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2014 REUNION

Windsor Locks, CT

September 18 - 21

More information coming soon!

TIME TO MARK OUR CALENDARS FOR 2014 EMMONS REUNION; PLANNING IN PLACE FOR RETURN TO WINDSOR LOCKS, CT

The Emmons Family will be returning to a familiar location for their 2014 Emmons Association Reunion in September -- in Windsor Locks, Ct.

The date of the Reunion will be September 18 - 21. The site will again be the Hartford/Windsor Airport Marriott Hotel in Windsor Locks.

Convenience of the central New England location and our comfortable experience at the Marriott two years ago led to the choice of Windsor Locks for our early return.

The Reunion is again being hosted by the family of President Armand and Elsie JOLLY. Chairperson Wendy CIPARELLI, said registration forms and hotel information will be in the mail shortly and will include full information on itinerary, costs and reservations.

So far, we are scheduled for a visit Friday to the State Capitol and state museum buildings in Hartford. The program of activities and arrangements for our traditional memorial service are still being developed.

Standard highlights, of course, will be Friday evening's Association dinner,

an afternoon information session and the Saturday Banquet when this year's recipients of the Lt. John J. Griffin/ USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship awards will be announced..

The Association's continuing project of assistance to veterans continues, and attendees are again asked to bring toiletry or other personal items to the Reunion for delivery to local veterans' homes and hospitals.

Those who attended two years ago will remember the Hartford/Windsor Marriott is located off Interstate I-91, adjacent to Hartford Bradley Airport and midway between the cities of Hartford and Springfield, MA. Attendees will need to make their reservations directly with the hotel after their information mailing arrives.

SCHOLARSHIP REMINDER

The deadline for submission of the Lt. John J. Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship is May 31st. For information and to obtain the application, visit the Scholarship page on our website at www.ussemmons.org.

DEVOTED FRIENDS AT OKINAWA CARRY OUT ANNUAL MEMORIAL DIVE CEREMONY; SPECIAL TRIBUTE ADDED

Sixteen persons gathered at Chuck DeCESARI'S boat port on Okinawa's Motubu Peninsula at 0700 on the morning of April 12. They were all from the island's diving community and had signed on to participate in the annual USS Emmons Memorial Dive.

Most of the divers had previously taken part in services that have been carried out each year since 2006, commemorating the sinking of *USS Emmons* and loss of 60 crew members on April 6, 1945.

The dive had been scheduled for the week prior but,

just as in the past two years, bad weather interfered and the date was moved one week.

After assembling and checking their gear, the group boarded the boats skippered by Chuck and "Ski" Koslowski and headed for the wreck site. The ceremony required two dives, beginning at 10 a.m. and another at 11 with a "breather" between.

With cameras recording the activity, our Colors, with pennant attached were carried below, unfurled and

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

OUTREACH EFFORTS CONTINUE TO LOCATE EMMONS FAMILY MEMBERS

The Legacy Committee is pleased to report on several new contacts and Emmons family members who have found us. One such is Kelli Ann WILSON, of Walpole, NH, who wrote hoping that someone would remember her grandfather, William COPELAND.

She was elated to learn that he was remembered as a Signalman who transferred aboard from the *USS Ranger* in early 1944. She has sent pictures of her grandfather which are now posted on the web site and has volunteered to become active in the Association.

Another contact was from Thomas CATALANO who wrote, "My grandfather, Lee WHITSON, was a Plank Owner on the *Emmons*. My grandmother would have loved to see this site. Lee died in 1975 and his wife Marlene passed away in 2005. Glad to know the story of the *Emmons* will always be kept alive." Lee WHITSON, a Shipfitter, was wounded but survived.

Brad SCHMIDT, son of Emmons Plank Owner Richard J. SCHMIDT, wrote thanking the Association for its efforts to honor the memory of the Emmons crew and told us his father "...was very influenced by and lived with the memories [of the Emmons] that shaped his life until he passed away in 2001. He was a proud sailor & patriot his entire life, which of course, influenced me as well."

David NEWBERRY, nephew of Francis G. TERBOSS, who was killed at Okinawa, wrote to tell us, "On July 18, 2003, thanks to the Arlington Cemetery and the U.S. Military, he received the Memorial Service he deserved."

And finally, Diane CAREY, daughter of Claude R. PRESTON, a Plank Owner, and Tim ULMER, son of Thomas J. ULMER, contacted us asking if anyone has any photos of their fathers during their time on the *Emmons*.

Do you have any information to share with our new Emmons family members? If so, let us know and we'll forward the contact information.

MEMORIAL GIFTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS

In Memory of Harry Bower:
Anonymous

In Memory of Elizabeth Esposito:
The Esposito Family

In Memory of Mr. & Mrs. James J. Korney:
James, John, Thomas & Kevin Korney

In Memory of James J. Korney:
Edwin Hoffman
Tom & Diane Hoffman
Leon Horwitz
Dennis & Donna Jolly
Koren & Bryan Picariello
Paul & Lorie Stolbof

In Memory of Robert Schultz:
Donna McDowell

Additional Contributions:
Jeffrey Horwitz
Edna Lynch

(MEMORIAL DIVE....continued from page 1)

secured in place just forward of the memorial plaque on the ship's port side. A tricolored wreath was placed above the plaques, and a banner beneath it proclaimed the "69th Anniversary, Annual Memorial Dive."

Kurt REESE'S email account of this year's memorial ceremony included this surprising and gratifying message:

"Through the sale of Emmons Challenge Coins and donations from those participating in this year's memorial dive, I'm proud to report that we have raised \$1,425 to donate to the Scholarship Fund of the USS *Emmons*." EDITOR'S NOTE — This is in addition to the \$593 raised by our diver friends in 2013 from the sale of challenge coins.



