



The Sumner Sentinel ©

January - February 2015
Volume II Number 1

Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund

At the League City, Texas reunion of the USS Allen M. Sumner, DD-692, we had the opportunity to spend some time with President Eliu Rojas and Vice President Joel Montgomery of the Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund who do great work for those left behind.



We made an association contribution of \$500 to the

fund at our annual business meeting and recommend that if you would like to help a great cause, this is the one!

The Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund a non-profit 501 (c) 3 organization that was founded in October 2003 as a means of providing College Grants and Financial Assistance to surviving children and spouses of our U.S. military service members who have lost their lives in the Iraq and Afghanistan wars.

Our donations come from families, individuals, and businesses throughout the World. Those that raise funds on their own may chose to help families within their State. Our Administrative & Management expenses ratio has been between 3-11percent since we have been in existence, which means the balance is used for helping support our military and their families.

The CFSRF has provided more than \$1,500,000.00 in college and financial assistance to US Military surviving and severely disabled/wounded service members and their dependents under the age of 18 that have been affected by the first Gulf, Afghanistan and Iraq wars.

We have held and sponsored wounded service member reunions, retreats and have provided \$335,000.00 in assistance to help wounded warriors charities continue with helping our veterans.

Go to <http://www.cfsrf.org> for more details.



Sumner Association Pres. Frank DiBello presents our check for \$500 to Rebeca Campbell, Founder and President of Children of Fallen Soldiers Relief Fund, Eliu Rojas, President of the Local Chapter and Joel Montgomery President of the State of Texas Chapter.

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Founded in 1989

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Well we have made it to 2015 and I hope everyone is excited as I am about going to Annapolis this year.

So many things to do and see I can't begin to name them all, so do some research so you can see the things that excite you the most.

I hear there are some great "crab" restaurants there, not to mention a lot of navy to take in.

I plan on bringing some good walking shoes to wear while taking in as many sights as Connie and I can.

On a sadder note I would like remember our fallen shipmates and ladies auxiliary that we lost in 2014:

Fireman 1st Class Salvatore John Zaita - 1945-1946, Seaman apprentice Daniel Lee

Coli - 1966-1969, Fire Controlman 2nd Class Donald G. Cassady - 1951-1955 and Ladies auxiliary specialists Lee Marie Robson and Dorothy L. "Dottie" Gall

Please take a moment to remember their families.

If you haven't made your reservations yet I suggest you do so soon; I understand that the hotel is starting to have a lot of reservations during our time scheduled and they are filling up.

We only have a limited amount of rooms blocked for the reunion.

Be sure while making reservations that you tell them you are with the Sumner Association to get our special room rate which is good for two days before and two days after the reunion.

Can't wait to see you all in May.



Frank DiBello



Historic Ships Visitation Opportunities Abound

In response to a letter to the Historic Naval Ships Association (of which the editor is a member) seeking permission to use ship information in its visitor's guide, the editor received the following reply:

Dear Mr. Hayden,

Many thanks for your e-mail which comes to me for a response. Delighted to hear from you and especially happy to hear that Annapolis will be the venue for next May's reunion of the USS Allen M. Sumner (DD-562).

I live in Annapolis so you can understand why I am happy you and your crew-mates are coming here.

I am delighted that you will use the information in the HNSA Visitor Guide or the materials from our new Website to help encourage your guys to visit the ships in Baltimore.

Please feel free to contact me if you wish to act as intermediary or to assist in any way.

Good luck with your reunion and again, if there is anything I can do to assist, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Best wishes,
Bill

Dr. William B. Cogar, Executive Director, Historic Naval Ships Association

Dr. Cogar also included contact names to facilitate visits to the ships in the area:

LS Chesapeake, USS Constellation, USCGC Taney, USS Torsk) and the Liberty Ship John W. Brown.

The first feature will be on the US Sloop of War Constellation commissioned July 28, 1855 - 160 years ago).

Armament (1862): Gun Deck (Main battery): Sixteen 8-inch chambered shell guns, four 32-pounder long guns; Spar Deck (Pivot guns): one 30- pounder Parrott rifle at the bow and one

20- pounder Parrott rifle at the stern; three 12- pounder boat howitzers.

Constellation bears the same name as the famous frigate launched in 1797, which was broken up at the same time the sloop-of-war was being built. Before the Civil War, *Constellation* served as Flag Ship of the U.S. Africa Squadron patrolling the waters off of West Africa in search of ships carrying human cargo. She captured three slavers including the barque *Cora* and freed 705 Africans destined for slavery.



At the outbreak of the Civil War, she made the first Union Navy capture at sea, overpowering *Triton*, a slaver brig sailing in coastal waters off Africa. She then spent two years on the Mediterranean station protecting American shipping from Confederate commerce raiders. In 1864, *Constellation* reported for duty with Farragut's West Gulf Blockading Squadron.

