

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



Spring, 2013



Greetings from the Sterett Association

Spring has arrived giving new birth to Mother Nature's children, although for some of you it may be difficult to see this with snow on the ground!

This newsletter contains news from the Sterett community and information on the Reunion to be held in Branson, Missouri October 2013.

It's come to my attention that some are unable to locate the Sterett web site. The correct URL is: <http://www.sterett.net/> The site was rehosted a couple of years ago.

DDG 104



Congratulations are in order to the leadership and crew of the USS Sterett (DDG 104). For the third year in a row STERETT has earned the **Battle Efficiency** award, a streak currently shared by only 4 other ships in the entire Navy. The hard work of the crew continues to show in the string of great results our ship has earned.
Well Done Sterett.

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More Sterett Legacy Items on Display

The DDG 104 continues to recognize and honor the outstanding performance of the Steretts that have preceded her.

The latest installment:

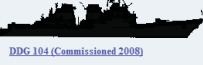
History on display! On the left is the original commissioning pennant from STERETT (DD 407). On the right is the original commissioning pennant from STERETT (DLG 31) which was also later used to place DDG 104 in commission.



Mystery Mug and Ashtray

Recently, CDR Bateshansky, CO DDG 104 obtained ownership of two DLG 31 items that are somewhat unique. They do not fit the description of coffee mugs and ashtrays that were used in the wardroom, CPO mess or crew's mess. If anyone can help to identify these items, please contact me at shayes@cablone.net.

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Sterett Passings

I am saddened to report the passing of the following members of our Sterett family:

Mark Calabrese – Mark was an ET2 in the 1987-1988 time frame. He passed away in a snowboarding accident December 21.

Dale Nielsen – An ICC, Dale was a Plankowner on DLG 31.

Russ Bethel – SMCM Bethel was Sterett's Command Master Chief 1988-1991 and the last CMC of Naval Station Subic. Russ lost his long battle with cancer in January.

If you hear of the passing of a member of our Sterett family, please notify one of the Association Officers <http://www.sterett.net/association/association-officers.html>. The Association will honor our fallen shipmates with a memorial wreath if we are notified in a timely manner. Of course it is our sincere hope we have no loss.

DD 407 Crewmen:

I had a recent exchange of messages with **Juanita Botkin**, Jim's widow. She has informed me she will make every effort to accept our invitation to join us in Branson for the reunion. I was also informed **Art Marrs** also intends to honor us with his presence in Branson. We look forward to seeing our WWII brothers and sisters in October.

DD 407 and WWII Naval Artifacts

A while back I had an exchange of information with Tracy White. Tracy describes himself as an IT consultant by trade who uses his interest in World War II and proximity to a

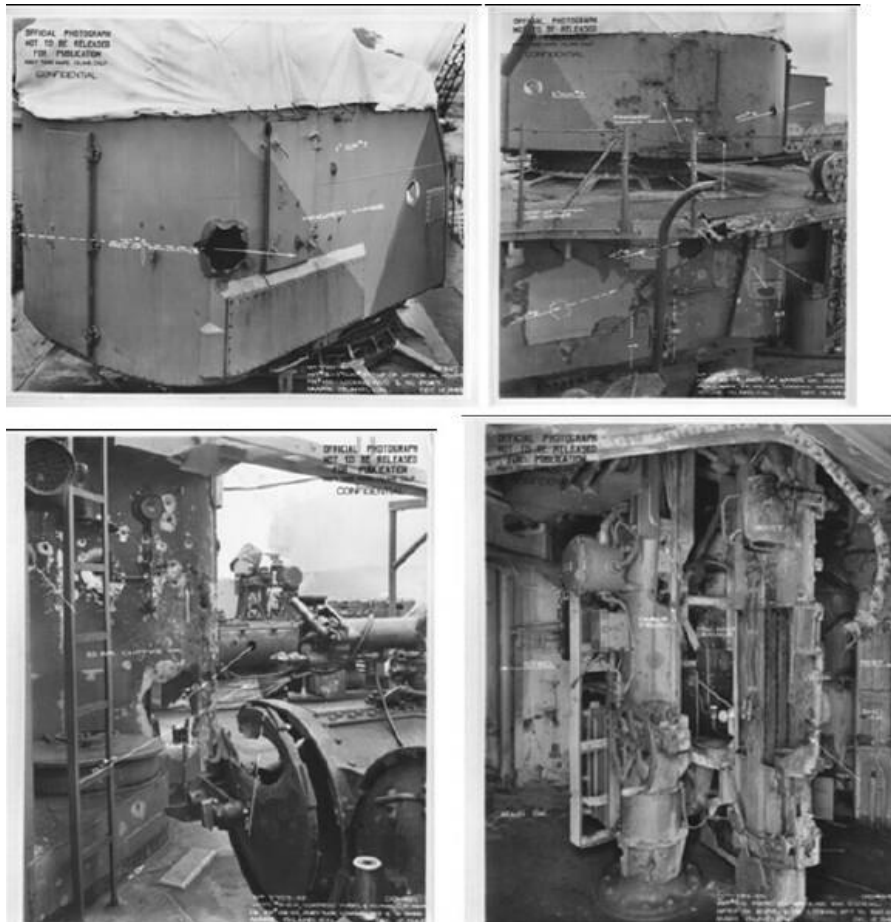
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branch of the National Archives as a stress breaker by researching and posting documents.

