



*"You will heave all his guns
overboard, cut away his masts
and leave him in a situation
that he can just make out
to get into some port..."*



Christening of
STERETT (DDG 104)
May 19, 2007

Bath Iron Works
A GENERAL DYNAMICS COMPANY

*The 29th Arleigh Burke Class Destroyer Built at
Bath Iron Works, and the 54th Ship of the Class*

Michelle Sterett Bernson is a familial descendant of LT Andrew Sterett. She was born in Miami, Florida, to Kent and Diana Sterett and is the oldest of four children. Michelle spent most of her childhood years in Florida and attended high school in Nebraska and California. After graduation from high school she attended Michigan Technological University in Houghton, Michigan. She graduated *cum laude* in 1996 with a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering.



Michelle began working for Boeing in Seattle, WA immediately after graduation from college. During the first five years of her career, she held a variety of engineering positions supporting Boeing Commercial aircraft such as the 737, 747, 767, and 777.

In 2002, Michelle was selected for a fellowship at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the Leaders for Manufacturing Program. Michelle graduated in 2004 with a Masters in Business Administration as well as a Masters in Mechanical Engineering.

DIANA STERETT

Matron of Honor



Diana Sterett grew up in Coral Gables, Florida. Her father was a Naval Aviator who flew PBV's during WWII. She graduated from Florida State University and Florida International University with a Masters in Education Administration. She served as Teacher, County Math Coordinator and Professional Competency Reviewer for the State of Florida. She married Kent Sterett in 1971 and together they raised 4 children: Michelle, Ryan, Greg and Jeff.

Diana currently owns a consulting company that is providing implementation support for the Navy's Lean Six Sigma program and also serves as Chief Financial Officer of Clear Creek Power, a wind farm development company engaged in the large scale introduction of renewable energy to the Rocky

After graduation from MIT, Michelle returned to Seattle as a manager in the Boeing Production Systems Office on the 737. Later in her career, she took a job as a factory supervisor in the F-22 Assembly Center, where the wing and tail sections of the F-22 Raptor are manufactured. Most recently, Michelle has taken a position working to define future aircraft production for the Boeing Commercial Airplane group.

Michelle spends much of her time outside work volunteering with organizations that promote math and science for young women and is Co-Director of The Science Splash program at Seattle University. She and her husband, Zach, have traveled extensively, visiting more than 20 countries in the last five years. In their spare time they enjoy outdoor activities such as sailing, hiking, cross country skiing, and scuba diving.

