



## Summer 2016



## Greetings from the Sterett Association

Temperature's rising, school is out. Time for some Summer fun.

## DDG 104

The DDG 104 Facebook cover photo was recently updated with this excellent picture.



May was a busy time for Sterett reenlistments, awards and promotions, which included the following: Family, friends, and fellow sailors gathered for the promotion of Lieutenant Raschke, Lieutenant Chang, and Lieutenant Gerrek.  
Congratulations to all on a job well done!



You can follow the activities of the newest Sterett at this Facebook page:  
<https://www.facebook.com/USSSterett/?fref=photo>

## **Sterett Awards**

Recently, Mike Smith and Elden Miller did some research on the awards presented to the DLG/CG 31 over her 27 years of service.

Sterett unit awards summation taken from the OPNAV Notice 1650:

### **STERETT DLG 31**

#### **Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**

20-MAR-1969 22-MAR-1969 - Korea  
17-APR-1969 15-MAY-1969 - Korea  
09-JUL-1969 13-JUL-1969 - Korea  
30-OCT-1969 08-NOV-1969 - Korea  
30-NOV-1969 20-DEC-1969 - Korea  
01-MAR-1970 09-MAR-1970 - Korea  
28-JUN-1970 16-JUL-1970 – Korea

#### **Combat Action Ribbon**

19-APR-1972

#### **Navy Unit Commendation**

02-JUL-1968 30-JUN-1970  
23-JAN-1972 24-JUL-1972

**Vietnam Service Medal**

31-JUL-1968 04-SEP-1968  
06-OCT-1968 29-OCT-1968  
13-NOV-1968 10-DEC-1968  
07-JAN-1969 28-JAN-1969  
24-FEB-1969 14-MAR-1969  
24-MAY-1969 11-JUN-1969  
19-JUL-1969 02-AUG-1969  
23-AUG-1969 06-SEP-1969  
13-JAN-1970 07-FEB-1970  
16-MAR-1970 19-APR-1970  
05-MAY-1970 27-MAY-1970  
08-FEB-1972 04-MAR-1972  
21-MAR-1972 19-MAY-1972  
29-MAY-1972 13-JUN-1972  
21-JUN-1972 17-JUL-1972

**Vietnam Campaign Medal****STERETT CG 31****Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal**

02-DEC-1989 14-DEC-1989 Persian Gulf

**Navy Expeditionary Service Medal**

08-DEC-1978 19-JAN-1979 - Iran/Indian Ocean  
12-MAR-1979 19-APR-1979 - Iran/Indian Ocean

**Humanitarian Service Medal**

11-JUN-1982 - Boat People  
20-JUL-1983 - Boat People  
21-JUL-1983 - Boat People

**Meritorious Unit Commendation**

12-MAR-1979 19-APR-1979  
27-JUL-1982 01-MAY-1984  
13-SEP-1983 05-NOV-1983 (KAL 007)

**Navy "E" Ribbon**

01-JUL-1986 31-DEC-1987

**Republic of Philippine Presidential Unit Citation**

01-MAY-1989 30-JUN-1991

**Korean Presidential Unit Citation**

September-November 1983

**Cold War Recognition Certificate**

The Cold War Recognition Certificate is a certificate awarded by the Secretary of Defense to all U.S. Armed Forces personnel and qualified federal government civilian personnel who faithfully and honorably served the United States anytime during the Cold War era, which is defined as **September 2, 1945 to December 26, 1991**.<sup>[1][2]</sup> Anyone who served in the military or the Federal Government during this period is authorized to receive the certificate.

Congress established the Cold War certificate in Section 1084 of the fiscal 1998 National Defense Authorization Act. The Department of Defense designated the Department of the Army as the executive agent for the Cold War Recognition Certificate program, whereupon the Army established a website to explain the procedure for requesting the certificate.



