



The Sumner Sentinel ©

May - June 2018
Volume V Number 3

Lieutenant Colonel Refuses to take Discharge

Although Lt. Col. Kenneth M. Dwyer could have taken a medical discharge he wanted to stay in the army fighting.

We can't begin to thank him enough for the hospitality he gave the Sumner Association for our Memorial Service.

Dwyer's awards include: Silver Star Medal, Purple Heart, Bronze Star Medal, Meritorious Service Medal (4th award), Army Commendation Medal (3rd award), Army Achievement Medal, Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB), Combat Infantry Badge (CIB), Air Assault Badge, Basic Airborne Badge, Combat Diver Qualification Badge, Ranger Tab and Special Forces Tab. We wonder

where he had room for all the awards.

He even participated in our memorial wreath passing which was transported to Charleston.

The wreath was then taken out to sea on May 10, 2018 to position 32-34.77N by 079-40.44W where it was deployed by Chinook (WPB-87308), an 82 ft. Patrol Boat used in Vietnam at sea.



Lt. Col. Dwyer a



Crew in the Chapel - After a particularly stirring message by Lt. Col. Kenneth M. Dwyer, the Sumner crew gathered up for a group photograph,

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Greetings to Everyone. W O W !!!

I hope everyone is back home, safe, and back to your normal routine.



Frank DiBello

The Savannah Reunion is one that remain in our memories forever. Who would have ever thought that when Scotty and Linda, Connie and I met in Savannah in July last year, we would be making preparations for one of the best reunions in our history.

What started out as a bad “outlook,” ended up being one of our best reunions in our history! We went from hotels that didn’t want our business, to the Embassy Suites that opened their arms to us and bending the rules to let us do things our way.

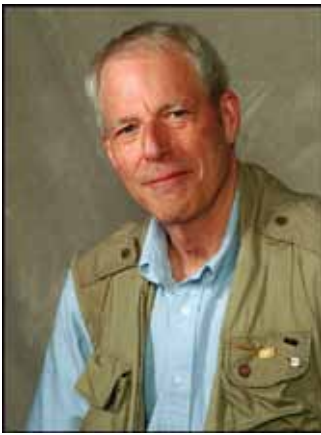
After we settled on the hotel late Wednesday we went back to the hotel, to do our “game plan.” We were staying near the Hunter Army Air Field.

Connie and I had to head back to Texas early Thursday morning, so Scotty said he was going to take Linda to the base and see what he might be able to work up for the Memorial Service since his flight on “Buzzard Airlines” didn’t leave until late Thursday evening. Well, THANK YOU Scotty and Linda!!!

Because of your perseverance, we had one of the best Memorial Services I’ve ever seen.

See President, Page 4





By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

I think the word I'm looking for is irony! On the virtual eve of attending a Sumner reunion in a hotel that includes a full made-to-order hot breakfast complete with omelets, scrambled eggs, bacon and home fries, I get diagnosed with gall stones.

At least it turned out that I could wait until I got back home to schedule the surgery to remove the offending gall bladder.

Fred "Stores" Willshaw said his operation was a "piece of cake" and that he was in the hospital at 6:30 a.m. and out before noon.

He did admit that that was 19 years ago.

And he's given up the web page after doing it for 19 years because of an eye problem

Well it turned out to not be as simple as everyone thought - at least not in my case.

I had to be at the hospital at 0530 for 0700 surgery. I was the first one up.

Everything was going fine and I was released later in the day. Things went to hell the next day. I got up and promptly fell and had to be taken by ambulance to the emergency room and eventually to the ICU where I spent several days. Later I was transferred to the stroke floor.

My wife decided she needed more troops and asked my sister (who lives in Maine) for help.

I was then sent to a rehab facility on June 6 (we all remember that day) and stayed until I was

deemed strong enough to leave June 17.

Boy it seems like it is just one thing after another.

In late October last year I had eye surgery for a cataract lens that had come unfixed. The original surgery as in 2002.

Well, since the lens is pretty small, my eyes had to be super dilated so the surgeons could see what they were doing.

Evidently the lens didn't back perfectly, and since a scratch on the cornea had to heal the eye doctors thought they could fix the problem with eye drops.

At the writing of this column (June) I have not driven my car - a prohibition not by the physicians, but my wife.

But, after seeing a retina specialist it appears that the left eye will never improve. So I think she will probably relent knowing there are a lot of folks that drive with one eye.

So probably I'll have to go to one of the big city parks to reorient myself hopefully before it comes time to go to Branson.

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.