LE PHUNG

Matron of Honor

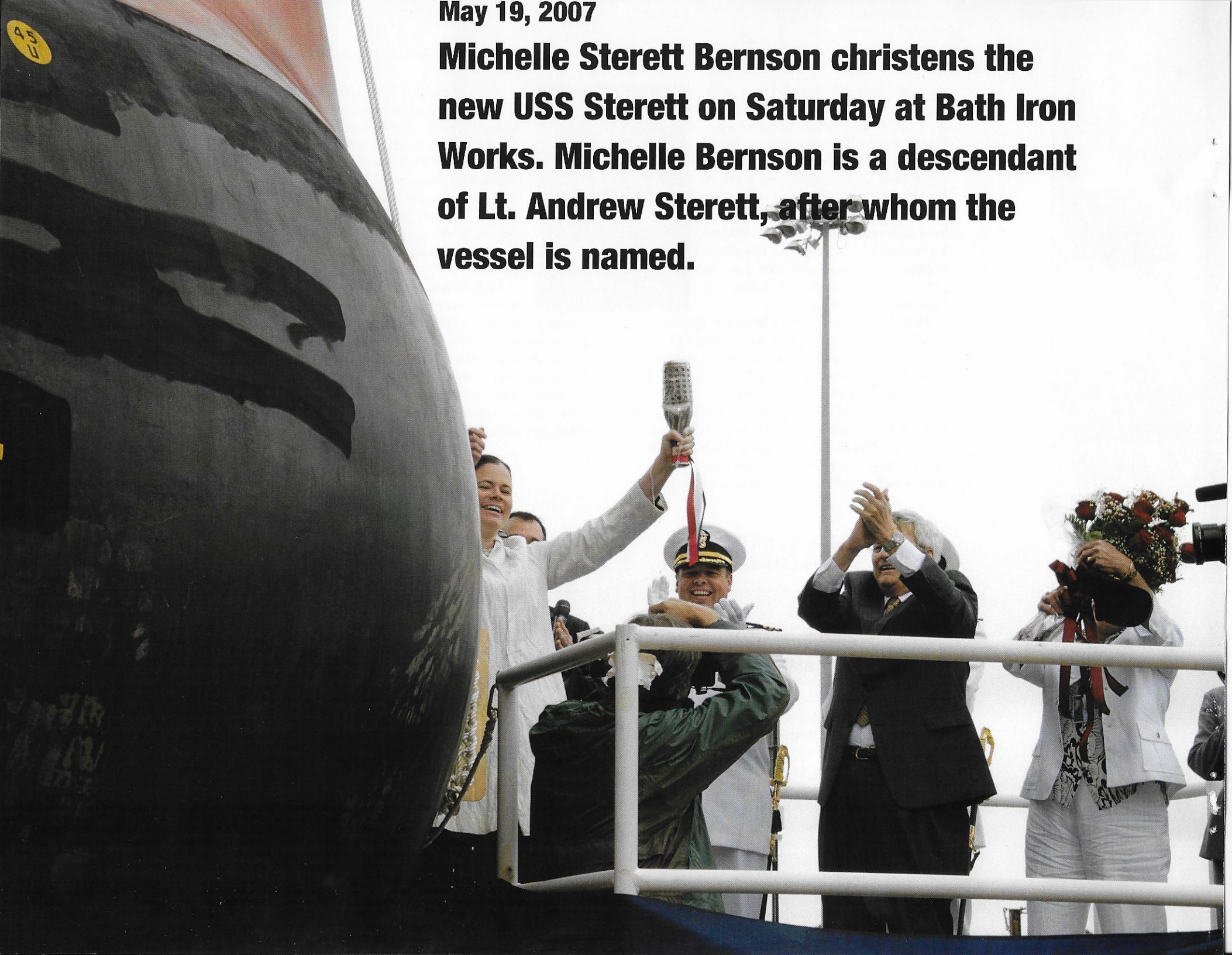


Le T. Phung left Vietnam on a small open boat with over 100 others. It was not her first attempt to seek freedom. After a week at sea, adrift after engine failure, without food, and with their boat about to sink, rescue came by way of *Sterett* (CG 31) which picked up all the refugees aboard on July 22, 1983. After short stays in camps in Thailand and Indonesia, Le arrived in St. Louis, Missouri in January 1984, to see frost and snow for the first time in her life.

Le graduated from Washington University, St. Louis in 1988, and completed her Ph.D. in Molecular Biology at the University of Chicago in 1997. Since then, she has been traveling and doing research at the University of Illinois' College of Medicine in Chicago. Currently she is investigating the molecular genetics of

May 19, 2007

Michelle Sterett Bernson christens the new USS Sterett on Saturday at Bath Iron Works. Michelle Bernson is a descendant of Lt. Andrew Sterett, after whom the vessel is named.



A black and white photograph of two men on a ship's deck. The man on the left is wearing a dark hard hat, glasses, and a plaid shirt. The man on the right is wearing a white hard hat with "USS CONSTITUTION" written on it, glasses, and a dark jacket. They are both smiling. In the background, there is a blue structure with the number "17" and "100 / 10" on it, and a body of water.

Friday May 19, 2007

Stepping the Mast

The ancient custom of “stepping the mast,” by placing coins under the step or bottom of a ship’s mast during construction, dates from antiquity. One belief from Greek Mythology is that should the ship be wrecked during passage, the coins would ensure payment of the crew’s wages for their return home. Since at least the construction of USS Constitution, this tradition has been passed on as a symbol of good luck for U.S. Navy ships.

USS STERETT Coat of Arms



1. The coat of arms of the USS STERETT (DDG 104) is a shield with a ship, a star, and a banner. The ship is a destroyer, the star is a five-pointed star, and the banner is a scroll with the words "USS STERETT". The shield is surrounded by a laurel wreath.

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USS STERETT (DDG 104)



Mast Stepping Ceremony

18 May 2007



USS STERETT

This great ship has risen from the shipyard at Bath Iron Works.

Placing a coin at the step, or base, of the mast of a newly constructed ship is a custom still retained as wooden ships have become steel. This tradition during the Roman era was a belief that this would enable them to pay Charon, the ferryman of the dead, for passage across the River Styx. It is said that if payment wasn't received, the dead would be doomed to wander on the banks of the Styx for a hundred years. The custom has survived and coins are still placed in the mast today so that safe passage for the crew is assured.

