



# The Sumner Sentinel ©

January - February 2019  
Volume VI Number 1

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## Speaker Once Given a Choice: Jail or Service

Chief Electricians Mate Carl A. Dietrich, USN, Retired probably would see the irony of once being on the edge of becoming a Colorado inmate and later being in the Shore Patrol.

Dietrich, who admits to being a rebellious teenager and getting into quite a bit of trouble during his senior year of high school was given me him the option of being a “guest of being in the Colorado penal system for a few years or, if he was in the Armed Forces of his choice within 48 hours, the charges would be dropped.

The next day found him on his way to Denver making his way to the Navy recruiting center. After several hours of indoctrination, exams, etc, he was on his way to San Diego Naval Training Center. At 1130 that same night he was sound asleep in a rack in a drafty old barracks.

After boot camp he was assigned to train as a hospital corpsman. After schooling, I was assigned to the USS Maggoffin (APA-199). Two years later I received orders to the Amphibious Base, for a year of Shore Patrol.

Dietrich is going to be both our banquet and memorial speaker and while not charging us a fee, we will be “passing the hat” to collect money for him.

Although he finished his career as a third class petty officer, he soon reenlisted and was assigned as a Enlisted Aide to Admr. Elliott Bloxom at

the Naval Supply Center. I was promoted to E-5 within a year and because of my relationship with the Admiral.

He convinced me to change my rating to help me when I retired. I choose to train as a electrician and went to San Diego for six months schooling.

Incidentally, prior to this I applied as candidate for Huey pilot training The Admiral championed my request and I was almost ready to go when I had to be interviewed by the Ft Schofield Commander. He informed me that my scores were acceptable and as soon as He penned his name to this paper I was on my way.

He then said, as a matter for the record, that If I failed flight school (the washout rate was 66 percent), I would be placed in the US Army Infantry. I subsequently went to San Diego.

Graduating, I received orders to River Squadron Thirteen. I received training at Vallejo, Calif. for four months and then was sent to Vietnam. On the rivers of Vietnam, I received a meritorious promotion to E-6 and was awarded over 30 medals and commendations, including the Purple Heart.

Upon completion of my Vietnam service, I served in San Diego aboard a Tug Boat, later transferring to the USS Lynde McCormick (DD-8). I met my wife of 43 years there and we were married a year later.

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Greetings to the Summer Family

I hope this finds everyone in good health and good spirits. I am glad to report that Connie is improving every week. She says to tell everybody she plans on seeing everybody in Branson.



**Frank DiBello**

She really looks forward to receiving the cards that you have been sending her. It really picks her up every time she gets one.

You should hear her brag to the nurses and the therapist about her SUMNER FAMILY.

She especially wants to thank everyone for the prayers y'all are sending her way.

We will be going to the best military friendly town in America for this reunion. I can't begin to describe all the things to do in Branson, not to mention the Johnny Morris' huge Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium in Springfield Missouri.

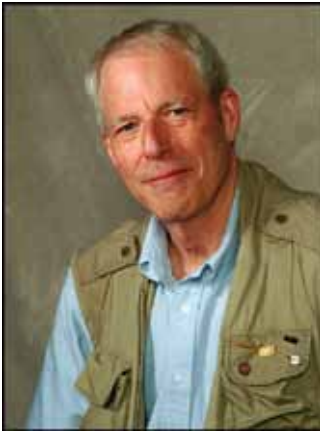
I would suggest allowing a few extra days for sights and sounds to enjoy in the area.

Thanks to everyone who has already made their reservations. I encourage anyone who hasn't already done so, to please do so.

Looking forward to seeing y'all in Branson!

Fair winds and following seas to all.





By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

Except for the next reunion in Seattle I have not missed one yet!

And I can't imagine not going with all the friends I have made.

Eventually I got to do this newsletter - The Sumner Sentinel - as writing is my passion. It already had a name but I liked mine better - just love alliterations.

I was already doing a supplemental newsletter when the association decided to change things

up a bit and Joe Gall decided to retire.

That move necessitated getting a secretary and treasurer and a bona fide newsletter editor.

Our president - Frank DiBello - nominated me as secretary and Pete Dromms as treasurer.

My position (the newsletter one I mean) could be considered fluff but Pete's is the real deal - the association has some real accountability.

With my health being such an issue (strokes, heart attacks, bladder cancer, loss of left eye vision)

I decided not to run for reelection for Secretary - that job now goes to Scotty Kopstein.

But I still maintain the membership database and the printing of our various pieces of literature like literary brochures.

Scotty can take minutes of the meetings.

I am so looking forward to our reunion in Branson - it was the scene of my first reunion in 2005.

I received all the newsletters that Chief Joe Gall penned through the years and almost attended the reunion in Portland, Maine as my sister lives in Norway Maine.

(Later I saw that Bill Juzwiakowski attended that one shortly before he got married to Jocelyn.)