How to get it:

Go to <https://www.hrc.army.mil/TAGD/Awards%20and%20Decorations%20Branch%20-%20Cold%20War%20Certificate%20Program>

for information and instructions of requesting the certificate.

## The Celtic Cross



The National Association of Presbyterian Scouters' Celtic Cross award is given to adults active as a youth leader associated with a Presbyterian Church program.

To receive the award an adult must demonstrate "exceptional Christian character", or has given faithful service to a youth program(s) of a congregation by serving in church leadership positions.

Sterett shipmate **Burton Dietz** was recently honored by his church, the First Presbyterian/Nashville with the presentation of the Celtic Cross for his 21 years of teaching 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> graders in Sunday School and introducing the use of technology in the classroom.

Congratulations Burton and thanks for giving back to the community.

*The Sterett Association is always interested in our shipmates who, through their work or other activities, give back to their communities.*

*If you know of a shipmate who should be mentioned, drop us a line.*

## Agent Orange

Elden Miller has been tireless in his efforts to get documents from the National Archives which provide evidence that Sterett entered the waters of Da Nang harbor.

Elden recently received copies of Sterett log books which show Sterett was anchored in Da Nang on 30 July 1968.

Anchoring in Da Nang has been the basis for a number of Navy ships to be placed on the Agent Orange ship list.

**Sterett is not on the list.**



However, these documents may be a first step in providing evidence the ship was in inland waters. Proving Agent Orange exposure remains a difficult, uphill battle for each Vietnam veteran who may be suffering from AO exposure.

We are investigating how best to make these documents available to our shipmates. We may publish a special newsletter with the documents.

Meanwhile, contact me via email if you want a copy of the logs. [Steve Hayes](#)

The following references are good sources of information on Agent Orange.

<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/locations/blue-water-veterans.asp>

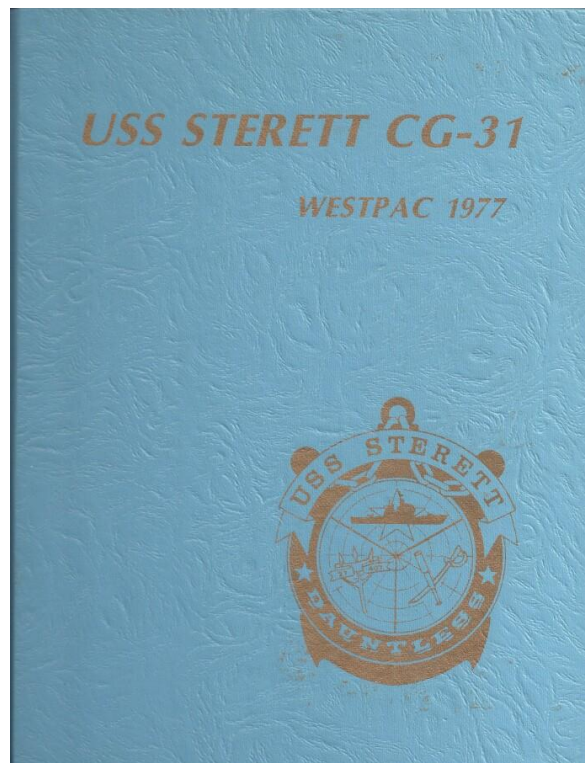
<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/conditions/index.asp>

***The Sterett Association may occasionally provide general information regarding the subject of Agent Orange and the Blue Water Navy.***

***However, the Sterett Association should not be considered a source for specific advice or information in submitting VA disability claims for Agent Orange.***

### **1977 Cruisebook**

Tom Jacobsmeyer has completed the conversion of the 1977 Cruise book to digital format. The cruise book will be available on the web site in the near future.



Many thanks to Tom and to Captain Farnham for his trust in loaning the book.

## Lifetime Membership

We have implemented a **Lifetime Membership** program.

A single payment of **\$200** will designate you a Lifetime Member of the USS Sterett Association.

