



The Sumner Sentinel ©

July - August 2017
Volume IV Number 4

Plank Owner's Son Takes Over Webpage

Ron Babuka, the son of USS Allen M. Sumner Plank owner Bill Babuka has always had an interest in his father's World War II service which included a year on a sub chaser out of New York City before joining the Allen M. Sumner in Ke-
r-
army, N. J.

"I've been honored to get to know Fred Willshaw over the years and help out here and there.

Many years ago Fred asked that if he ever needed to turn over the Sumner site, would I be willing to help out. I said yes and about a month ago Fred reminded me of our talk.

I am quite happy to keep the history of the Allen M. Sumner and her crew alive through this web site," Babuka said.

He lives in upstate New York in a small town called Lansing which is about five miles north of Ithaca - the home of Cornell University. He has been employed at Cornell for 28 years on the IT side of things and currently works with the alumni

affairs and development unit supporting the software used to maintain alumni relations.

He is married and has two children - one is a daughter who is a freshman in college and the other is a son who is a junior in high school.

The daughter is a speech therapy major and a NCAA athlete playing golf for her school; the son is a accomplished baseball player whose team was recently ranked 5th in New York State.

He has two dogs - a Cocker Spaniel named Tonka and a Yellow Labrador Retriever named Thunder.

His hobbies are golf, baseball, hockey on the sporting side.

"One of my lifelong dreams have been to attend

a game at every park in the country and I am about half way there!" he said.

"I lucked out and earned my pilots license about 20 years ago and enjoy flying to hunt down

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A recent photo taken of Babuka at Cooperstown

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Greetings Fellow Shipmates,

Hope everyone is doing well. There have been a lot of unusual weather events across the country this Summer; I hope none of you have had any bad experiences from them.



Frank DiBello

Scott and Linda Kopfstein , Aleta Walters, Connie and I met in Savannah, Ga. on July 11- 13 to do research for our 2018 reunion.

Savannah is a beautiful city with a lot of history and is a very popular vacation destination. We started in the historic downtown area and quickly found we could not hold the reunion in that area, but it will be a great place to visit and enjoy!

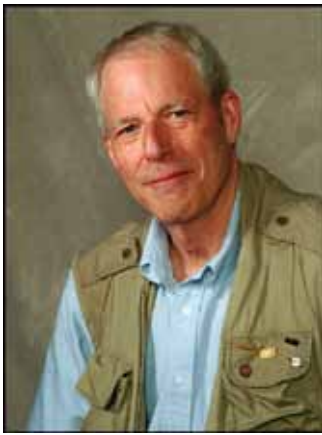
We are close to securing a hotel that is on the outskirts of the city, close to the airport that will fulfill all our needs, providing us with a great experience.

Connie and I will be attending a military reunion planning conference in Branson, Mo. We are going to learn how to plan better reunions in the future. We will be learning about new trends, such as possibly joining other ship groups with the same interests as The Sumner Association.

I will be posting information as soon as we have confirmed our 2018 Reunion plans. We will share the information we learn at the conference.

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By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

Anniversaries can be fun (unless, of course, you miss your wife's).

Not likely for me this year as come Aug.19, it will be 50 years since we walked back down the aisle together after having been pronounced husband and wife.

My wife Jane was going to start graduate school in September so we decided to get married in August; otherwise why get hitched in such a hot month.

We sometime rue our decision when we think about taking a vacation and like to do some when it's cool - certainly not August.

The Sumner's immediate past reunion marked its own 50-year anniversary - deployment from Mayport to Vietnam.

There was quite a good turnout in Jacksonville, Fla. to mark the occasion.

Every year we mark some anniversary of the ship, but the really special ones end in zero or five.

This one also noted the 55th anniversary our participation in the Cuban Missile Crisis. I was part of that piece of history but was discharged three years before the ship went to Vietnam.

We'll have to get our Sumner historian Fred Willshaw to figure out what anniversary to celebrate next year when we have our reunion in Savannah, Ga.

In addition to my own wedding anniversary I usually note the one that occurs every Fourth of July - the day I reported aboard the Sumner.

Boy, how much more patriotic can you be?

As I begin writing this column (on this year's 4th) I find myself humming a John Philip Sousa tune.

As I have so many medical problems I won't be walking to

any fireworks displays and instead stay at home and watch them on a public television channel.

I'll probably watch the one out of DC - the Capitol Fourth - sometimes hosted by Gary Sinise and find myself tearing up throughout the program.

Receiving Hard Copies of the Sumner Sentinel

Note to shipmates, wives and widows:

Hard copies of the Sumner Sentinel are only mailed to those with an "L" designation on their address label (unless they have an E-Mail address) or to those members whose dues are current and who have no E-Mail address.

All other members will receive issues electronically.

Alternatively, anyone may view/print issues by going online to www.dd-692.com and clicking on the "Reunion" tab.

This helps save the association's printing costs.

Each year (in the November-December and January-February issues), hard copies will be mailed to everyone reminding them that dues are due (except those who have renewal dates for several future years).

If you don't want to keep receiving it, let the editor, whose address is on the back page, know.

