

let
peace
take root...

Fifth Annual Remembrance Ceremony

*In Honor of
the 37 Americans Killed
on the USS Stark
in the Persian Gulf*

ARLINGTON NATIONAL CEMETERY

May 17, 1992

Sponsored by

No Greater Love

Fifth Anniversary Remembrance Ceremony

In Honor of the 37 Americans Killed on the USS Stark



An annual remembrance ceremony
sponsored by No Greater Love

Ceremony Site

"The Arlington National Cemetery is the resting place of heroes. Its headstones tell the inspiring story of the men and women of the Armed Forces of the United States who did so much to build and defend this country, often at the cost of their lives.

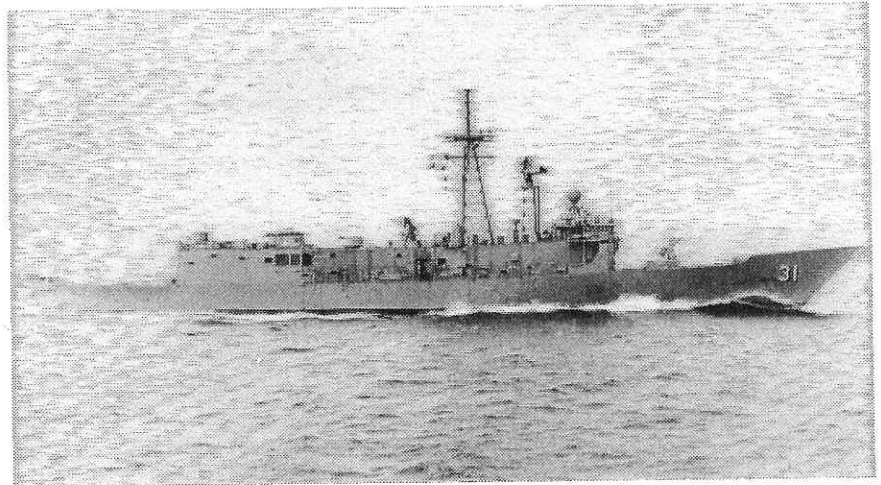
Arlington is a fitting final resting place for these heroes. It is fitting because it memorializes no special individual or group but all who served their country in its wars. It translates the memory of the selfless service of these heroes into inspiration for all of us. It is our Nation's greatest shrine."

Earle G. Wheeler
General, USA (Ret)
Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff

The site for today's ceremony is in Arlington National Cemetery, section 60, where four of the members of the U.S.S. Stark's crew are buried: John A. Ciletta, Christopher W. DeAngelis, Steven T. Erwin, and Earl P. Ryals.



Kathleen Ciletta, mother of John Anthony Ciletta, Jr. of Philadelphia, PA, who died on the USS Stark, is comforted by daughter Michelle, right, and nephew Vincent at No Greater Love's First Annual Remembrance Ceremony for the 37 victims at Arlington National Cemetery, May 17, 1988.



The Mission of the U.S.S. Stark

Today's ceremony is a special salute to the 37 American Navy crewmen who were killed five years ago in the Persian Gulf when their frigate, the U.S.S. Stark, was hit by Iraqi missiles on May 17, 1987. The mission of the U.S.S. Stark was to maintain peace in the hostile environment of the gulf: to help keep essential sea lanes open, to show the American flag in an area of vital interest, and to provide U.S. Navy protection to those entitled to it. And for the cause of peace in a troubled world these 37 brave Americans lost their lives.

In Remembrance

Doran H. Bolduc
Bradley O. Brown
Jeffrey L. Calkins
Mark R. Caouette
John A. Ciletta, Jr.
Bryan M. Clinefelter
Antonio A. Daniels
Christopher W. DeAngelis
James S. Dunlap
Steven T. Erwin
Jerry B. Farr
Vernon Foster
Dexter D. Grissette
William R. Hansen
Daniel Homicki
Kenneth D. Janusik, Jr.
Steven E. Kendall
Stephen G. Kiser
Ronnie G. Lockett
Thomas J. MacMullen
Charles T. Moller
Jeffrey L. Phelps
Randy E. Pierce
James Plonsky
Kelly R. Quick
Earl P. Ryals
Robert L. Shippee
Jeffrey C. Sibley
Lee Stephens
James R. Stevens