Many thanks to the following Sterett Shipmates who have become Lifetime Members of the USS Sterett Association:

**Joe Anders**

**John King**

**Mike Smith**

**Randy Norton**

**Lien Phan** (in memory of her sister Tu Phan)

**Dennis Dean**

**Charles A. (Doc) Bond**

**Andy Cucchiara**

**Larry Motz**

A Lifetime Members web page will be maintained at: [http://www.sterett.net/life\\_members.html](http://www.sterett.net/life_members.html)

To become a Lifetime Member (or to update your regular dues), visit <http://www.sterett.net/paypal.htm>

PayPal options are being updated. Select a quantity of 10 for Lifetime payment if Lifetime is not a listed option.

**MIGS** – (Members in Good Standing) as of 21 June 2016

<b>AS OF 21 JUN 2016</b>			
<b>145 Members in Good Standing for 2016 and Beyond</b>			
<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Dues Paid Year</b>	
Acton	Richard	2011-2017	
Alexander	Leonard	2008-2020	
Ames	Frank	2016	
Anders	Joseph E.	LIFETIME	
Anton	Stephen	2013-2020	
Bailey	Eugene	2015-2016	
Barnes, Jr.	Samuel	2016	
Baumgartner	Lane	2013-2017	
Beaulieu	Mark	2015-2018	
Berry	David	2010-2017	
Blount	Thomas E Jr	2006-2020	
Bolton	James E. "Jim"	2009-2017	
Bond	Charles A.	LIFETIME	
Brehio	Edward		DD 407 Shipmate
Britton	R.M. "Mike"	2015-2017	
Buchanan	Michael	2008, 2013-2019	
Caravella	Tony	2016	
Coon	Jack	2011-2018	
Cornforth	Mike	2006-2017	
Cowan	Van	2015-2016	
Cox	Brian	2016	

Crocker	Ronald	2015-2016	
Crowe	Phillip	2015-2016	
Croy	David	2016	
Cucchiara	Andrew	LIFETIME	
De Castro	Ernesto	2016	
De Vinney Jr	Lloyd (Jim)	2015-2016	
Dahlke	William	2015-2016	
Danner	Vincent	2016	
Dean	Dennis	LIFETIME	
Dietz	Burton	2013-2017	
Doan	Liennhu	2011-2016	Refugee
Douglas	Richard	2015-2016	
Dugan	Joshua	2016	
Dumpert	David	2015-2016	
Dutter	Douglas	2015-2016	
Earney	Jerald D.	2006-2020	
Eckerle	Brian	2015-2016	
Eleyet	Dick	2015-2018	
Erickson	Ronald	2016	
Farnham	Charles G.	2014-2017	
Flowers	Clayton	2015-2016	
Fox	Edward	2006-2017	
Fullmer	Mark	2015-2016	
Garcia	Eduardo	2015-2016	
Garcia	Leroy "Aldo"	2015-2016	
Garrison	Merton	2007-2017	
Garrity	Michael	2006-2016	
Gaughan	Joseph E.	2015-2016	
Genet	Richard P	2014-2016	
Goodson	William A.		DD 407 Shipmate
Groener	Robert "Duffy"	2006-2017	
Hada	Wilford	2006-2017	
Hageman	Donald	2008-2017	
Hager	Kenneth	2008-2017	
Haley	Joel	2015-2016	
Hall	Clifford	2016	
Hampton	James	2015-2016	
Harold	Douglas	2016	
Hayes	Stephen	2010-2016	
Hendrix	K C	2015-2016	
Hennis	David	2012-2020	
Hilliard	Dale	2008-2017	
Hutchins	Jacque		DD 407 Shipmate
Jackson	Glenn	2015-2020	
Jacobsmeier	Thomas	2006-2020	
Jimenez	Salvatore	2011-2019	
Jennings	James	2016	