STERETT'S mast box contains the following items:

Four United States Quarters to represent each state where a STERETT ship was built:

Massachusetts (DD 27) South Carolina (DD 407)
Washington (DLG/CG 31) Maine (DDG 104)

Four United States Pennies to represent the christening years of each year of the current USS STERETT:

1910 (DD 27) 1938 (DD 407)
1964 (DLG/CG 31) 2007 (DDG 104)

USS STERETT (DLG/CG 31) Commemorative Command Coin

USS STERETT (DDG 104) Command Coin

STERETT is reinforced by the presence of a 3x5 inch section of USS STERETT's hull.

Coin denominations total to 104, the ship's hull number.

Special thanks to the STERETT Association and the STERETT Association.

Mast Stepping Ceremony



Welcome
Scott Kay
DDG New Construction Program Manager

Invocation
LCDR (SN) Andrews, NASB

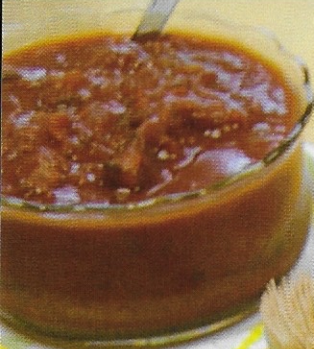
Background of Mast Stepping
LCDR Blankenship
FNSG USS STERETT (DDG 104)

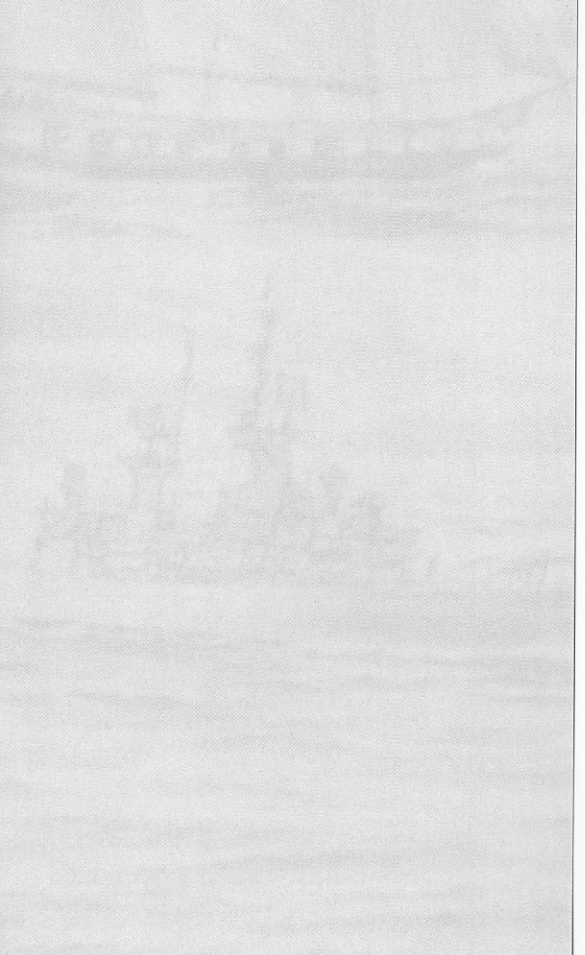
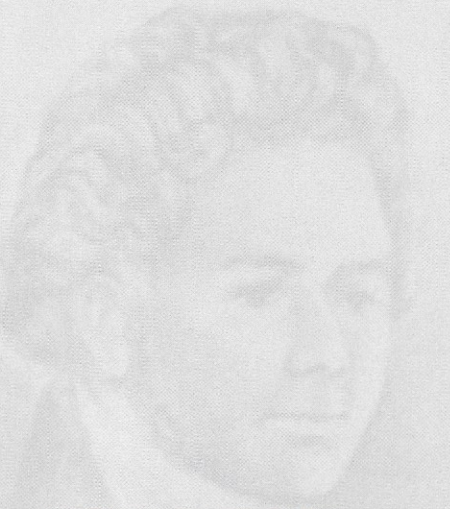
Remarks
John King, STERETT Association President

