



Greetings from the Sterett Association



"In the entire circle of the year there are no days so delightful as those of a fine October, when the trees are bare to the mild heavens, and the red leaves bestrew the road, and you can feel the breath of winter, morning and evening — no days so calm, so tenderly solemn, and with such a reverent meekness in the air."

[Alexander Smith](#)

2019 Reunion

The Jacksonville reunion in September was a terrific success. We had a record number of registered guests (194).

The facilities at the Marriott were outstanding.

The guests were happy, the San Miguel was cold and the food was great.



Gary Don Nichols summed it up best:

“2019 USS Sterett Reunion: Sea Stories, Tall Tales, and outright lies. What a great time”.

The key to a successful reunion is the local reunion coordinator.

Many thanks to **Joe Gaughan**, who worked tirelessly to ensure the reunion would be a major success.

Much respect and thanks also to our guest speaker, **Capt. Richard Genet**.



The Sterett reunions are meant to provide an opportunity to rekindle and advance friendships formed many years ago and to share with each other parts of our lives today.

As these pictures indicate, the 2019 Jacksonville event accomplished the mission.

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



DD-27 (1918-19)



DD-497 (1939-1945)



DLG-31 (1947-75)



CG-31 (1975-86)



DDG-104 (Commissioned 2000)





Ken Nantz, Duffy Groener, Tom Allen and Gary Nichols



Clockwise from left:
Mark Beaulieu, Joan Hada, Simon Silver, Le Phung, Mary Beaulieu and Van Hada enjoy some evening chow



Vangie Jackson, Steve Hayes, Nga Le Nguyen Phuoc, Liennhu and Khanh Doan

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION

DD 27 (1916-19)

DD 407 (1919-1945)

DLG 31 (1947-70)

CG 31 (1971-86)

DDG 104 (Cannon) (1984-2000)



Lane Baumgartner and Jeff Brown discuss the merits of some grog

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION

DD 27 (1916-19)

DD 407 (1919-1945)

DLG 31 (1947-75)

CG 31 (1975-86)

DDG 104 (Cannonball) (1986-2000)



Dave Wolf, Ken and Jessie Nantz, Chuck Bond and Tom and Rosa Allen share a laugh

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION

DD 27 (1916-19)

DD 407 (1919-1945)

DLG 21 (1947-75)

CG 21 (1975-86)

DDG 104 (Cannonball) (1984-2000)



Joe Gaughan, Kirk Wagoner, Eduardo Garcia and his Dad, Luis



Bill Morris, Ron Choate, Dave Schweizer and Trey Johnson

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Ed Garcia and Frank Ames



Don Hageman, Steve Hayes, Rick Allard and Dave McAllister stand the registration watch

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



The ladies added charm and beauty to the reunion





There were rumors that John King was enjoying himself



Plank Owners Gary Nichols, Jim Trotter, Mike Vogel, Mike Britton, Rick Allard, Larry Motz and Dave Wolf got together for some reminiscing of the good old days



Jim Bolton, Phillip and Janet Crowe enjoy Friday dinner with Duong Tong and Quan Tran



A big thanks goes to **Duffy Groener** who hauls the ship's inventory from Minnesota to the reunion locations and then spends much time minding the store



Reunion Extras

Beyond the reuniting, the sharing of sea stories and some elbow bending, there were other events conducted during the reunion.

SAR Alert

As described in the previous newsletter:

Shipmate Mike Smith (SN/DK3) wanted to memorialize the importance the Search and Rescue (SAR) Missions Sterett conducted when on station in the Gulf of Tonkin during the Vietnam war.

The rescue of downed pilot **LCDR Harvey Eikel** on 30 August 1968 was selected as the rescue to be captured on canvas.

Mike commissioned a painting by noted Marine Artist, **Dale Byhre**, which would capture this mission in a dramatic fashion. The resulting painting is a magnificent depiction of Sterett in action.

The painting was unveiled Saturday evening after dinner.

It was a special treat to have a couple of the principal players involved in the mission do the unveiling.





The painting was unveiled by **Dale Byhre** (artist), **Rick Allard** (Sterett Air Controller) and **Paskell January** (Helo co-pilot).

It was indeed a special moment for all those present.

Many thanks to **Mike Smith** for undertaking this unique project.

As this project moved along, **Dale** was struck by the special kinship the **Sterett Association** generated between Sterett shipmates. He took it on his own to produce another Sterett painting titled "The Four Steretts". Dale generously donated a print of the Four Steretts as a gift to the DDG 104 on the occasion of the upcoming change of command.

Thank you **Dale**.

Thanks also to **Burton Dietz** for having the picture framed and shipped to San Diego.



