



Winter 2017



Greetings from the Sterett Association

No matter where you live, this winter has been a strange one. Spring like one day, snow, ice and freezing temperatures the next. Whatever your winter weather has been, we hope the season finds you and your loved ones in good health.

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

DDG 104

DDG 104 continues her workups in the San Diego area.



USS Sterett (DDG-104) leads the way on a show of force transit training exercise with USS Dewey (DDG-105), USS Wayne E. Meyer (DDG-108), USS Carl Vinson (CVN-70) and USS O'Kane (DDG-77) on Nov. 4, 2016.

As these pictures reveal, regardless of the latest technologies, some shipboard evolutions haven't changed over the years.





Today's sailors still hang onto some time honored traditions:



Angel of the Pacific

I received the following email on November 30:

I hope your day goes well. Sir, the reason for this email is to find some of my Angel from the Pacific who had rescued my family and I back in 1982. I was one of the lucky Honorary that got rescued by the brave men of the USS Sterett 31 back in 1982 in Gulf of Thailand. I have been trying to get in touch with anyone still living just to say Thank You. My family and I were on a small boat which was rescued by you and your captain. There were 15 people (children and adults) on board. We stayed on the USS Sterett for 7 days before departed to the Honorary camp. I know my cousins in the past had made a trip for the reunion of the USS

Sterett in Washington (Traci Phan and Keri Nguyen). Sir, if you don't mind, can you please guide me to those brave men or the Captain so I can say Thank You. I finished up my autobiography about my journey to America. The title will be: Leaving My Homeland-A story of struggle, triumph, and faith. Thank you.

Cuong Vince Nguyen

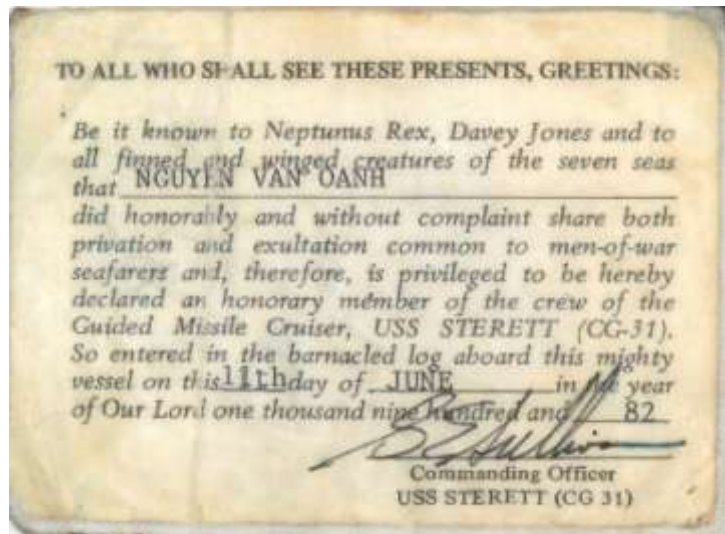


In the days and weeks that followed, Vince and I exchanged several messages.

His story continues:

My late Father is the Captain of that boat. He is the one in the back with a cap on wearing blue shirt trying to steer the boat with the paddle. I was 8 years old boy sitting at the front of the boat with one of my uncles. My family has 5 children (4 girls, 1 boy) on the boat. My youngest brother was conceived in Thailand Honorary camp. I remembered everything during the escape, how many times we were attacked by pirates (Thailand fishermen) and how we lost our way. My late Father was the 4th generation fisherman who built the 2 boats used in the escape. One boat guided by my other late uncle made smooth sale into Malaysia with no attacks. Unfortunately, our boat was not so lucky. We were attack 6 times. After the second time, they took our engine thinking we were hiding gold in it. But God has a plan because if it were not for the USS Sterett, we would have died that night. As I recalled, that night on the ship, there was a severe thunderstorm, maybe typhoon wind speed, that would have sunk our boat if we were not rescued that afternoon.

Vince still has pictures and other memorabilia from the Sterett including the honorary crew member ID given to his father and all rescued refugees by Captain George Sullivan.



Vince lives in Pensacola, FL.

Ironic as it may be, I was planning a Sterett related trip that would have me passing through Pensacola to Jacksonville on January 14.

I contacted Darryl Stewart (ICCS/CWO3) who lives in Pensacola and arranged to meet with Vince at a local restaurant.