Mast Stepping

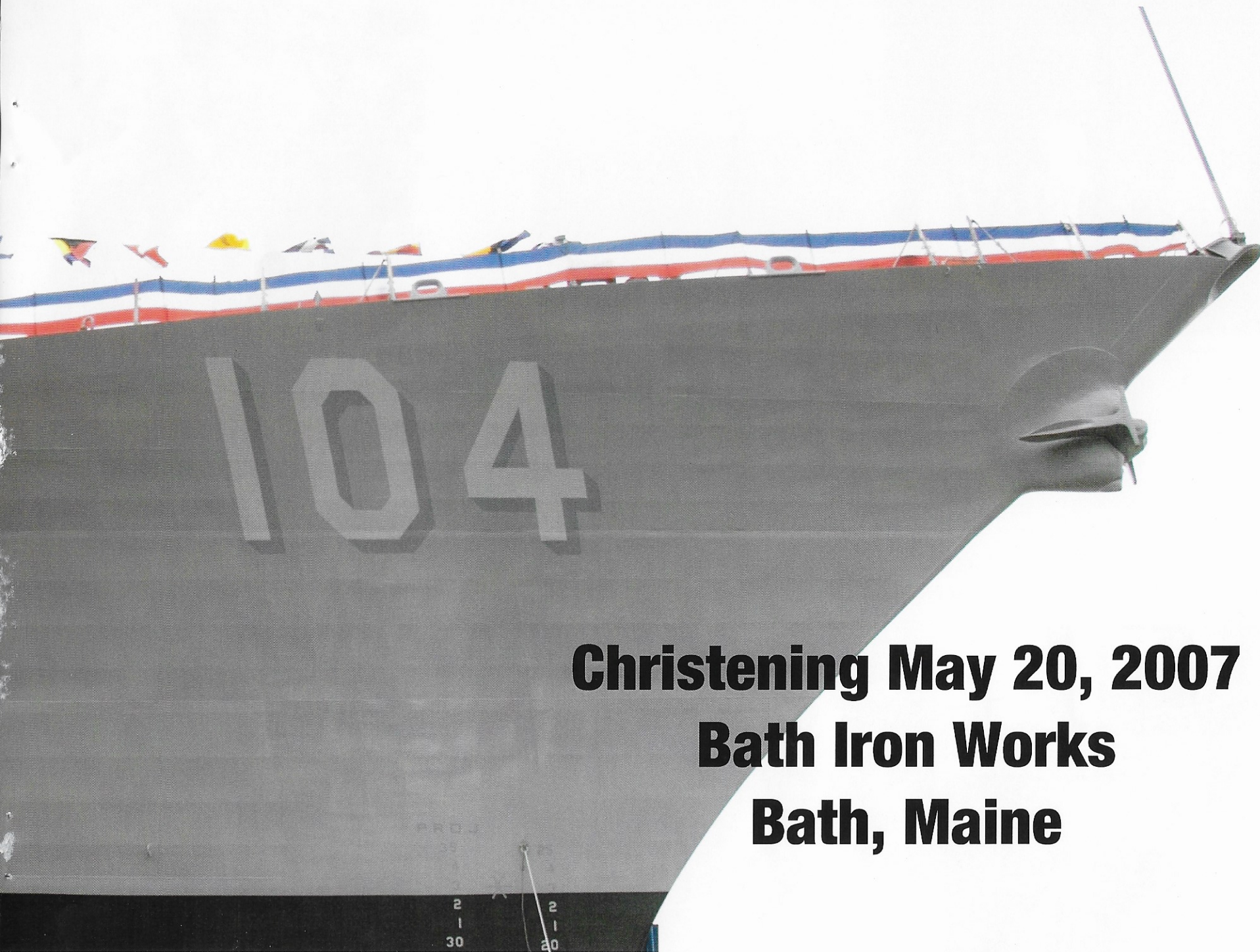
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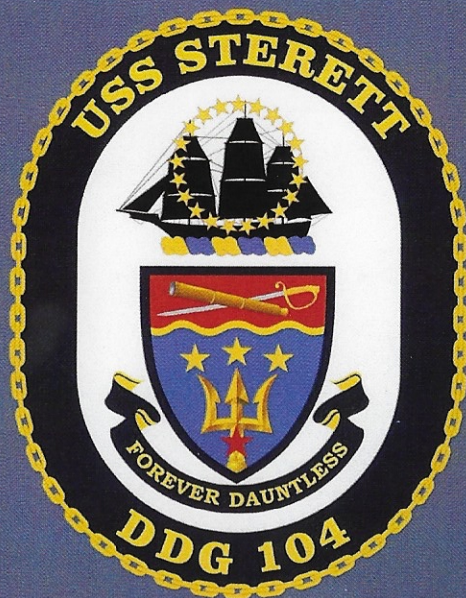








Christening May 20, 2007
Bath Iron Works
Bath, Maine



SHIELD

Celeste (Yale Blue) a demi-trident issuing from base Or, above each tine a mullet of the like, the shaft surmounted in base by a mullet Gules; on a chief wavy of the last edged of the second, a Naval officer's sword point down and an antique telescope saltirewise Proper, all within a bordure Azure (Dark Blue).

