



# The Sumner Sentinel ©

March - April 2019  
Volume VI Number 2

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## Branson: Never Run Out of Things to do

**P**lethora - (noun) meaning excess or over abundance and could be used to describe attractions in Branson, Missouri - site of our 2019 reunion.

All in a nice way of course.

A year or so after our last time in Branson (2005), the Titanic Museum was constructed - one the editor really wanted to see - maybe this time.



Step aboard a detailed replica of the Titanic with your admission ticket to the Titanic Museum Branson in Missouri. During your self-guided tour, see hallways, cabins, parlors and the Grand

Staircase, which have been carefully reproduced as they were on the Titanic.

The Titanic Museum Branson vividly recounts the story of the famous ship with exhibits that feature more than 400 artifacts that belonged to the ship and its passengers.

You can also touch a real iceberg, stand on sloping decks that replicate the Titanic's final

moments, and more for the fee of \$28.50.

Included in the exhibits: a room where you can touch an authentic iceberg and experience the chill of the icy waters where the Titanic sank. Walk along decks that slope at the same angle as the decks when the ship went down.

After making your own way to the Titanic Museum Branson, simply exchange your voucher at the box office for your admission ticket. The ticket comes in the form of a boarding pass, which you use to begin your self-guided tour.

With your boarding pass, you'll receive a brief biography of one of the Titanic's passengers or crew members, with details about their lives and time aboard the Titanic.

**See Titanic, Page 4**

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Greetings to the Summer Family

I hope everyone is as excited as I am about going to our 31st reunion in Branson - called the most military friendly town in



**Frank DiBello**

America. There are a lot of great shows to take in and plenty of sights to see not to mention the museums that are there. I plan on spending one day in Springfield at the Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.

Connie is doing a little better each week. She is walking some with the aid of a Physical Therapist. She wants to thank everyone for your cards and prayers, they really lift her up!!!

Some fun things to see include:

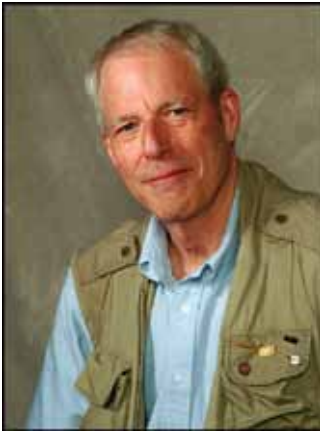
- Titanic Museum - 18 min walk
- Tanger Outlets - 9 min walk
- White Water - 29 min walk
- Dolly Parton's Stampede Dinner Attraction - 30 min walk
- Highway 76 Strip - 1 min walk
- King's Castle Theater - 3 min walk
- Andy Williams Moon River Theater - 6 min walk

Be sure to say a prayer for everyone and their families on the Binnacle list.

Looking forward to seeing y'all in Branson!

Fair winds and following seas to all.





By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

**O**n Feb. 16 the USS Tulsa (LCS 16) - an Independence-class Littoral combat ship designed to patrol coastlines - was commissioned in San Francisco, Calif.

The event was shown on television and streamed at the local American Legion post. All the local news stations captured the commissioning and following it interviewed veterans who had gathered to watch.

I was one of the lucky ones - identified as the Sumner Sentinel editor.

At the Legion Post 1 Hayden talked about attending navy reunions and queried "How many of us sailors that go to these things have ships named after our city?" Not that many. So I like that; it's great."

Hayden served in the Navy for four years - from 1960 to 1964. The last time Tulsa had a namesake ship was nearly two decades before his service - in 1946.

He watched the ceremony alongside fellow veterans and their families, eyes locked on the screen. He mouthed the words to Anchors Aweigh and The Star Spangled Banner, and got emotional when reflecting on the events of the day.

"Sometimes when they play The Star Spangled Banner at a football game, that's just okay,"

Hayden said. "But when they do it in this kind of setting, I get overcome. It just brings a tear."

