



The Sumner Sentinel ©

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Volume III Number 1

Persian Gulf Veteran to Speak at Memorial

Mike Kovack holds two undergraduate degrees from Bowling Green State University and a master's degree from the University of Akron.



CDRM Mike Kovack

He is slated to be the speaker at the Allen M. Sumner Reunion Memorial Service at 1000 hours Tuesday, May 3 at the USS Cod (SS-224) Submarine Memorial.

Commissioned via Officer Candidate School (OCS), Kovack

was first detailed to the USS Lynde McCormick (DDG-8) in San Diego where he served as the communications/intelligence officer, A&E division officer and MPA.

He did two deployments to the Persian Gulf and participated in Operation Praying Mantis, the largest naval surface engagement since World War II and the U.S. Navy's first exchange of anti-ship missiles.

Upon return from his second deployment he

volunteered for duty aboard the minesweeper USS Enhance (MSO-437) as operations officer for a third tour in the Persian Gulf for Operation Earnest Will.

Kovack was in the Individual Ready Reserve between 1993-2001, but was recalled to active reserve service following 9/11.

He was mobilized four times between 2003 and 2009, serving at the Defense Intelligence Agency, Chief of Naval Personnel and two overseas tours with the army in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

He has received the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal and two Combat Action ribbons among other awards.

Kovack has served as the Medina County Auditor since 1993, earning numerous local, state and national awards.

He retired as a Navy Commander in 2013.



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Hello all hope everyone is having a great year

It won't be long now and we will all be in Cleveland. Scotty and Linda have done a great job getting this reunion planned.



Frank DiBello

Be sure to look on our website for all the things that they have researched for us to do.

The mass transit system stops at our hotel making it easy for us to travel around the area.

I don't think I have ever remembered having so many activities to choose from at one of our reunions.

There should be plenty of things to do for everybody. If you have any questions, Scotty said to please contact him or Linda.

He also has a few things to do that are not listed that might require a small road trip, anybody want to go see buzzards ?

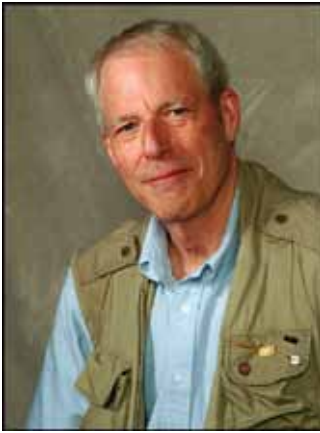
Be sure and send in your 2016 dues along with your registration form for the 2016 reunion.

If you have not received your reunion registration form please contact Don Hayden or Pete Dromms for a copy.

Great news; Bobby and Mary Moore are going to be with us in Cleveland!!! Please keep them and any others that are on the binacle list in your thoughts and prayers.

Connie and I are looking forward to seeing everyone May 1st in Cleveland.





By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

I was thinking about nicknames the other day and how they came to be.

Sumner Webmaster Fred Willshaw (with whom I did not serve, but have come to know through ship reunions we have attended) has given me the nickname “Juice.”

And that’s because my rate in the navy was torpedoman (which has long since been changed).

Why “Juice” you might ask.

It refers to ordnance generally used during World War II on submarines, destroyers and PT boats which ran on alcohol.

More about that later.

Willshaw, who gave me that moniker, had the rate of storekeeper - in charge of various supplies.

I have known him as “Stores” for many years now. In fact, he’s held that “title” since 1999 when the founder of the Allen M. Sumner reunion association thought it was easier than to pronounce his birth name.

Frank DiBello - our current president of the aforementioned reunion association had the rate of radioman and he and others like him were always referred to as “Sparks.”

Those in the navy’s medical corps were referred to as “Doc” while those who prepared food were “Cookies.”

Boatswain (or Bo’sun) Mates became simply “Boats.”

Now back to my nickname.

The Tulsa World (my local newspaper) runs stories on Mondays about World War II military types in various branches of the service.

Recently it ran an article about a torpedoman who served on a PT boat in the Pacific who noted that torpedoes were fueled by about 22 pints of 100-proof alcohol.

(Other accounts indicate the miniature steam engines burned 180 or higher proof ethyl alcohol.)

He noted that particularly around Christmas-time, he was a very popular fellow.

