

USS STERETT ASSOCIATION



[DD 27 \(1910-19\)](#)



[DD 407 \(1939-1945\)](#)



[DLG 31 \(1967-75\)](#)



[CG 31 \(1975-94\)](#)

[DDG 104 \(Commissioned 2008\)](#)

Christmas Has Come - Happy Holidays!



Greetings from the USS STERETT Association,

Fall has come and is nearly gone, so we have combined the Fall and Christmas editions of the newsletter into one. We have lots of news, so hang on, this is going to be some great ride! Last September, we presented the Steve Hayes Memorial Plaque to the XO and CMC of the 104 honoring Outstanding Sailors of the Year, which will be a yearly occurrence. Great turnout of Shipmates from all over the country and you will find more information below. Soon thereafter, the 104 exited the yards after its overhaul and is once more plying the waters of the Pacific off the California coast. More from CO CDR Shaun Dennis in his column. We also have information on Shipmates who need our prayers and of course the Reunion in San Antonio is just five months away. For the Plan of the Day, registration information, tourist attractions and restaurants that are close by and to see which of your Shipmates have already signed up, the information is here as well. It is not too late to join in all the fun and we hope to see you there! (If you don't attend, you know your shipmates will be talking about you!). Lastly, we lost 11 Shipmates this year. RIP Brothers, we will never forget your service to our country aboard the ships named USS STERETT (DD 407, DLG/CG 31, and DDG 104).

Happy Holidays, Burton Dietz, Vice-President and Newsletter Editor

FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Greetings STERETT Family,

Hope everyone is well and enjoying the holiday season. Gerlie and I love the different shades of colors and the cool air that the Fall brings and the various decorations throughout Oak Harbor. Since our gathering in San Diego, I have reflected much on the evening we had and why we came together, and that is because of one common bond – the USS STERETT – past and present!

Recently, my thoughts have been on the meaning of the word *heritage*. Our Bylaws clearly state that our #1 objective is “to educate the public on the naval maritime heritage of the USS STERETT...as to the roles the ships have played in the United States history and the importance of preserving the ship’s historic data for future generations.” That is a huge responsibility since four ships have been named after Lt. Andrew Sterett. I take a lot of pride telling people about Lt. Andrew Sterett and his accomplishments during the Barbary Wars as Commanding Officer of the

135-ton schooner and first United States Navy ship named *Enterprise*. How many ship associations can say their legacy includes a ship who chased after a German U-boat during WWI? Who served both the Eastern and Western frontiers during WWII, earning 13 Battle Stars while gallantly fighting the enemy in naval battles like Guadalcanal and Vella Gulf, and being hit by a kamikaze airplane off the coast of Okinawa? Who shot down enemy planes with Terrier missiles in Vietnam and being twice homeported overseas during its existence? How many can say they had five rescues of refugees running away from oppression, in search of freedom? How many ships can say they were part of molding a future Chief of Naval Operations and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff? How many ships have been awarded seven Battle “E” Ribbons in just over 13 years of existence? Shipmates, what a heritage we have!

Our Association was established to keep our legacy alive and well for generations to come. Today, 331 Shipmates, family members and those who have chosen to be a part of something bigger than themselves, partake in meeting the USS STERETT Association’s objective. We have done so in many ways including maintaining our website and gathering every two or so years around the country so we can get near Shipmates and family members who are not able to travel. I am so looking forward to our next reunion in San Antonio, TX, and hope that the recent postponement due to COVID-19 did not cause too much hardship to you and your family. Truly it is an honor and a privilege to be associated with each of you. Thank you for being a member of the arguably, the best ship association in existence today. We are all part of such an awesome heritage!

Many times throughout my life I have heard that good communication is the key in having a healthy relationship! From my experience outside and inside my place of abode, I totally agree with that statement, but in order for that to work, communication must flow between those involved. The Association’s second objective is “to provide information, assistance and support to the membership...” and we have been doing this primarily via our website, through these newsletters and the social media platform Facebook. Earlier this year, many posted on our Facebook page that they were closing their Facebook accounts and moving to MeWe, so we went ahead set up a group there. About 30 members joined our MeWe group and since July, there has been no growth. Most of those 30 members remain active on Facebook and MeWe has become dormant; therefore, we have made the decision to shut down our MeWe group page. Communication is key but it is a two-way street, so if anyone has any ideas on how the Association can communicate better with our membership, please let us know as I believe we can definitely do better in this area.

