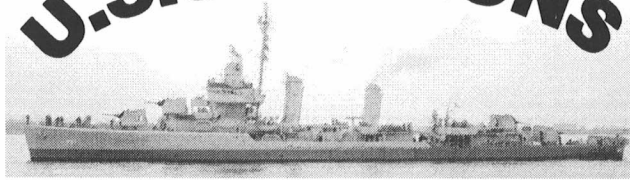


# U.S.S. EMMONS

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USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

April/May 2021

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## 2021 REUNION

Annapolis, MD

September 23-26

Registration Information Coming in June!

## DEDICATION

This issue of the Newsletter is dedicated in memory of President Armand J. Jolly

Armand Jolly, president of the USS *Emmons* Association, died peacefully December 26, 2020, at the age of 98. A resident of Pomfret Center, CT, he recovered remarkably well from a stroke in 2019, allowing him to attend the Gettysburg reunion. At the time of his death he was recovering from a second stroke.



Armand served aboard the *Emmons* as a Gunner's Mate from September, 1942, to the Okinawa attack in April, 1945.

He served as vice president of the USS *Emmons* Association from 1990 to 2004, then took over as president in 2005. Under his leadership, the Association experienced significant growth and strengthening relation-

ships among generations of the *Emmons* Family. As president, Armand also oversaw establishment of the Lt. John J. Griffin/USS *Emmons* Memorial Scholarship, now providing \$5000 in educational assistance to *Emmons* Family members each year.

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## PLANS MOVE FORWARD FOR SEPTEMBER ANNAPOLIS REUNION

### Activities to be streamed live online.

As the U.S. edges slowly toward normalcy, the rising optimism was apparent in the Association's recent reunion survey of members. An overwhelming majority of those responding indicated their interest in attending an in-person reunion.

Following all COVID restrictions that may still be in place come September, and with attendees being encouraged to be fully vaccinated out of an abundance of caution, the Legacy Committee has resumed its plans for the get together at the Crowne Plaza Annapolis, September 23-26. Included is a Friday tour of the U.S. Naval Academy, which is ex-

pected to once again be open to the public.

The Friday morning outing at the Naval Academy will include a behind-the-scenes tour, our annual memorial service honoring those lost at Okinawa, and lunch, before returning to the hotel for an afternoon program and evening buffet dinner.

Saturday starts with a morning meeting of the membership, followed by free time until our evening banquet. Sunday morning's buffet breakfast together will allow for goodbyes until next year.

Once plans are finalized, reunion registration and hotel reservation information will be made available in June. In the meantime....MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

# UNCERTAIN WEATHER YIELDS TO OKINAWA MEMORIAL DIVE TRADITION

Kurt REESE reported that a rare break in the weather allowed the 76th Anniversary Memorial Dive to take place April 3rd. Chuck DeCESARI once again generously donated the use of his boat as he, Kurt and eight others ventured out to honor the fallen *Emmons* sailors at the *Emmons* site.

Those who participated, as well as preliminary photos provided by Kurt and Brandi Ebach, can be viewed on our website's [Memorial Dive page](#). And as in the past, Kurt has promised a video documenting the dive will be provided for the reunion.

Kurt also informs us the divers contributed \$1000 to our

scholarship fund! The Association extends its appreciation to all those involved, including Darlene Fong for the beautiful memorial wreath.

Two weeks later, Kurt and Chuck escorted members of the 4th Marine Regiment from Camp Schwab out to the site to honor the lost shipmates' sacrifice. In preparation for the descent to the ship, U.S. Navy Rev. David Carlson, Chaplain (LCDR) offered a prayer "...for the souls of our fellow service members. We will never forget their service and sacrifice..."



## Now HEAR This !

The *Emmons* Association is proud to share news of Barbara COFFMAN's recent swearing in as Vice Flotilla Commander for the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Flotilla 34 Pompano Beach, FL. Barbara is the daughter of *Emmons* shipmate Charles CORDREY.

The United States Coast Guard Auxiliary is the volunteer, civilian arm of the United States Coast Guard whose mission is to assist the Coast Guard by focusing on recreational boating safety. Congratulations Barbara!!

\* \* \* \* \*

And congratulations go out to Jessica CIPARELLI, on her appointment to the USS *Emmons* Association Board of Directors! The board voted unanimously to have our first 3rd generation *Emmons* family member fill the vacancy left by her grandfather Armand JOLLY's passing.

Jessica is a member of the Legacy Committee and has been actively involved in the Association for many years. Her youth and passion, honor and respect for the *Emmons* will be invaluable as we work to carry the legacy on to future generations.

\* \* \* \* \*

We learned from shipmate Donald AYER's daughter, Carolyn, that her father's 28th great grandchild is destined

to help carry on the *Emmons* legacy to future generations.

