



Spring/Summer 2014

Greetings from the Sterett Association

Apologies for the long wait for the newsletter. It was delayed waiting for settlement of the reunion location.

Reunion 2015

Following a long and arduous search, the location for the 2015 Sterett Reunion has been decided. Our reunion coordinator, **Bill Mallow**, worked diligently to find the best deal in the Puget Sound area. Many thanks to Bill, and also to **Denis LaCrosse** who provided invaluable assistance.

The members at the 2013 reunion voted to have the reunion in the Seattle WA area. There were a number of area locations and property proposals looked at and eliminated for various reasons. In searching for a good location, there are a number of factors that govern our selection:

Room rates: we realize attending a reunion can be an expensive undertaking, especially for those flying in. We look for reasonable room rates at a decent hotel. Cheap rooms aren't always the best.

Meeting rooms: Since a large part of a reunion involves sitting around with shipmates trading life's stories, we want meeting rooms that provide a comfortable gathering.

Banquet facilities: We look for a hotel that can comfortably seat our guests and provide a decent menu at a reasonable price.

Bar/Cocktail Lounge: Having an onsite bar is another factor we look for. After all, we are reuniting old school sailors from the 7TH Fleet.

Easy Access: We look for a location that is relatively easy to get to from the area airport.

We are pleased to announce the 2015 USS Sterett Association will be held at the:

**La Quinta Inn & Suites
Tacoma
1425 East 27th St
Tacoma, WA**



The reunion dates are: **Thursday, September 17, 2015 through Sunday, September 20, 2015** (Thursday being an early arrival day).

Rooms will be available for \$99.00.

We'll have much more information in future newsletters as other arrangements are firmed up but:

Pencil it in on your calendar and start making plans to join us. It's never too early.

The Puget Sound area is full of great things to do and see.

If you might consider a hop up to British Columbia, make sure your passports are up to date.

Cruise Book Project

I am very pleased to announce the Sterett Cruise Book project is complete!

All of the DLG/CG 31 cruise books have been digitally converted and are posted on the Sterett Association web site for viewing.

The books cover the following periods:

67-68, 68-70, 72, 73, 75-76, 1979, 81-82, 83-84, 87-88, 90-91, 93CentAM

See <http://www.sterett.net/cruise-books/index.html> There's also a link from the Sterett home page.



1967-68
Sterett Cruise Book



1968-70
Sterett Cruise Book



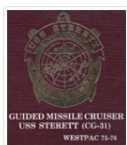
1972
Sterett Cruise Book



1973
Sterett Cruise Book



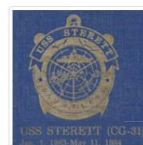
1981-82
Sterett Cruise Book



1975-1976
Sterett Cruise Book



1979
Sterett Cruise Book



1983-84
Sterett Cruise Book



1987-88
Sterett Cruise Book



1990-91
Sterett Cruise Book



1993
CENTAM
Sterett Cruise Book

Image of the Cruise Book Web Page

Thanks to the Sterett shipmates who entrusted us with their cruise books for conversion.

Special thanks and a BZ to **Tom Jacobsmeyer** (DLG 31) for his tireless efforts in doing the actual conversion. These books were not scanned. Tom took a digital image of each page in order to produce the sharpest, most complete images without damage to the book binding. He then cropped and tweaked each image. As we highlighted in a previous newsletter, Tom is an active volunteer with the Coast Guard Auxiliary and currently holds the position of **District Captain** in the Los Angeles/Long Beach area of Southern California.



Special thanks also go to our webmaster, **John Badeau**. JB was hired as the Sterett webmaster back in 2011. In the months following, he did a total site overhaul and redesign. He does a great job keeping the site current. Getting all the cruise books posted up on the web site was a tedious task and we appreciate his hard work.

DDG 104

The DDG 104 had a change of command recently.

CDR **Theodore Nunamaker** relieved CDR **Stewart Bateshansky**.

The new CO had this to say:

"It's important to recognize the many significant accomplishments the ship has achieved under Commander Bateshansky's command. They are a testament to his vision and leadership," said Nunamaker. "I feel privileged to take command of such a well-trained and motivated crew, and I am confident we will continue to carry out our duties with the boldness, daring, and initiative demonstrated by previous generations of Sterett Sailors."



