



The Sumner Sentinel ©

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Volume III Number 2

Decorated Veteran to Speak at Banquet

David Taylor is a retired Colonel, Special Forces, US Army Reserve. He served four years on active duty, including combat in the Vietnam War where he was wounded twice, and was awarded a Silver Star for Valor.



Col. David Taylor (Ret.)

Taylor is retired from the business world where he worked in business management in the plastics industry for 29 years including international operations, marketing, and new business development.

Taylor has written numerous articles about the Vietnam War and World War II for national publications and has lectured about the Vietnam War at

And he has been selected to be the featured speaker at our annual banquet.

He served 22 years in the Army Reserve in special operations and counter-terrorism and is Airborne, Ranger and Special Forces qualified.

Colonel

the college level. He is a member of the Military Writers Society of America. *Our War* is his first book.

The book, about his infantry battalion in the Vietnam War, was published in 2011 and is now in its third printing

Colonel Taylor and his wife Susan, a former Army Nurse, have been residents of Medina, Ohio for the past 43 years.

Book Reviews:

Our War is a detailed, comprehensive and superbly researched tribute to all we endured as members of the 5th/46th Infantry Battalion --**Tim O'Brien** - *National Book Award winner and Pulitzer Prize nominee*

Our War is an unparalleled tribute to the tremendous sacrifices and toll exacted on one combat battalion in the Vietnam War. In graphic detail, author David Taylor goes beyond describing day-to-day operations of three years of combat.

His work details how scores of Purple Hearts were earned, sometimes as a result of leadership shortcomings, often in tandem with tremendous acts of heroism.

This book is a stellar tribute to an infantry battalion at war and a unique record of its service.

--**John Roos** - Former Editor, *Armed Forces Journal*.

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(See Page 6)

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE . . .

Hello Shipmates, Family & Friends,

Our Reunion is almost upon us - I can't wait to see all of your smiling faces in Cleveland!



Frank DiBello

Scotty and Linda are doing a great job hosting our reunion. If you want any info on sights and things to do in Cleveland, give Scotty a call at 330-242-1518.

He can also help you with the Mass Transit System, which stops at our hotel, making it easy for us to get around Cleveland.

A lot of folks probably will want to visit the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame - a hefty stone's throw from the USS Cod Memorial Park - the location for our Tuesday memorial service.

See page 5 for more details.

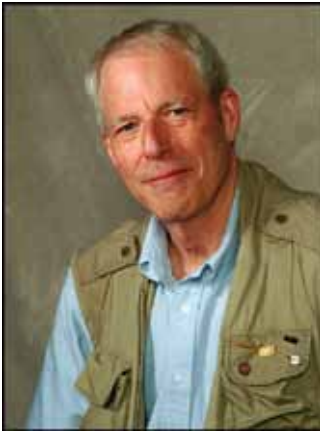
If you haven't already, please send in your 2016 dues and/or your reunion registration to Pete Dromms, 301 Park Lane, North Syracuse, New York, 13212-2143. The form is on page 4.

And, if you want to stay in the hotel and you haven't made a reservation, you'd better get on the stick as the room cutoff date is April 15. See Page 7 for more details.

Don't forget to keep the people on the Binnacle List in your prayers as well as the families and friends of our shipmates that have passed on since our last Reunion.

Connie and I look forward to seeing everyone in Cleveland!





By Don Hayden TM3 (1961-62)

The other day I was thinking about my first Sumner reunion and all the others since. My attendance record pales when compared to guys like Paul Delasco, but I guess the phrase “better late than never” really does apply.

Like many other Sumner shipmates, I received newsletters about upcoming reunions, but always found reasons (excuses) why not to attend such as being too far away or costing too much, etc.

But when it was held in 2005 in Branson, Mo. (less than 200 miles away), I thought “what the heck.” Why not give it a try. I didn’t put much stock in being able to enjoy myself.

Boy was I wrong.

What a treat to talk to guys I hadn’t seen for more than 40 years - like Bruce Fulbright, Bill Juzwiakowski, Larry Conely and the aforementioned Delasco.

Larry usually came alone as did I, so we just naturally hung out together. My wife did attend the reunion in Charleston, S.C and got to see the Sumner class USS Laffey and a glimpse of what my accommodations looked like those many years ago.

Larry died in the few months following our reunion in Colorado Springs, Colo.

In these early years we all reminisced all the old sea stories.

Ten reunions later the main topic of discussion

seemed to be comparisons of medical histories.

But as a nephew would say “it’s all good.”

I missed the following year when it was in Seattle, Wash. but have made them all since that one.

To save money, I usually drove to the location and stayed at a Motel 6.

Nowadays (I guess partly because I am retired from my professional photography business), I stay in the reunion headquarters hotel. The convenience outweighs the cost.

I still drive to reunions if they aren’t further away than a day and a half - otherwise I take to the air.

Even though reunion attendees seem to hang around with guys they knew, I eventually took it upon myself to get to know guys who served before or after me.

Two guys in particular have been a positive force - our president Frank DiBello and our webmaster Fred “Stores” Willshaw.

Now that I am secretary (I never really wanted to be an officer) I deal with them frequently. Add to that, my role as editor and I am really getting to know other folks.

Now I can’t imagine not attending and set aside money periodically to be able to attend.

I’ve had a lot of medical issues in the past couple of years, but would have to be in traction not to come.

I’m really looking forward to this year’s reunion in Cleveland, Ohio (don’t know how many more I got).

Sure hope you can join me. You won’t regret it!

This issue will feature a couple of things to do while we’re here.

