

U.S.S. EMMONS

DD 457

DMS 22



Volume XXXII, No. 1

USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

March/April 2020

In This Issue

- 2020 Reunion
- Naval Academy Visit
- Shipmate Featured in '40's Savings Bond Ad
- USS Emmons at Sea Video Unearthed

2020 REUNION

Annapolis, MD

September 24-27

Registration
Information Coming
in the June!

ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND TO SERVE AS HOST OF EMMONS 2020 REUNION



Sixteen members of the extended Emmons Family attended their first reunion last year, bringing the total to 46 over the past three years. It is hoped that trend continues as the Emmons shipmates are honored at this year's reunion in Annapolis, Maryland, the weekend of September 24-27.

Friday Group Outing

The city of Annapolis, with its colonial charm, is home to the U.S. Naval Academy, our Friday tour destination. Our guide will provide us a behind-the-scenes look at every facet of life as a midshipman. While there, we'll take the opportunity to

honor the lost Emmons shipmates with our annual memorial service.

Following lunch at the Academy, we'll return to our hotel for an afternoon program and dinner.

Saturday Sightseeing

The Association business meeting will be held Saturday morning with the remainder of the day free to visit local attractions, shop, hit the casino or simply relax.

The weekend will climax with the Saturday evening banquet and program, followed by Sunday morning's farewell breakfast buffet.

We anticipate another memorable time together. Once plans are finalized, registration information will be mailed in June and made available on our website.

NAVAL ACADEMY TOUR TO HIGHLIGHT 2020 REUNION

The Naval School, as it was known, was established in 1845 on a 10-acre Army post in Annapolis, Maryland, with a class of 50 midshipmen and seven professors. The curriculum included mathematics and navigation, gunnery and steam, chemistry, English, natural philosophy, and French.

In 1850 the Naval School became the United States Naval Academy. A new curriculum went into effect requiring midshipmen to study at the Academy for four years and to train aboard ships each summer. That format is the basis of a far more advanced and sophisticated curriculum at the Naval

Academy today. As the U.S. Navy grew over the years, the Academy expanded. The campus of 10 acres increased to 338. The original student body of 50 midshipmen grew to 4,000.

Congress authorized the Naval Academy to begin awarding bachelor of science degrees in 1933. The Academy later replaced a fixed curriculum taken by all midshipmen with the present core curriculum plus 18 major fields of study, a wide variety of elective courses and advanced study and research opportunities.

(continued...See ACADEMY on page 2)

 **Now HEAR This !**

On a recent visit to the Norfolk area, Barb TITTLE, daughter of shipmate Homer TITTLE, accepted Capt. Chris DeGREGORY's gracious offer to show her around Naval Station Norfolk, the home port of the U.S. Navy's Atlantic Fleet.

In addition to a tour of the Navy base, Chris, grandson of *Emmons* shipmate Thaddeus TENEROWICZ, provided her an up-close tour of the destroyer *USS Winston Churchill (DDG 81)*.

Barb expressed her joy with the hospitality shown her and how happy she was with the tour, expressing her appreciation for the time Chris took to personally show her around.

* * * * *

During WWII, over 85 million Americans complied with the U.S. government's urging for citizens to help fund the war effort by purchasing Savings Bonds, or War Bonds as they were known during the war. Advertisements were common in newspapers, radio and newsreels and continued after the war in an effort to sustain sales.

We were excited to learn that one such advertisement, a 14-minute radio drama, featured *Emmons* shipmate Charles HARDY and wife Betty.

Grandson Tony HARDY possesses the original LP recording of the radio play. We extend our appreciation to Tony for sharing this treasure with his *Emmons* family.

Visit our website's [Testimonials/Videos page](#) to hear the advertisement. To avoid any spoilers, we'll simply say the drama unfolds as Charles is about to be shipped out and takes us through the Okinawa attack and the aftermath of the injuries he suffered.

* * * * *

Jason MORLEY, son of *Emmons* shipmate James E. MORLEY, recalled his father's stories about meeting the First Lord of the Admiralty, Britain's equivalent to our Secretary of the Navy, aboard the *Emmons*. The June 1943, visit is well documented in Capt. Edward Baxter Billingsley's book, *The Emmons Saga*.

Searching the internet, Jason came across a video of the *Emmons* as she prepares to deliver First Lord Alexander to the *USS South Dakota* in Scapa Flow, Scotland. This is the only video of the *Emmons* known to the Association and is now available on our website's [Testimonials / Videos page](#).

Great piece of investigative research Jason. Thank you for shar-

ing this valued piece of *USS Emmons* history!

* * * * *

Cheri YECKI brought to our attention the release of a book citing the *Emmons*' experience with kamikaze planes in the Battle of Okinawa, including a specific mention of shipmate James KORNEY.

"Bloody Okinawa: The Last Great Battle of World War II" presents a narrative of the Pacific War's final major battle of WWII. In his discussion of kamikaze attacks and the pilots' devotion to duty, author Joseph Wheelan cites the attack on the *Emmons* as an example of the horrors of the kamikaze campaign. He quotes Jim as saying the last straw was a "heavy hit aft [that] shook the whole ship."