Enjoy what’s left of the Fall Season and have a Merry Christmas! See ya’ll next year, chuck

THE CAPTAIN'S CORNER



Greetings family, friends and loved one,

We are nearing the end of our time in the shipyard and have made our transition back to Naval Base San Diego. In the past few months, we have successfully executed the Damage Control Material Assessment (DCMA) in preparation for lighting off the engineering plant.

Safety and procedural compliance continues to be our number one priority for our ship and Shipmates. In October, we found us arriving back to 32nd Street, training and making preps for execution of basic phase training events. I am extremely proud of the resiliency, effort and hard work the crew has been putting in to make STERETT better. I am excited about the future and the opportunities it will bring to train our crew and operate our ship.

I continue to be humbled and proud to lead this ship and her amazing crew. Thank you for all that you do as your love, support and prayers are very much appreciated.

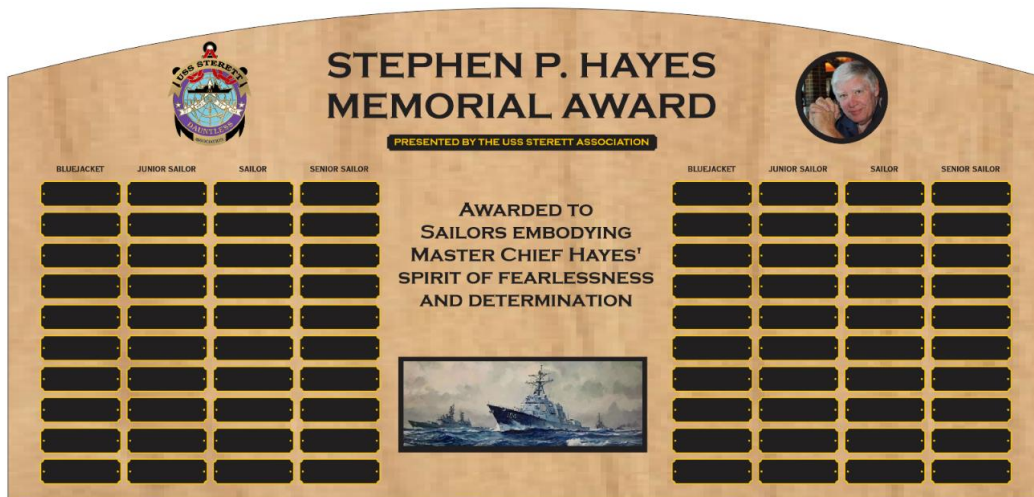
CDR Dennis sends
FOREVER DAUNTLESS

2020 Deployment Christmas Celebration



Culinary Specialist 2nd Class John Pateno (left), from the Philippines, prepares bread dough for a Christmas dinner and Culinary Specialist 2nd Class Richard Turknett (left), from Turlock, Calif., slices turkey for Christmas dinner in the galley aboard the guided- missile destroyer USS STERETT (DDG 104) (www.dvidshub.net, 2020)

STEPHEN P. HAYES MEMORIAL PLAQUE



Last September, several shipmates from the 31 and 104 gathered at the Bali Hai restaurant in San Diego for the presentation of the Stephen P. Hayes Memorial Plaque to the 104 Executive Officer (XO), CDR Chris Descovich and the Command Master Chief (CMC) CMDCM Alfredo “Al” Alonso. Steve’s daughter, Carolyn Robinson and her husband Dominic, were in attendance (see below). The plaque has been permanently placed on the mess decks of the 104.

The award will be presented annually to the ship's Sailors of the Year and their names will be inscribed on a perpetual plaque that will be displayed in the ship's mess decks. A certificate and a \$50.00 stipend will be presented to each awardee upon their return home. This award was made possible by four donors who wish to remain anonymous and collectively donated \$1,700.00 towards keeping Steve Hayes’ legacy forever dauntless for years to come. To those Shipmates – we are grateful for your unselfish devotion to this cause!!!



