



THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Good Day Shipmates!

As we close in on our deadlines to reserve our hotel rooms and to register to attend our Reunion in San Diego 4-7 May, I thought it important to highlight what makes this Reunion so special!

Twenty-five years ago a group of former STERETT Sailors got together and decided to form an Association to coordinate holding a reunion every other year, starting in 1998, for all those who served on a very special ship, the USS STERETT. The Association was small at first, fewer than 100 turned out for reunions that spread from coast to coast, but then something magical happened, the 2015 Reunion in Tacoma drew in 139 and with each Reunion thereafter, we grew even larger, actually pulling more than 200 for San Antonio that was scheduled for 2021, but delayed by the COVID pandemic until 2022. Unfortunately, not all who had originally signed up to attend could make our gathering in 2022 and we fell short of the 200 mark.



Along the way from 1998 until today we joined up with a group that was holding reunions for the USS STERETT DD-407 and many of them started attending our reunions, so we could keep the memory of the 407 alive and well. Additionally, what had started out as a group of mainly DLG-31 Sailors, evolved to include many more CG-31 Sailors, Vietnamese refugees who had been rescued by STERETT and yes, even Shipmates who had served and are serving aboard the USS STERETT DDG-104!

So San Diego will be very special in that not only are we going to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the STERETT Association, but we also will be back in the city where so many of us were home ported during our time onboard STERETT.

Another major draw will be the celebration of the 15th Anniversary of the commissioning of the DDG-104, with the Commanding Officer of the 104, CDR Chris Descovlch, serving as our banquet speaker. We are encouraging Shipmates from the 104 to join us for our Saturday evening banquet, to expose them to the history and spirit of those who served before them on ships named STERETT. Just as it was important for the crew of the 407 to embrace joining with the crew of the 31 to keep our history and

spirit alive, it is equally important now for us to reach out and embrace the crew of the 104, so that the history of all ships named STERETT, the DD-27, the DD-407, the DLG/CG 31 and the 104 remain alive and vibrant well into the next century.

For that reason, I am reaching out to ask for your help in making San Diego the biggest and best Reunion ever. Make your hotel reservations and send in your registration forms and join us.

I look forward to seeing you in San Diego!

Burton

Burton Dietz
President
USS STERETT Association