



The Sumner Sentinel ©

March - April 2018
Volume V Number 2

Speaker Served on 6 of 7 Continents

Captain J. M. Branch who currently serves as the Commanding Officer of Air Station Savannah, Ga., was born in a US Army hospital in Augsburg, West Germany in 1972.

Capt. Branch now has over 3,500 hours of flight experience, has served at six air stations and has been deployed to six of the seven continents.

He moved back to the States with his family in 1974 where he spent most of his childhood just outside the gates of Air Station Houston. After four years of volunteer firefighting and watching the Coast Guard helicopters launch, he left for the Coast Guard Academy where he earned his bachelor's degree in Management in 1995.

From 1995 to 1997, Capt. Branch was stationed back home in Galveston, Texas aboard the USCGC Dauntless (WMEC 624) as the First Lieutenant and Deck Watch Officer. The next stop was

Naval Air Station Pensacola where he earned his rotary aviator wings in 1998.

After flight school, Capt. Branch was assigned to Group/Air Station Port Angeles, Washington. There, he flew the HH-65A helicopter and earned designation as an Aircraft Captain. He was next transferred in 2002 to the Polar Operations Division at Aviation Training Center Mobile, Ala. where he deployed to Antarctica as part of AV-DET 157 aboard the USCGC POLAR SEA.

In 2003, Capt. Branch was selected for the Aviation Engineering program and was transferred to Air Station Traverse City, Mich. as the Assistant Engineering Officer. There, he qualified in HH-65B's as an Aircraft Captain, Instructor Pilot, and Flight Examiner.

From 2006 to 2008, he migrated west again to assume the duties of Aviation Engineering Officer for Air Station Los Angeles, Calif. During this tour, he qualified in the HH-65C and continued his duties as an Instructor pilot and Flight Examiner.

In 2008, Capt. Branch was selected to attend Texas A&M University where he earned his master's degree in Systems Engineering. After graduation, he was recruited to the newly formed DCMS-5, Mission Support Integration team at Coast Guard Headquarters (CGHQ) to help stand up the new modernization effort for the Coast Guard.

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Capt. J. M. Branch

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- 2020 -

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

May is coming fast. We can't wait to see everyone in SAVANNAH. There is so much history there and lots of good old "Southern Hospitality" to be enjoyed, not to mention the delicious food.



Frank DiBello

I feel privileged that we are going to get to hold our Memorial Service on the base, using their chapel and then going on a bus tour with a tour guide. With all the bad things and turmoil that is going on in the world today, we should really consider it an honor to be allowed on the base.

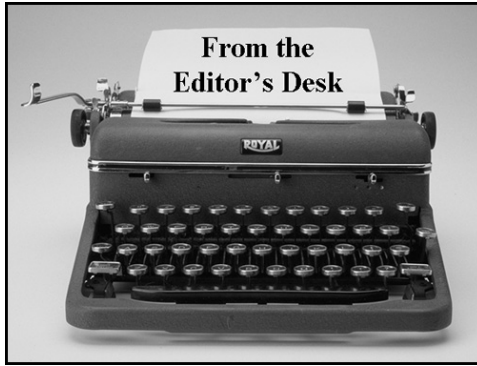
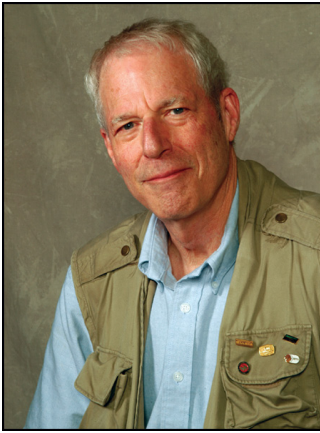
I understand some of our people are questioning why we have to use our middle names for registration. Rules are made to be followed and for a reason in the military. It is not our position to question why, but to be grateful that we are being allowed to get on base. I am sure

Security has these rules to protect us, not aggravate us! By using our middle name it helps to identify us if we furnish more info about us. Example: there might be a boatload of people named Frank DiBello, but not many named Frank Pete DiBello.

So please be helpful and include your Full Name as on IDs on your registration forms, so that Don, Pete & Scotty can get all the correct info the base commander has asked us to furnish before we arrive so that we might all be allowed on the base, as per protocol.

Thank you for helping us to make this a great reunion to remember.





By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

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 newscast 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.

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).

The abandoned house on fire, probably not so much.

much.

It wasn't "breaking news" any more.

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 it all the time.

