



Spring 2017



Greetings from the Sterett Association

Spring has sprung and is about to give way to summer temperatures. It is our wish this season brings you happiness and good health.

The reunion in Nashville is just around the corner. Time to make your reservations and register!

This newsletter contains a few items we hope will be of interest to our Sterett family.

DDG 104

Sterett, in company with the USS Dewey recently deployed to the Western Pacific as part of the Sterett-Dewey Surface action group.

Sterett-Dewey SAG will remain under Third Fleet control, including beyond the international dateline which previously divided operational areas of responsibility for 3rd and 7th fleets, for the entirety of the deployment.

Third Fleet operating forward offers additional options to the Pacific Fleet commander by leveraging the capabilities of 3rd and 7th Fleets. This operational concept allows both numbered fleets to complement one another and provide the foundation of stability in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region.



Sterett-Dewey SAG

Liberty Call

The Sterett-Dewey Surface Action Group arrived in Hong Kong, April 29, the first foreign port visit of the group's Western Pacific deployment.



Sterett in Hong Kong

On behalf of all the members of the USS Sterett Association, we wish our Sterett brothers and sisters Godspeed on your deployment.

Where are they now?

Hard to believe the "new" USS Sterett has been in service 9 years.

Sterett's commissioning Commanding Officer, Brian Eckerle, has retired from the Navy.

Her second CO, Darren McPherson, is now a Captain and recently took command of the USS Lake Erie (CG 70)

DD 407

Those of us in attendance at the Nashville reunion will once again be honored to have DD 407 shipmates with us.

Chuck "Frenchy" LeFebvre RM/3C and **Art Marrs MM/1C** will be with us. Also honoring us will be **Waldean**

Martin, whose late husband, **Harry I. Martin**, was a gunner's mate aboard DD 407 from commissioning until the end of the war.

A big thanks to their family members who are escorting them.

Footsteps

I've received a few messages from a very proud father, **Steve Schmedding**, about his son **John**.

John joined the Navy and has been doing extremely well. He was selected for CTT.

The latest update:

John graduated A school in the top 4. These 4 CTT's are all 6 year guys and each got stationed where the next variant of the platform they will be working on will be first installed in the Navy.

He has been assigned to the USS Donald Cook DDG-75 in Rota Spain.

He has ATT and C school to complete and should be transferring there in the fall.

We are very proud, he's turning out to be the son I've prayed and wished for. We are blessed with our kids!



Congratulations and fair winds to John Schmedding and to his Mom and Dad.

From Down Under

A recent message:

Good Morning.

My name is Ray Ward and I live in Perth Western Australia. Recently I was reading an article in which the name of the USS Sterett appeared and I was thinking this could not be the same ship that visited Fremantle (the port for Perth, the capital for Western Australia) sometime in the 1970's.

This brought back some wonderful memories for me as I met some of the sailors from the ship whilst on leave in my local drinking hole of Sassellas (it still exists) and struck up a friendship with these sailors during its time in port. For some reason we hit it off and did many things and lot of socialising.

At the conclusion of the leave and as they were about to leave a few of them pitched in and gave me a jacket with the name of the ship and as I recall it was now designated as CG31. Of course we swapped addresses and said we would keep in contact. But in those days there was no email or mobile telephones and so keeping in touch was not that easy and in time what with moving house and getting married etc the names and addresses disappeared. As I got older and fatter the jacket also went on its merry way.

Anyway I thought I would google the USS Sterett and low and behold I note there is now a fourth ship to carry the Sterett name. But I also noted that you are about to have a reunion in Nashville Tennessee in May 2017.

Knowing this I thought I would write to you and was wondering if any of those sailors who I met would be attending the reunion and might have remembered this time so long ago. However, if not there maybe others who are attending who also remember their time here in WA.

For myself ironically, I will be in Hawaii at the same time attending a 50th commemoration of the Vietnam War, having served in Vietnam with the Australian Infantry in 1969. It was most likely that this experience may have been the catalyst for our short friendship.

However, if it is appropriate, would you please pass on my very best wishes to all those at reunion, but more especially those who had leave in Fremantle all those years ago and I trust that all of you will have a great time.

Best wishes Ray Ward

**According to the Command Reports, Sterett was in port Fremantle 19-24 May 1977.
If the above rings any bells, please get in touch with me.**

Boat People News

A while back, I sent a manifest of names of the rescued boat people from 1983 to a member of the Nguyen Phuoc family who had been to our reunion.

