

USS STERETT (DDG 104) COMMISSIONING



USS STERETT (DDG 104) COMMISSIONING

AUGUST 9, 2008



Commissioning

Commissioning is the act or ceremony of placing a ship in active service. The ceremonies involved are rooted in centuries old naval tradition.

The sponsor traditionally gives the first order to the ship's company: "Man our ship and bring her to life!"

Commissioning Weekend August 8-9, 2008

A gloriously atypical August day set the perfect stage for the Commissioning of USS STERETT (DDG 104) in Baltimore the second weekend in August. Thousands of friends, family, crew and supporters of the United States Navy gathered on the pier to witness this time-honored tradition of bring the ship to life and into service for the fleet. The memory of the ship's namesake, Andrew Sterett, was a constant reminder of the duty, honor and dedication that this fourth STERETT will continue to uphold as she begins her duty on the line.

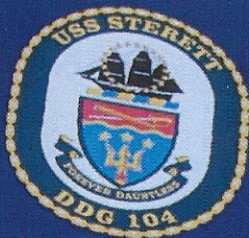
Ships named Sterett:

DD 27 Commissioned December 15, 1910

DD 407 Commissioned August 15, 1939

DLG/CG 31 Commissioned April 4, 1967

DDG 104 Commissioned August 9, 2008



USS STERETT (DDG 104) COMMISSIONING

*August 9, 2008
Baltimore*





CDR Eckerle, the proud first plankowner



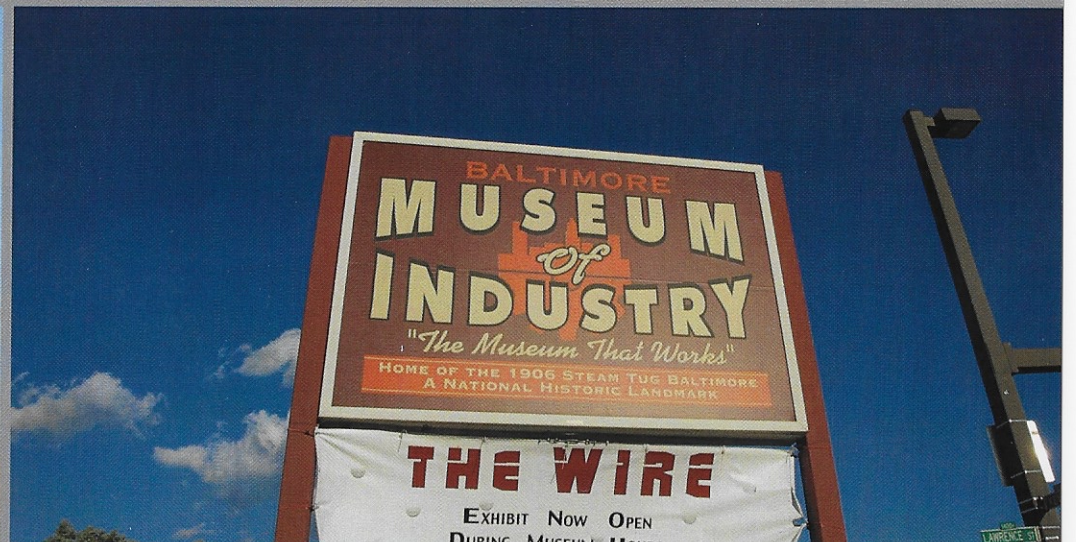
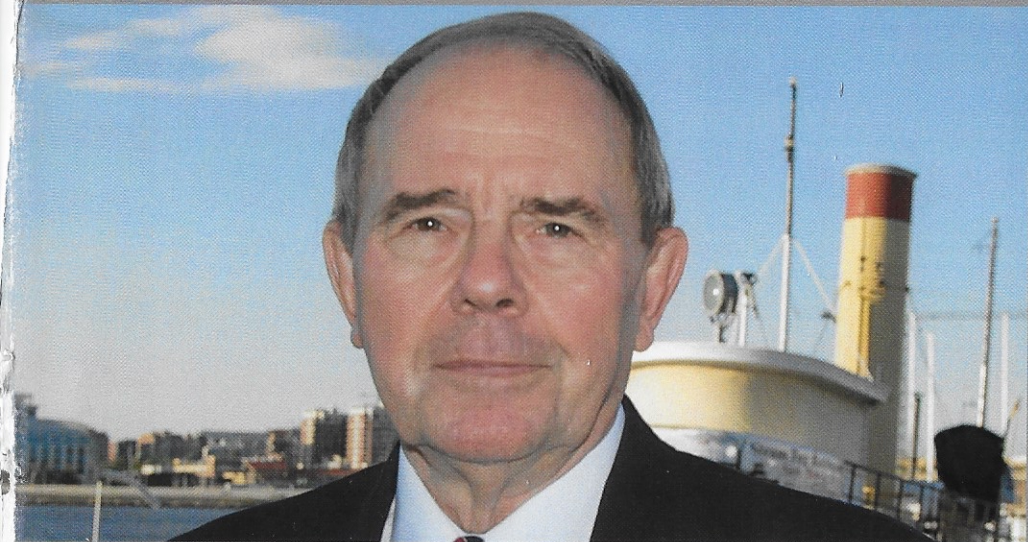
Remarks and presentation of the traditional ship's gifts by Navy and industry partners



The long-glass is presented to CDR Eckerle by Sponsor Michelle Sterett Bernson on behalf of the Sterett family



