

# USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



DDG 104 (Commissioned 2008)

**Spring 2018**



## Greetings from the Sterett Association

For most of the Country, Spring took its sweet time settling in, as evidenced by this shot of Yankee Stadium on opening day.

### Sterett Web Site

Web site is still not completed.

Much of the content is there. There may be some links that need to be fixed but the general data is there.

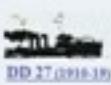
As soon as we can, we will start posting information about the 2019 reunion.

### DDG 104

USS Sterett, along with the USS Dewey have returned to San Diego following a three month deployment to 7<sup>th</sup> Fleet.

While deployed to the U.S. 7th Fleet, Dewey and Sterett operated together to bring additional weapons capabilities to the Wasp Expeditionary Strike Group.

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DD 27 (1918-19)



DD 407 (1929-1945)



DLG 31 (1967-79)



CG 31 (1975-90)

DDG 104 (Commissioned 2000)



## The Sterett Standard

The following message from the Sterett CO discusses her vision of the "Sterett standard".

We believe the Sterett standard was set long ago by Andrew Sterett and was carried forward through the DD 27, DD 407, DLG/CG 31 and the DDG 104.

STERETT Family -

*I often speak of the "STERETT Standard" to the crew as a means to convey the level to which I desire them to perform. Yet those two words alone don't truly describe what that Standard is.*

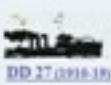
*Of course there are examples that recognize our Standard such as winning the following awards:*

- The Ship's Store of the Year Award.*
- The Energy Conservation Award.*
- The Retention Excellence Award.*
- The Vice Admiral Copeman III Material Readiness Award.*
- Even the previous year's advancement exam results which were all above Fleet average.*

*Yet these awards still seem to fall short of the true meaning of the "STERETT Standard."*

*When you stop to think about it, I think we all quickly recognize that the STERETT Standard is really STERETT's Crew - your Sailors (Sons, Daughters,*

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*Spouses, Brothers, Sisters, Moms and Dads).*

*The Crew is the bearer of this amazing Standard.*

*The Crew is who embody the success of the ship.*

*The Crew is FOREVER DAUNTELESS in the face of an ever changing schedule which challenges all of us to dig deep to perform to our greatest ability.*

*And for that I would like to thank you - the Crew and our families for their support - and congratulate the Sailors of STERETT for winning the 2017 Battle Effectiveness and Command Excellence Award.*

*I could not be more proud and humble to lead such a fine group Sailors.*

*Congratulations STERETT!*

*With respect,  
CDR Claudine Caluori  
Commanding Officer*

*It is with a wealth of pride we who served on the previous Steretts congratulate the officers and crew of DDG 104 on their outstanding performance.*

## A Touch of Home

When deployed away from home, we looked forward to receiving that long awaited mail call. Today, snail mail has mostly been replaced by email and other electronics. However, the joy of receiving "care" packages from home can never be replaced.

The Sterett Association recently had the opportunity to help in getting some goodies to the DDG 104 crew while deployed.

We were contacted by Traci, a former US Navy Surface Warfare officer and friend of now CDR Claudine Caluori, DDG 104 Commanding Officer.

Traci is an active leader of the Girl Scouts and was heading up a project to collect and ship Girl Scout cookies to the crew of Sterett. She asked if the Sterett Association would like to help.

We jumped on board the project and took care of the shipping costs for the cookies.

The project was very successful. 352 boxes of Girl Scout cookies were donated, boxed and shipped to Sterett while still on deployment. That's about a box for each of the Sterett crew.

Congratulations to Traci and her scouts who did a terrific job pulling this project together and generating such a tremendous response.

The Sterett Association was proud to take part.

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I received the following from CDR Caluori:



COMMANDING OFFICER  
USS STERETT (DDG 104)  
FPO AP 96678-1310

OBCM(SW) Hayes and USS Sterett Assoc,

I cannot express to you how grateful  
I am for your generous donation of covering  
the shipping costs of Girl Scout Cookies  
to the crew on deployment. They really  
brightened their day.

Thank you for thinking of us!

Warm regards,

Chad

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## Facebook

Facebook is a great place to exchange information and memories with our shipmates.

It also helps to spread the word about the Sterett Association and the reunions.

There are 2 Sterett groups that contain items and pictures of interest to the DLG/CG 31 veterans.

Many are members of both groups. If you only check out one of these groups, you may be missing some good stuff. There are more than 1100 members in the 2 groups.

You are encouraged to become members of both Sterett groups.

USS Sterett Association: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/15927790465/>

USS Sterett CG-31: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/205983540038/>

A recent addition to our Facebook group is Kenito Marciàl:



You may remember him from this picture:



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CG 31 (1975-90)

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If you're not on Facebook, you're missing an opportunity to connect with some old shipmates.

## Ships Store

We have been unable to update our web site with the new Sterett polo shirts that are now available. These polo shirts were introduced at the Nashville reunion and were well received. They are available in both DLG and CG variants.