I really didn't think I was like I would like attending the reunion, but since I didn't live that far away from (about five hours from Tulsa to Branson) thought I would give it a shot.

That was in 2005.

And I was able to reacquaint myself with Bill and meet Jocelyn.

And as the fishermen would say "the hook was set."

## For your musical listening and or dancing pleasure

About the banquet:  
Since we will not be having a band or DJ and we will be using the Speaker/Karaoke machine that we bought at last year's business meeting that people need to know if they desire to bring music to play they will need it to be in one of two formats:

One, if you have it on anything that can be connected via a USB port is good, Two, if you want to bring it on an SD card it will have to be a Micro SD Card.

# 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

# N.C. Shipmate Passes

Gerald L. “Jerry” Williamson, 70 (FN 69-71) of Hickory, N.C., died Jan. 20. He and his son Brian attended a few reunions together and Brian said his dad wore his Sumner hat everywhere he went!



**Gerald Williamson**

Jerry was a member of Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church in Hickory and owner of Arrow Trademark, Inc. He was a United States Navy veteran and a member of American Legion Post 48. Jerry was known for being a jokester, and was a model train enthusiast, antique car collector,

animal lover and volunteered with the Boy Scouts.

In addition to Brian, survivors include his wife of 46 years Pamela “Pam” Loftin Williamson of the home, a daughter Wendy W. Lloyd of Sanford, a sister Madeline W. Townsend of Taylorsville and two grand children

A gathering of family and friends followed by military honors by American Legion Post 48 was held on, Feb. 2, at Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church in Hickory.

Memorials may be made to Mt. Bethel United Methodist Church, 9042 N.C. Hwy 127, Hickory, NC 28601 and the Humane Society of Catawba County, P.O. Box 63, Hickory, NC 28603

The Bennett Funeral Service of Conover, N.C. was in charge of arrangements.

## 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 Surber 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”

## Senior Chief Corpsman Dies

Wiley “Doc” N. Boland (65-67) served in World War II, Korea and Vietnam and retired as a Senior Chief Corpsman. Among his many services to the association was serving as our president.

Wiley died in Mississippi in February 2019. Born in the Houlika community of Chickasaw County in 1922, he later moved to Pontotoc County, attended Pontotoc High School.

He was awarded a General Education Development (GED) Degree while in the Navy. Funeral services were held p.m. Feb. 14 at Zion Baptist Church in Pontotoc.




# Free 2019 Branson, Missouri Coupons & Discounts Package

The Branson Premium Coupon Package is the first and only coupon package of its kind in Branson, Missouri and it's absolutely FREE to you! We want you to have a great time in Branson and we'll help you do it for less! Each Premium Coupon Package contains a Branson Guest Card - this card comes in a book that's chock full of great deals, including FREE popcorn at several theatres in Branson, discounts on gift shop merchandise, savings on shopping and dining, and even discounted gasoline! Our Branson Premium Coupon Package giveaway is valued at more than \$5,000, saving you money everywhere it really counts, like at Branson's best restaurants, shows, and attractions, and even valuable discounts on dining and shopping!

## Claim Your Free Branson Premium Coupons & Discounts Package!

 Your information is safe. See our [Privacy Policy](#).

- ✓ FREE Branson Guest Card (\$39 value)
- ✓ FREE \$5 Gift Certificate to St. James Winery
- ✓ FREE Full-Color Branson Map
- ✓ FREE Tanger Outlets Coupons
- ✓ FREE 100+ Area Brochures
- ✓ FREE Branson Landing Guide
- ✓ FREE Historic Downtown Branson Map & Guide
- ✓ FREE Branson, Missouri's Official Vacation Guide
- ✓ FREE 150+ Bonus Branson Printable Coupons

 **Claim Your Coupon Package**

If you prefer, call 877-316-3884  
and we'll take care of you over the phone.

USS ALLEN M. SUMNER- 31st Annual Reunion  
REGISTRATION FORM

Branson, Mo. 06-09 May 5-May 8, 2019 (Sunday-Wednesday)

\*Print names as they are to appear on Nametags!

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 \$125= \_\_\_\_\_  
2019 (or more) Dues (specify year(s)) \_\_\_\_\_ + \$15@ \_\_\_\_\_

Total \_\_\_\_\_

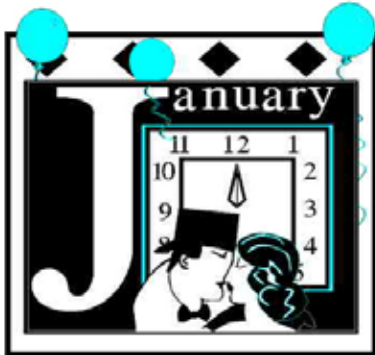
Checks made out to: USS A. M. Sumner Association

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 \_\_\_\_\_



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