Buoy marking the exact spot where Francis Scott Key penned the National Anthem



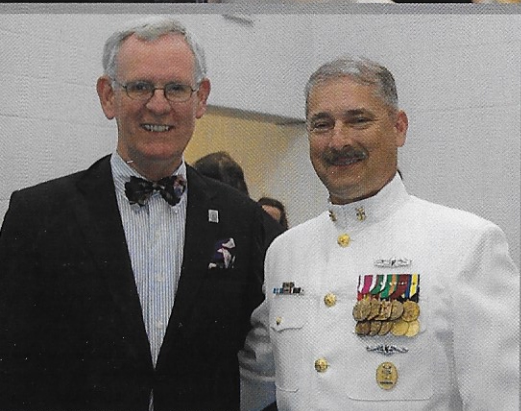
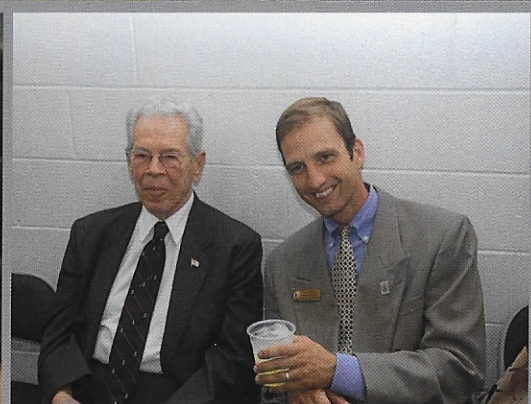
VIP reception hosted by Chairman VADM Kenneth C. Malley and the Commissioning Committee



USS CONSTELLATION departing the Inner Harbor bound for her berth with STERETT



Sterett and Constellation bow-to-bow at the pier



RADM Wayne Meyer USN (retired), father of the Aegis program, attends the platform briefing



Arrival of the platform guests, including Gov. Martin O'Malley, Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter, Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski and Archbishop of Baltimore Edwin F. O'Brien



Arrival of the platform guests, including Gov. Martin O'Malley, Secretary of the Navy Donald C. Winter, Sen. Barbara A. Mikulski and Archbishop of Baltimore Edwin F. O'Brien



Nineteen gun salute for Governor Martin O'Malley



Presentation of Colors



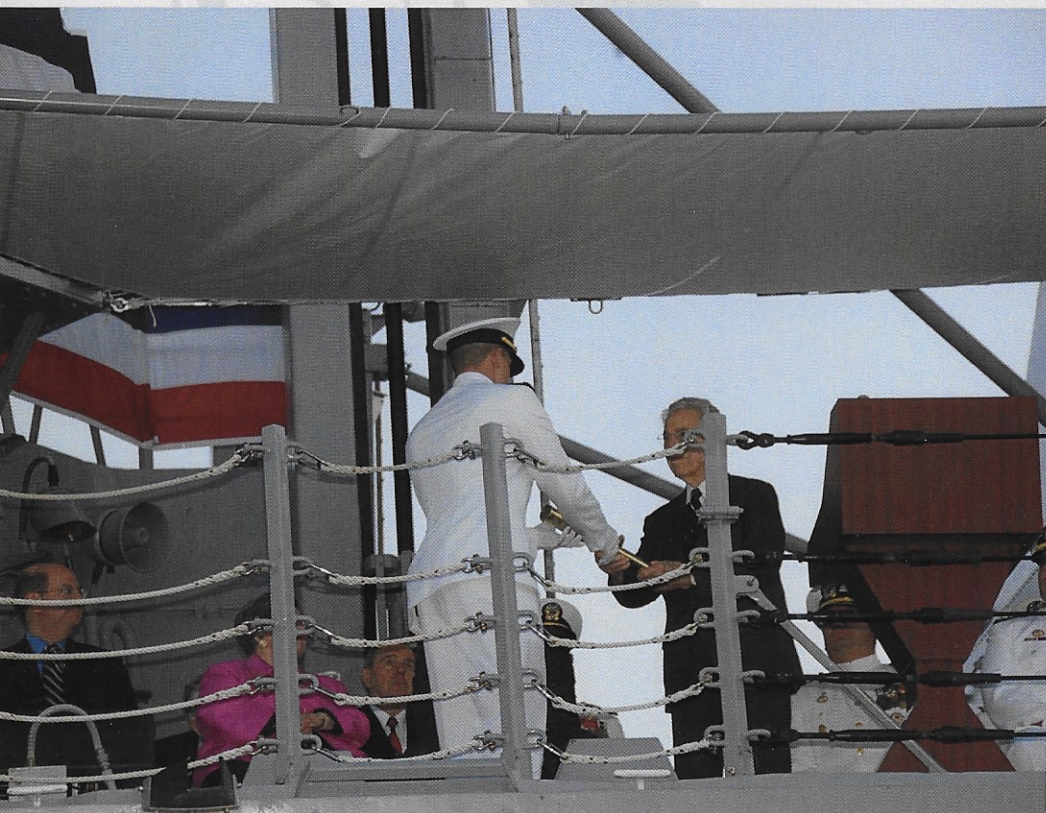
Governor Martin O'Malley presents the ship with a gift from the State of Maryland



The Honorable Donald C. Winter delivers the principal address



The Ensign and Commissioning Pennant are hoisted



The watch is set and the long-glass is passed from DD 407 XO CAPT Cal Calhoun USN (retired) to the OOD



Sponsor Michelle
Sterett Bernson give the command "Man our ship and bring her to life!"



Manning the ship



The ship's sounds and signals signify she has come alive





The spirit of Andrew Sterett salutes DDG 104



Secretary Winter's pennant is flown



Manning the rails



Warm and sincere applause for CDR Eckerle's remarks



The official party departs STERETT



Tours of the ship



Two generations of STERETT sailors, thirty six years apart, compare notes



Fair winds and following seas to the crew of our newest USS STERETT



San Diego bound!

Photography and design by John King