Martin Supple
Gregory L. Tweedy
Vincent L. Ulmer
Joseph P. Watson
Wayne R. Weaver
Terance D. Weldon
Lloyd A. Wilson



Program

Master of Ceremonies

Captain William Perry, USN
*Chief of Chaplains,
Naval District of Washington*

"Morning Has Broken"

Georgetown Community Chorale
Elaine Rendler, *Director*

Presentation of Colors

U.S. Navy Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance

Mim C. Gaines, *mother of crewman
Vernon Tyrone Foster*
Mr. & Mrs. William Hansen, *parents of
crewman William R. Hansen*
Kathleen Phelps, *mother of crewman
Jeffrey Phelps*
Mr. & Mrs. Harold K. Watson, *parents of
crewman Joseph Pearce Watson*

Tribute

Captain Paul X. Rinn, USN
*Former Captain of the USS Samuel B. Roberts
Executive Assistant to the
Assistant Chief of Naval Operations*

"Navy Hymn"

Georgetown Community Chorale

*A Fallen Hero
A Poem by Shawn
Calkins, brother of
crewman Jeffrey
L. Calkins*

Recited by Duane Merson, *friend of Jeffrey
and Shawn Calkins*

*Recitation of No Greater
Love Pledge of Peace*

Recited by Adam Jenkins, *nephew of
crewman Christopher W. DeAngelis and
the children of St. Thomas More School
Arlington, VA*



Sally Abrilz kneels at her fiancée's grave, Steven Erwin, at Arlington National Cemetery following the 1991 No Greater Love Remembrance Ceremony for those who died on the USS Stark.

*"Let There Be Peace
on Earth"*

Georgetown Community Chorale

*Roll Call
U.S. Navy Crewmen
killed on the USS
Stark, May 17, 1987*

Carmella LaSpada
*Chairman
No Greater Love*

*Placing of Flags on
Crest of USS Stark*

Children from St. Thomas More School,
Arlington, VA

*Placing of Roses at
Graves of
John A. Ciletta
Christopher W.
DeAngelis
Steven T. Erwin
Earl P. Ryals*

Kathleen Ciletta,
mother of crewman John A. Ciletta
Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeAngeles
*parents of crewman
Christopher W. DeAngelis*
Elizabeth Erwin,
sister of Steven T. Erwin
Captain W.G. Ryals, *USN (Ret)*
father of Earl P. Ryals

"Amazing Grace"

LTC Richard Scott Blair, *USAF (Ret)*
Piper

*Placing of
Remembrance Wreath*

Captain Paul X. Rinn, *USN*

Taps

Bugler



No Greater Love Pledge of Peace

Hundreds of thousands of children throughout the world have made this pledge, created by No Greater Love during the United Nations International Year of Peace in 1986.

This is an on-going program in cooperation with the United Nations Peace Studies Unit. Its purpose is to make children aware of the power and responsibility that each human being has to help bring about world peace.

The No Greater Love Children's Pledge of Peace laser disk, containing signatures of children from 100 countries, was flown as part of the official flight kit aboard the orbiter "Challenger," January 28, 1986. The disk was recovered after the tragedy and was displayed at the United Nations and the U.S. Capitol.

*As a legacy and gift to the children
who will be born and live on this
Planet Earth, I hereby commit
myself to fostering peace. I promise
to do everything I can to help create
a common future of peace and
justice for all human beings.*



Kathleen Phelps, mother of Jeffrey Phelps, Joseph E. Wilson, father of Lloyd A. Wilson, and Frances Homicki, wife of Daniel Homicki, lead the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

USS Stark Victims Arrive in U.S.

Their journey began in towns such as New Bethlehem and Charleston and Choctaw and took them from a home port in Florida to the Persian Gulf on May 17, 1987; it neared an end in a bare metal and concrete hangar in Delaware. Nine days after their frigate was pierced by two Iraqi missiles, 36 of the men who died on the USS Stark were returned to American soil. The remains of 35 were honored in a simple ceremony at Dover Air Force Base, where most stayed another day before being flown home for burial.