The ceremony itself lasted about an hour. Watching the new ship being boarded by her crew reminded Hayden of his Navy days, and he wishes the best to those sailors with all new adventures ahead of them.

"There will be some challenges, and there will be some thrilling days," Hayden said, "but I wish them well, and I hope they stay under God's cloak, and nothing bad befalls them."

Speakers at the ceremony reflected on Tulsa's history and its place in the U.S.

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## Earthquake Aftermath

My wife and I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude and appreciation to the Sumner Association and all of the members for your generous gifts after the Nov. 30 7.0 magnitude earthquake that occurred in our hometown of Anchorage/Eagle River.

We experienced major damages from the quake as it was the closest to the epicenter. At this writing there are recorded over 750 buildings that were damaged of which 360 homes are now uninhabitable.

Thankfully, ours was not one of the uninhabitable, however, we did sustain substantial damage.

Your generous gift is a blessing in that it will greatly assist us in the repairs towards the damages as the insurance doesn't cover any of it. Our heartfelt thanks and appreciation to all of you.

We wish you all God's Blessing and look forward to seeing you in Branson.

Sincerely,

Ron (Sumner '68-'69) and Ricki Jovanovich

## Titanic

### Continued from Page 1

At the end of your tour, you'll enter the Memorial Room and

discover the fate of your assigned person.

Upon entering, you'll gain insights into the size and scale of the original ship. The Branson version is ½ scale. Walk through multiple exhibit rooms in cabins, hallways and parlors to learn about the ship and its passengers.

Admire the grand staircase, valued at one million dollars, which has been meticulously recreated aboard this model ship. Third-class cabins, first-class suites and other areas have been built to original scale.

Visitors may spend as much time as desired at the museum, gaining insight into one of the most famous shipwrecks of recent history.



A mere 45 miles north of the hotel is the Wonders of Wildlife Museum Located next to Bass Pro Shops National Headquarters in Springfield, Missouri the campus is a centerpiece of America's Conservation Capital in Missouri's Ozark Mountains.

Created by noted conservationist and Bass Pro Shops founder/CEO Johnny Morris, the 350,000-square-foot experience celebrates those who hunt, fish, and act as stewards of the land and water. A really spectacular museum, it is home to 1.5 million gallons of freshwater and saltwater aquariums. Signature exhibits include a massive

“open ocean” ring-shaped aquarium and the two-story Shipwreck Room where guests can touch stingrays on the ocean floor.

The museum marks the 213th anniversary of the completion of the historic Lewis and Clark expedition, which are one of many milestones featured inside Wonders of Wildlife.

The Wonders of Wildlife ticket includes entry to Aquarium Adventure, where you'll find over 350,000 square feet filled with over a mile of trail that passes by over 800 species of live fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds and more; AND entry to Wildlife Galleries, transporting you to the wildest places on earth with an exciting and inspirational journey around the world celebrating people who hunt, fish and act as stewards of the land and water.

Average journey time is 3-4 hours.

Tickets: Children (ages 4-11) \$23.95 Adults \$39.95

Aquarium Adventure Only

Dive in to a world-class aquarium adventure featuring 1.5 million gallons of freshwater and saltwater habitats teeming with 35,000 live fish, mammals, reptiles, amphibians and birds.

Average journey time is 2 hours.

Tickets: Children (ages 4-11) \$19.95 Adults \$29.95

Wildlife Galleries Only

Fully immersive wildlife galleries transport you to the wildest places on earth in an exciting and educational trip showcasing the history of the conservation movement.

Explore Penguin Cove in the Wildlife Galleries!

Average journey time is 1 hour.

Tickets: Children (ages 4-11) \$9.95 Adults \$14.95

Hours of Operation (for reunion dates and subject to change) Sunday through Wednesday 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.

**Continued on next page**



Want something a little closer to Branson? How about a Main Street Lake Cruise.

Looking for a great time at Branson Landing with a different point of view? Head towards the Branson Landing Fountains to find this lake cruise. Join in for a truly unique dinner or sight-seeing cruise with friends or family or reserve your special date for your wedding, corporate, or group event. Come aboard for unparalleled cruising fun on historic Lake Taneycomo.

