



The Sumner Sentinel ©

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Reunions Don't Just Happen - They're Planned

Many things go into planning our ship reunions, not the least of which is trying to estimate how many attendees there will be.

And this probably is the most important factor in the whole process - figuring out what to charge for registration.

The reunion registration is separate and distinct from your hotel registration. This fee covers the costs of the special rooms at the hotel, transportation to the memorial service, the banquet, professional entertainment, the memorial wreath, food and beverages in the hospitality suite, etc.

One way to calculate attendance is to get a room count as to who has reserved a room at the hotel.

Not everyone who attends will stay at the hotel, but it gives planners an idea.

President Frank DiBello and the other officers are urging shipmates who are planning on attending this 50th anniversary of the deployment to Vietnam to make hotel reservations early.

The reunion headquarters will be the Hampton Inn & Suites located by the Jacksonville Airport. The address there is 13551 Airport Court, Jacksonville, Florida 32218.

The reunion officially opens Sunday May 7 and ends with

the farewell breakfast on Wednesday May 10.

The negotiated room rate is \$94 a night (plus tax) and will be good for 3 days before and after our scheduled 3 day stay.

The cutoff date for our special rate is April 1, 2017

We will have a conference room for all events for no fee provided we fill all of the 40 reserved rooms. Failure to fill the rooms will end up requiring us to pay for the conference room.

And add to the registration cost.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Hello Everyone,

I hope everybody is having a good year and that you're ready for some cool Fall weather!



Frank DiBello

Dave assures me that we are going to have a great Reunion in Mayport. Being on his home turf, he knows that we are going to have a lot to see and do, not to mention the good ole "Southern Hospitality"!

Dave needs some help from everyone, to help him get a good count of who is attending. The more attendees, the better for the Association's finances for our transportation, meals, snacks, drinks, etc.!

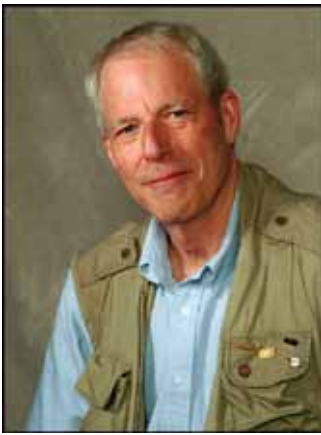
Dave says there is a lot of sightseeing of history nearby in St. Augustine, not to mention the SHOPPING! Make sure you tour the Fort, which was recently refurbished, the "Oldest Store Museum," Potter's Wax Museum, and of course their beautiful beach!

I would like to make a challenge to everyone, to call one shipmate (or more) and invite them to come to the reunion this coming year.

If they can't come, just think how good you will feel and will make them feel just reaching out to them to say "Hi!"

Can't wait to see everyone in Mayport!





By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

When I was going through cardiac rehab a couple of years ago I saw a former Tulsa chief of police with whom I had a good relationship as a police reporter.

After he retired, he joined up with another cop to start a security company. The other cop also was a good friend of mine as well as a source of information for stories.

Cops are inherently suspicious of news reporters and it takes a long time to gain their trust, but once this is the case it is invaluable.

But it's kind of a double-edge sword because when they get a hot tip they want to share; it

Did You Know?

In the modern Navy falsifying

reports, records and the like is often referred to as "gundecking." The origin of the term is somewhat obscure, but at the risk of gundecking, here are two plausible explanations for its modern usage.

The deck below the upper deck on British sailing ships-of-war was called the gundeck although it carried no guns. This false deck may have been constructed to deceive enemies as to the amount of armament carried, thus the gundeck was a falsification.

A more plausible explanation may stem from

means getting calls in the middle of the night and some going to some clandestine meeting to get information for a headline.

Cops know about the power of the press and how newsmen can help open doors they can't.

It definitely was a two-way street for me in my news career and I got a lot of "scoops."

Chatting with that former police chief I learned that a bunch of cops met each month at a local

diner to "break bread" and talk about the "good old days."

Kind of like sailors do at ship reunions!

And because of my relationship I was invited to the luncheon; as far as I know the only press-type so invited.

Since I still have most of my faculties, I can still remember some of the stories I was involved in with these guys and it makes for good reminiscing and makes me feel - just for a moment - that I wish I was still in the news business.