Tracy shared some very interesting photos of the battle damage suffered by the USS Sterett (DD 407) in WWII. He has a vast collection of photos, drawings and other interesting artifacts from WWII. He authors a blog called Researcher@Large (<http://researcheratlarge.blogspot.com/>). If you're interested in WWII Naval history, you should check it out. All photos and other artifacts are available for your personal use. However, contact Tracy prior to using anything that may end up being published or used in a public forum.

I've included a sampling of the Sterett battle damage photos.



There is also a very interesting War Damage Report prepared by Puget Sound Navy Yard documenting the damage Sterett suffered following a Kamikaze attack in 1945 available for review at

<http://www.researcheratlarge.com/Ships/DD407/1945PSNSDamageReport.html>

Many thanks to Tracy for his contributions to the Sterett Association and also for the great work he does in documenting World War 2 history.

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Sterett Leadership

An XO With a Heart?? (con't)

Tom Harper, the DLG 31 XO whose compassionate decision was highlighted in the previous newsletter has deferred the decision making in Fred Cross' situation to the CO, Capt. Jack Hilton. However, as we all know, the XO's recommendation in these matters carries a ton of weight so we will continue to give Tom the credit he justly deserves while also acknowledging Capt. Hilton's sound leadership talents.

The Continuing Saga of John King

Since retiring from Perot Systems, John and his wife Susie have been doing a lot of traveling and making the most of their retirement.

The Kings were likely the first of us to usher in the New Year. They spent the first weeks of 2013 seeing the sights in Australia and New Zealand.

Not satisfied with just seeing the normal tourist sights, John took time to check off an item on his Bucket List.

A call to attention and a smart hand salute is in order for John's determination and bravery in accomplishing this feat:



A video of the complete jump is available here:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A1BtPBACGL4>

Perhaps John will be interested in checking out the Zip Line in Branson

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Sterett Association Support

Why pay dues??

Like any organization, the Sterett Association has operating costs. The Association is a registered Non Profit organization and all Association officers serve voluntarily. The membership dues of \$20 each year take care of operating expenses like maintaining and hosting the web site, providing inventory for the ship's store, covering reunion start up costs, etc.

As an example, the bus we've chartered to take reunion attendees on the afternoon tour of the Veterans Memorial Museum and the Titanic Museum in Branson costs \$725.00.

For those that do attend a reunion, your membership dues for the following year are included with the reunion fee. Reunion fees are based on actual estimated costs for the reunion events which include the banquet, tour transportation, DJ, hospitality room and refreshments, audio and visual equipment, and a myriad of other fees and charges.

The Sterett Association has been a strong organization since its inception. We can only remain strong with the continued support of our members.

Please take a moment to visit the Sterett web site and update your membership.

<http://www.sterett.net/join-association.html>

Keep in mind, dues will be extended through 2014 for those attending the reunion and paying the reunion fee. We have also adjusted the reunion fee for guests.

MIGS List (Members in Good Standing) AS of March 18, 2013

As of 18-Mar-13

112 Members in Good Standing for 2012 and Beyond				
	Last Name	First Name	Dues Paid Year	
1	Acton	Richard	2014	
2	Alexander	Leonard	2015	
3	Allard	Richard	2012	
4	Andrieuz	Clestian "Lee"		DDG 104 Sailor
5	Avery	Joel	2013	
6	Beaulieu	Mark	2013	
7	Bell	Mark A.	2015	
8	Benavides	Chris		DDG 104 Sailor
9	Berry	David	2013	
10	Bilak	David	2015	
11	Blevins	Isaac	2012	
12	Blount	Thomas E Jr	2015	
13	Bolton	James E. "Jim"	2015	
14	Brehio	Edward		DD 407 Shipmate