Carolyn and Dominic Robinson

On behalf of the USS STERETT Association, congratulations to the following Shipmates who were recently notified of their selection as the FY-21 Sailors of the Year for their leadership, hard work and devotion to duty:

Senior Sailor: LS1(SW/AW) W. Moss

Sailor: STG2(SW/AW) K. RamosMartinez

Junior Sailor: BM3(SW/AW) R. Brantley

Bluejacket: BMSN(SW/AW) R. Sanders



Please visit the following link: [Stephen P. Hayes Memorial Award — Sterett Association](https://www.sterett.net/about/stephen-p-hayes-memorial-award)

Or cut and paste: <https://www.sterett.net/about/stephen-p-hayes-memorial-award>

2022 USS STERETT ASSOCIATION REUNION

<https://www.sterett.net/reunion-2022/>



The 2021 USS STERETT Association Reunion remains San Antonio, Texas, and the dates are now 12-15 May 2022.

Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk
217 North St. Mary's Street, San Antonio, TX 78205

- The room rate for then reunion is \$139.00 (plus taxes and fees) per night.
- To make reservations, please call (210) 224-2500 and mention the "USS STERETT" or the group code "STE."
- A Full American breakfast buffet for the price of \$15.00 per person (tax and gratuity not included) is available (normally \$22.00).
- Overnight self-service parking is available for \$19.00 per night (normally \$27.00).
- As long as the Holiday Inn San Antonio Riverwalk has availability, they will honor the room rate three days before and three days after the reunion dates of 12-15 May (15 September the departure date for most).

Start planning now to join your Sterett shipmates in San Antonio. If you're not there, sea stories about you will be told...

Plan of the Day

Thursday, 12 May 2022 – early arrival date (discover San Antonio and Texas)

Friday 13 May 2022 – arrival date, golf tourney, wine tour, audit & Board of Directors meeting

Saturday, 14 May 2022 – General meeting and banquet

Sunday, 15 May 2022 – Memorial ceremony and departure

176 Shipmates and Guest have registered to date!!!

See who is going here: <https://www.sterett.net/reunion-2022/reunion-registration/>

BINNACLE LIST

Binnacle is defined as the stand or housing for the ship's compass located on the bridge. The term binnacle list, in lieu of sick list, originated years ago when ship's Hospital Corpsmen used to place a list of the sick on the binnacle each morning to inform the captain about the crew's health. Please keep the following Shipmates and family members in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery:

Thomas Allen (RD3, DLG 31, 67-68)
Frank Ames (BT2, CG 31, 84-88)
Brian Bon (YN1, CG 31, 83-87)
Ron Burch (HT2, CG 31, 86-89)
Richard P. Genet (CAPT, CG 31, 86-88)
Eric Groetz (HM3, CG 31, 87-89)
Kenny Marshall (EW2, CG 31, 85-89)
Ray Miem (ET2, CG 31, 88-91)
Jessica Morera (CDR, DDG 104, 2019-2020)
Richard Seghers (BM3, CG 31, 87-91)
Patrick "Peanut" Stallworth (EN3, CG 31, 86-90)

If anyone is missing off the list, please contact Chaplain Jackson at glennjackson27@gmail.com

Lastly, lest we forget our STERETT Shipmates no longer with us, all lost in 2021. We salute and thank them for answering the call and standing watch...rest in peace Brothers!

Jackie DeLucas (BTCM, CG 31, early 90s)
James Gage (BM2, CG 31, 84-89)
Donald "Don" W. Hageman (GMM1, DLG/CG 31, 74-76)
Tom Harper (CDR, DLG 31, 71-72)
John "Jack" G. Hebert (RD, DLG 31, late 60s)
James Holt (BMSN, CG 31, 90-94)
Jacque "JQ" L. Hutchins (GM3c, DD 407, 39-41)
Don A. Jackson (SMSA, DLG 31, 72-75)
Edward D. McCarthy (SA, DLG 31, 69-71)
Keith Stoval (OS2, CG 31, 80s)
Harry W. Unangst (AMH2, DLG 31, 1972)



Please visit the following link: [Departed Shipmates — Sterett Association](https://www.sterett.net/departed-shipmates/)

Or cut and paste: <https://www.sterett.net/departed-shipmates/>