



# The Sumner Sentinel ©

July - August 2016  
Volume III Number 4

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## Goin' Down to Florida ala Johnny Cash

“Goin down to Florida, get some sand in my shoes; yeah, going down to Florida, get some sand in my shoes. Take that Orange Blossom Special, lose these (insert your state) blues.”

This year's reunion marks the 50-year anniversary of the USS Allen M. Sumner's deployment to Vietnam

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.

The phone number to call is 904-741-4001. There are 40 rooms reserved 20 of which are Standard King and 20 which are Double Queen Standard.

First Vice President Dave Robson made the arrangements for us and Treasurer Pete Dromms signed the contract.

**See Vietnam, Page 5**



**Reunion Association  
Officers**

**President.**

Frank DiBello

[DIBELLOFP@AOL.COM](mailto:DIBELLOFP@AOL.COM)

**1st Vice President**

Dave Robson

[robson29@bellsouth.net](mailto:robson29@bellsouth.net)

**2nd Vice President**

Pete Hart

[phart\\_va@hotmail.com](mailto:phart_va@hotmail.com)

**Past President**

Bob Kelly

[B692@AOL.COM](mailto:B692@AOL.COM)

**Secretary**

Don Hayden

[editor@dd-692.com](mailto:editor@dd-692.com)

**Treasurer**

Pete Dromms

[the.chief@verizon.net](mailto:the.chief@verizon.net)

**Chaplain**

Bobby Moore

[bobbymoo71222@gmail.com](mailto:bobbymoo71222@gmail.com)

**Master-At-Arms**

H. Kelly Brown III

[KELLYB@HAL-PC.ORG](mailto:KELLYB@HAL-PC.ORG)

**Alternate Master-At-Arms**

Pete Dromms

[the.chief@verizon.net](mailto:the.chief@verizon.net)

**Directors/Terms Expire**

John Barry

- 2017 -

[barry4373@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barry4373@sbcglobal.net)

H. Kelly Brown III

- 2018 -

[KELLYB@HAL-PC.ORG](mailto:KELLYB@HAL-PC.ORG)

Joe Drabick

- 2019 -

[josephdrabick@gmail.com](mailto:josephdrabick@gmail.com)

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Hello everyone.

Hope this finds everyone in good health and spirits. The heat this year has been tough!



**Frank DiBello**

I am really looking forward to next May in Mayport. The dates are 5/07/17 through 5/10/17. This should be a great one!

It is hard to realize 50 years ago, we were in Vietnam steaming on Yankee Station with the USS Enterprise on May 7th, 1967 and that on May 10th, 1967 we were on Sea Dragon with the HMAS Hobart (Hello Colin).

I want to thank Dave, Sue and Dawn for stepping up and hosting our Mayport reunion.

They are doing a great job already with much more to come.

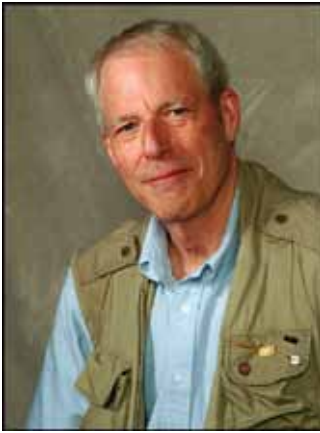
I would ask that each of you call the hotel and reserve your room ASAP.

If for some reason you are unable to attend, you will have 48 hours before your arrival date to change or cancel with no additional charge to you.

This is Very important this year because if we fill all the rooms that are now blocked, there will no charge for our Hospitality Room and Ball Room.

**See President, Page 6**





By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

Back in the day when I was a newspaper reporter we had some real “breaking news” but never referred to it this way because by the time the edition hit the streets it was technically “old news.”

The unfolding of the assassination of President John F. Kennedy was, indeed, a case of breaking news (although to my knowledge that phrase was never used).

It’s kind of like garlic and italic; they should be used sparingly.

And sure enough, it’s one of the editor’s bug-a-boos.

The “it” in this case is the phrase “breaking news.”

These days it seems that every television news-cast has at least a single instance of that phrase preceding a story - major or otherwise.

It’s almost like if there is no breaking news, there is no news, period.

And the stuff that passes for breaking news is a little suspect at times.

Plus, you can get really cute with this phrase by reporting an “update to the breaking news, we brought you earlier.”

Really?

Sometimes it’s just plain old news.

News of the above came to newspapers over the teletype (probably anyone under the age of 30 would not recognize that name) and a bell rang several times to indicate importance.

No such bell would ring for an abandoned house on fire. But it might get a breaking news designation.

Back to that garlic and italic stuff - a little goes a long way.

To really give breaking news the attention it deserves, don’t use that description all the time.

Otherwise it loses its punch.

It sort of reminds me of when crackle finish was first used on photography competition prints.

It really wowed the judges.

Then the following year when everyone entered it, not so much.

It wasn’t “breaking news” any more.