I received the following email message:

Dear Mr. Hayes,

I happily received this message and attachments from my family.

Even though, I have not kept contact with anyone and attended any of the reunion, I am glad that the people who were rescued that day still plan to get together to pay their gratitude and share their stories.

First of all, I am glad that you're still in great health and being so kind and compassionate. And I pray that you, your family and all the crews and their families will always be blessed and under God's protection and care.

You may not remember me; my name is on the third page and line 33: Truong DoMinh Anh. I wore my designed purple long shirt with a black pant and was 7 month pregnant when you rescued us. Perhaps, the sailor who carried me up still recalled that scene?

I wish to be able attend this reunion, but I have to host a Diversity Event of Hillsborough county that weekend and also teach an evening course (Information Systems) at a small private university in Tampa, Florida and regret that I will miss this event.

I am very grateful that I finally can contact you - my heroes and saviors...If your ship did not come that day...we might be buried deep in the sea....our names would be forgotten...tears and sufferings were what our parents, siblings, relatives, friends would have felt for over 30 years.

I hope you all a wonderful and memorable event ahead.

Kind regards,

Ann Truong Tran

If you helped carry a pregnant woman up the accommodation ladder in July, 1983, let me know.

Sterett Passings

The following Sterett shipmates have crossed the bar:

John Paulk DLG 31 CDR. WEPS/XO 67-69



Interment with military honors will be at Tahoma National Cemetery, Kent, Washington at 3 p.m. on May 19, 2017.

It would be nice to have Sterett representation at the interment.

Larry Robinett DLG 31 PC3 69-70



The following notice came to light as I was looking for information about CDR Paulk:

Donald R. Brainard, 80, of North Las Vegas, died Feb. 28, 2008.
CDR. Brainard was the commissioning XO.



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.

Lifetime Membership

Want to become a Lifetime Member of the USS Sterett Association?
A one time payment of \$200 will earn you a Lifetime Membership

Go to <http://www.sterett.net/paypal.htm> and select 10 as the quantity of dues.

A Lifetime Members web page is being maintained at: http://www.sterett.net/life_members.html

USS Sterett Association 2017 Reunion Information

The 2017 USS Sterett Reunion is **5 WEEKS** out.

Your shipmates will be there talking about you if you aren't there!

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

Where: Nashville, TN



**Nashville Airport Hotel (The hotel is not yet under the Hilton brand)
2200 Elm Hill Pike
Nashville, Tennessee 37214**



General Hotel Information: <http://www3.hilton.com/en/hotels/tennessee/nashville-airport-hotel-BNAARHH/index.html>

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.

**Time is running out to take advantage of this discount.
Rooms must be booked by May 23, 2017 to guarantee
this discounted rate.**

You can make your reservations by using the direct online link:

https://secure3.hilton.com/en_US/hi/reservation/book.htm?inputModule=HOTEL&ctyhocn=BNAARHH&spec_plan=USR&arrival=20170622

This link will take you directly to the reservations page for the Sterett reunion. It is preset for a 22 June arrival so if you are arriving on 23 June, change the arrival date before proceeding.

If the link does not work, use the following:

If you prefer to make reservations by phone:

The group reservations phone number is **844-886-4136**. Option 1 for a new reservation.

The discounted room rate is available **three days before and after** the reunion. If you have difficulty getting the discounted rate for these days, let us know.

If you are told the Sterett rooms are all booked, let us know. If you make reservations at a higher rate before May 23rd, let us know.

A few guests have experienced problems along these lines. All have been quickly remedied.

The reservation clerks cannot adjust the rate. The local manager must do it.

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

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 Nashville Airport Hotel for a drive to Lynchburg, TN and the Jack Daniels Distillery.

You have the option of the traditional tour or 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 must be pre-paid as part of the reunion registration process.

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

Our group will be separated into smaller groups with a short delay between touring starts.

From the Jack Daniels Web Site:

The Jack Daniel Distillery is a working distillery. There may be times the tour path is altered to accommodate routine maintenance and repairs; expect temperature fluctuations and strong odors.

Clutches, fanny packs and wallets are allowed. **No purses or bags are allowed on tours.**

There are free, self-locking lockers provided at the Visitors Center.

