

DD 457

U.S.S. EMMONS

DMS 22



Volume XXIV, No. 2

USS EMMONS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

August 2013

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2013 REUNION

Fall River, MA

September 26 - 29

DEADLINES

Hotel--Aug 11

Reunion Registration--Sept 1

You must also register with the Emmons Association. If you need a registration form, email us at ussemmons@gmail.com.

AS SUMMER WINDS DOWN, REGISTRATION GROWS FOR NEXT MONTH'S REUNION IN FALL RIVER

With one more turn of the calendar page summer will be behind us and Emmons Family members will be finalizing plans to attend their upcoming 2013 Emmons Association in Fall River, MA.

The Reunion will run from September 26 to 29 – our customary Thursday through Sunday format – at the Fall River/Westport Hampton Inn. Registrations have been coming in at the usual responsive rate, according to Al and Donna CAPPELLI, who are chairing this year's gathering with the Esposito Family.

Battleship Cove Nearby

The location has been one of the most popular for Navy reunions through the years because of its proximity to Battleship Cove. The Cove was the first major site to obtain and put on public display historic Naval vessels following World War II. It remains the world's largest collection of U.S. Naval ships.

Our Friday tour will take us to the Cove where arrangements have been made for our traditional memorial service to be held

on the pier in the PT Boat Building. We will then be free to tour the WWII battleship *USS Massachusetts*, the destroyer *Joseph P. Kennedy Jr.* and the PT Boats moored nearby. We will return for lunch in the PT Boat Building.

In the afternoon we will gather in the hospitality room for an update of activities from our Okinawa friends, and re-assemble for a buffet dinner and evening of sociability hosted by the Association.

The Crew Meeting (annual meeting of the Emmons Association Corporation) will be held Saturday morning, with all Association members invited to attend.

As always, the week's scheduled activities will climax with the Reunion Banquet Saturday night and conclude with the farewell group breakfast Sunday morning.

Reservations should be made directly with the hotel at (508)675-8500. Everyone is urged to make their reservations by August 11 in order to assure availability. Travel directions were included with the registration mailing.

HOFFMAN, KORNEY NAMED MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The USS Emmons Legacy Committee is pleased to announce Sara HOFFMAN as the recipient of the \$2000 Lt. John J. Griffin/USS Emmons Memorial Scholarship award and Eileen KORNEY as recipient of the \$500 Honorable Mention award for the 2013-14 academic year. The awards were determined after careful review of all applications received, including supporting documentation, letters of reference and scoring of the essays.

Sara is the granddaughter of ship-

mate Ed HOFFMAN and daughter of Tom and Diane HOFFMAN. This fall, she returns for her final year of study at Villanova University School of Law in Villanova, PA.

Eileen is the granddaughter of shipmate James J. KORNEY and daughter of James M. and Catherine KORNEY. She returns this fall to Roger Williams University in Bristol, RI, to continue undergraduate work toward her degree in Graphic Design Communications.

Included this year were applications

from second and third generation Emmons Family members. All applications received provide further confidence that the members of these generations are ready and able to help carry on the Emmons legacy.

A formal announcement of the scholarship results will take place at the reunion dinner banquet.

Application for the scholarships for the 2014-15 academic year will be available January 1st at our website, www.ussemmons.org.

CHALLENGE COIN TRADITION SPREADS TO EMMONS FAMILY

Members of the U.S. Armed Forces have a long-standing tradition of carrying “challenge coins” that symbolize unit identity and brotherhood. Each piece usually bears unique unit symbols or mottos that identify the group they represent, and are often traded, presented, and collected between unit members. Challenge coins capture the very essence of military affiliation and instill pride to those that carry them.

Beginning this Fall, the USS Emmons Association will make available its own specially minted challenge coin, allowing Emmons Family members and friends the opportunity to always carry with them a tangible source of pride in the unique identity and strong bond we all share. The Emmons coin measures 1.75” in diameter with a color engraving of the Dwight Shepler Normandy painting, “Target of Opportunity” on one side and the locales of eight major Emmons involvements around the perimeter of the other.

Coin Origin is Uncertain

Stories of where the custom of challenge coins originated vary widely. One legend has it that the coin originated in the U.S. Army in World War I. As to how it became known as a “challenge” coin, stories say that the challenge began in Germany after World War II. Americans stationed there took up the local tradition of conducting “pfennig checks.” The pfennig was the



lowest denomination of coin in Germany, and if you didn’t have one when a check was called, you were stuck buying the beers. This evolved from a pfennig to a unit’s medallion, thereafter known as a “challenge coin.”

Emmons Family to Join the Tradition

The stories go on and it is nearly impossible to definitively know why and where the tradition of challenge coins began. What we do know is members of the U.S. military have a long-standing tradition of carrying these coins symbolizing unit identity and soon we, as proud Emmons Family members, will have the same opportunity to show our pride.

George Flory is shown here in 1941, shortly before he became a plank owner on the Emmons. We know photos such as this are out there that are not a part of our current album. We hope you’ll consider sharing them with all of us by scanning them to ussemmons@gmail.com. (photo courtesy of Michael Flory)



APPEAL FOR VETERANS’ DONATIONS IS RENEWED

Last year, the Reunion Committee issued an appeal to attendees to bring personal care or comfort items for delivery to an area Veterans Home.