CDR Nunamaker

On behalf of the Sterett Association, I want to thank **CDR Bateshansky** for his strong interest in recognizing and upholding the legacy of the Sterett's that preceded the DDG 104. His interest in identifying and proudly displaying artifacts from the DD 407 and the DLG/CG 31 were greatly appreciated.

Fair winds and following seas as you continue your Naval career.

To **CDR Nunamaker**:

Congratulations on assuming command of a great ship. We in the Sterett Association are at your service. We look forward to hearing and reading about the continuing outstanding performance of the DDG 104 as she takes her place in a long line of outstanding US Navy ships named Sterett.

DD 407

I recently received an email from the niece of a DD 407 shipmate:

My uncle, **Robert Keith Harman**, was a radioman aboard the Sterett DD 407. He had previously been on the Aaron Ward (DD-483) from the time it was launched until it was sunk off Guadalcanal in April 1943. Following that he was assigned the Sterett, 23 May, 1943, as a Radioman 2nd Class. He stayed with the ship until 8 October of 1944, having made Radioman 1st Class. He was detached before the Sterett left Puget Sound again, and assigned to the Attack Transport USS Gallatin (APA-169), which he served on until transferred once more, to the USS Princeton (CV-37).

He remained in the Navy until discharged, as a Radioman Chief, 13 August, 1946. He was called back up, 6 June, 1951 at the outbreak of the Korean War, to teach at the Naval Training School, in Bainbridge, MD, where he received his second, and final discharge, 3 October 1952.

My uncle died in Palm Desert, CA, 7 February, 2003, one week shy of his 83rd birthday. He was awarded six battle stars and six medals/ribbons by the end of his service.

Of the remaining shipmates, I would love to know if anyone who served aboard the Sterett during the time frame he was there, May 1943 through October 1944, knew or remembers him.



Robert Keith Harman

FTMC George Cline:

The following is a journal update from FTMC George Cline's wife Dottie published in The Caring Bridge:

It has been awhile since I brought you up to date on George. The winter was hard on him like everyone else. He got so bored staring at all of that snow. We have been outside a few times but the wind has been so cool. We have had a little set back now. We have been to ER a couple of times and ended up with an UTI and on antibiotics. But after all the cultures were in it came up that he has MRSA. So now we are in the Witham Hospital in Lebanon with the big gun antibiotics dripping in. He keeps running a fever so infection is still in there. He went into the hospital on May 6. They have done all kinds of test trying to locate it. His left knee was swollen when he went in and it has been warm so the infection disease doctor brought in the orthopedic doctor today and they decided to operate on his knee and drain all of the fluid. They got a lot of fluid off and some of it didn't look good so hopefully that was the infection. He has a drain in it now for a couple of days and hopefully he will keep the fever down now. As soon as the infection and fever is gone then he will be going back to Parkwood in Lebanon for rehab and therapy. Then more therapy once he gets home again. He was resting comfortably when I left tonight so time will tell. Keep us in your thoughts and prayers.
Dotty and all the family.

George continues to battle from the stroke he suffered in February, 2012. Please keep him in your prayers. He loves to hear from his shipmates. His email address is chiefgac78@aol.com

Sterett Passing:

I recently learned of the following passing:
Billy Grone MM3 DLG 31 1970-1972 passed away June 12, 2009.

The Legend of Olongapo City

(No – not that legend!)

Once upon a time, along the shores of Subic Bay, there was a village. Its leader, an old man, was famous for his love and care for his tribe. The leader was known as Apo. He was intelligent, good and just. He favored no one and treated every one fairly. He was loved by all.

The village of this model Apo became a good example for the nearby settlement. His name became a byword. Any dispute and conflict he resolved with justice and fairness. He inspired goodwill and nurtured hope in his people to combat sufferings brought about by calamities. However, because of his greatness, evil men with intentions of conquering his tribe became envious of him.

One morning, the village was awakened by the news that Apo was taken by unscrupulous tribesmen. The villagers searched for the Apo in the forest and mountains for several days but in vain.