## Did You Know?

The first automated banking machine in the United States was devised by a Dallas engineer and former professional baseball player named Donald Wetzel.

Wetzel’s machine used plastic cards like the ones we use today. (Instead of radioactive ink, the cards stored account information in magnetic

strips.) In September 1969, a Chemical Bank branch on Long Island installed the first of Wetzel’s machines.

There are now more than 420,000 ATMs in the United States, totaling upwards of 3.2 billion transactions a year, according to the US Government Accountability Office; the vast majority of those transactions, to the tune of nearly 2 billion a year, are cash withdrawals.

# 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
	US Navy rear window stickers (or Retired) Specify which	\$ 5.00
	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
<b>Total Enclosed</b>		

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

## Vietnam

### Continued from Page 1

They emphasize to everyone that we have the conference room for all events for a no fee provided we fill all of the 40 reserved rooms. Failure to fill the rooms will end up costing us to pay for the conference room. So let's all do it early.

Any questions about the hotel please contact Alfonso Hernandez at (904)741-4001.

The Hampton offers free shuttle service to/from the hotel, after you get your luggage go outside to Pole 6. Once contacted, the shuttle should show up in 5 to 7 minutes.

Amenities offered by the hotel include free parking, a free hot breakfast and free high-speed internet access in every room.

The ship left Mayport, Fla. on 7 February 1967 and returned home on 11 September 1967.

According to accounts by ship webmaster/historian Fred Willshaw, the Sumner went to general quarters 115 times during its seven month deployment. Many of those times were spent at night and shipmates did not get much sleep.

"All of our food, fuel, ammunition and supplies came via underway replenishment and this too

usually occurred during the night and required most if not all of the crew," Willshaw penned.

It must also be remembered that each crewman still had a regular job to do as the ship required endless maintenance and upkeep. Frequently the Sumner was engaged in Naval Gun Fire Support, usually called for by the troops ashore.

The Sumner was taken under fire by North Vietnamese shore batteries on 12 separate occasions, receiving approximately 750 rounds of enemy fire with the closest being within 10 feet.

An NBC camera crew came aboard on one occasion and filmed a segment for the Huntley-Brinkley Evening News and the Today program.

The total number of 5-inch rounds fired in the Vietnam deployment general quarters log was listed at 7,003 although the total probably exceeded 8,000.

**Editor's Note:** *Everyone should go to Google Earth or download it and enter Mayport Naval Station in Florida and check out the ships in port.*

*They sure don't look anything like the craft we served on.*

## REUNION ASSISTANCE FUND

Are YOU a former Sumner shipmate ?

Have YOU ever wanted to go to one of our Annual Reunions ?

For those shipmates who are in need of financial assistance, the Association has created a Special Committee to help YOU out. The funds available come from donations of the Sumner crew in the hope YOU will join us.

The Fund is managed in strict confidentiality and no one other than the Committee will ever know of these transactions.

If interested and to find out more about the Fund, please contact one of the following Committee Members:

Dave Robson DAVE@DD-692.com  
(904) 287-7854

Jose Garcia JOSE@DD-692.com  
(305) 431-3027

Dale Sutber DALE@DD-692.com  
(727) 480-3646

To donate to the Fund and assist your shipmates, make your contributions (any amount is greatly appreciated) by check and send to:

USS AM Sumner Reunion Association  
301 Park Ln.

North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143

Mark the check and/or envelope "for the Reunion Assistance Fund"



**Burial at Sea for Sumner Shipmates** - The remains of George Aichele, SK2 of Alhambra, Calif. who died March 12 were among several others aboard the USS Wasp (LHD1) to be buried in the Pacific Ocean June 30.

The photo above depicts such a burial. Aichele, who served as second vice president of the Sumner Association, was a Vietnam veteran.

Another Vietnam veteran - Robert Anthony “Tony” Cowart Sr., BM1, 74 of Deland, Fla. is to be buried in a similar fashion following his death on July 21. Cowart served aboard the Sumner from 1961 to 1969. He was a former police officer.

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**President**  
**Continued from Page 2**

Also we are having special commemorative awards made for Vietnam Era shipmates who must be there to receive them. I need a head count far enough in advance to have these specially made.

Please help me make this happen. If you wait till the last minute you won't receive your award at the banquet. They will have to be ordered at a later date and you will have to pay for shipping.

Please get on the Ball and make that Call! We all need to do our part to make this happen!

Thanks!

# PHOTO GALLERY REUNION MEMORIES III CLEVELAND, OHIO





Newsletter Office  
3026 S. Cincinnati Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74114  
(918) 743-2924  
Editor.....Don Hayden  
E-Mail: [editor@dd-692.com](mailto:editor@dd-692.com)

[www.dd-692.com](http://www.dd-692.com)  
Webmaster  
Fred Willshaw  
[Fred@dd-692-com](mailto:Fred@dd-692-com)



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**Sumner Sentinel**  
3026 S. Cincinnati Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74114