Thanks, The Editor

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 Commanger & Above</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)	\$20.00
	All Sweatshirts (Circle Size - S, M, L, XL)	\$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
	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
	For additional items go to www.dd-692.com Click the "reunion" tab then the "Ship Store" line	
Total Enclosed		

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

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

See Next Page for New Shipping Charges for Ship's Store Items

Babuka

Continued from Page 1

the best \$100 hamburger I can find in the Northeast,” he noted.

He can be reached at either wrb1@cornell.edu or ron.babuka@cornell.edu if anyone wants to chat about the site.

Shipmates should use either e-mail address when posting items to the website or other reasons.

President

Continued from Page 2

Keep your eyes on the website and the Sentinel as information becomes available!

“Fair winds and following seas”!

Frank DiBello

President

Why the VA Provides a Burial Flag

A United States flag is provided, at no cost, to drape the casket or accompany the urn of a deceased Veteran who served honorably in the U. S. Armed Forces. It is furnished to honor the memory of a Veteran’s military service to his or her country. VA will furnish a burial flag for memorialization for an other than dishonorably discharged:

- Veteran who served during wartime
- Veteran who died on active duty after May 27, 1941
- Veteran who served after January 31, 1955
- peacetime Veteran who was discharged or released before June 27, 1950
- certain persons who served in the organized military forces of the Commonwealth of the Philippines while in service of the U.S. Armed Forces and who died on or after April 25, 1951

See Flag, Next Page

Shipmate Called to Final Muster

Vietnam veteran Steve Bishop (Sumner 66-68) who served as a third class boiler technician was called to final muster July 19 following a short illness.

Funeral services for Bishop of Decatur, Ga. were held July 23 at Holy Trinity Parish.

An accounting of his illness and death can be found at www.caring-bridge.org (search for Steve Bishop). According to his wife Ellen, he died within three weeks of receiving a cancer diagnosis. It was late term and there were no treatment options.

In addition to the widow, he is survived by five children and eight grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made in his memory to a fund to renovate the kitchen at Holy Trinity.



Steve Bishop

New shipping charges associated with ship’s store purchases

Up to \$10.....	\$ 4.00
\$10.01 to \$25.00.....	\$ 7.00
\$25.01 to \$50.00.....	\$ 8.00
\$50.01 to \$75.00.....	\$10.00
\$75.01 to \$100.00.....	\$12.00
\$100.01 to \$200.00.....	\$14.00
\$200.01 to \$300.00.....	\$16.00
\$300.00 and over	\$20.00

Checks made payable to Sumner Reunion Association.

Flag

Continued from Previous Page

- certain former members of the Selected Reserves

Who Is Eligible to Receive the Burial Flag?

Generally, the flag is given to the next-of-kin, as a keepsake, after its use during the funeral service. When there is no next-of-kin, VA will furnish the flag to a friend making request for it.

For those VA national cemeteries with an Avenue of Flags, families of Veterans buried in these

national cemeteries may donate the burial flags of their loved ones to be flown on patriotic holidays.

How Should the Burial Flag Be Displayed?

The proper way to display the flag depends upon whether the casket is open or closed. VA Form 27-2008 provides the correct method for displaying and folding the flag.

The burial flag is not suitable for outside display because of its size and fabric. It is made of cotton and can easily be damaged by weather.

Horse and Carriage Tours

Public Horse & Carriage Tours are a fun and economical way to see Savannah. Take a wonderful journey through time on a fully narrated tour about Savannah's colorful History. Learn about King Cotton, the Civil War, Historical Figures and Events that changed America, and what makes Savannah one of America's favorite cities.

And all for just \$23.

Clip clop along at a steady pace, under the moss draped oak trees, through the timeless squares that are surrounded with Stately Mansions and Beautiful Churches. Hear the tales of the colorful citizens of Savannah told by Savannah's best licensed tour guides.

- Fully narrated horse drawn carriage ride through the streets of Savannah.
- Tours run hourly 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. weather and traffic permitting, 7 days a week.
- Duration: 45 - 50 minutes.
- History focused tours operate from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
- Ghost focused tours typically run from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m.
- Combo Tours (History & Ghost) typically start at 6 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Your engaging guide will regale you with stories about the history and charm of the Hostess City of the South.

Typical group size is 8 people per carriage.

Historic On and Off Trolley Tour of Savannah

For \$31 hop on and hop off this trolley tour at more than 15 stops to explore Savannah's most important attractions.

Get a comprehensive tour while listening to engaging narration about Savannah's history, culture, and people.

Make your way to the trolley departure point at 250 Martin Luther King Boulevard, anytime between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. A trolley departs every 20 minutes.

Climb on board and begin learning about the history and culture of Savannah as you ride between the 15 stops.

Hop off at any stop Savannah's historic district to explore further on foot with a flexible schedule to suit your pace and interests.

Stops include River Street, the City Market, the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, and others.

Brightwork originally referred to polished metal objects, and bright woodwork to wood which was kept scraped and scrubbed, especially topside. Bright it should be and work it is.

PHOTO GALLERY REUNION MEMORIES JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA

The Good



The Bad



And The Ugly



USS Allen M. Sumner, DD-692
The Vietnam Crew
29th Annual Reunion - May 7 to May 10
Hampton Inn, Jacksonville, Fla.



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