And now, I look forward to these get-togethers almost as much as attending a Sumner reunion.

shortcuts taken by early midshipmen when doing their navigation lessons. Each mid was supposed to take sun lines at noon and star sights at night and then go below to the gundeck, work out their calculations and show them to the navigator.

Certain of these young men, however, had a special formula for getting the correct answers.

They would note the noon or last position on the quarterdeck traverse board and determine the approximate current position by dead reckoning plotting. Armed with this information, they proceeded to the gundeck to "gundeck" their navigation homework by simply working backwards from the dead reckoning position.

USS ALLEN M. SUMNER SHIP STORE ORDER INVOICE

Qtn.	Description	Price
	Sumner Ball Cap (Blue w/gold embroidery) - Specify All Cloth or 1/2 Mesh)	\$15.00
	Scrambled Egg patches <u>for Officers only</u> /with hat purchase	Free
	White Golf Shirt Embroidered w/Ship Patch (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL) Add \$10 for 2XL/3XL	\$25.00
	White T-Shirt w/Ship on Front (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL)	\$20.00
	All Sweatshirts Circle Size - S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL	\$25.00
	Sumner Ship's Patch (Specify Sui Generis or Woody Woodpecker)	\$ 5.00
	Sumner Hat/Lapel/Tie Tac Pin	\$ 6.00
	Sumner License Plate bracket/holder	\$ 5.00
	Homemade Reunion 2000 Video (CNO Visit) DVD or VHS Specify which	\$ 8.00
	Zippo Ziplite battery pack (Flashlight Replacement for Unused Lighter	\$ 2.50
	Sumner Commemorative Challenge Coin (Approximately 1½ inches in diameter)	\$10.00
	US Navy Tabletop Drink Coasters (6 for \$20.00)	\$ 5.00
	Handkerchief (US Navy or 692)	\$ 5.00
	Navy Pin for wives	\$ 5.00
	Sumner shaving/toilet kit bag	\$10.00
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	US Navy Wallet	\$ 7.00
	MIA/POW money clip	\$ 6.00
	Petty Officer window sticker	\$ 1.00
	USS Cooper (Dive to)/Return to Ormoc Bay (Battle of) DVD (Runtime: 80 minutes)	\$ 8.00
Total Enclosed		

All Sumner Assn members may deduct 10% from order (before shipping charges are added unless is designated "No Discount." Please add the following shipping charges; Merchandise up to \$20 - Add \$3 \$21-\$50 - Add \$5 \$51 and Up - Add \$7. Checks made payable to Sumner Reunion Association.

Name _____
 Address _____
 City, State, Zip _____
 (A/C) _____ PH # _____ E-Mail _____

Send Orders To:
 Sumner Assn.
 301 Park Lane
 North Syracuse, NY 13212

Another Shipmate to be Buried at Sea

A memorial service at St. Luke's Lutheran Church, Waukesha, Wis. was held Sept. 10 for USS Allen M. Sumner shipmate Donald Valentine who died on Aug. 23

A resident of Delavan, Wis. at the time of his



Donald Valentine

death, he proudly served his country in the U.S. Navy from 1959 until 1979..

He was a 1959 graduate of Waukesha High School and attended Carroll College.

Following cremation, he will be buried at sea - the third Sumner sailor to do so this year.

Married to Diane

Altwies she provided the following information:

“He did a ‘kiddie cruise’ because he enlisted when he was 17 and took his basic at Great Lakes,” she said.

In addition to his service on the Sumner - 1958-62, he served on the USS Huntington DD-781 and the USS Fiske DD/DDR-842. He was a Sonarman Second Class on the Sumner and eventually made Chief in the reserves.

“He was an instructor at the Fleet Sonar School in Key West for over three years. When he got out in September, 1967, we headed back to Wisconsin.

“But he missed the Navy. He was in the reserves in Milwaukee, Sheboygan, and Green Bay. He retired from the reserves in 1979 as an E7,” Diane said.

Valentine worked as a machinist and a truck driver before attending Waukesha Technical College where he received an associate degree in electronics.

He did mostly contract work for various companies like GE Medical and Eaton.

