



**Fall 2015**

## **Greetings from the Sterett Association**



Fall is a terrific time of the year.

The weather has cooled down, the fall colors are amazing, baseball playoffs have started and football is in full swing.

This particular Fall is even more fabulous because many of us recently attended the 2015 Sterett Association Reunion in Tacoma, WA.

What a great time it was.

### **Reunion Recap**

The Tacoma reunion was a major success from all perspectives. The entire event received rave reviews from every quarter.

Many believe we set the bar a little higher with the 2015 reunion.

The hotel was great, the hotel staff was super. Even the Pacific Northwest weather cooperated.



The reunion was very well attended, with approximately 150 guests seated for dinner on Saturday evening.

Guests traveled in from across the United States and from as far away as Sasebo, Japan and the Philippines.

Historically, the majority of Sterett Association members who have attended the reunions had served during the Yokosuka years in the late 60s or during the early Subic years in the early 80s.

In 2015, we had a large contingent of Sterett shipmates who served in the mid to late 80s. We welcome them all to the Sterett Association and look forward to their participation for many more years.

### **DD 407 Honored Guests**

We were fortunate to have 2 of our **DD 407** WWII veterans with us. Thanks to **Art Marrs** and **Henry McCullough** for honoring us with your presence.

The contributions of your families in stepping up and assisting in your reunion attendance is recognized and appreciated.

While he was unable to make the trip to Tacoma, DD 407 veteran **Chuck “Frenchy” LeFebvre** sent along a very touching letter which was read to the reunion guests.

Stopping by on Sunday morning was Tom Miner, son of DD 407 veteran **Frank Miner**.

### **Memories of Reunion 2015**



Captain Richard Genet and his wife Karen hosted his crew at a BBQ Friday



DD 407 vets Henry McCullough and Art Marris chat with Andrew Sterett descendant Deborah Sterett



Members of the Navy JROTC pose with WWII vets Art Marris and Henry McCullough



Ltjg John King with BTM Mac McGuire and his family



The mess decks never looked so good



Jolee Langill did an awesome job singing the National Anthem



Shipmates catch up after many years



Operations Department muster



Good food, good folks, good times



Working off that good chow



Members discuss Association business Saturday morning

I received the following letter from the USS Turner Joy Museum:

# USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



24 September 2015

To: Steve Hayes, President, USS Sterett Association

Subject: Letter of Appreciation for donation to the USS Turner Joy


On behalf of the BHSA, Staff, and Volunteers of the USS Turner Joy, thank you very much for your gracious donation of \$500.00. Because we are a non-profit organization, your donation should be tax deductible.

We were honored to host your reunion group's tours of the USS Turner Joy. "Tin Can Sailors" and Sailors in general, share a love of the sea and respect for the ships that they served. Your reunion group proved that the "brotherhood" of real Sailors is still intact and you can be justifiably proud of your sea service in total.

Your substantial donation will help to preserve the Turner Joy and keep her spirit alive. We are proud to care for and show this wonderful fighting ship. Maintenance is continuous and we intent to take her to dry-dock in the fall of 2016. Your donation will help us in this endeavor.

Please tell your association members that they are welcome on board the USS Turner Joy anytime, as individuals and in groups. Thank you.

Very Respectfully,

  
Jack James  
Director, USS Turner Joy

## Board of Officers Election

The membership present at the Saturday business meeting voted to keep the current board in place for two more years.

Additionally, the members approved the establishment of a 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President position.

The Sterett Association Board for 2015-2017:

President: **Steve Hayes**

Vice President: **John King**

Vice President: **Chuck Bond**

Secretary/Treasurer: **Don Hageman**

Officer At Large: **Wayne McBrian**

Officer At Large: **Larry Motz**

Officer At Large: **Lloyd DeVinney**





Welcome to Doc Bond. We look forward to your enthusiasm and assistance in the forward movement and growth of the Sterett Association.



On behalf of all the board members, thanks for having the confidence in us to oversee the Association for another two years.

### **How it all started**

With today's internet and social media it is relatively easy to keep up with USS Sterett Association related things these days. It wasn't always that way.

The Sterett Association, like many good things we enjoy, had meager beginnings.

Back as early as 1985, **Dave Wolf** started thinking about getting a few of his Sterett shipmates together for a reunion. Over the next several years, he spent time putting a list of shipmates together to query about interest in a reunion.

There was no internet, and no easy way to ascertain contact information. However, telephone books were available on a central disc and could be searched using a computer at libraries. Using the Sterett's First Year and the 1968-1970 cruise books and the telephone address lists, Dave started to assemble a list of shipmates.

By May of 1997, Dave had 40–50 potential reunion attendees listed.

In 1996, **Elden Miller** and his wife Nancy were attending a viewing of "Down Periscope" with Kelsey Grammer. In one scene, where he was riding in a launch to his command, there was clearly a row of US Navy ships in the background. Elden immediately recognized Sterett as one of the ships. He became very excited and had to stay to the very last of the credits of the movie to find out where the movie was shot. He discovered "his ship" was a the NARAD reserve fleet near Benicia California.