Carolyn's nephew, and Donald's grandson, Cody and his wife Fawn, recently became the proud parents of Wyatt *Emmons* SULLIVAN. Clearly, Cody and Fawn's pride in Donald's service to his country will continue to live on through their son Wyatt.

\* \* \* \* \*

We recently heard from Dave FRANCIS, who was able to help us identify his father, Lt.(jg) Herbert K. FRANCIS, as one of the sailors in our photo archives. Herbert transferred off the *Emmons* in November, 1944, to the USS *Hugh Purvis* DD-709.

Dave also provided a copy of the November, 1944, Officer Report of Changes that helped us identify service dates we were missing for some officers.

\* \* \* \* \*

And speaking of service dates, shipmate Lt. Earl BLAKE's granddaughter, Kristin, came across our website while researching her grandfather's service and noticed our database of shipmates was missing Earl's service dates, which she proudly provided.

In a follow-up email, Kristin's father, Alan BLAKE, told of his father attending basic training at Notre Dame and later reporting to the *Emmons* on September

3, 1942, and of his father's sharing of Navy stories with him growing up.

Both Kristin and Alan also shared several photos including snapshots of pre-invasion Omaha Beach, pollywog/shellback crossing the equator ritual and others that helped us put names to other previously unidentified shipmates. All these photos are included in our website's photo archive.

\* \* \* \* \*

Mike DEVERS, son of shipmate John Devers, shared with us some photos of his father's Shellback and Bluenose certificates he recently came across.

The Shellback and Bluenose ceremonies are time-honored Navy traditions that take place when a ship crosses the equator and arctic circle, respectively.

The equator ritual has King Neptune come aboard the ship to oversee a sailor's transformation from slimy Pollywog, who hasn't crossed the equator, to trusty Shellback, also called a Son of Neptune. It was a way for sailors to be tested for their seaworthiness.

For the Arctic Circle, there's also a line-crossing ceremony where a sailor becomes a certified Bluenose.

Both ceremonies provide the transformed sailor with a certificate documenting the occasion. The photos of the certificates can be seen in our website's photo archive.

**2021 DUES:** Treasurer Tom HOFFMAN reported a good response to this year's membership dues mailing, helping us continue our work of preserving the *Emmons* legacy and honoring the memory of the shipmates lost at Okinawa. If you have not yet sent yours, it's not too late. \$25 individual or \$40 discounted for couples and \$5 junior membership (18 yrs. + under). Checks payable to the USS *Emmons* Association may be sent to USS *Emmons* Association, c/o Tom Hoffman, Treasurer, 36078 Huntington St., Millville, DE 19967. You may also remit membership dues online at our website's [Membership page](#).

# IN MEMORIAM

The USS Emmons Association extends our sincere condolences to the families of the following Emmons family members:

### GEORGE W. AVERY

Lynn Avery notified us that her father, Emmons shipmate George W. Avery, Jr., passed away peacefully in his sleep December 23rd, 2020. He was 94.

George, of Cordele, Georgia, went aboard the *Emmons* in December, 1944, serving as a Fireman. He was a survivor of the April 6, 1945, attack at Okinawa and has been a long-time supporter of our efforts to preserve the *Emmons* legacy and honor his lost shipmates.

Following WWII, he continued his service to his country during the Korean Conflict. We salute George for his service and his commitment to honoring his lost shipmates.

### ARMAND J. JOLLY

(continued from page 1)

From daughter-in-law Donna Jolly: *"He knew everyone's name and was thrilled when new family members were able to attend reunions. And he was so proud of the creation of the scholarship and looked forward each year to meeting the recipients. He was also so grateful to all of the men and women who dive to the Emmons, who respect and honor what the ship represents, and who lay the memorial wreath on her each year. He was humble but also so proud of the service the Emmons provided to the country he loved."*

Armand's love of life, family and all things *Emmons* will truly be missed.

## NEW SURVIVOR REPORTS EDITION PROVES POPULAR AMONG EMMONS FAMILY, FRIENDS AND MEDIA

In its first four months, sales of the new edition of the Emmons survivor reports has reached 157 copies with all proceeds going to the Griffin/*Emmons* Scholarship Fund. We're pleased to know copies are now in the hands of so many Emmons family and friends, as well as others doing research for a documentary and a university studying the *Emmons* site.

The hardcover book is 500+ pages, complete with copies of the sailors' original handwritten accounts of their experiences during the Okina-

wa attack, along with typed transcriptions of all 62 accounts.

Preserving the story of our veterans and sharing the *Emmons* story and the heroism and selflessness of all aboard the ship that fateful day has been the driving force behind this initiative. The result is a historic document that will forever preserve the character and sacrifice of these great Americans for future generations.