CREST

On a wreath Or and Celeste an eighteenth century frigate in silhouette Sable, surmounted overall by an annulet of twenty-one mullets of the first.

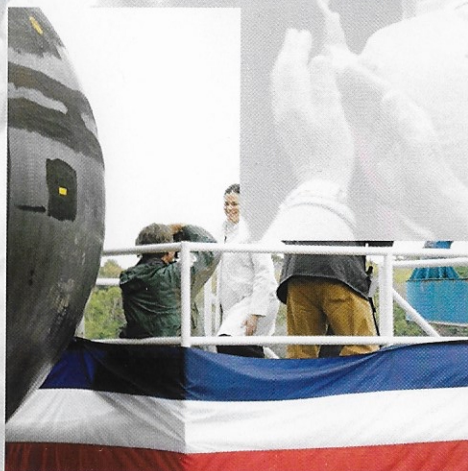
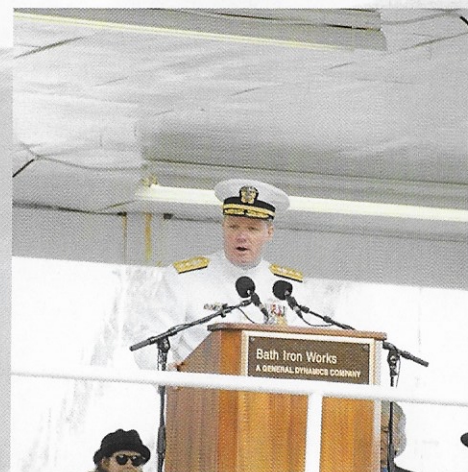
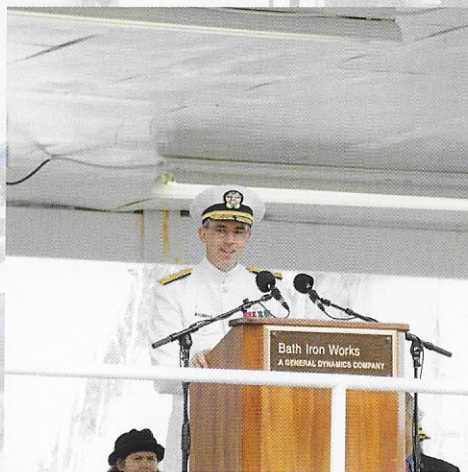
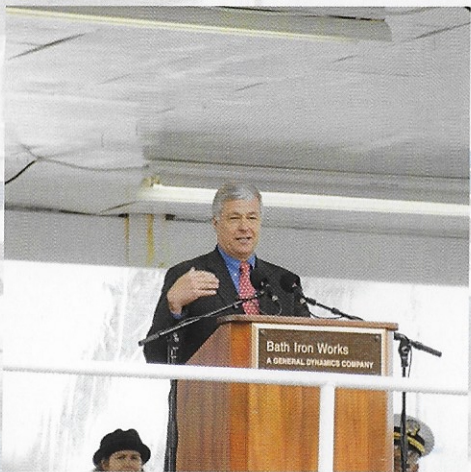
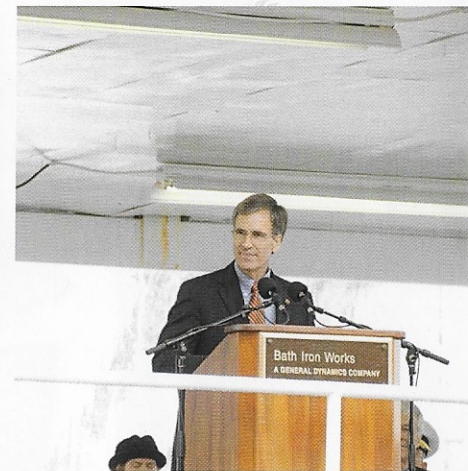
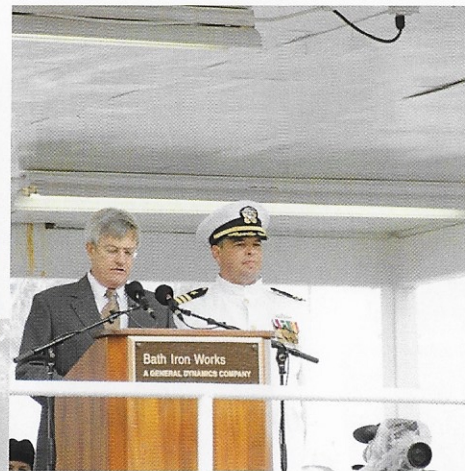
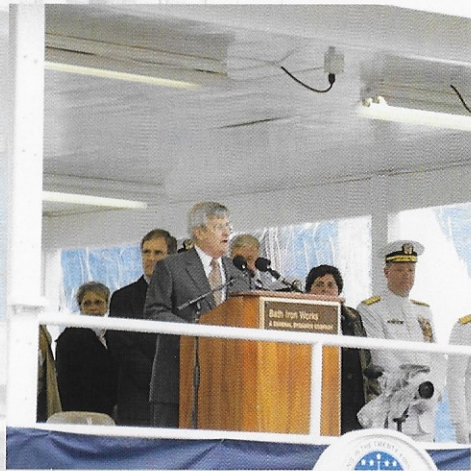
SYMBOLISM