President

Continued from Page 1

They met with Public Relations Officer, Stephen Hart, who started the procedure to have our Memorial Service and tour of the base. POC Action Officer Lt. Cody W. Ford brought us to Lieutenant Colonel Kenneth M. Dwyer, Commander U.S. Army Garrison, Hunter Army Airfield. We can't begin to thank him enough for the hospitality he gave the Sumner Association for our Memorial Service.

Thanks to the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division Color Guard. Thanks to Major C.H. Wilson, Hunter Army Airfield Garrison Chaplain.

Thanks to the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division Brass Quintet. U.S. 3rd Infantry Division Rifle Volley.

Thanks to the U.S. Army 3rd Infantry Division Band Member playing "Taps" and U.S. Navy hymn "Eternal Father."

Thanks to the base for allowing us to eat with the troops in their Mess Hall. Many thanks for the tour of the Flight Line, which was very informative and interesting to all.

I also want to thank our Memorial Banquet guest speaker Commander Tim Eason, Executive Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Air Station Savannah, who not only shared great information with us at our Banquet, then joined us for our Memorial Service, but then went the EXTRA mile and took our Memorial Wreath and personally had it flown to Charleston, South Carolina, where it was delivered to the U.S.C.G.C. Chinook (WPB-87308), an 82 ft. Patrol Boat used in Vietnam with the Sumner. (See photos, next page.)

The wreath was then taken out to sea on May 10, 2018 to position 32-34.77N by 079-40.44W where it was deployed at sea. Thank you, Commander Tim Eason for completing the Memorial Service by having our Wreath taken to sea.

On behalf of the U.S.S. Allen M. Sumner Association we would like to Thank ALL of you that made our Memorial Service such a Great Event.

Looking forward to seeing everybody in Branson, The Most PATRIOTIC Town in America, May 5th through the 8th, 2019.

Fair Winds and Following Seas

Francis Hart came across this news clipping



The departure of our boys to foreign parts with the ever-present possibility that they might never return, taught the real value of photography to every father and mother. To many a mother the photograph of her boy in his country's uniform was the one never-failing consolation.

~Louis Fabian Bachrach

Going Beyond with the Memorial Wreath

From CDR Tim Eason
Executive Officer
USCG Air Station Savannah
To Frank DiBello
President

Allen M. Sumner Reunion Association

Good afternoon Frank,
Thank you again for the opportunity to join the distinguished veterans of the USS Allen M. Sumner!

It was truly an honor and a pleasure to spend the evening with you all and to participate in the Memorial service.

After we spoke about Coast Guard WPB's (82' patrol boats) in Vietnam service alongside the

Sumner, I thought it only appropriate that the wreath would be deployed at sea by the local WPB. The USCGC Chinook (WPB-87308) is an 87' patrol boat homeported here in Savannah.

CHINOOK deployed the USS Allen M. Sumner memorial wreath off Charleston, SC on May 10, 2018 in position 32-34.77N by 079-40.44W.

We received a request to drop a memorial wreath at sea for the destroyer USS Allen M Sumner DD-692. The XO attended their annual ceremony for the remaining crew members and they asked to put it over the side.

If you ever find yourself in Savannah and need anything, please don't hesitate to call.



Brennan Howard and CS2 Joseph Chandler

Once again the Sumner Association is back in donating to the **USS Laffey DD-724**, homeported at Patriot's Point in Charleston, SC. Laffey is the sole remaining Symner class destroyer on display in the United States. Here is a letter we received following receipt of the donation.

Peter Dromms, Treasurer
USS Allen M. Sumner, DD-692
Reunion Association

Dear Mr. Dromms;

I would first of all would like to apologize for my tardiness in responding to your generous gift of \$500 from your association for the continued preservation of the USS Laffey.

On May 17, 2018, I went through a total right knee replacement and continued therapy without any pain medicine is not easy, especially when one's biological make up is not susceptible to pain meds,

Without your generous donation like this our work parties that we have which is anywhere between 2-4 per year, would cease to exist it seems that it was the same "ole" people that would volunteer at these work parties, but just recently

we have been getting a steady influx of a younger group of people who are showing an interest in Naval History and its preservation.

The monetary contributions we receive go towards purchasing supplies, materials, tools, etc. for the Laffey. We always shine over any other ships at Patriot's Point.

Considering the age of the crew that come from all over the country and the fact that we spend our own money to get there and also bring our own materials is a testimonial as to our love for the Laffey.

Again, I want to thank you for your contribution. Our reunion will be held Sept. 30 - Oct. 4 at Charleston, SC this year. Our Fall work party will be held from November 3 – 10, 2018. If you are anywhere in the area during those times, please make it a point to spend some time with us.

Christopher Kirhagis, President

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"

PHOTO GALLERY REUNION MEMORIES VOL. I SAVANNAH, GEORGIA

*By
Pete
Dromms*





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