After the Union was restored, the sloop-of-war saw service as a practice ship for midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy, earning the nickname "Cradle of Admirals" as so many future high ranking naval officers trained aboard her during annual summer cruises.

See Sloop, Page 5

A Pair of Sumner Auxiliary Ladies Die

In less than two weeks last October, the Sumner Reunion Association lost two of its key ladies – Lee Marie Robson who died on Oct. 9 of pancreatic cancer and Dorothy L. “Dottie” Gall who died Oct. 21 of cancer.

Dottie of the City of Tonawanda, New York was the wife of Sumner Association founder Joe Gall.

Mother of Jeffrey (Wanda) Plowe, Cindy (Brian) Hosmer, Greg (Ruth) Plowe and Joseph



Armed with a telephoto lens, Editor Don sneaks in a rare facial photo of Dottie Gall (green blouse).



In witness protection? Dottie Gall (blue napkin) is too quick for editor Don and uses one of many creative ways to hide her face.

(Tammy) Gall she also is survived by 11 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren; three brothers Stanley (Dolores) Jordan, Bernie (Elaine) Jordan and Richard Jordan and two sisters Marie (David) Spencer and Elizabeth (Ken) VanDruff.

Dottie was well known for a) helping out on the registration desk at the many reunions and b) not having her photo taken.

(The editor did manage to sneak in some over the years although she usually managed to thwart the attempt in some creative way.)

A memorial service was held Oct. 25 at Calvary Bible Church in Tonawanda under the direction of the Lester H. Wedekindt Inc. Funeral Home.

Memorials may be made to Hospice Buffalo.



At her last Sumner Reunion, Lee is shown at the annual banquet with hubby David and Dale Surber.

Retired from Bank of America after more than 40 years in the banking industry, Lee was a member of the USS Allen M. Sumner Association Ladies Auxillary and was the Prestigious Winner of the “Perfect Hair Award” at the May 5, 2014 reunion on board the USS Texas.

See next Page

Her hair withstood the harsh winds that day without one piece blown out of place.

A celebration of life was held Oct. 14 (at Cross-Road UMC in North Jacksonville, Fla. under the direction of Hardage-Giddens Funeral Home of Mandarin.

She is survived by her husband David, her daughter Dawn (Erick) Wilson, three grandchildren Camryn, Ansley and her sister Joann Boatwright.

Lee was always seen in various capacities at reunions, usually in the hospitality area.

Donations may be made in Lee's name to NEFL Community Hospice and/or Wolfson Children's Hospital.



Aboard the Battleship Texas, Lee (flag shirt) assists with the memorial wreath. Hair is still in place!

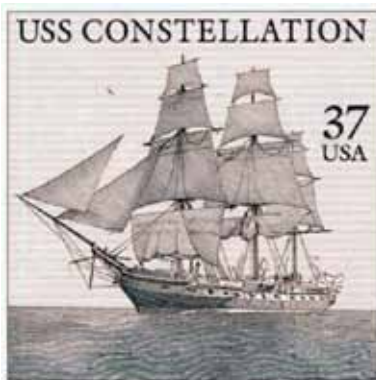
Sloop Continued from Page 3

During this period the ship's special duties included carrying precious American works of art to the Paris Exposition in 1878 and carrying famine relief stores to Ireland in 1880. From 1894 to 1933, *Constellation* served as a stationary training ship at the United States Naval Training Station, Newport, Rhode Island.

During World War II, she served as relief flagship for the Admiral of the Atlantic Fleet.

USS Constellation is the last Civil War era naval vessel still afloat and the last all sail warship built by the U.S. Navy. Since 1955, the ship has been preserved as a museum in Baltimore's Inner Harbor.

A nine million dollar restoration project, completed in 1999, returned the ship's exterior to its 1860s configuration.



Now, with all four decks open for exploration, visitors can enjoy a completely restored captain's cabin, sick bay, and wardroom in addition to engaging in hands-on demonstrations that take them back in time to a life at sea during the Civil War.

USS Constellation is a National Historic Landmark.

Open 7 days a week from 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., admission for Captain (Adult, 15-59) is \$11 and for Admiral (Senior, 60+) it is \$9.

Tickets may be purchased at Pier 1 Ship's Store - Next to *USS Constellation*.

Directions: Driving

From the South:

Via I-95: Take I-95 North to Exit 53 (I-395 North, Downtown). After exiting follow signs to the Inner Harbor.

Take a left on Light Street - the Inner Harbor will be on your right. Historic Ships in Baltimore is located on Piers 1, 3 and 5 along Pratt Street between Light Street and President Street.

Parking is available in garages and open lots around the Inner Harbor.

Next Up: The Liberty Ship John W. Brown

Membership Renewal Form

If the year '15, '16, etc. after your name on Joe's newsletter mailing label does not reflect the current year, you need to renew your membership in the USS Allen M. Sumner Reunion Association. Our membership year is based on a regular calendar year.

If you believe there is an error, contact Joe Gall who will check on it.