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15	Brown	Don	2013	
16	Bucher	Gene	2012	
17	Burch	Ronald	2013	
18	Calhoun	Cal		DD 407 Shipmate
19	Camp	Ralph	2014	
20	Carroll	Francis M. "Frank"	2012	
21	Cline	George A.	2014	
22	Cook	Donald	2012	
23	Coon	Jack	2013	
24	Cornforth	Mike	2016	
25	Cowan	Van	2013	
26	Cross	Fred	2015	
27	Cucchiara	Andrew	2015	
28	De Vinney Jr	Lloyd	2013	
29	Dean	Dennis	2015	
30	Doan	Liennhu	2013	Honorary Crewmember
31	Dreschnack	Jay	2013	Tech Rep
32	Elder	George	2013	
33	Fox	Edward	2015	
34	Faulkner	Thomas	2012	
35	Garrison	Merton	2016	
36	Garrity	Michael	2012	
37	Groener	Robert "Duffy"	2015	
38	Hada	Wilford	2015	
39	Hageman	Donald	2013	
40	Hager	Kenneth	2014	
41	Haley	Joel	2013	
42	Harper	Thomas J.	2012	
43	Hayes	Stephen	2014	
44	Herron	William	2015	
45	Hilliard	Dale	2015	
46	Houston	Aaron	2014	
47	Hutchins	Jacque		DD 407 Shipmate
48	Jacobsmeier	Thomas	2016	
49	Jackson	Glenn	2013	
50	Jimenez	Salvadore	2013	
51	Johnson	Harold "Howie"	2012	
52	Johnson	Robert	2015	
53	Johnston	James	2013	
54	Keiran	Frank	2013	
55	Kelsey	Sterett-Gittings	2012	
56	King	John E.	2013	

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57	Kirk	Jeffery	2014	
58	Kolby	James J.	2013	
59	LaCrosse	Denis	2014	
60	Layton	Stephen		DD 407 Shipmate
61	Lefebvre	Chuck (Frenchy)		DD 407 Shipmate
62	Long	William H.		DD 407 Shipmate
63	Madeley	Larry	2013	
64	Malcolm	Ronald	2018	
65	Marcus	Richard B.	2015	
66	Mares	Carl R.	2015	
67	Marrs	Art		DD 407 Shipmate
68	Martin	Richard		DD 407 Shipmate
69	Marusa	Mike	2015	
70	McBrian	Wayne	2013	
71	McCullough	Henry		DD 407 Shipmate
72	McGuire	Robert V.	2012	
73	McKee	Clovis	2013	
74	Mickel	Evan	2013	
75	Miller	Elden	Member Emeritus	
76	Moe	Jerry	2013	
77	Montgomery	Gary	2014	
78	Moore	Michael	2013	
79	Murphy	Brendan	2013	
80	Nace	Wilbert	2012	
81	Nolan	Mike	2012	
82	Norton	Randy	2016	
83	O'Hanlon	Randy	2013	
84	ORiley	Daniel	2012	
85	Patrick	Emery	2013	
86	Perez	Jose "JP"	2011	DDG 104 Sailor
87	Phung	Le T	2014	Honorary Crewmember
88	Pinto	Thomas	2012	
89	Rains	David	2013	
90	Robinson	James E. "Robbie"	2015	
91	Sedrel	Steven	2013	
92	Sherman	Fredrick		DD 407 Shipmate
93	Smith	Don	2012	
94	Smith	Mike	2013	
95	Snader	Robert	2015	

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96	Stella	William		DD 407 Shipmate
97	Sterett	Deborah A. "Debbie"	2015	Associate
98	Sterett	Ryan	2008, 2012-2013	Associate
99	Sterett	William Kent	2012	Associate
100	Sterett	Diana	2012	Associate
101	Stevens	Richard	2015	
102	Sullivan	George E	2014	
103	Sullivan	Larry	2015	
104	Thayer	Dwight E.	2013	
105	Thompson	Tommy		DD 407 Shipmate
106	Vincent	Jerry	2014	
107	Vu	Delafer	2012	Honorary Crewmember
108	Wasinger	Phil	2014	
109	Wenig, Jr	Royal		DD27 Family Mem
110	West	Charles	2012	
111	Wright	Wayne	2012	
112	Yeskis	Richard	2012	

Facebook

The Sterett groups on Facebook continue to be a great way to reconnect with old shipmates, exchange pictures and share the good Sterett memories we had.

There are three Sterett Facebook groups. The first two groups listed are both DLG/CG 31 groups started by different people; the third is the official FB group for the DDG 104:

USS Sterett - <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/15927790465/>

USS Sterett CG 31 - <http://www.facebook.com/#!/groups/205983540038/>

USS Sterett (DDG 104) - <http://www.facebook.com/USSSterett?ref=ts&fref=ts>

Ships Store

I have assumed operation of the ship's store.