For those who may want to purchase the Sterett prints, you can see Dale's art at the link provided below. Both the "SAR Alert" and the "Four Steretts" Prints are numbered and signed by the artist. To receive the discounted price of \$75.00 US on either of the prints, just mention that you are associated with the USS Sterett to get this price. Normal price is \$130.00 US. Dale is located in British Columbia, Canada...and prices include shipping to your address in the United States.

https://marineartbydale.com/?fbclid=IwAR128xrVD78eskz787MJFHuGpaU9fsyVw_z-nsKzpkt8cq0lpE0Yp6XHn8w

Dale can also be contacted through Facebook and is a member of the Sterett Association group.

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



"SAR ALERT"
USS STERETT (DLG-31)
Dave Byrne A.S.N.A.



"THE FOUR STERETTS"
Dave Byrne A.S.N.A.

End of Big Mothers

Here's an article related to Sterett's role in Vietnam pilot rescues. The article uses the rescue of LCDR Eikel by Sterett's SH-3 (Big Mother 74) as the opening storyline.

<http://www.hc7seadevils.org/End%20Of%20Big%20Mothers.pdf>

Vietnam War 50th Anniversary

DOD is offering a CERTIFICATE OF HONOR and PIN commemorating the wars 50th anniversary, honoring all Veterans that served during the Vietnam War/Vietnam Conflict.

Following the business meeting on Saturday morning, **David McAllister** (DLG 31) presented Certificates of Honor and Lapel Pins to all Sterett Vietnam veterans present.

Dave, along with his wife **Kathy** devotes a tremendous amount of his time in supporting all veterans. Their annual Westpac's reunion in Branson, MO attracts a large group of WestPac veterans, some who travel from Japan or the PI for the event.

Many thanks to **Dave** for going the extra mile for all vets and especially those from the Vietnam period who received little or no recognition for their sacrifice.



Board of Directors Election

As mandated in the Association By Laws, an election was conducted at the Saturday morning business meeting to elect the Board of Directors for the next 2 years.

Congratulations to the following:

President: **Chuck Bond**
Vice President: **Burton Dietz**
Secretary Treasurer: **Don Hageman**
Officer At Large: **Joe Gaughan**
Officer At Large: **Frank Ames**
Officer At Large: **Tom Updike**

Other Association positions:

Ship's store custodian: **Duffy Groener**
Historian: **Tom Jacobsmeyer**
2021 Reunion Coordinator: **Ed Garcia**

Location of the 2021 Reunion

A vote was conducted to determine the location of the 2021 reunion. There were several areas nominated. However, the great majority of members voted for:



San Antonio, Texas

Dates and other info TBD



Message From the Association President:

Greetings STERETT Family,

I am truly honored and humbled to be your Association President until our next port of call – San Antonio, Texas – in 2021!!!

Everyone's experience aboard any of the ships named STERETT is different. For me it built the foundation that propelled me to make the Navy a career, retiring as a Command Master Chief after more than 30 years in 2013. While on active duty, I never thought about the importance of becoming a member of the Association. Regardless, I became an Association plank owner after the Association was registered as a non-profit organization in the great state of Colorado in 1998.

Since my return from our last reunion, I have had the opportunity to reflect on the accomplishments of the Association under the leadership of Immediate Past President (IPP) Steve Hayes. I became active in Tacoma in 2015, and since then, we have accomplished quite a bit - our membership has increased to 168, our past reunions have increased in attendance, our website has been revamped under a new host and webmaster, and our relationship with the leadership of USS STERETT (DDG 104) has improved immensely thanks primarily to Vice President Burton Dietz. I know I have huge shoes to fill, so I am grateful for the opportunity to chart the next course and speed as we set sail once again towards San Antonio, Texas.

Since 2001, reunions have been held around the country every two years, except for the year when the DDG-104 was commissioned in Baltimore, MD. Last month, it was held in Jacksonville, FL, which was attended by just under 200 Shipmates and guests. Bravo Zulu to the reunion coordinator Joe Gaughan for an outstanding job! Our next reunion will be held in San Antonio, Texas (SAT), in 2021, under the leadership of Ed Garcia. My hope is that you join us at our next port of call.

In accordance with our Association Bylaws, I have established the following committees to ensure our course is steady, and we arrive at SAT ready to go on liberty and drink to the foam: Internal Audit, Membership, Vietnamese Relations, Bylaws, and Reunion. During our next reunion business meeting, every Committee Chair will report on their accomplishments and will make recommendations for the future of the Association. The 2020 annual dues are coming due, so please mail them soonest to ensure your membership continues to the best ship association ever – thank you.