He said by the time the 1944 holidays had passed a couple of torpedoes wouldn’t fire as all the alcohol had been drained.

The alcohol was usually mixed with juice - either orange or pineapple in a 2-3 ratio and was considered a poor man’s pink lady.

Eventually the formula was changed into something that would be deadly to consume.

With the introduction of the electric powered U.S. Mark 18 torpedo, ethyl alcohol was no longer required for torpedoes.

I had an uncle who worked in the torpedo shop at Pearl Harbor and he would spin tales about the “juice.”

He said the first swallow of “Torpedo Juice” was an electrifying and jolting experience - sort of like being kicked by a mule.

And as a farmer (which he ultimately became) he should have known.

Dungarees: The modern Sailor’s work clothes. The term is not modern, however, but dates to the 18th century and comes from the Hindi word dungri, for a type of Indian cotton cloth.

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. It will (for the moment) be an honor system. Our membership year is based on a regular calendar year. If the year '16, '17 or L, etc. after your name on the newsletter mailing label does not reflect the current year, you need to renew your membership.

Use this form to renew your membership in the USS Allen M. Sumner Reunion Association.

It will appear in the November-December and January-February issues of the newsletter. You also can renew for multiple years.

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	

USS ALLEN M. SUMNER- 28th Annual Reunion
REGISTRATION FORM
Cleveland, OH 01-04 May, 2016 (Sunday-Wednesday)

*Print names as they are to appear on Nametags!

Name _____ Never had one? _____

Spouse or guest _____ Never had one? _____

Address _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____ Phone (____) _____

E-mail _____

Served on Sumner from _____ to _____

Rate or Rank on Sumner _____

No. Of people attending reunion. `16 _____ x \$130= _____
`16 or `17 Dues (specify) _____ + \$15 _____

Total _____

NOTE! There are so many things to do in the Cleveland area,
that there will be NO ORGANIZED TOUR! Enjoy the attractions in the area.

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

Mail to: 301 Park Ln.

North Syracuse, NY 13212-2143

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

* Food allergies or special dietary REQUIREMENTS?

List here _____

Receiving Hard Copies of the Sumner Sentinel

Note to shipmates, wives and widows:

Following this issue, hard copies of the Sumner Sentinel will only be 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 will help 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).

Thanks, The Editor

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

Terry Conaway TERRY@DD-692.com
(909) 647-3741

Jose Garcia JOSE@DD-692.com
(305) 431-3027

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"

Reserve Reunion Rooms

The hotel - Cleveland Airport Marriott - is already in the process of reserving accommodations for the Republican National Convention to be held in that city in July 2016.

The actual stated cutoff to guarantee rooms for us is April 15 and while a credit card is need to book rooms, it won't be charged until closer to the reunion.

Our special room rate is \$107 per night plus state and local taxes (16.5 percent). These rates

are good for the nights from April 28 to May 6.

There is a free shuttle service from/to the airport. They have a courtesy phone for it in the baggage claim area of the airport.

Just call (216) 252-5333 and they will come get you.

While you can make reservations online at <http://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/cleap-cleveland-airport-marriott/> or toll-free at (800) 228-9290 we have a dedicated reservation specialist who knows all about us, call Teresa Crowley at (216) 706-8725 (Mon-Fri 1000-1400 EST).

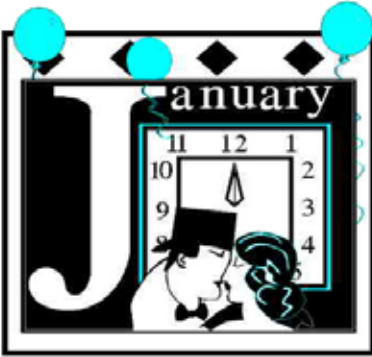
USS ALLEN M. SUMNER SHIP STORE ORDER INVOICE

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</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, 2XL, 3XL)	\$20.00
	All Sweatshirts Circle Size - S, M, L, XL, 2XL, 3XL	\$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
	US Navy Wallet	\$ 7.00
	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
Total Enclosed		

All Sumner Assn members may deduct 10% from order (before shipping charges are added unless is designated "No Discount." Please add the following shipping charges; Merchandise up to \$20 - Add \$3 \$21-\$50 - Add \$5 \$51 and Up - Add \$7. Checks made payable to Sumner Reunion Association.

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

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