(ACADEMY...continued from pg 1)

There's so much to learn about this institution that trains men and women to serve our nation as leaders. Join us at the September *USS Emmons* reunion when we'll tour the Academy, led by one of their certified guides. We'll learn of its history and the challenges today's cadets encounter on their journey.

Reunion registration information will be made available in June.

2020 DUES: As always, response to February's dues notice has been very good, including 15 junior members! Treasurer Tom HOFFMAN extends his appreciation for the notes and updates some of you included. 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 pay using PayPal, Venmo or 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:

JAMES G. QUEEN

James Queen passed away December 9th. A resident of Valdese, NC, he was 96 and was appropriately buried with military honors.

James served on destroyers during WWII, including as Seaman 2c aboard the Emmons from January 1943 until late 1943.

Many of us were honored to have met him at the 2015 Washington, D.C., memorial plaque dedication where the love and respect of his family was evident by the 13 family members that accompanied him.

EDWARD T. MONAHAN, SR.

We recently received word from son Michael Monahan that his father, shipmate Edward T. Monahan, passed away in 1993. Ed was a plank owner and served aboard the Emmons as Seaman 1c until the latter part of 1943.

Ed's death halted plans in the works for him to attend his first reunion in 1993. Michael expressed his appreciation for the work done by the Emmons Association over the years honoring the service of his father and all the Emmons shipmates.

JOSEPHINE F. MORROW

Long-time supporter and Emmons family member Josephine Morrow passed away February 20th at the age of 89.

Josephine was the sister of Emmons Seaman 1c O'Neil Infanto, who made the ultimate sacrifice for his country aboard the Emmons at Okinawa, Japan, April 6, 1945.

Having attended reunions in the past, Josephine last joined with her Emmons family at the Buffalo reunion in 2017. There, the proud grandmother was on hand as her grandson, Isaac Bird, accepted his Griffin/Emmons scholarship award honoring his great uncle O'Neil.

CLARENCE CHANTLIN

Shipmate Clarence Chantlin, 94, passed away March 3rd.

Clarence went aboard the Emmons on February 7, 1944, participating in the Normandy invasion, the Battle of Cherbourg, the assault on Southern France and finally Okinawa. As Steward's Mate 2nd Class, he was a survivor of the Okinawa attack.

A resident of Lake Charles, Louisiana, Clarence and the Emmons Association found one another in 2018 when we learned his American Legion Post 551 was holding a special ceremony honoring his WWII service.

SHIRLEY STANCHEVA

Shirley Stancheva unexpectedly passed away March 4th. In the two short years we've known her since she attended her first reunion, Shirley became a true friend and avid supporter of the Emmons Association.

Shirley wowed everyone with the USS Emmons quilt she made and provided as a raffle prize for the 2019 Gettysburg reunion scholarship raffle.

Over the years, she routinely showed her appreciation and respect for those who served our country by making quilts for veterans of our Armed Services, including shipmates of the USS Emmons on-hand at the 2019 reunion in Gettysburg.



MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The USS Emmons Association respectfully acknowledges the following memorial gifts received:

- In Memory of Edwin Hoffman
Ed & Regina Hoffman
- In Memory of David, Gerald and Leon Horwitz
Jeffrey Horwitz
- In Memory of Edward Kurtzman
Daniel Kurtzman
- In Memory of Russell McCullough, Jr
Russell McCullough
- In Memory of Edward Monahan, Sr
Michael J. Monahan, Jr.
- In Memory of Josephine Morrow
Mr. & Mrs. Carson
Mr. & Mrs. Champion
Tom & Diane Hoffman
Camille & William Jones
Koerner Ford/Syracuse Employees
Karen Masker
Mark & Rosanne Mastroeni
Mr. & Mrs. Rowe & Family
Carl Rosenzweig & Rose Giammarco
Mary Scheel
- In Memory of Homer and Jackson Tittle
Barbara Tittle



SURVIVOR REPORT UPDATE

Cheri YECKE reports that the first draft of the new edition of the USS Emmons Survivor Reports is complete. Comprised of over 60 hand-written reports by survivors of the Okinawa attack, this new edition will include the original reports along with their transcribed versions. The new edition will be available this fall.

TELL THE KIDS!!!

\$5000 in scholarships will once again be awarded for the 2020-21 academic year. Applications are currently being accepted for the Griffin/Emmons Memorial Scholarship. Deadline for submission is May 31st. Visit our website at www.ussemmons.org for information.

USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION

c/o T. Hoffman
36078 Huntington St.
Millville, DE 19967

Phone: (610) 417-5163

E-mail: ussemmons@gmail.com



USS Emmons (DD457-DMS22)

Visit us online at

www.ussemmons.org



**JOIN OUR FACEBOOK GROUP
USS EMMONS REUNION**

**THE EMMONS ASSOCIATION WISHES
EVERYONE WELL AND REMINDS YOU
TO BE INFORMED, BE SMART AND BE
SAFE AS WE CONTINUE TO FIGHT THE
CORONAVIRUS PANDEMIC.**