Johnson	Robert	2009-2017	
Joubert	Oswaldo (Rob)	2014-2016	
Kelsey	Sterett-Gittings	2014-2019	
Kincaid	Homer	2008, 2014-2016	
King	John E.	LIFETIME	
Kirk	Jeffery	2008-2019	
Koehler	William "Bill"	2015-2016	
Langill	Douglas	2016	
Layton	Stephen		DD 407 Shipmate
Lefebvre	Chuck (Frenchy)		DD 407 Shipmate
Lillian	James	2016	
Locke	Tommy	2014-2016	
Long	William H.		DD 407 Shipmate
Lord	Kevin	2016	
Ludwig	Frank	2016	
MacArthur	Glenn	2016	
Madelay	Larry	2016	
Madlem	Philip	2016	
Malcolm	Ronald	2006-2019	
Mallow	William	2016	
Marrs	Art		DD 407 Shipmate
Martin	Richard		DD 407 Shipmate
McBrian	Wayne	2007-2016	
McCullough	Henry		DD 407 Shipmate
McGuire	Robert V.	2006-2018	
McKee	Clovis	2015-2016	
Mickel	Evan	2010-2017	
Miller	Elden	Member Emeritus	
Moe	Jerry	2006-2016	
Montgomery	Gary J.	2012-2017	
Moshar	Gerald	2016	
Motz	Lawrence	LIFETIME	
Nichols	Gary	2013-2017	
Norton	Randy	LIFETIME	
Oldefest	Robert	2013-2017	
Page	Tim	2016	
Palenshus	David	2015-2017	
Patton	Robert	2016	
Payne	Darrell	2013-2020	
Phan	Lana	LIFETIME	Refugee
Phung	Le T	2008-2016	Refugee
Pritchard	Gary	2015-2016	
Rains	David	2015-2016	
Richards	Stephen	2015-2016	
Riley	Bruce	2016	
Robinson	James E. "Robbie"	2011-2016	
Robles	Nick	2015-2016	

Salazar	Lorenzo	2015-2016	
Sandbothe	Bradley S.	2013-2016	
Schmedding	Steve	2015-2017	
Sherman	Fredrick		DD 407 Shipmate
Smith	Michael	2015-2016	
Smith	William (Mike)	LIFETIME	
Smusz	John	2016-2017	
Snader	Robert	2011-2016	
Sterett	Deborah A. "Debbie"	2008-2017	Associate
Sterett	Ryan	2015-2017	
Stewart	Darryl	2016	
Sudbeck	Kevin	2015-2016	
Sullivan	George E	2006-2016	
Thayer	Dwight E.	2009-2016	
Thompson	Tommy		DD 407 Shipmate
Towns	Walter	2016	
Vincent	Jerry	2013-2018	
Verren	Terry	2013-2017	
Vogel	Michael	2015-2016	
Wagoner	Kirk	2016	
Ward	Eric	2016	
Wasinger	Phil	2015-2018	
West	Charles	2016	
Wheeler	John	2015-2016	
Wolf	Dave	Member Emeritus	
Wolfe	Otis	2016	
Wright	James N. "Pappy"	2016	
Wright	Wayne	2007-2016	

## Sterett Passings

We received notice the following Sterett shipmates have crossed the bar:

Denis LaCrosse DLG 31 RDC 68-70

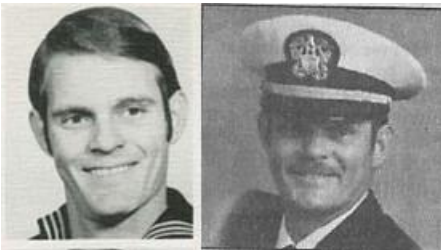


Denis was an early supporter of the Sterett Association and a past president.