We spent a very enjoyable time with Vince as he told us about his family and his life since coming to the USA. Among other things, Vince has been a Border Patrol officer and a member of the Coast Guard Auxiliary. It was very clear, Vince has a deep love for the USA and a deep appreciation for the USS Sterett.

The truth is the real heroes in this and other similar stories are the brave men, women and children who climbed aboard those small, overcrowded rickety boats and set out in search of a better life. The Sterett and her crew were the real lucky ones who happened upon them and helped them along their way.



Yours truly with Vince Nguyen and Darryl Stewart

We look forward to seeing Vince, his cousins Traci and Keri and some of our other honorary crewmembers at the reunion in June.

Mini Reunion Tune Up for June

As the above article mentioned, I made a trip to Jacksonville, FL in mid January.

Joe Gaughan had called for a mini Sterett reunion at Dave & Buster's. There are several Sterett veterans living in the Northeast Florida area who stopped by. We missed a couple who didn't make it but it was a nice gathering. Actually, any gathering of Sterett sailors is a no miss event. We were so busy catching up we forgot to take a lot of pictures. Those in attendance were Joe Gaughan, Glenn MacArthur, Thomas Ossman, Dave Mikulak, Brian Cox, Barry Vitez and Danny (Doc) Smith.



Sterett shipmates in your general area? Call a muster.

Navy Ratings

As a follow-up to the article in the previous newsletter:

December 20:

Navy leaders are reversing their controversial decision to eliminate sailors' ratings and will restore job titles across the fleet, according to a Navy message set for release Wednesday.

Effective immediately, enlisted sailors will officially regain their ratings, the traditional job titles that have inspired a deep cultural loyalty and that have defined enlisted career tracks for generations, Navy officials said.

The move comes three months after the Navy stunned sailors around the world in September by eliminated ratings titles, including those such as boatswain's mate that dated back to the founding of the service.

The extraordinarily rare move comes after a fierce backlash from the fleet that became a distraction from the Navy's broader effort to reform the antiquated personnel system, Navy officials said.

Adm. John Richardson, the chief of naval operations, called it a "course correction" and acknowledged the overwhelmingly negative reaction from the fleet was a key factor in the decision.

US Navy 2016 in Pictures:

Thanks to Larry Motz for the link to this enjoyable video:

<http://www.navy.mil/viewVideo.asp?id=21987>

The Last Voyage of Andrew Sterett

Andrew Sterett, a rising hero of the early U.S. Navy resigned before his prime; for him, private-sector seafaring would prove far more perilous.

<http://www.usni.org/magazines/navalhistory/2012-04/last-voyage-andrew-sterett>

Sterett Passings

The following Sterett shipmates have crossed the bar:

Edward V. Labanowski Jr.

CG 31

ET2

86-88



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.

Member's in Good Standing (MIGS)

There may still be confusion about the dues/reunion connection so here is an explanation.

A few years ago, the reunion fee for a guest was reduced from \$80 to \$60, while the member/shipmate fee remained at \$80. The reunion fees are designed to cover the expenses of the reunion and not to make a profit. Past reunions showed we could reduce the guest fee and still make our expenses. This fee reduction was not related to Association dues.

Shortly thereafter, we decided to reinstate the policy of waiving dues for the calendar year following a reunion for those attending. However, in order for that to occur, one's dues must be up to date in the year of the reunion.

Examples:

1. If you are paid up through 2017 and attend the 2017 reunion, your dues for 2018 will be considered paid.
2. However, if you are paid up beyond 2018 and you attend the 2017 reunion, your dues for one more year will be added to your Dues Paid Year.

The following is the latest membership list as of 24 January. For members whose dues are only paid thru 2016 (those in red) and to give them a chance to renew, they will still be considered in good standing until 31 March 2017. However, if they have not renewed by that date, they will be removed from the list until such time as they renew.