“We traveled a lot around the U.S.

“We have RVed for over four years full-time.

We’ve spent the winters in Texas and Florida coming back to Wisconsin during the summer,” she said noting his hobbies were cooking, wood-carving, biking, writing, and painting.

Guidelines for Sea Burial

The United States Navy has performed many burials at sea in its history, with wartime burials as recently as World War II, and peacetime burials still common.

Enemy deaths received the same ceremony as Americans or allies. Most other armed forces also perform burials at sea, such as the British Royal Navy and the Royal Canadian Navy.

If the deceased died on land or has been returned to shore after death, the remains may be brought aboard either in a coffin or in an urn after cremation. Burial at Sea is a means of final disposition of remains that is performed on United States Navy vessels.

The committal ceremony is performed while the ship is deployed. Therefore, family members are not allowed to be present.

The commanding officer of the ship assigned to perform the ceremony will notify the family of the date, time, and longitude and latitude once the committal service has been completed.

The ceremony is performed while the ship is deployed, and consequently civilians are not allowed to be present. In the USA, people eligible for a free Navy burial at sea are:

- Active-duty members of the uniformed ser-

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vices

- Retirees and honorably discharged veterans
- Military Sealift Command U.S. civilian marine personnel
- Family members of the above

How to get started: After the death of the individual for whom the request for Burial at Sea is being made, the Person Authorized to Direct Disposition (PADD) should contact the Navy and Marine Corps Mortuary Affairs office at 1-866-787-0081 to request a packet and for additional information.

Supporting documents which must accompany

this request are:

- (1) a photocopy of the death certificate
- (2) the burial transit permit or the cremation certificate
- (3) a copy of the DD Form 214, discharge certificate, or retirement order.

In preparation, the officer of the deck calls All hands bury the dead, and the ship is stopped (if possible). The ship's flags are lowered to half mast. The ship's crew, including a firing party, casket bearers and a bugler, are assembled on the deck.

The crew stands at parade rest at the beginning
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of the ceremony. The coffin is covered with a flag, and is carried feet first on deck by the casket bearers.

The casket is placed on a stand, with the feet overboard. In case of cremated remains, the urn is brought on deck and placed on a stand.

The ceremony is divided into a military portion and a religious portion.

The religious part is specific to the religion of the deceased, and may be performed by a Navy chaplain, or by the commanding officer if no chaplain of the appropriate faith is available.

A scripture is read and prayers are said.

After the religious ceremony, the firing party is ordered Firing party, present arms. The casket bearers tilt the platform with the casket, so that the casket slides off the platform into the ocean.

The flag which was draped over the casket is retained on board.

For cremated remains, there is the option to bury the remains using the urn in a similar fashion to the procedure used for caskets.

Alternatively, the urn can be opened, and the remains scattered in the wind. In this case, the wind direction has to be taken under consideration before burial to ensure a smooth procedure.

The firing party fires a three volley salute, the bugler plays Taps, and flowers may also be dropped into the ocean. After the flag is folded, the ceremony ends.

The relatives will be informed of the time and location of the burial, and given photos and video recordings if available.

Questions concerning Burial-at-Sea?

Please call Monday - Friday, 0730-1600 Central
Time Toll Free - 1-866-787-0081

Ports of embarkation include

Norfolk, Va.

Commander, Naval Medical Center
ATTN: Code 0210C
620 John Paul Jones Cir.
Portsmouth, VA 23708-5100
Phone: (757) 953-2617/2618

Jacksonville, Fla.

Officer in Charge
Naval Hospital Branch Clinic
P. O. Box 280148
Naval Station
Mayport, FL 32228-0148
Phone: (904) 270-4285

San Diego, Calif.

Commanding Officer
Naval Medical Center
Decedent Affairs Code: 0904
34800 Bob Wilson Drive
San Diego, CA 92134-5000
Phone: (800) 290-7410

Bremerton, Wash.

Commanding Officer
Naval Hospital Bremerton
Code: 015-BAS/HP01 Boone Road
Bremerton, WA 98312-1898
Phone: (360) 475-4313

Honolulu, Hi.

Navy Liaison Unit
Tripler Army Medical Center
Tripler AMC, HI 96859-5000
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(808) 577-7590



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