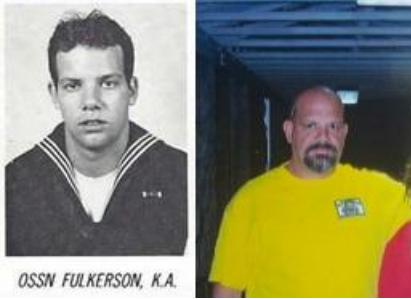
*I would like to thank you and all the members of the Sterett Association for the beautiful flowers you sent. They were greatly appreciated by me and my family. Please let the members know.*

*Thank you again,  
Barbara LaCrosse*

William Bench DLG 31 RD/EW/CWO4 Early70s



Kirt A. Fulkerson CG 31 OS 88-91



OSSN FULKERSON, K.A.

If notification of a member's passing is received in a timely manner, the Association will arrange for flowers and/or a Sterett representative at the services. However, we generally do not receive notice prior to the services.

## **USS Sterett Association 2017 Reunion Information**

**The 2017 USS Sterett Reunion is about 1 year out.**

**Start making plans to attend. Your shipmates will be there talking about you.**

**When: 23-25 June 2017 (Thursday 22 June for early arrivals)**

**Where: Nashville, TN**



**Holiday Inn Nashville  
2200 Elm Hill Pike  
Nashville, Tennessee 37214**



General Hotel Information: <http://www.hinashville.com>

Rooms (single/double) will be available for a rate of \$135 (+ tax and fees).

These rates will be available three days either side of the reunion dates of 22-25 June, 2017.

**Rooms must be booked by May 23, 2017 to guarantee this discounted rate.**

## Nashville Hotel Prices

Nashville has become a major tourist and convention destination, especially since the new convention center, the Music City Center, opened. Unfortunately, Nashville does not have sufficient hotel rooms to handle all the visitors. Therefore, room rates are higher than expected. There is a hotel construction boom ongoing. It may be hard to believe but hotel rates in Nashville are higher, on average, than those in New York City.

Hotel Rates Skyrocketing			
Prices on a Friday night Nashville vs. New York:			
Nashville		New York	
Friday, May 13:		Friday, May 13:	
Holiday Inn Express	\$342	W New York	\$239
Hampton Inn & Suites	\$439	Westin Times Square	\$244
Hilton Garden	\$509	Waldorf Astoria	\$339

At the 2015 reunion business meeting, following a general discussion, it was decided a room rate of \$129.00 should be our target.

Considering the above, we are extremely fortunate to have a room rate of \$135+ tax and fees. That's the best rate we could get at a facility that could accommodate all our other needs.

The group reservations phone number is 1-866-871-1171. Specify USS Sterett Reunion.

OR

Use this link to make reservations under the USS Sterett Reunion:

[USS Sterett Military Reunion](#)

Check-in time is 3:00 pm. Check out time is 12:00 pm

Free Shuttle service to and from the Airport provided by Holiday Inn

Menu

The following will be offered for our Saturday evening reunion banquet. Entrée choices must be indicated on the reunion registration forms.

**Chicken:**

Marinated and Seared Chicken Breast topped with a white wine veloute

**Baked Salmon:**

Oven Poached Fresh Atlantic Salmon topped with a Lemon-Ginger beurre Blanc or Sweet Chili glaze

**NY Strip:**

Portion Flamed Grilled NY Strip Served with Garlic/Herb Butter

**Vegetarian Dinner:**

Chef's choice vegetarian meal

Above entrees served with:

Mixed Field Greens, Tomatoes, Sliced Cucumbers, Shredded Carrots with Assorted Dressings Chef's choice Starch

Chef's choice Vegetable

## **Saturday Tour**

The Saturday Afternoon Group Tour will be to the **Jack Daniel's Distillery** in Lynchburg, TN.





Our group tour will depart by bus at approximately 11:00 from the Holiday Inn for a drive to Lynchburg, TN and the Jack Daniels Distillery.

We are offering both the traditional tour and a tasting tour.

Fees:

The Association will provide bus transportation.

The traditional, non tasting tour is free.

The fee for the tasting tour is \$16.00. The Association will offset the fee by \$4.00. Cost to each participant will be \$12.00.