One day, the villagers were taken by surprise when a boy returning from the forest, claimed that he found the head of the Apo at the foot of the mountain, impaled on a bamboo pole, They soon learned that the Apo was killed by his abductors, who cut his head off in order to cast fear among the villagers and succeed in their evil intent.

Realizing that they should now bury their beloved Apo with all the honors, they met the boy carrying the head amid loud shouts of "Ulo ng Apo" (head of the chieftain). This became the rallying cry for the village and inspired the villagers to unite against all the enemies.

But the village, instead of being frightened became enraged because of the hideous thing done to their beloved leader. The villagers punished the culprits and in order to cherish and emulate the example of the leadership shown to them by Apo, they called their village ULO NG APO (head of the chieftain). Thus the community was named OLONGAPO.

Vietnam Action

We ran the story of the bravery of the helicopter crew in the rescue of the downed pilot over North Vietnam in the previous newsletter. Here's a copy of the Navy Cross citation presented to the pilot, LT(jg) Wiant:

The President of the United States takes pleasure in presenting

The NAVY CROSS to

**LIEUTENANT (JUNIOR GRADE) JEFFRIE E. WIANT, JR.
UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE**

For service as set forth in the following

CITATION

For extraordinary heroism on 30 August 1968 as pilot of a search and rescue helicopter, serving with detachment 110, Helicopter Combat Support Squadron SEVEN,

Embarked on USS STERETT (DLG-31).

Lieutenant (jg) Wiant launched from STERETT to attempt recovery of a Navy attack pilot downed near Vinh, North Vietnam, in a area requiring a circuitous flight of approximately fifty miles over enemy territory. Despite heavy antiaircraft fire, combined with small arms fire en route to and in the rescue area, he skillfully and expeditiously maneuvered his aircraft over the downed pilot and commenced a pickup. Although his aircraft was hit several times while in hover, he steadfastly remained in position until the airman was hoisted aboard. Lieutenant Wiant's courage and calm professionalism while piloting his helicopter through a veritable hail of antiaircraft fire were key factors in the successful accomplishment of his mission. His superb aerial skill, valor, and devotion to duty reflected great credit upon himself and were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service.

Sterett Challenge Coins:

Sterett shipmate Tim Trend recently designed a challenge coin for those who served on Sterett (DLG/CG 31). The coins were advertised and made available for order through the Sterett Facebook pages. I bought 2 of these coins as did several other Association members. The general consensus is these coins are stunning. The picture does not do them justice.



Tim has graciously allowed the Sterett Association to make a bulk purchase of coins to be sold through the ship's store. They have been ordered and will be available in about three weeks. Check the Sterett web site for updates.

Sterett Association Support

Many thanks to those who have recently either joined the Association or brought their dues up to date.

The latest Member's List :

(The rows highlighted in blue are DD 407 shipmates who are exempt from paying dues.)

As of 27 April 2014

Last Name	First Name	Dues Paid Year
Acton	Richard	2011-2014
Alexander	Leonard	2008-2015
Allard	Richard	2013-2015
Anton	Stephen	2013-2018
Baumgartner	Lane	2013-2016
Bell	Mark A.	2009-2015
Berry	David	2010-2017
Bilak	David	2006-2015
Blount	Thomas E Jr	2006-2015
Bolton	James E. "Jim"	2009-2016
Botkin	Juanita	DD 407
Brehio	Edward	DD 407
Buchanan	Michael	2013-2014
Calhoun	Cal	DD 407
Camp	Ralph	2011-2014
Campbell	Jim	2013-2014
Caravella	Tony	2014
Cline	George A.	2006-2014
Cook	Donald	2014
Cornforth	Mike	2006-2016
Cowan	Van	2007-2014
Cox	David	2014
Cross	Fred	2009-2015
Cucchiara	Andrew	2009-2015
De Vinney Jr	Lloyd	2012-2014
Dean	Dennis	2006-2015
Dietz	Burton	2013-2016
Doan	Liennhu	2011-2014
Douglas	Richard	2014
Earney	Jerald D.	2006-2020
Farnham	Charles G.	2014-2015
Fox	Edward	2006-2016
Garrison	Merton	2007-2016
Garrity	Michael	2006-2015
Genet	Richard P	2014-2015
Goodson	Wialliam A.	DD 407
Groener	Robert "Duffy"	2006-2016