Ron Malcolm, our ship's store custodian since the 2011 Biloxi reunion reluctantly had to resign from this position due to personal issues.

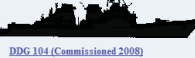
Many thanks to Ron for improving the operation of the store. Through Ron's efforts, we have stocked the store with authentic items identical to those sold aboard ship and manufactured by the original vendor.

Remember, the ships store is run as a convenience to former Sterett crewmembers and contains several items that may not be available on the open market.

The store is not a revenue generator for the Association. Prices and shipping fees are set to break even with actual costs.

The current inventory contains ball caps, lighters, coffee cups and windbreakers for both DLG and CG 31.

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Check things out at: <http://www.sterett.net/Sterett-Association-Store/store.html>.



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DD 27 (1910-19)



DD 407 (1939-1945)



DLG 31 (1967-75)



CG 31 (1975-94)



DDG 104 (Commissioned 2008)

2013 Sterett Reunion in Branson, Missouri



I was in Branson the first week in April attending a reunion of Westpac'rs; a group of Navy veterans that spent most of their Navy years in Japan and other places around WestPac. We all had a great time. Branson was also hosting a Vietnam Veterans Welcome celebration around town the same weekend.

I believe Branson has set themselves apart from other entertainment areas in their embracing of the US Military and Veterans. They really step it up.

While there, I took care of a couple of items for the Sterett reunion in October.

Branson welcomes and celebrates veterans. Be prepared to feel special!

Check out the pictures of Military and Veterans activities in Branson at:

<http://www.explorebranson.com/gallery/category/6/Veterans-and-Military>

The reunion is 6 months away.

If you're planning to attend, we encourage you to get registered with the Association and with the Radisson Hotel as soon as possible.

We need fairly accurate numbers of attendees as early as possible so that we can ensure we have the correct number of rooms, dinner arrangements and other things necessary for a smooth and enjoyable reunion.

Latest progress:

- Reunion information and registration is available on the Sterett web site:

<http://www.sterett.net/Reunions/Reunions.html>

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- We are now under contract with the Radisson Hotel in Branson which will be an outstanding host for our reunion.
- We have contracted with Gray Line tours for a bus to the Saturday afternoon tours of the Veterans Memorial Museum and the Titanic Museum.
- We have contracted with Just One More Song to provide DJ services for our Saturday evening dinner and dance.
- Arrangements have been made to have a color guard for Saturday evening.

The Radisson has established a separate web site exclusively for the Sterett reunion.

Go to: <http://www.radisson.com/usssterett> for hotel information and reservations.

Of course, you can also make your hotel reservations by calling the Radisson directly by calling the hotel at 1-888-566-5290.

Branson is an amazing place. There is something there for everyone.

Our dates of October 11-13, 2013 couldn't be better in that October is in the middle of the Branson season and most of the big headliners are in town and performing throughout October.

Branson has many attractions. However, the very best attraction will be seeing your Sterett shipmates once again.

Branson Info:

There is just too much available in Branson to try and list it all here. However, here are a few links you can use to get an idea of things to do:

<http://www.explorebranson.com/>

<http://reunionpro.com/shows-attractions>

http://www.tripadvisor.com/Attractions-g44160-Activities-Branson_Missouri.html

<http://www.titanicbranson.com/>

<http://www.discoverbranson.com/attractions>

<http://www.veteransmemorialbranson.com>

To take advantage of all that Branson offers, you should arrive early and stay beyond the reunion.

Shows and attractions:

The traditional reunion schedule does not allow us to try and take in one of the many live shows in Branson as a group.

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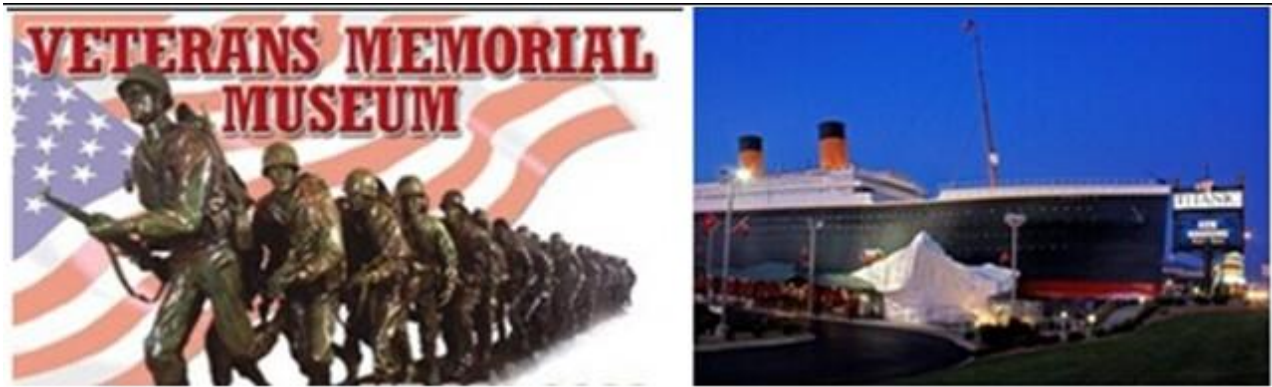