Scarlet denotes courage and the sacrifices made in battle by the three previous ships to bear the name Sterett. The scarlet mullet in base recalls the first incident in which a US Navy vessel, DLG-31, shot down and destroyed a Russian-built MiG 17 airplane with a Terrier missile

STERETT (DDG 104)

Christening Program

National Anthem	Navy Band Northeast Director, Lieutenant Carl Gerhard, USN Soloist: Meredith Parsons McComb
Welcome	Dugan Shipway President Bath Iron Works
Remarks	The Honorable Thomas H. Allen United States Representative, Maine Rear Admiral Charles H. Goddard, USN Program Executive Officer, Ships Rear Admiral Nevin P. Carr, Jr., USN Deputy of Combat Systems & Weapons, Surface Warfare
Principal Speaker	Rear Admiral Bernard J. "Barry" McCullough, USN Director, Warfare Integration/Senior National Representative
Invocation	Lieutenant Dennis K. Andrews Navy Chaplain
Christening	Michelle Sterett Bernson Ship Sponsor Diana Sterett Matron of Honor Le T. Phung Matron of Honor





Transistion





Gift Presentations







Michelle Sterett Bernson christens the new USS Sterett on Saturday at Bath Iron Works. Bernson is a descendant of Lt. Andrew Sterett, after whom the vessel is named. Sterett was a Navy officer about two centuries ago.

Derek Davis/Staff Photograph

New ship, old legacy

The third USS Sterett rescued Vietnamese people at sea, and one survivor served as a matron of honor Saturday.

By DAVID SHARP
The Associated Press

BATH — Le T. Phung was one of thousands of Vietnamese boat people desperate enough for a better life to take to the ocean in small crafts. Many of them didn't make it.