The Emmons and lost shipmates were properly honored at the memorial service with the US Flag, memorial wreath, and 69th Anniversary banner along side the memorial plaque. Photo courtesy of Russell Lemasters.

2014 DUES Response to the recent dues letter, as always, has been very positive. If you have not yet sent yours, annual dues are \$25 (discounted to \$40 for both husband and wife). Checks can be sent to our treasurer at USS Emmons Association, c/o Tom Hoffman, 3136 Northampton St., Bethlehem, PA 18020 (note "2014 Dues" on the memo line of your check).

IN MEMORIAM

Shipmate **James J. KORNEY** passed away peacefully the evening of December 16 in Portsmouth, RI. His son Jim was at his side.

Jim was a Water Tender on the **Emmons** and a survivor of the final attack and was involved in assisting the wounded and efforts to control the ship's damage prior to abandonment.

He was a dedicated supporter of the Association from its earliest days and a regular attendee at reunions, with his beloved wife Lee until her passing, and since with his family.

A note from her granddaughter advised us of the recent passing of **Grace GUTHRIE**, widow of shipmate Bob GUTHRIE, who died in 2001. Ashley JOHNSON wrote: "She passed away peacefully April 10, just in time to celebrate her 60th wedding anniversary with my Grandpa April 11."

Bob and Grace had been limited in Reunion attendance following an auto accident in 1988 in which both were seriously injured, but Grace had remained in correspondence with many of their Emmons friends.

Now HEAR This!

CONGRATULATIONS to Capt. Chris DEGREGORY! In a recent email, Chris advised: "I recently got word that my next assignment will be as Commanding Officer of the Cruiser **USS Monterey (CG 91)** out of Norfolk, but I won't take over until late summer/early fall 2015. Hopefully I'll be able to have some of my Emmons Family at the ceremony."

The grandson of shipmate Thaddeus "Murphy" TENEROWICZ, Chris is presently a division chief with the US Central Command in Tampa, FL. The **Monterey** is a guided missile cruiser and, like **Emmons**, a Bath-Built "Boat."

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Distance has not lessened the dedicated interest held by Susan LAMMER for the annual Emmons Memorial Dive at Okinawa.

Susan and her husband Josh had been part of the dive group in past years but recently moved back to the States. However, before they left Susan announced she would again make the wreath for the ceremony, as she had in past years.

The red, white and blue wreath that was placed above the plaques concluding this year's ceremony came from Susan.

* * * * *

We learned from his wife, Lorene, that shipmate Clyne

VEAL, of Buford, GA, was interviewed for a feature story in the *Gainesville Times* newspaper to recount his experience in the attack on the **Emmons** at Okinawa.

Clyne was a Water Tender on the **Emmons**, whose General Quarters station was in a topside repair party. Mrs. Veal said the article covered his recollection of the action and his part in recovery and assistance of the wounded, including Captain FOSS.

As documented in his Survivor Report, Clyne related efforts to fight the fires and assist his wounded comrades. He recalled in the article, also, that he was the next to last person to leave the ship on *PGM11* after **Emmons** was ordered to be abandoned.

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The Association sent an honorarium to the Quonset Point Sea Cadets to acknowledge the meaningful role of their color guard at last year's Reunion memorial service. The following letter of appreciation was received from their commanding officer:

"Thank you for your expression of support for our Sea Cadets in Rhode Island. Our Cadets were honored to provide assistance to properly commemorate the service and sacrifice of those who sailed aboard **Emmons** and the families that have supported those heroes over the years.

"We held a special training session for our Cadets, plus parents and friends, of the mission of **USS Emmons** and the role the ship and her crew played during WWII. Those memories survive in our Sea Cadets as well."

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CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Madeline BASILE is now residing at 5654 Governors Pond Circle, Alexandria, VA 22310.

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Our next generation continues to spread the word of the **Emmons** as evidenced by word received from Mike FLORY, son of Plank Owner, George FLORY.

We've learned that Mike has been sharing the story of the **USS Emmons** by donating *The Emmons Saga* books to his Brodhead, WI, middle schools, high school, and city library. The **Emmons** memory lives on in small town America!

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We recently heard from Eric ECKMAN, a former member of the Okinawa dive group. Eric, a Defense Department Quality Assurance Specialist currently living in Washington state, is looking forward to returning to the warmer waters of Okinawa and diving on the **Emmons**.

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USS Emmons (DD457-DMS22)

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT

www.ussemmons.org

Exciting Opportunity for Someone Passionate about the Emmons Legacy

Are you moved by the courage, bravery, patriotism and selflessness of the men who served on the **USS Emmons**? Do you want to make sure that the story of the Emmons remains alive for generations to come?

If so, you might be a candidate for the open position on the Emmons Legacy Committee. This committee of five passionate and dedicated individuals – related to Emmons shipmates – is looking for another member. The committee's charge is to conduct activities and raise support for keeping the Emmons legacy alive.

No particular skills are needed except creativity, ability to work as a member of a team, and a willingness to pitch in where needed. Much of the work is done remotely via email but you'd need to be able to attend a committee meeting during the annual reunion.

If interested, please send an email to ussemmons@gmail.com and describe why you are interested in serving on the USS Emmons Legacy Committee by May 31st.

Also, while the Legacy Committee always welcomes anyone looking to get more involved in any way, they are currently looking to create a formal Reunion Committee to help plan, arrange and facilitate future Emmons reunions. Again, if interested, simply send an email to the address above.

You can find us at **www.ussemmons.org**