**Tour fees will be paid as part of the reunion registration process.**

*Jack Daniel's Distillery is an outdoors walking tour. Those with mobility issues should consider other activities for Saturday afternoon.*

### **Saturday Afternoon Tour Lunch**

The Association will arrange to order and pick up sandwiches from Subway for the ride to the Jack Daniel/s Distillery.

All sandwiches will be 6" on Italian bread with American cheese and will include a cookie and a bottle of water.

Mayonnaise, Mustard and Ketchup will be available.

**Each lunch will cost \$7.00 and must be prepaid as part of the registration process.**

Lunch Options:

Lunch 1: Black Forest Ham  
Lunch 2: Turkey breast  
Lunch 3: Cold Cut Combo  
Lunch 4: Roast Beef  
Lunch 5: Italian BMT

Sorry, no substitutions.

Lunch orders must be received no later than Thursday, 22 June, 2017.

## Reunion Registration

Registration forms are now available for the 2017 Sterett Reunion in Nashville.

Go to <http://www.sterett.net/reunions/> for reunion information and follow the link provided to register. You will find both on line and mail in forms.

If you register for the reunion and pay using PayPal, double check your total before submitting. Do not make adjustments/changes from the summary page. Go to "Continue Shopping" and make changes in each line item.

**If you are using the mail in registration forms, be sure to note the change of address for Don Hageman, our treasurer, effective 01 July:**

Don Hageman  
198 Golanvyi Trail  
Vonore, TN 37885

## Nashville Area Attractions

Nashville, known as the Country Music Capital of the World, is a major destination offering lots of interesting attractions and places of interest.

**For general information check out: <http://www.visitmusiccity.com/>**

Here are some places you might consider visiting or spending time at:

Grand Ole Opry <http://www.opry.com/>

Ryman Auditorium <http://ryman.com/>

Water park for children and families <https://www.nashvilleshores.com/>

Huge shopping mall next to the grand Ole Opry House and Opryland hotel  
<http://www.simon.com/mall/opry-mills/stores> (Free shuttle to and from provided by the Holiday Inn)

Museum in downtown – The Frist Center <http://fristcenter.org/>  
(Shuttle to downtown provided by the hotel for only \$10 per ride)

Country Music Hall of Fame <http://countrymusicHalloffame.org/>

Home of President Andrew Jackson – The Hermitage <http://thehermitage.com>

“World famous” Tootsie’s Orchid Lounge <http://www.tootsies.net/>

The Bluebird Café <http://bluebirdcafe.com/>

Tennessee Performing Arts Center (TPAC) <http://www.tpac.org/>

Concert hall and home to the Nashville Symphony the Schermerhorn  
<https://www.nashvillesymphony.org/about/Schermerhorn-Symphony-Center>

Lane Motor Museum <http://www.lanemotormuseum.org/>

The Corvette Museum and factory (about 45 minutes away) <http://www.corvettemuseum.org/>

Fort Campbell Army Base – Home to 101st Airborne Screaming Eagles  
<http://www.campbell.army.mil/Pages/Default.aspx>

Fort Knox – Home to the nation’s gold repository and about an hour away  
<http://www.knox.army.mil/>

Local winery owned by country music singer Kix Brooks – Arrington Vineyards (about 30 minutes)  
<http://www.arringtonvineyards.com/>

Belle Meade Mansion – Southern plantation home and home to the thoroughbreds that started steeplechase racing in America  
<http://bellemeadeplantation.com/>

U.S. Space and Rocket Center Huntsville, AL – about two hours away <http://rocketcenter.com/>

Ascend Amphitheater in downtown on the river banks, entertainment most nights.

The Gulch – new and vibrant area on the edge of the downtown area filled with music venues and restaurants

**Nashville is a great location. Don’t miss the opportunity to mingle with your Sterett shipmates at the 2017 reunion. Plan now.**

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