However, the Association will assist all of our reunion guests in getting discounted tickets to the shows and attractions they choose to see. Some venues require a minimum number before a group discount can be given but most will provide discounts with advanced notification from the organizing group along with a form of a reunion ID. In most cases, the Sterett Association reunion name tag will be used for discounts.

The Radisson concierge will also assist in obtaining discounted tickets for shows and attractions. The reunion registration process will contain room for attendees to indicate the shows and/or attractions they want to see. This will facilitate the Association in making sure discount admissions or fees are available.

Sponsored Tour

There will be a Sterett Reunion sponsored tour on Saturday afternoon to the Veterans Memorial Museum and the Titanic Museum. The tour will include both museums. Bus transportation will be provided by the Association.



The registration form will have space to indicate your intent to take the tour. The discounted admission to the Veterans Museum is \$12.28 (subject to verification – may be less); the Titanic is \$19.00.

Admission for the Museums will be collected at reunion checkin to avoid lines at the venues. Payment can be made in cash or check to the USS Sterett Association.



Area Transportation

If you're flying to Branson, be sure to make your reservations as early as possible to get the best rates.

Branson Airport:

Like many small regional airports, the Branson airport service is subject to change. Currently, Branson is serviced by **Southwest** and **Frontier** Airlines.

Springfield-Branson International Airport

Located 50 miles north of Branson, the Springfield airport is serviced by **Delta**, **American**, **United** and **Allegiant**.

Currently, the Branson area hotels do not provide shuttle service to/from the Branson airports. Transportation is provided from Gray Line and other commercial companies.

Questions:

We have established a reunion email account: sterett.reunion@hotmail.com.

Use this email address if you have any questions about the Sterett Reunion. You can also contact me at shayes@cableone.net

Hotel Information:

The Radisson has been host of many military and veterans reunions and they seem to take the extra step in making veterans groups feel honored. Although all the hotels step up for veterans and the military, the Radisson is the only one that employs a full time sales manager who does nothing other than coordinate with veterans groups.



Check out the Radisson at: <http://www.radisson.com/usssterett>

The room rates offered at the Radisson are better than those we had in either Biloxi or San Diego.

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Guestroom Rate:

King or Double \$89.00

2- Room Leisure Suite \$139.00

Note: - Guestrooms subject to state (7.6%) and local (4.0%) taxes.

Note: the rates previously quoted which included breakfast options are not available in our contract. Breakfast is available in the hotel restaurant or at nearby establishments.

Reservations:

Reservations can be made on line at <http://www.radisson.com/usssterett> or by calling 1-888-566-5290. Be sure to mention the USS Sterett Reunion to get the discounted rates.

These rates are good three days before until three days after the reunion.

Reunion Costs:

\$80 per member/primary attendee

\$60 per guest

Among other things, the fee covers:

1. Hospitality Room and Refreshments
2. Association Business Meeting (Room, A/V Equip)
3. Association Dinner Banquet (Food, DJ, Color Guard, A/V Equipment)
4. Memorial Service (Room, A/V Equip)
5. Bus transportation to Veterans Museum and the Titanic Museum

Annual dues for the calendar year 2014 will be included with payment of the reunion fee.

Business Meeting Agenda:

We have several items to take up during our Saturday morning business meeting. Among these are:

Election of New Officers

A new Ship's Store custodian

Location of the 2015 reunion

(consideration should be given to locating on the west coast following reunions in Biloxi and Branson).

Approval of revamped By Laws

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The Branson reunion information pages have been added to the Sterett web site. Keep watching the site for updated reunion information. Go to: <http://www.sterett.net/Reunions/Reunions.html>

The Sterett Association welcomes any and all input from its members and supporters. Please don't hesitate to submit items of interest for inclusion in our web site or our newsletters, including pictures. We want to hear from you. We are especially looking for input on interesting careers or volunteer work by the members of our Sterett family.

Hope to see you in Branson.

For the Sterett Association:

Steve Hayes