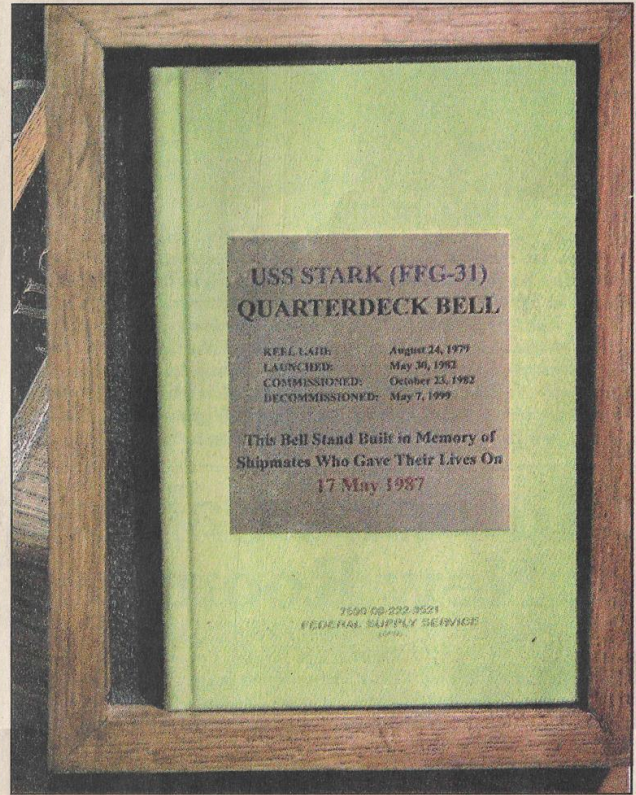


Remembering USS Stark



IT1 Darryl Allen of USS Spruance tolls the bell as the names of the 37 crewmembers are read off.

-Photo by JO2 Melissa Stricklin



USS Stark's Quarterdeck Bell Log Book is housed within the bellstand.

-Photo courtesy of SIMA

Stark Bell Rings For Its Crew Again

From staff

During Saturday's memorial service to remember fallen crewmembers of USS Stark, a lone bell tolled.

On loan from the U.S. Navy Historical Museum, the bell returned to Naval Station Mayport and USS Stark. It is the Quarterdeck Bell from the ship.

When the Quarterdeck Bell arrived minus a clacker, MR1 Dichiera of SIMA designed and machined a clacker in time for

last year's memorial service. Yet the bell needed a permanent display.

Designed by retired Lt. Cmdr. Mike O'Keefe, one of the survivors of USS Stark's 1987 attack, SIMA rebuilt a bellstand that included a name plate with the dates of the keel laid, launch, commissioning and decommissioning.

There are two decommissioning coins mounted as well.

Also housed in the stand was a log book with the history of

the bell, duties and instructions for log entries, and an 8-inch-by-10-inch steel plate from USS Stark.

Lastly, the stand is adorned with brass plates that are engraved with the names of the fallen Stark crewmembers.

When not in use, the bell is housed in the main lounge of the CPO Club at Naval Station Mayport, along with memorabilia from USS Cole, Battle of Midway and Normandy artifacts.