The Lake Queen is a modern day replica of the grand riverboats which used to ply the White River.

As the Lake Queen paddles along the shores of Lake Taneycomo, your guide will explain facts and trivia of the historical and present day Branson waterfront, along with local points of interest.

Lunch is available on the 12:45pm and the 2:45pm cruise with advance reservation. Enjoy a Jumbo ham or turkey croissant sandwich, homemade kettle chips, a large sugar cookie, and unlimited tea or coffee.

Experience Branson's beauty and charm while cruising aboard a luxury yacht. Windows line the Princess' two climate controlled entertainment decks providing spectacular views from any seat in the house.

Aboard the Landing Princess, enjoy a wonderfully elegant dinner of pork tenderloin w/apple béchamel, pan seared chicken w/lemon garlic cream sauce, garlic mashed potatoes, country style green beans, dinner roll and triple layer chocolate cake for dessert, and unlimited tea or coffee.

For the convenience of guests, the Landing Princess and Lake Queen have on-board restroom facilities and are handicap accessible.

Tours last about two hours and will depart from Main Street Marina down at the Branson Landing near Bass Pro in Historic Downtown Branson

- Confirmation will be received at time of booking
- Minimum drinking age is 21 years

- Refunds will not be issued if tour/activity is missed due to late or non-arrival of cruise ship
  - Dietary restrictions can be accommodated.
- Please contact local supplier no less than 24 hours in advance of cruise to make arrangements.
- Wheelchair accessible, please contact local supplier by phone if wheelchair assistance is required



Your tickets will be held at the box office for collection on the day of the performance

Here are just a few of the incredible things you will find when you visit Historic Downtown Branson including

- 100+ LIVE shows!
- 30+ theatres and performance venues!
- 200+ restaurants and dining establishments!
- 100s of shops, stores, and boutiques!
- 70+ attractions and things to do!
- 12+ world-class golf courses!
- 3 beautiful lakes!

## **Did You Know?**

The fouled anchor was adopted as the official seal of Lord High Admiral Charles Lord Howard of Effingham during the late 1500s. A variation of the seal had been in use by the Lord High Admiral of Scotland about a century earlier.

# *Branson Dinosaur Museum*

Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with adult admission priced at \$9.95, and children \$4.95, take your vacation back in time and see over 45-life-sized dinosaur replicas. You'll learn about dinosaurs on a self-guided tour in a friendly environment.

This museum brings dinosaurs up-close-and-personal...from the small, four-winged micro-apter; a dinosaur that measured only one-foot-tall, and was the most abundant of non-bird dinosaurs...to everyone's favorite, the enormous tyrannosaurus rex, fondly referred to as T Rex; a beast with a massive skull, balanced by a long, heavy tail.

These carefully constructed creatures are exquisitely detailed. That detail is courtesy of talented

paleo-artists who used actual dinosaur bones to mold these incredible bodies.

Spend as much time as you wish with your prehistoric friends; tours of the Branson Dinosaur Museum are self-guided!

Each dinosaur is displayed with descriptive details to help answer your questions about their habits, the definition of their name, and more; it's the perfect opportunity to learn how different dinosaurs are in many ways from today's animals, yet how remarkably similar they are also.

Discover plant-eating dinosaurs – herbivores, and meat-eating animals – carnivores; this is just a small 'taste' of what your family can learn at the Branson Dinosaur Museum!

There are also dinosaur documentary films that you can watch in the small, intimate movie room.

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## **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 ship-

mates, 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"

## **Do You Want to Continue Receiving the Sentinel**

**Note to shipmates, wives and widows:**

We know that the "L" means Life member and usually is associated with widows of Sumner shipmates.

What we don't know is if you really want to keep receiving the ship newsletter - the Sumner Sentinel.

If you don't want to keep receiving it and you don't have an e-mail address, please contact the editor with a post card or other stationery (return address on the back page).

Thanks, The Editor

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