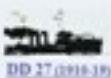
Our store custodian, Duffy Groener, has created a temporary web site so the polo shirt and our other items can be made available.

If you are interested in ordering a polo shirt and/or any store item, please visit:  
<https://squareup.com/store/uss-sterett-association>

To order an item from this web site, simply click on the item(s) and it will be added to your shopping cart.

If you do order products from the regular web site, the order will go through, despite the confusion this display may cause:

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## UH OH

Looks like we have a bad link or the page was relocated.  
We will fix this ASAP. 404

An administrator has been notified about this error.

[\*\*<< Return to previous page\*\*](#)

## Tribute to a DD 407 Shipmate

After DD 407 shipmate Jim Botkin passed away in 2012, his family paid tribute to him by purchasing a memorial brick at the National WWII Museum in New Orleans.

I recently paid a visit to the museum and was determined to locate Jim's brick.

Not an easy task. The bricks are laid out on the sidewalks all around the museum and do not seem to be in a logical order. Even armed with the location, I had difficulty locating it.

However, there is a master map maintained by the docents. With their help, I was able to find Jim's brick. The museum is undergoing expansion and the area it was in was covered by construction dust. I was able to clean it up just enough to get a picture.



I was not impressed with the memorial brick project. There is no signage indicating where they are and what they're about. The bricks are part of the sidewalks all around the museum and without any signage, the visitors just walk around on what should be hallowed ground.

However, the National WWII Museum is a fascinating place and worth a visit.

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## Mind Your Elders

What started out as a surprising ship's store purchase has developed into a terrific tribute to one of Sterett's veterans.

Duffy Groener, the ship's store custodian, recently received an order for a substantial number of Sterett DLG 31 ball caps.

Generally, individuals order one or maybe two but twelve ball caps raised some questions. Who was this person ordering all these hats? The order was placed by Doreen, not a known member of the Association.

Duffy politely asked about the unusual order and received this reply:

*Thank you for your email. The Sterett hat is my dad's favorite to wear, as you can see in the pictures provided. He was on that ship for a few years.*



*My siblings and I tried to come up with a special birthday idea for my father. My father turns 81 on May 19. All of his kids and most of his grandkids will be here to celebrate. We thought it would be really fun to have everybody wearing a Sterett hat on his birthday in his honor. We actually talked about this with my mother months ago. She thought it was an awesome idea. Unfortunately she passed away recently.*

*We're going to take a family picture with the hats for his birthday.....I will send you a copy.*

It took another email exchange to get her Dad's name:

*My father is George A. Elder. He was on the Sterett from '68 to '73. He took a few famous photographs from the Sterett when the Higbee (sp?) was bombed. It was the ship right next to the Sterett.*

Most of us have seen the iconic photos of the air battle component of the Battle of Dong Hoi.

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DLG 31 (1967-1980)



CG 31 (1975-2000)



Those pictures and many more were taken by the DLG 31's unofficial photographer, PNCS George Elder.

Doreen sent the following following the celebration:

*It was such a great day today!*

*Our day began with breakfast at our fathers favorite restaurant. Our group included my father, George Elder, my sisters Diana (husband Buck) and Darlene (husband Joe), my brother David, four grandchildren, Sister Veronica (from Our Lady of Mt. Carmel) and me (Doreen, husband Scott). After ordering our food we gave my father his gifts; all Sterett items! As dad was looking in his gift bag (photo 5) we all pulled out our Sterett hats and put them on. When he looked back up he saw that we were all wearing the hats, and he began to cry (photo 6, he was covering his face). Even Sister Veronica had her hat on (photo 2).*



# USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



DD 27 (1918-19)



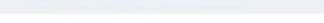
DD 487 (1939-1945)



DLG 31 (1967-79)



CG 31 (1975-90)



The Sterett family would like to join George's family in wishing a very Happy Birthday to our shipmate. Congratulations also for raising such a wonderful and thoughtful family.

## Sterett Passings

The following Sterett shipmates have crossed the bar:

SN Doug Jones      67-70 Plankowner



RDCS Carl Mares      68-70

## **USS STERETT ASSOCIATION**



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MM2C Henry McCullough

DD 407

WWII



## **USS Sterett Association 2019 Reunion Information**

**When: 19-22 September 2019**

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Where: Jacksonville, FL.



Marriott Jacksonville Hotel



General Hotel Information: <https://www.marriott.com/hotels/travel/jaxfl-jacksonville-marriott/>

The room rate for the reunion will be \$92 (+tax & fees).

This is a great rate that should be attractive to many shipmates across the country.

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It's never too early so start planning now to join your shipmates in Jacksonville. We will provide hotel reservation and additional reunion information as we move towards the Jacksonville event.

We want to break the 200 guest mark in Jacksonville. Get in touch with some shipmates and encourage them to attend.

Watch future newsletters and the web site for more information as it becomes available.

The Sterett Association welcomes any and all input from its members and supporters. Please don't hesitate to submit comments or other items of interest for inclusion in our web site or our newsletters, including pictures. We want to hear from you.

For the Sterett Association:

Steve Hayes