Wait time between tours can vary, especially during visitation peaks. Peaks can occur during weekends (Fri, Sat. & Sun) as well as all major holidays.

SECURITY, POLICIES & RESTRICTIONS

Bags are not permitted on tours. Bags include: backpacks, purses and camera bags.

Cameras and cell phones are allowed on tours however pictures are restricted in certain areas of the tour.

The Jack Daniel Distillery and Visitor Center is a smoke-free facility. This includes smokeless tobacco, e-cigarettes and vapor devices. Smoking is not permitted on tours.

Weapons of any kind are not permitted inside the Visitors Center or on the distillery tour.

This is a working distillery; tours may be delayed and the tour path altered unexpectedly due to production demands.

Tours may be delayed due to inclement weather.

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

Please indicate your lunch preferences when you register.

On the online form, when you select the number of people in your party attending the tour, the lunch options will be displayed:

If you are attending the tour; Please select the total number of people in your party attending the tour:

Please lunch for attendee #1

Please lunch for attendee #2

Sorry, no substitutions.

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

Grab and Go:

We anticipate having the lunches separated and grouped by type available near the front of the hotel exit. As you make your way to the bus, grab your lunch and go.

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 are using the mail in registration forms, be sure to use the new address for Don Hageman, our treasurer, which was effective 01 July:

Don Hageman
198 Golanvyi Trail
Vonore, TN 37885

Reunion Check In

As soon as possible after arriving at the hotel, stop by the hospitality room to check in.

Upon check in, you will be given name tags for you and your guests, a hat pin for your ball cap/lapel and a card indicating which dinner entrée you prefer at Saturday dinner (behind your name tag). Be sure to bring the card with you to dinner and place it on the table.

Kick back, have a beer or a soft drink and look around for that shipmate you've been anxious to catch up with. The hospitality room serves as a place to hang out when you're not doing other things.

Ship's Store Sales

Duffy Groener, our ship's store custodian, will have Sterett "stuff" available for sale in the hospitality room.

These items include ball caps, lighters, windbreakers, challenge coins, coffee mugs, window stickers and sew on patches.

Off Limits

The Sterett reunion is a time to reunite with shipmates and friends. It is a time to reflect back on the people who helped to make us who we are today. It is a time to remember the good times we shared in days past. It is a time to laugh at the crazy things we did when we were young and reckless.

It is not a time for airing our political differences, arguing about the state of the world today or taking up personal causes.

Please keep it civil and light hearted.

Dress Code

Casual attire throughout the weekend – wear what's comfortable

Saturday banquet – Dressy casual:

Slacks

Dress shirt, casual button-down shirt, open-collar or polo shirt

Optional tie

Business Meeting

We will conduct our business meeting on Saturday morning.

This meeting is **restricted to members in good standing** (dues current).

The meeting will be conducted generally following Robert's Rules of Order.

The following items are covered at the business meeting:

Election of new officers:

The Sterett Association needs you to step up.

If our organization is to survive, we have to have the active support of our younger shipmates. With a few exceptions, the Association administration has been manned exclusively by the early DLG crew.

Sterett was in service for 27 years. If you enjoy the reunions and other aspects of the Sterett Association, then get active.

We need shipmates who served across the years of Sterett's service life to step up and take a position.

Sterett Association officers are elected for a two year period.

The following positions will be elected:

President

Vice President

Secretary/Treasurer

3 Officer At Large positions

(Ships Storekeeper is a voluntary position)

2019 Reunion

The location for the 2019 Sterett reunion will be decided at the business meeting.

A few things to consider:

Sterett shipmates live from one end of the Country to the other.

The reunion location has been moved around the country to accommodate shipmates that live in various places.

We've been to the Rockies, the mid Atlantic, the southwest coast, the gulf coast, the northeast, the northwest and sort of in the middle.

Perhaps it's time to pay those who reside in the southeast part of the US a visit.

The location decision is up to the members but please give consideration to places like Jacksonville or Pensacola, FL or Charleston, SC as possible locations.

We would all like the next reunion to be in our own back yard but please give some thought to other shipmates who weren't able to make the trip to Nashville.

For a successful reunion, we must have a Sterett shipmate in the selected area who is willing to take on the duties of Reunion Coordinator.

