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Stark Memorial Honors Fallen Shipmates

From Staff

A ceremony of remembrance will be held at Mayport's Memorial Park Saturday, May 17th at 10:30 a.m. to honor the Sailors who were killed aboard the guided-missile frigate USS Stark (FFG 31) 21 years ago.

On May 17, 1987, while on patrol in the Arabian Gulf, 37 Sailors died when two Iraqi missiles struck USS Stark. Despite the severe damage inflicted, the heroic efforts of Stark's

crew saved the ship. Stark was decommissioned at Mayport in 1999. In order to preserve the tradition once the ship was retired, the Naval Order of the United States, North Florida Commandery, assumed sponsorship for the memorial service.

Several members of the 1987 crew of Stark will attend the service. The service will feature accounts of some of the events that occurred following the attack, both aboard ship and

here in Mayport, from crew and volunteers & staff who worked to provide information and support services to the families of crew members.

The guest speaker for this year's ceremony is Admiral Harry Ulrich, USN (Ret.), a former Commanding Officer of Stark.

Mayport's Memorial Park was established Aug. 1, 1987, with the dedication of the Stark monument.