Alongside Shipmates and family members, I recently had the pleasure of witnessing DDG-104's Change of Command ceremony as Commander Andrew B. Koy, Sr., relieved CDR Sean P. Lewis. The guest speaker was the Commander, Naval Surface Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet, Rear Admiral Roy Kitchener, who boldly stated the command achievements that makes DDG-104 the finest Destroyer in the Fleet! I had the honor of meeting DDG-104's new XO CDR Jessica L. Morera, and many of the Men and Women that made the ship a Battle Efficiency Winner for the last two consecutive cycles, which is a rare feat and thus, a noteworthy achievement. We are proud of USS STERETT (DDG-104)!!!

Lastly, alongside the Board of Directors, I intend to lead the Association in making this deployment a success, ensuring that we continue to build upon what my predecessors have achieved, and prepare the Association for the future. As such, I believe we shall remain forever DAUNTLESS!!!

Carpe diem,
Charles "Chuck" A. Bond



President

Deck Logs

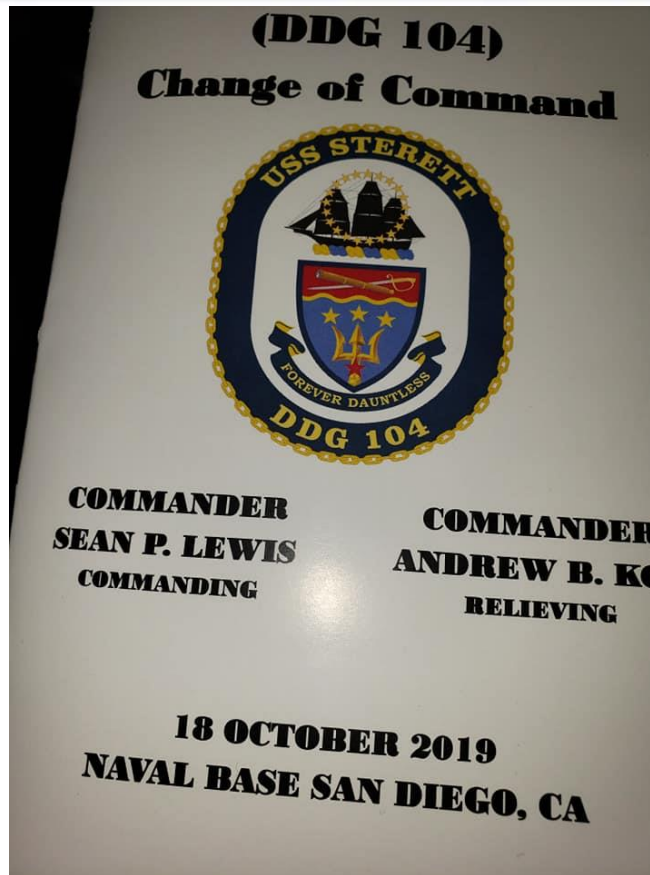
For the benefit of the Vietnam veterans who may be interested in making a disability claim for Agent Orange exposure, we have acquired and posted all the deck logs for each day Sterett was in the Gulf of Tonkin from 1968 through the 1972 deployment.

The logs are available at: <https://www.sterett.net/ships-deck-logs/>

DDG 104



USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



On Saturday, 18 October, USS Sterett held a Change of Command ceremony in which CDR Andrew Koy relieved CDR Sean Lewis as Commanding Officer of the DDG 104.

To CDR Lewis:

Congratulations on a successful command tour. The Sterett Association wishes you well as you continue your Naval career.

To CDR Koy:

Congratulations to you for achieving the ultimate goal of every Naval officer – command at sea. We wish you continued success as you lead Sterett in the continuance of operational excellence.

May the spirit of Andrew Sterett guide you.

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION

DD 27 (1816-18)

DD 407 (1818-1845)

DLG 31 (1847-75)

CG 31 (1875-86)

DDG 104 (Carnegie Class 2000)



Many distinguished guests were in attendance, including RADM Kitchener, Commander Naval Surface Force Atlantic; CAPT Whalen, Destroyer Squadron 9 Commodore; and many members of the **Sterett Association**.



CDR Andrew Koy passes through Sideboys marking his first "Sterett Departing"



A Sterett Association welcome is a bit overdue for the ship's new XO, **CDR Jessica L. Morera**



We welcome **CDR Morera** to the Sterett family and wish her much success in her Sterett tour.



Sterett Association members (and family) gathered following the ceremony

In attendance: Sitting: Debbie and Larry Sterett;

L-R: Chuck Bond, Burton Dietz, Captain Gene Bailey, Chris LaPorte, James Jennings, Bob Patterson, Richard and Isabel Allard, Frank Ludwig, Michelle Mackay and Shannon Crawford

Of course, being sailors it was necessary to have a wetting down the night prior to the ceremony.



James Jennings, Frank Ludwig, Michelle Mackay, Chuck Bond, Burton Dietz, Isabelle and Rick Allard

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



Mike Smith

In previous newsletters we have highlighted some of the activities Mike Smith has been involved in. Mike, a graduate of Boys Town class of 1967, has maintained close ties over the years and has been very involved with their activities since then.