USS ALLEN M. SUMNER- 28th Annual Reunion
REGISTRATION FORM
Cleveland, Ohio 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 _____

USS Cod Memorial to Begin a Fun-Filled Day

The bus(es) which take us to our memorial service at the USS Cod will also be on standby while we tour of attractions in the area such as the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and the Great Lakes Science Center.

These attractions are all within walking distance from the Cod.



Rock and Roll Hall of Fame

For the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame General Admission: \$23.50; Seniors (65+): \$21.25 (with ID) and Military: \$19.

After viewing exhibits, those who are hungry can take advantage of the Rock Hall Cafe.

Adjacent the Hall of Fame wing on the third floor, the Rock Hall Café is situated in a great spot overlooking the Museum's lower levels.

Enjoy the view and sample the wide array of hot and cold light meals, desserts and beverages. Accessible to ticketed Museum visitors and Members. Major credit cards accepted.

Some 750 people have been inducted into the Hall of Fame literally from A (ABBA) to Z (ZZ Top) with all your favorites in between.

At the Great Lakes Science Center admission starts at \$15 for adults (\$12 for children 2-12) which includes NASA Glenn Visitor Center.

Seniors (65+) and students with proper ID will receive a \$1 discount off adult admission prices.

A \$1 military discount is available to active duty and reservist personnel in the U.S. Armed Forces. Discount applies to user plus one guest. Cannot be combined with any other discounts. User must show Federal Service or Department of Defense ID.

Visit The Café, located on the lower level of Great Lakes Science Center.

See spectacular views of North Coast Harbor as you enjoy delicious meals and nutritious snacks, including oven-baked homemade pizza, hand-crafted sandwiches, satisfying homemade soups and tempting seasonal salads. Burgers, chicken tenders, hot dogs and fries are always available as well!



Great Lakes Science Center

Did You Know?

Except for Kearsarge, named by an act of Congress, all U.S. Navy battleships have been named for states, and each of the 48 contiguous states has had at least one battleship named for it except Montana.

Two battleships have been authorized to be named Montana but both were canceled before construction started.

Get to Know Cleveland via Trolley

More than 20 miles of facts and fun are covered in Trolley Tours' well known City Sightseeing Tour, one of the most reliable, pleasant and convenient ways to see Cleveland.

The comprehensive 1 and 2 hour narrated tours include The Flats, a river port where the Cuyahoga River meets Lake Erie; Cleveland's North Coast Harbor; Downtown Cleveland; The Warehouse District; Ohio City and the West Side Market; the Gateway Sports complex; Playhouse Square; The Cleveland Clinic, University Circle and a drive through the historic Cultural Gardens.

Your 2-Hour Tour concludes with a brief stop at the Rockefeller Greenhouse and a return to town along the Lake Erie shoreline back to our station.

NOTE: The 1-Hour Tour concludes after the Gateway Complex and returns to the station.

Both Sightseeing Tours are non-stop with the 2½ Hour Tour offering a single short stop at the Rockefeller Greenhouse. All total tour times are approximate.

All public tour guests must check in at the Trolley Tours ticket desk on the 2nd floor of the First Energy Powerhouse at the Nautica Entertainment on the West Bank of Cleveland's Flats.

To reserve a seat call 800-848-0173 or 216-771-4484.

Fares:

Adults 2 ½ Hour Tour \$20 w/tax; 1 Hour Tour \$13 w/tax

Seniors (60+) 2 ½ Hour Tour \$19 w/tax; 1 Hour Tour \$12 w/tax

Children (17 and under) 2 1/2 Hour Tour \$14 w/tax; 1 Hour Tour \$10 w/tax

Children under age 5 are not permitted on the 2-hour tour, but are very welcome on the 1-hour tour!

tour fares include sales tax but no driver gratuities..

The 1 hour tour begins 12:30 p.m. on Monday while the 2½ hour begins at 2 p.m.

The Trolley Tours Station is located in the Powerhouse at Nautica off Elm Street and Winslow Avenue in the Flat's West Bank. The Flats is easily accessible from Downtown Cleveland as well as from all area highways. Public Parking is available in the Powerhouse/Nautica complex.

The Powerhouse is the red brick building with the 2 tall smokestacks. Trolley tours desk is inside at the top of the first flight of stairs. There is a nominal fee for parking in the Nautica lot.

GPS users: Please use 1101 Winslow Avenue, Cleveland OH 44113.

This will take you to the Parking Booth at the Nautica Parking Lot. Just pull up to the booth, pay your parking fee and proceed to the large brick building on the right

**Note: When heading north on W. 25th, stay in the LEFT lane so you can cross Detroit.

2nd Vice President Dies

Sumner Association
2nd Vice President
George W. Aichele,
SK2, 72 of Alhambra,
Calif, died March 12
after a long illness.

A Vietnam veteran and member of the Sumner Audit Committee, his remains are slated to be buried at sea.



All shipmates who attend the Cleveland reunion will receive an updated membership list and copy of the constitution and bylaws.

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).

Preliminary Plan of the Day

Sunday

1400 - Registration begins in the Hospitality Suite, Open Bar opens,
Silent Auction begins, get together
Soiree later in the day

Monday

0900 - Annual Business Meeting
1730 - Bar opens in the Banquet Hall
1800 - Annual Banquet with
Guest Speaker *Col. David Taylor*

Tuesday

1000 - Memorial Service at the USS Cod Submarine Memorial with
Guest Speaker *CDR Mike Kovac*
1100 & 1500 - Return to our hotel
1500 - Silent Auction closes
1730 - Hospitality Suite opens and food is served

Wednesday

0600 - Farewell Breakfast

70th Anniversary of Operation Crossroads



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