Members in Good Standing		
Last Name	First Name	Dues Paid Year
Acton	Richard	2011-2017
Alexander	Leonard	2008-2020
Ames	Frank	2016
Anders	Joseph E.	LIFETIME
Anton	Stephen	2013-2020
Bailey	Eugene	LIFETIME
Barnes, Jr.	Samuel	2016

Members in Good Standing

Last Name	First Name	Dues Paid Year
Barnett	Wallace	2017
Baumgartner	Lane	2013-2017
Beaulieu	Mark	2015-2018
Begley	Thomas	2016
Berry	David	2010-2017
Blount	Thomas E Jr	2006-2020
Bolton	James E. "Jim"	2009-2017
Bond	Charles A.	LIFETIME
Britton	R.M. "Mike"	2015-2017
Buchanan	Michael	2008, 2013-2019
Caravella	Tony	2016
Cline	George	LIFETIME
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
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
Embry	Cyril (Ted)	2016
Erickson	Ronald	2016
Farnham	Charles G.	2014-2017
Flowers	Clayton	LIFETIME
Fox	Edward	LIFETIME
Fullmer	Mark	2015-2016
Garcia	Eduardo	2015-2016
Garcia	Leroy "Aldo"	2015-2016
Garrison	Merton	2007-2017

Members in Good Standing

Last Name	First Name	Dues Paid Year
Garrity	Michael	2006-2016
Gaughan	Joseph E.	2015-2016
Genet	Richard P	2014-2016
Griffey	Dale	2007-2016
Groener	Robert "Duffy"	2006-2017
Gross	James	LIFETIME
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	LIFETIME
Hendrix	K C	2015-2016
Hennis	David	2012-2020
Hilliard	Dale	2008-2017
Jackson	Glenn	2015-2020
Jacobsmeyer	Thomas	LIFETIME
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"	2015-2017
Langill	Douglas	2016
Lillian	James	2016
Locke	Tommy	2014-2016
Lord	Kevin	2016
Ludwig	Frank	2016
MacArthur	Glenn	2016
Madelay	Larry	2016
Madlem	Philip	2016
Malcolm	Ronald	2006-2019
Mallow	William	2016
McBrian	Wayne	2007-2016
McGuire	Robert V.	2006-2018
McKee	Clovis	2015-2016
Mickel	Evan	2010-2017
Miller	Elden	MEMBER EMERITUS

Members in Good Standing

Last Name	First Name	Dues Paid Year
Moe	Jerry	2006-2017
Montgomery	Gary J.	LIFETIME
Moshar	Gerald	2016
Motz	Lawrence	LIFETIME
Nantz	Kenneth	2017-2018
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
Phung	Le T	2008-2016
Potts	Michael	2017
Pritchard	Gary	2015-2016
Raasio	Mark	2017
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
Sirmans	Bruce	2016-2020
Smith	Michael	2015-2016
Smith	William (Mike)	LIFETIME
Smusz	John	2016-2017
Snader	Robert	2011-2016
Sterett	Debbie	LIFETIME
Sterett	Ryan	2015-2017
Stewart	Darryl	2016
Sudbeck	Kevin	2015-2016
Sullivan	George E	2006-2017
Sullivan	Larry	LIFETIME
Thayer	Dwight E.	2009-2016
Towns	Walter	2016
Vincent	Jerry	2013-2018
Verren	Terry	2013-2017
Vogel	Michael	2015-2017
Wagoner	Kirk	2016

Members in Good Standing		
Last Name	First Name	Dues Paid Year
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"	2016-2017
Wright	Wayne	2007-2017

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

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

<http://www.sterett.net/paypal.htm>

Lifetime Membership

The list of Lifetime members is growing. Thank you to the following shipmates and friends of Sterett who have joined the elite list of Sterett Association Life Members.

Joe Anders

Eugene Bailey

Charles A. (Doc) Bond

George Cline

Andy Cucchiara

Dennis Dean

Clay Flowers

Ed Fox

James Gross

Steve Hayes

Tom Jacobsmeyer

John King

Gary Montgomery

Larry Motz

Randy Norton

Lien Phan (in memory of her sister Tu Phan)

Mike Smith

Debbie Sterett

Larry Sullivan

If you want to join this list, a single payment of **\$200** will designate you a Lifetime Member of the USS Sterett Association.

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 **4** months 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



Hilton Nashville Airport Hotel
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.

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

You can make your reservations very easily 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&departure=20170625&cid=OM,WW,HILTONLINK,EN,DirectLink&fromId=HILTONLINKDIRECT

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 you prefer to make reservations by phone:

The group reservations phone number is **615-883-9770**. Option 1 . Specify USS Sterett.

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 Hilton 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 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

Please indicate your lunch preferences when you register.

The lunch options will be displayed when you select the number of tour guests.

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 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

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