Hada	Wilford	2006-2016
Hageman	Donald	2008-2014
Hager	Kenneth	2008-2015
Haley	Joel	2011-2014
Hailey	James	2014
Hayes	Stephen	2010-2015
Hennis	David	2012-2014
Herron	William	2006-2015
Hilliard	Dale	2008-2016
Holcombe	Randolph	2013-2014
Hutchins	Jacque	DD 407
Jacobsmeier	Thomas	2006-2015
Johnson	Harold "Howie"	2009-2015
Johnson	Trey "Dewitt"	2013-2014
Johnson	Robert	2009-2016
Johnson	Trey	2013-2014
Keiran	Frank	2011-2014
Kincaid	Homer	2008, 2014
King	John E.	2008-2014
Kirk	Jeffery	2008-2018
LaCrosse	Denis	2007-2014
Lacey	Todd	2014
Layton	Stephen	DD 407
Lefebvre	Chuck (Frenchy)	DD 407
LeFebvre		2013-2015
Littleton	Robert	2013-2015
Long	William H.	DD 407
Lujan	Bruce	2014
Malcolm	Ronald	2006-2019
Mallow	William	2007, 2013-2014
Marcus	Richard B.	2004-2015
Mares	Carl R.	2006-2015
Marrs	Art	DD 407
Martin	Richard	DD 407
Marusa	Mike	2009-2015
McAllister	David	2014
McBrian	Wayne	2007-2014
McCullough	Henry	DD 407
McGuire	Robert V.	2006-2014
Mickel	Evan	2010-2014
Miller	Elden	Member Emeritus
Moe	Jerry	2006-2014
Montgomery	Gary	2006-2014
Moore	Michael	2013-2014
Motz	Lawrence	2006-2021
Murphy	Brendan	2012-2014
Ness	James	2014

Ness	George	2014
Nichols	Gary	2013-2017
Norton	Randy	2007-2017
Oistad	Gary	2014
Page	Tim	2014
Payne	Darrell	2013-2020
Phan	Lana	2013-2017
Phung	Le T	2008-2015
Rains	David	2006-2014
Robinson	James E. "Robbie"	2011-2015
Sandbothe	Bradley S.	2013-2016
Sedrel	Steven	2011-2014
Sexton	Nick	2014
Sherman	Fredrick	DD 407
Smith	Danny	2014
Smith	Mike	2011-2016
Snader	Robert	2011-2015
Sports	William (Bill)	2014
Stella	William	DD 407
Sterett	Deborah A. "Debbie"	2008-2016
Stevens	Richard	2006-2015
Sullivan	George E	2006-2015
Sullivan	Larry	2006-2015
Thayer	Dwight E.	2009-2015
Thompson	Tommy	DD 407
Truong	Tri	2014
Trotter	James	2013-2014
Vincent	Jerry	2013-2018
Verren	Terry	2013-2017
Vitez	Barry	2013-2014
Vu	Delafer	2013
Wasinger	Phil	2013-2014

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.

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.

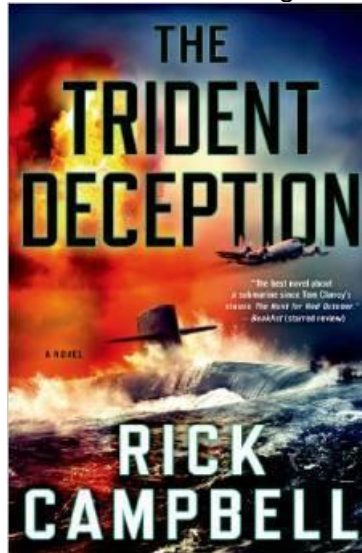
<http://www.sterett.net/join-association.html>

Book suggestion:

We're not starting a book club but I was asked by Rick Campbell, a retired Navy Commander, if we could mention the book he recently had published. It's gotten very good reviews and would be of interest to those who like Navy based stories of suspense.

Check out:

The Trident Deception, Available at Barnes and Noble or through Amazon.



Watch for Reunion and Puget Sound information in future newsletters and start thinking about attending.



You talkin to me? You got somethin to say?

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