In July, 2015, Mike was inducted in the Boys Town “Hall of History”

An excerpt from the proclamation:

“While living in Northern Virginia, Mike became involved with the Boys Town National Alumni Association and, in 2007, was elected to the Board of Directors representing Region 4 where he served until 2011. During that time he was the Chairman of the Veterans Memorial Committee and led the effort to raise over \$30,000 from alumni and friends to expand the Alumni Veterans Memorial to include the names of those killed in action or who died while serving in uniform and to refurbish the original Veterans Memorial. This project was completed in just over six months and was dedicated during the 2011 National Convention. In 2014, Smith became the first Boys Town alumnus to sit on the board of one of Boys Town’s satellite campuses when he was elected to the Board of Directors for Boys Town of Washington D.C. He also serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Boys Town National Alumni Association Scholarship Fund”.

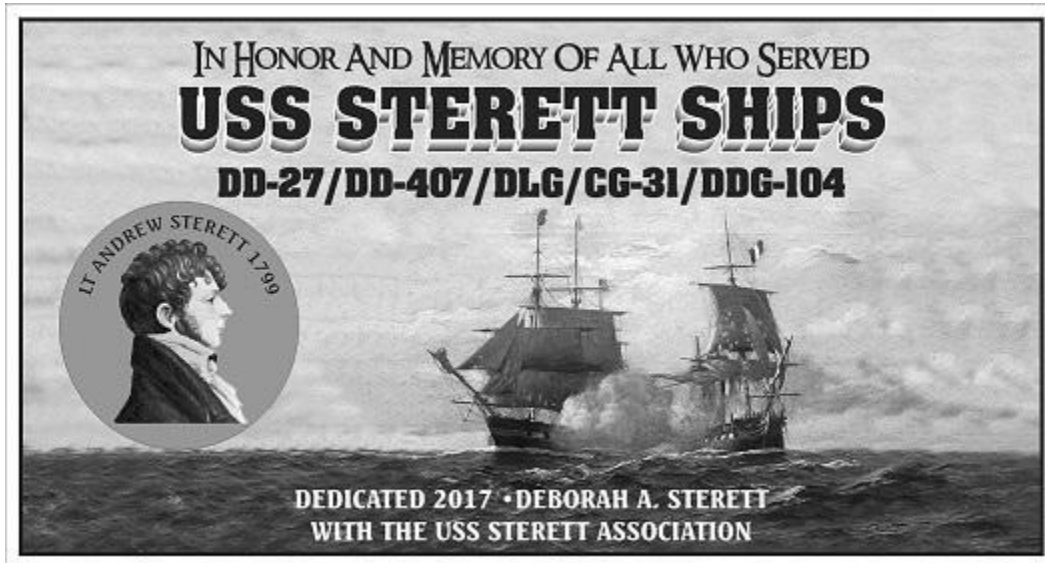
Earlier this year, Mike was presented with another much deserved Alumni Award. Congratulations and well done Shipmate





Sterett Plaque

A reminder to anyone in the DC area to visit the Navy Memorial and check out the plaque honoring all shipmates that served on a ship named Sterett. The plaque, sponsored by Debbie Sterett on behalf of the Sterett Association is located at panel 25.



Sterett Passings

DS1 Noli Ramos Beltran 87-90



FTMC George Cline 67-70



USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



William A. Goodson DD 407 WWII



*Eternal Father, strong to save,
Whose arm hath bound the restless wave,
Who bidd'st the mighty ocean deep
Its own appointed limits keep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!
O Christ! Whose voice the waters heard
And hushed their raging at Thy word,
Who walkedst on the foaming deep,
And calm amidst its rage didst sleep;
Oh, hear us when we cry to Thee,
For those in peril on the sea!*



Funeral Services

We generally do not receive notice that a shipmate has passed until sometime after the services have been completed.

When we do have sufficient notice, we attempt to locate a Sterett shipmate that is willing to represent the Sterett Association at the service.

For two of the above, we were fortunate to have shipmates travel to the service and represent us.

Thanks go to **Ron Burch** who was present at the service of DD 407 shipmate **Bill Goodson**.

Thanks also to **Dale Hilliard** who traveled a considerable distance to attend the services for **George Cline**.

That's what being a Sterett Shipmate is all about!

Before closing, I want to say thanks for the tremendous support I have received the past 8 years. It has been my honor and privilege to have had the Association conn. Special thanks go to John King, Chuck Bond, Burton Dietz, Larry Motz, Wayne McBrian and especially Don Hageman. Together we've maintained a steady course and performed the mission admirably.

I'll be hanging around the fantail if I can assist.

Steve Hayes

Make plans to attend the 2021 reunion in San Antonio

Dates and location will be announced.