



## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

### Vietnam Veterans Day

This week on 29 March our nation will celebrate National Vietnam Veterans Day. This day has been chosen to honor all those who served in Vietnam and to mark the day American forces stopped fighting – 29 March 1973.

The STERETT has a long and proud record of service not only in times of conflict, but in peace as well! The DLG-31 is no exception to that. With two WESTPAC tours that included extended line periods in the Vietnam War, she served our nation well and earned several awards for her actions.



The Commander of the Pacific Fleet even hailed the Battle of Dong Hoi 19 April 1972 as the most significant Naval battle of the war. I was truly honored to have earned all the awards shown above except for the Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal (second row, far right) and earned two bronze stars for my Vietnam Service Medal.

CAPT H. E. Reichert earned the Silver Star for the Battle of Dong Hoi and the DLG-31 earned nine Battle Stars for her service off the coast of Vietnam!

More than 100 years of exceptional service to the fleet and our great nation is something that should make us all proud, but today I render a Hand Salute to all those shipmates from the DLG-31 years! Hooyah Shipmates!

Respectfully

Burton

Burton Dietz  
President  
USS STERETT Association