The response was generous and bountiful, and delivery of the items to the Connecticut Veterans Home was received with warm appreciation. So much so that the appeal is being adopted as a regular Reunion project.

So remember as you’re packing for the trip to Fall River, to make room for some of those items for veterans. By doing so, not only are we fulfilling a commitment of our corporate charter, but we are reaffirming the Emmons Family’s respect and concern for all who served.

SHOW YOUR EMMONS PRIDE! Coming to the reunion and on the website this Fall: Emmons hats, shirts, blankets and more. Stay tuned.....

IN MEMORIAM

Shipmate **Eugene L. POSEY** died May 1 at the VA Hospice Unit in Lexington, KY, not long after being diagnosed as terminally ill.

Eugene, a Gunner's Mate on the *Emmons*, was critically injured on April 6, 1945, and endured lengthy hospitalization prior to returning to civilian life as a watchmaker and jeweler.

He had only recently re-established contact with the Emmons Family through his daughter, Connie GOLDTHWAIT, who expressed appreciation for all the uplifting messages from those shipmates and friends.

We recently learned, in a call from her daughter, that **Helen REYNOLDS** passed away on June 26, 2012, in Wilmington, NC, where she had been in residential nursing care for several years.

Helen will be remembered for her spirited personality. She and husband Ed hosted two early Reunions in Wrightsville Beach, and she continued to attend and enliven later gatherings as long as health permitted.



Shown above is the gravestone marking the cemetery plot in Plymouth, NH, where shipmates Edgar and Gerard SIMONEAU are interred. As can be seen, the view of their beloved ship, as depicted in Dwight Shepler's Normandy painting, is vividly engraved. The twin brothers were Plank Owners on the Emmons. Both served aboard throughout its time afloat and survived her sinking. Gerard retired from the Navy after 25 years and died in 1995. Edgar passed away earlier this year.

MEMORIAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The USS Emmons Association would like to acknowledge memorial gifts received since our last notice in August 2012. In addition to gifts received through the scholarship fundraiser (see insert), the following memorial gifts celebrate the lives of loved ones, while providing support for our ongoing efforts to keep the Emmons memory alive.

In Memory of Jackie & Ed Culkin

- Lauren Lynch

In Memory of Elizabeth Esposito

- Madeline Basile
- Joan Cerrone Family
- Rosemary & Denny Evaul
- Robert & Carol Glutting
- Eveyln Gore
- Edwin L. Hoffman, Jr.
- Tom & Diane Hoffman
- Richard & Noreen Hunt
- Dennis & Donna Jolly
- Anne Marie Patton

In Memory of Kenneth E. Heck

- Susan J. O'Neil

In Memory of S. Gerald Horwitz

- Betty Lou Dunn
- Constance & Frederic Platt

In Memory of Edgar Simoneau

- American Legion, Dupuis-Cross Post 15
- Clement & Suzanne Simoneau
- Kelley J. White
- Edwin L. Hoffman, Jr.
- Tom & Diane Hoffman

In Memory of Edgar & Gerard Simoneau

- Anne Marie Patton

In Memory of Shirley K. Unterberger

- Charles Unterberger

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USS Emmons (DD457-DMS22)

We're on the web at

www.ussemmons.org



Now HEAR This !

The *USS Massachusetts*, which we will be visiting at Battleship Cove, is no stranger to *Emmons*. We operated with her at Okinawa, while she was part of the bombardment group and we were being assigned back and forth between the Third (Adm. Spruance) and Fifth (Halsey) Fleets.

"Big Mamie," as she was affectionately known to her crew, is acknowledged to have fired the last 16-inch shell of WWII in a bombardment of a Honshu industrial area in early August, 1945.

* * * * *

A welcome new contact through our website was received from Ashley HULL, in Bemidji, MN, who is the granddaughter of Grace and our late shipmate Bob GUTHRIE.

In addition to expressing eagerness to becoming an active third generation Association member, she gave a happy report on Grace.

"My grandmother is very sharp at the age of 89," she wrote, "and has kept all of the Emmons information."

* * * * *

Edgar SIMONEAU, who died this past April, had the duty of cutting the last line from the PGM-11 when the *Emmons* had to be abandoned on April 6, 1945. The gunboat transported 62 of our survivors to the anchorage at Kerama Rhetto.

Talbot ADAMSON, who was PGM-11's engineering officer at the time, attended our Reunion in Niagara Fall in 1992 and received personal thanks from a number of those survivors.

A note from shipmate Ray O'CONNELL, received in February, provides welcome reading currently.

From Edina, MN Ray wrote: "I just finished shoveling 4" of snow. Pretty Good! - I'll be 91 in June. I am in very good shape and have no joint problems. I am still playing golf Thursday and Saturday from April to September. God Bless....."

* * * * *

One of the proactive innovations adopted by the Legacy Committee is a personalized greeting for members as they join the Association with payment of dues. Each person receives a welcome packet containing a personal note, a postcard - size photo of the *Emmons* and a U.S. Flag pin.