If you have not yet ordered your copy, use the enclosed form or order online at our website's [Ship's Store](#).

**\$5000 IN ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIPS WILL ONCE AGAIN BE AWARDED FOR THE 2021-22 ACADEMIC YEAR.** Applications are being accepted for the Griffin/*Emmons* Memorial Scholarship. Deadline for submission is May 31st. For information, visit our website at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org).

## MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The USS Emmons Association respectfully acknowledges the following gifts received:

### In Memory of Frank Basile

Tony Esposito

### In Memory of Joe Cassella

Tony Esposito

### In Memory of Ed Caulkin

Tony Esposito

### In Honor of Tony Esposito

Michelle & Phil Martinetti  
Anne Marie Patton

### In Memory of Bob Glutting

Tony Esposito

### In Memory of Ed Hoffman

Tony Esposito  
Ed & Regina Hoffman

### In Memory of Louis P. Hudson

Louis A. Hudson

### In Memory of Armand Jolly

Tom & Diane Hoffman  
Michelle & Phil Martinetti  
Joseph Massaro  
Anne Marie Patton  
Ann, Tom & Alaina Short  
Nancy & Rick Slimmer  
Debi Thompson  
Magrieta Willard  
Eleanor Yates

### In Memory of Edward Kurtzman

Daniel Kurtzman

### In Memory of Joe Monte

Tony Esposito

### In Honor of Grover McMichael

Anne Marie Patton

### In Memory of Warren Sparks

Hayley Wells

### In Honor of all *Emmons* Shipmates

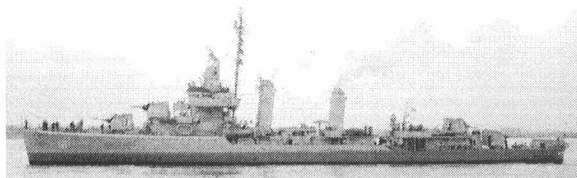
Mike & Nancy Alford  
Tom & Ann Short  
Okinawa Diver Friends  
Melissa Terpening & Dean Straker

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*USS Emmons (DD457-DMS22)*

**Visit us online at**

**[www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org)**



**JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP  
USS EMMONS REUNION**

**THE USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION IS  
EXCITED TO ANNOUNCE PLANS TO  
MOVE FORWARD WITH OUR  
ANNAPOLIS REUNION  
IN-PERSON  
SEPTEMBER 23-26**

*See story, page 1.*

# USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION

## ORDER FORM

### USS EMMONS: Eyewitness Accounts from Survivors of the Battle of Okinawa

All proceeds benefit the Griffin/Emmons Memorial Scholarship Fund

Orders shipped domestically may also be placed at our Ship's Store at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org).

#### SHIP TO: Please print clearly

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

#### CONTACT INFORMATION:

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

NAME (if different than above) \_\_\_\_\_

ITEM	QTY.	PRICE*	TOTAL
Hardbound Book		\$40	\$
Flash Drive		\$25	\$
Optional Scholarship Fund Contribution			\$
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$</b>

\*Prices include domestic shipping only (including APO/FPO).  
Email us regarding international delivery.

#### DESCRIPTION:

In their own words, written days after the kamikaze attack of the Emmons on April 6, 1945, survivors shared exactly what happened to them on that horrific and tragic day. Reading their handwritten accounts opens a window to the moment when the attack began, depicts the heroism and selflessness of the sailors helping their injured shipmates to safety, and how they were rescued.

#### PAYMENT/SHIPPING:

My Payment is enclosed.

Make check payable to USS Emmons Association and submit with this form.

Amount Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Books and flash drives are shipped separately.

Allow 2-3 weeks for delivery.

Orders shipped domestically may also be placed at our Ship's Store at [www.ussemmons.org](http://www.ussemmons.org). A small processing fee is included in the online price for credit cards\PayPal.

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Mail completed form with payment to:

USS Emmons Association  
c/o Thomas Hoffman  
36078 Huntington Street  
Millville, DE 19967

All proceeds benefit the Griffin/Emmons Memorial Scholarship Fund.  
Thank you for your support! If you have any questions or need an update on the status of your order, email us at [ussemmons@gmail.com](mailto:ussemmons@gmail.com).

#### Internal Use Only

Date Order Received \_\_\_\_\_ Date Pmt Received \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ USPS \_\_\_\_\_ Check # \_\_\_\_\_ Date Shipped \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_ Website Credit Card \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_ Website \_\_\_\_\_ PayPal \_\_\_\_\_ Books \_\_\_\_\_  
Flash Drives \_\_\_\_\_