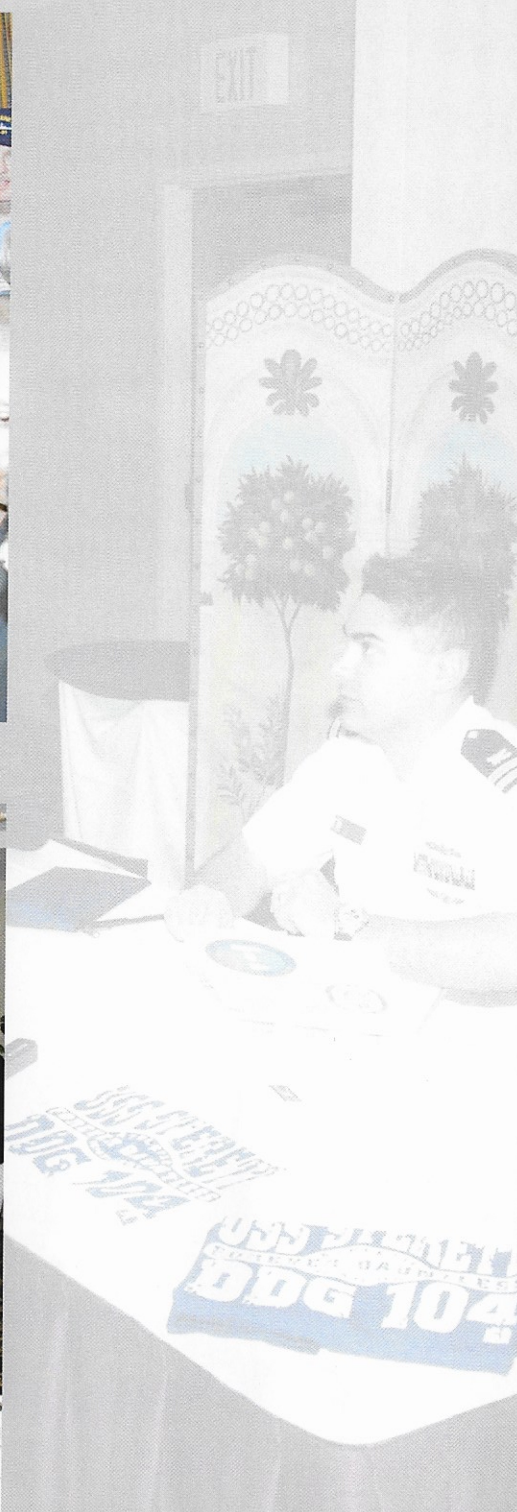
splash of champagne by Michelle Sterett Bernson, is the fourth war ship to bear the name of Sterett who served aboard the frigate Constellation during the U.S. Navy' first victory against a foreign navy.

Sterett commanded a gun battery when Constellation captured the French frigate L'Insurgente during an undeclared "quasi-war" in February 1799.

During the battle, Sterett used

**USS STERETT
Association
Reunion Dinner
Special Guests
DDG-104 Crew
Sterett Family**





Sterrett Family Gift

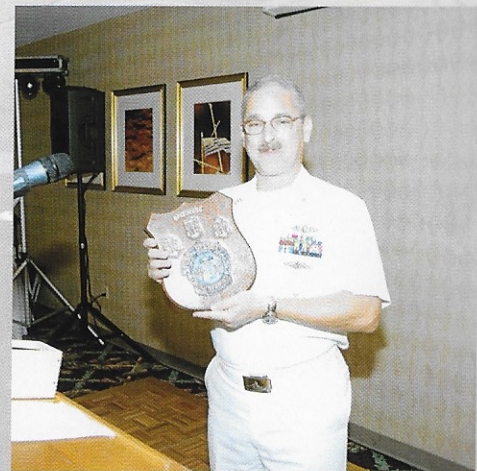


Who was the USS Sterrett named after?

The USS Sterrett was named after Lieutenant Andrew Sterrett. Andrew's father was a successful shipping merchant who had served as a captain during the Revolutionary War. Andrew was the fourth of ten children and despite his sizable inheritance, entered the Navy as a Lieutenant on 25 March 1798 at the age of twenty. He served as Third Lieutenant aboard the newly commissioned frigate Constellation a sister ship of "Old Ironsides." This display is constructed of planking from the original "Old Ironsides" removed during her preservation and supplied to the Steretts for this purpose by the current crew of "Old Ironsides" the oldest commissioned ship in the US Navy.

By February 1800 Andrew Sterrett had been promoted to First Lieutenant and participated in successful battles against French ships. Later that year he assumed his first command, the schooner Enterprise. The Enterprise sailed to the Mediterranean to quell the Barbary pirates. Andrew Sterrett and the Enterprise went up against the pirate warship Tripoli in a furious engagement. He successfully fought off three attempts by the pirates armed with cutlasses like this one to board his crippled ship. This authentic Barbary cutlass is a gift from the Sterrett family. Both weapons are original and could have participated in the engagement. Andrew was presented with a sword by President Thomas Jefferson and his crew received an additional month's pay for their heroism. Following several more successful battles to the coast of Tripoli, Sterrett and the Enterprise witnessed the return of freedom of the seas in the Mediterranean for American ships. He returned home in March of 1803 and resigned from the Navy in 1805. He pursued a career in the Merchant Marine and a premature death in Lima, Peru on 9 June 1807 at the age of thirty.

Andrew Sterrett left the U.S. Navy with a rich tradition of service.





Memorial Service

Reading of the names of fallen

DD-407 sailors