Otherwise it loses its punch.

It sort of reminds me of when a crackle finish was first used on prints used in competition at my photographic conventions.

It really wowed the judges.

Then the following year when everyone entered using it, not so

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- 30th Annual Reunion
REGISTRATION FORM

Savannah, Ga. 06-09 May, 2018 (Sunday-Wednesday)

Print names as they are to appear on nametags. Include Middle Names!*

Name _____

Spouse or guest _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Served on Sumner from _____ to _____

Rate or Rank on Sumner _____

No. of people attending reunion. _____ x \$135= _____
2018 (or more) Dues (specify year(s)) _____ + \$15@ _____

Total _____

Checks made out to: USS A. M. Sumner Association

Mail to: Pete Dromms, Treasurer
301 Park Ln.
North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143

Questions?? Call Frank DiBello @ 281-332-1157

* Food allergies or special dietary REQUIREMENTS?

List here _____

USS Allen Reunion Association
Summer Memorial Service

Order of Service
08 May 2018
1000hrs

Welcome	President
Presentation of Colors	US Army 3rd Infantry Division – Color Guard
National Anthem	3d ID Band Member
Invocation	Chaplain (MAJ) Wilson Hunter AAF Garrison Chaplain
Introduction of Speaker	President
Message	LTC Kenneth Dwyer Hunter AAF Garrison Commander
Passing of the Memorial Wreath	(Everyone attending from the USS Allen M.Sumner and most of all our Vietnam vets, this is our 30th reunion and our memorial service is a very important part of our reunion. We remember all those that died during a kamikaze strike during World War II and also our shipmates that have passed since our last reunion.)
“On Being the Navy Hymn”	3d ID Brass Quintet
Rifle Volley	3d ID
Taps	3d ID Band Member
Closing Prayer	Chaplain Bobby More USS Allen Reunion Association Chaplain

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"

Itinerary (Subject to Change)

Sunday May 6 - PM Hospitality Suite opens, Registration, Bar opens, Silent Auction begins

Monday May 7 - 0900 Annual Business Meeting|

1730 - Annual Banquet, Speaker and Music

What to wear

Men Dress Blues or Suit and Tie

Women - Cocktail Dress or Pants Suit

Tuesday May 8 - TBD Memorial Service

What to wear

Be patriotic and casual (no high heels)

Wednesday May 9 - Farewell Breakfast

Branch

Continued from Page 1

In 2010, the Director of Operational Logistics (DOL) command was formed in Norfolk, Va. and he was drafted to support the stand up as a member of the DOL-4 team. Working from CGHQ, he developed and implemented the expeditionary logistics support infrastructure for USCG assets engaged in joint operations around the globe which earned him designation as a finalist for the prestigious Defense Logistician of the Year Award.

In 2013, he received orders to Air Station Detroit, Mich. as the executive officer and qualified in the MH-65C and MH-65D aircraft.

His various awards include the two Meritorious Service Medals, the Korea Defense Service Medal, two Commendation medals, the Antarctic Service Medal, and the Achievement Medal.

Capt. Branch is married to Melissa Lee Branch, formerly of Houston, Texas. They have four children: Will, Pierce, Sophia, and Colten.

Membership Renewal Form

Due to changes in the structure of our organization shipmates need to be aware of whether or not they have renewed membership. Our membership year is based on a regular calendar year. If the year '18, 19 or greater or L, etc. after your name on the newsletter mailing label does not reflect the **Reunion** year, you need to renew your membership.

This form will appear in the November-December and January-February issues of this newsletter and note that you need to renew your membership in the USS Allen M. Sumner Reunion Association. If you cannot afford the \$15, send what you can (if anything) as we will not deny a shipmate membership because of a hardship. And no one else needs to know.

If you are a member in good standing, you should have a permanent plastic membership card.

This was issued to you when you became a member. If you do not have one, contact Pete Dromms, Reunion Association Treasurer at 301 Park Ln., North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143

Name_____ Spouse_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____ - _____
(A/C)_____ Primary Phone_____ Other Phone_____ Fax_____
E-Mail Address_____
Years on Sumner - From_____ To_____
Rate/Rank on Sumner_____
Retired from Navy (Yes/No)_____
Retired Rate or Rank _____
Other info you wish to share _____

Make Checks Payable to USS A.M. Sumner Association Send to: USS A.M. Sumner Association, 301 Park Ln., North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143



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If you are going to change your address (e-mail or physical), or no longer wish to receive the newsletter, let the editor and webmaster know.



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