About this same timeframe, Elden had begun to dabble with web site design and was self-teaching himself. He put up a rough framework as an experiment and decided to use Sterett as a subject for his first web site.

Not long after this period, Dave made contact with Elden Miller. The idea of a Sterett reunion fed Elden's enthusiasm about the Sterett.

Elden offered to do the leg work if Dave was willing to locate the reunion in the Denver area. Realizing that the location would be the key ingredient to making a first reunion successful, Dave thought the Denver area would be a good location.



Now with both Dave and Elden using Switchboard as a source of contact information, the list of Sterett contacts grew to over 100 names.

Using a combination of email and regular mail, reunion announcements were sent out.

There are financial obligations an organization must commit to prior to any event like a reunion.

There was not yet a Sterett Association nor were there any funds available

Elden and Dave went forward with the reunion arrangements at great risk to their personal finances.

The first Sterett reunion was held on June 19-21, 1998 in Aurora, CO. In attendance were 43 USS Sterett shipmates.

Had any aspect of this first event gone awry, there likely would not have been follow on reunions.

In the subsequent 3 years, the Association was formally registered and chartered with the State of Colorado as a non profit organization.

Dave Wolf, Elden Miller, and the Sterett reunion "plank owners" laid the groundwork for the USS Sterett Association we have today.

We are extremely grateful for their efforts.

### **KAL 007 Flag**

On 8 September, 1983 Sterett was ordered to depart Subic Bay and transit to the northern Sea of Japan off Sakhalin Island to provide search and rescue support following the downing of Korean Airlines Flight 007 by the USSR.

The following 60 days were challenging, to say the least. The Soviet navy deliberately ignored nautical rules of the road and did everything possible to impede and interfere with the SAR/salvage efforts.

The KAL 007 operation was certainly a time that is remembered by all who were there.

During this period, FTM1 Tim Page was given the ensign that had flown over Sterett for much of this operational period. SM1 Angelo was in the process of replacing the flag and rather than destroy it, he gave it to Tim.

In an extremely generous gesture after 32 years, Tim presented this now beautifully encased flag to Captain George Sullivan, Sterett CO at the time of KAL 007.



Tim Page presents the KAL 007 ship's flag to Captain George Sullivan

## DDG 104 News

Hail and Farewell:

Commanding Officer **CDR Theodore J. Nunamaker** was recently relieved by **CDR Matthew Cieslukowski**.

**CDR Claudine Caluori** reported to Sterett as the new Executive Officer.

**CMDCM Monique A. Greenidge** recently relieved CMDCM Mark Gilmore as the Command Master Chief.



DDG 104 Leadership

Congratulations and welcome from the Sterett Association



Following a very long and difficult deployment and a much earned stand-down period, Sterett has started an extended yard period.

### **Sterett Passings**

We learned of the following Shipmate passings since the previous newsletter:

**Jay Mills**, FCCM USN, Ret.



**Javis Edward Johnson** GMM2

### **Webmaster**

We have a new webmaster.

Many thanks to **Kirk Wagoner** who volunteered to assume the duties of our webmaster.

We'll be looking for some things to add to the site over the next several months.

We also thank **John Badeau** for his great work in overhauling our web site 4 years ago and for his excellent work in keeping it up to date. As we say in the Navy, "Fair winds and following seas".

### **2017 Reunion**

The location of the next Sterett reunion is decided by the members present at the business meeting.

The location can be a difficult decision. We realize attending a reunion can be a difficult financial burden, especially the cost of air travel.

We also recognize Sterett shipmates live throughout and beyond the 50 States. We want to provide all of them an opportunity to attend a reunion as often as possible.

We must also guard against the natural bias of those in attendance at the current reunion to push for a location convenient to them.

There were a number of great locations nominated for 2017 and there were excellent points offered in support by each nominating party.

However, when all was said and done, the location for the 2017 Sterett reunion that was decided was



Nashville, Tenn.

To avoid issues for those with children in school, the reunion will be in late June. Specific dates will be announced at a later time.

Shipmate **Burton Dietz**, a resident of Nashville, volunteered to coordinate the 2017 reunion. We're looking forward to another great event in Nashville.

Start planning now and watch the web site and the newsletters for 2017 reunion information.



## We Need Your Help!

What do you do these days? Where has life taken you after Sterett?  
How did your Sterett tour influence your life?

You might be surprised to discover what you do holds interest to others.

I know those that attend the reunions do a lot of catching up about their lives since their Sterett days.

Let's start sharing some of that in the newsletters as well.

Your life is more interesting than you realize.

Send your stories to me at [shayes@cablone.net](mailto:shayes@cablone.net)

We want to hear from you.

For the Sterett Association:

Steve Hayes