From Past President Steve Hayes 22 November 2020:

Around 2005, my sister told me her husband, Charlie Gregory, had found what looked like a coin in some old family things.

It was tarnished but she could make out USS Sterett on it. She knew the Sterett name because of my 2 tours.

Eventually, she sent it to me and I discovered it was a US Navy Good Conduct award presented to Charlie Gregory USS Sterett on May 6, 1916 (DD 27).

Back then Good Conduct’s were given upon discharge and were called Continuous Service Certificate (CSC).

Not much was known about Charlie’s grandfather but he was known to have been in the Navy.

The irony of this coming to my possession was not lost on me. My sister recognizing a ship’s name and being married to a grandson of a Sterett sailor was pretty interesting.

My then brother in law agreed to present this DD 27 artifact to the new Sterett, then awaiting commissioning in 2008. In return, I asked the CO to send a formal invitation to my brother in law for the ceremony.

At commissioning, the DDG 104 had a special passageway display area for all Sterett artifacts.

Jump ahead a few years after the CO and crew had turned over a few times and the ship had gone through a few yard upkeeps.
A recent CO took an interest in some of the 407 and 31 artifacts that he located. He made some nice displays that I posted in newsletters.

In our discussions it was discovered the Good Conduct award, the only artifact we have ever had from the DD 27, could not be found.