Plan of the Day

2017 Reunion Plan of The Day

Thursday, June 22:

Early Arrivals, Meet and Greet, Free Time, Local Sightseeing

Hospitality Room opens at 1400

Check In

Refreshments Available

Elbow Rubbing

Sea Stories

Friday, June 23:

1000 Hospitality Room opens

Check In

Meet and Greet

Refreshments Available

Ship's Store Opens

Local Attractions

1730 Cash Bar Opens (in the Hospitality Room)

Saturday, June 24

Hospitality Room opens at 0800

Coffee, Breakfast rolls available

Refreshments Available

0900 - 1045 - Association Business Meeting (**Members Only**)

1100 - Bus Departs for Jack Daniels Distillery Tour

Local Sightseeing/Shopping

1745 Cash Bar Opens

1800 - Assemble for Dinner

1805 - Color Guard Presents the Colors

1810 - Opening Remarks/ Introductions

1820 - Invocation

1830 - Dinner

1945 - Guest Speaker (TBD)

2010 - Introduction of Elected Association Officers; Remarks

2020 - Dancing, Social Time

Sunday

Hospitality Room opens at 0800

Coffee, Breakfast rolls available

Refreshments Available

0900 - Memorial Service

Bell Tolling Ceremony for DD 407 Crewmen Killed in Battle

Closing Remarks

1200 - Checkout and Departure

Who's Going (As of 10 May)

This is by no means a final list. With 5 weeks remaining, we anticipate many more shipmates will be registering.

Only the member or principal attendee is listed.

Last	First	Hull	Party Total
King	John	DLG	2
Groener	Duffy	DLG	2
Fox	Ed	DLG	2
Bond	Chuck	CG	1
Dietz	Burton	DLG	2
Herron	Mike	CG	2
Fitzpatrick	Daniel	CG	1
Crowe	Phillip	CG	2
Malcolm	Ron	CG	1
Phung	Le	CG	2
Johnson	Trey	CG	1
Johnson	Bob	CG	2
Hada	Van	CG	2
Norris	Bill	CG	2
Vogel	Michael	DLG	2
Norton	Randy	DLG	2
Onorato	John	CG	1
Flowers	Clay	CG	2
Garcia	Eduardo	CG	1
Raasio	Mark	CG	2
Nantz	Ken	DLG	2
Jennings	James	CG	2
Begley	Thomas	CG	2
Sirmans	Bruce	CG	2
Doan	Liennhu	CG	3
Ames	Frank	CG	2
Edwards	Charlie	CG	1
Kirk	Jeff	CG	2
Mosher	Gerry	DLG	2
Erickson	Ronald	DLG	1
Fields	Robert	CG	1
McBrian	Wayne	DLG	2
Robles	Nicolas	DLG	2

West	Chuck	CG	2
Smith	Mike	DLG	2
Britton	Mike	DLG	2
Ludwig	Frank	CG	4
Dill	Chris	CG	1
McGuire	Bob	DLG	4
Bailey	Eugene	DLG	2
LeFebvre	Chuck	DD 407	2
McCabe	Bob	CG	2
Hayes	Steve	CG	1
Danner	Vince	CG	2
Sullivan	George	CG	1
Allen	Thomas	DLG	2
Wright	Wayne	CG	2
Potts	Michael	CG	4
Nichols	Gary	DLG	2
Hager	Ken	DLG	2
Wheeler	John	CG	2
Bolton	Jim	CG	1
Marrs	Art	DD 407	2
Snider	Scott	CG	2
Hageman	Don	DLG/CG	2
Hilliard	Dale	DLG	2
Ossman	Thomas	CG	1
Guyse	Coy	DLG	2
Martin	Chris	DD 407	5
Updike	Thomas	CG	2
Jackson	Glenn	CG	2
Beaulieu	Mark	CG	2
Avery	Joel	CG	2
Henninger	Russell	CG	1
Hennis	Lee	CG	1

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.

Although Nashville is called the Country Music Capital, the city is not limited to offering only country music venues.

Besides country, you'll find bluegrass, Americana, jazz, fusion, rock, pop and classical along with a host of outdoor festivals from crafts shows to food fairs to cars (including classic and hot rods).

Check out some of what Nashville has to offer:

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>

Museum in downtown – The Frist Center <http://fristcenter.org/>

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.

Remember, rooms must be booked by May 23, 2017 to guarantee the discounted rate.

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