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, again, contact Joe Gall.

They were designed many years ago by Joe Jr.

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, 56 Amsterdam Ave., Tonowanda, NY 14150

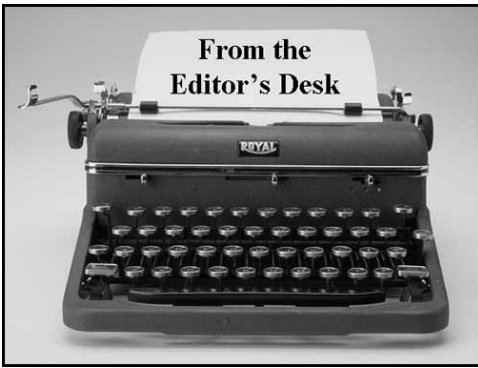
USS ALLEN M. SUMNER SHIP STORE ORDER INVOICE

Qtn.	Description	Price
	Sumner Commemorative (Challenge) Coin	\$10.00
	Magnetic Navy Veteran Insigna (Circle Choice - WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Expeditionary, Navy Veteran)	\$ 5.00
	Sumner Ball Cap (Circle Choice - All Cloth or 1/2 Mesh)	\$15.00
	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)	\$22.00
	All Sweatshirts Circle Size - S, M, L, 2XL, 3XL - NO XL *	\$20.00
	Sumner Patch (Sui Generis)	\$ 5.00
	DEsRon 16 Patch (Woody Woodpecker)	\$ 5.00
	Sumner Hat/Lapel Pin (Oval/Pewter)	\$ 6.00
	Sumner Hat/Lapel Pin (Patch Design, Enamled, Color)	\$ 4.00
	Magnetic Expanding Credit Card Size Address Book w/Ship Embossed on Front**	\$ 3.00
	Zippo Ziplite battery pack (Flashlight Replacement for Unused Lighter)	\$ 3.50
	Sumner at Sea (Vietnam) Video	\$15.00
	Reunion 2000 Video (CNO Visit) DVD or VHS	\$12.00
	Sumner Plaque (plasticast, painted and mounted in simulated walnut board)	\$35.00
	Sumner Print (Drawing by Artist George Moore - Suitable for Framing)	\$25.00
	Sumner Photos (Circle Choice: Tied to pier in NY shipyard, WWII camo paint no Hull #)	\$ 8.00
	Sumner Photos (Circle Choice: At Sea 1952, At Sea 1963 after Fram II)	\$ 8.00
	* Special Price - Limited Time	
	** 2/\$5	
Total Enclosed		

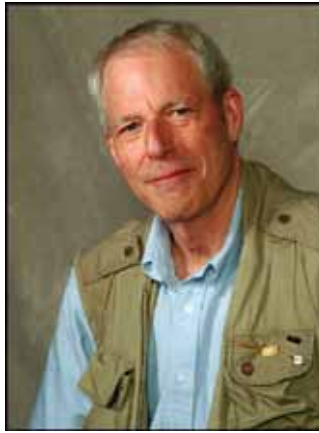
All Sumner Assn members may deduct 10% from order (before shipping charges are added unless is designated "No Discount." Please add the following shipping charges; Merchandise up to \$20 - Add \$5 \$21-\$50 - Add \$8 \$51 and Up - Add \$10. Checks made payable to Sumner Association.

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

Send Orders To:
 Sumner Assn.
 56 Amsterdam Ave.
 Tonowanda, NY 14150



By Don Hayden
TM3 (1961-62)



Back when I was a youngster my immediate family would literally “farm” me out to one of my uncles and grandmother to spend the summer in rural Missouri.

As a city boy, it was quite a change to be involved in aspects of agriculture.

The good part was all that great food which was raised.

The bad part was no running water (if you know what I mean).

Being a typical adolescent, I got into all kinds of mischief and when caught by my grandmother, she would make me wear my “punishment pants” (shorts) which I hated to wear.

Just the mere threat of having to wear them was usually enough to stop whatever I was doing to upset my grandmother.

Eventually, though, they became a form of bargaining chips for me.

I would say to her “if you will just let me do (whatever), I’ll wear my punishment pants for a week.”

She would realize that was about as serious as I could get for whatever reason and unless she could see a real danger, would take me up on my offer.

In fact, it got to be a catch phrase which has stayed with me all my life.

Fast forward to my adulthood when I became a professional photographer, engaging especially in weddings.

It was really lean in those days and I took almost any job I could.

I remember interviewing a couple at a pre-wedding consultation and in the back of my head knew they were jerks.

But I was so hungry and needed the money that I decided to wear my punishment pants and hope they would book with me.

They did and didn’t disappoint me – jerks throughout the experience.

I decided I would have to be more selective about when to wear my punishment pants!

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Editor’s Note: Once again I remind viewers of this newsletter that it is solely meant to augment the official document known as AM Sumner News, penned by Reunion Founder Chief Joe Gall.

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