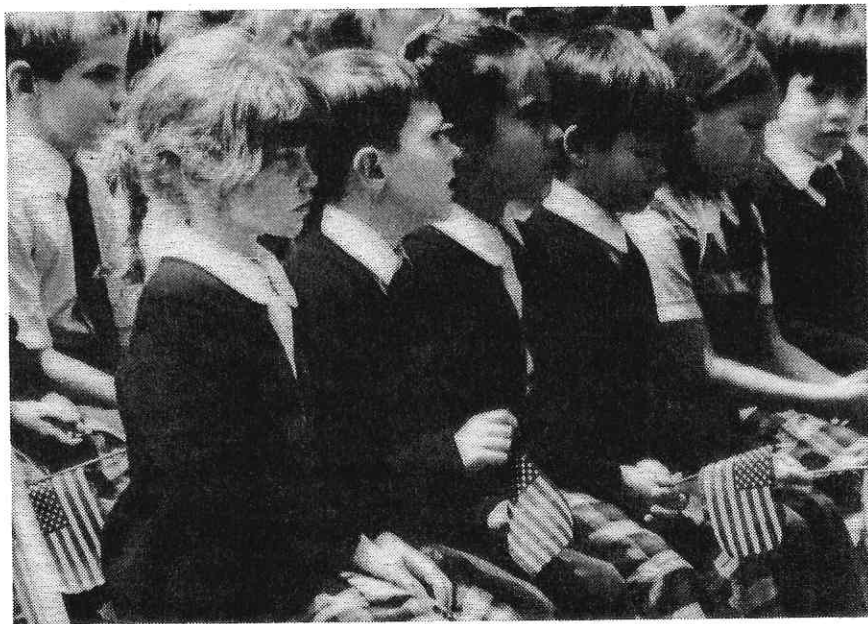
"In a few months, they would have been welcomed again with banners flying and bands playing and families crowded on the pier," said Adm. Carlisle A.H. Trost, Chief of Naval Operations, who conducted the ceremony. "For these men, it is not to be. They are returning to us in stillness and silence," he said.

While a military investigation began in Baghdad, the dead were being brought home on an Air Force C141 Starlifter transport. The plane slid into view over the gray Dover sky at 7:53 a.m., then sat for three hours on the runway with its cargo still aboard. Four teams of pallbearers carried the dead off, marching slowly down a ramp from the belly of the plane, passing in front of huddled relatives and through a Navy honor guard to the hangar, Building 706. There, the identical, flag-wrapped "transfer cases" were arranged in rows at the base of an immense American flag.

The parents of 22-year-old Wayne R. Weaver, the wife of John Ciletta, the eight friends and relatives of Thomas MacMullen did not know which of the unmarked coffins carried their son or husband or friend. They stood

"Man must evolve for all human conflicts a method which rejects revenge, aggression and retaliation. The foundation of such a method is love."

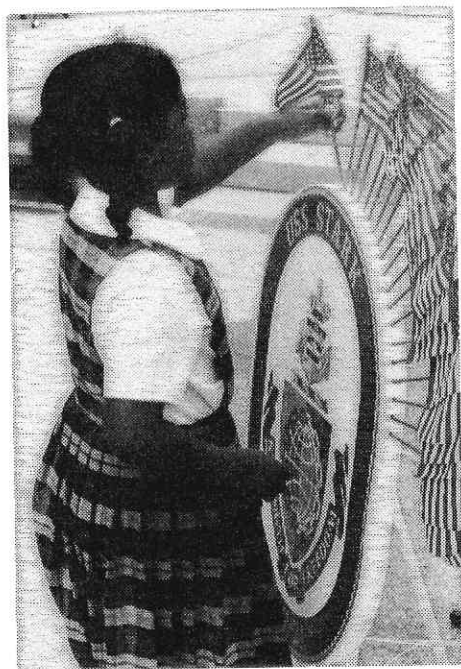
Martin Luther King, Jr.



Thirty-seven No Greater Love children, each representing one of the 37 U.S. Navy Crewmen who died aboard the USS Stark, hold small American Flags waiting to place them in the USS Stark Crest during the roll call.

*"Peace cannot be kept by force.
It can only be achieved by
understanding."*

Albert Einstein



During the roll call of those U.S. Navy crewmen who died on the USS Stark, May 17, 1987, a No Greater Love child places one of 37 American flags on the USS Stark Crest.

to the side, many of them huddled against the cold wind in borrowed green military blankets.

"Under the cover of dark, like a thief in the night, death stole the lives of 37 American sailors," said Rear Adm. John R. McNamara, Navy Chief of Chaplains. "We welcome home . . . these husbands and fathers, these sons and brothers, these shipmates."

The dead were escorted home by three shipmates to this cavernous hangar, where giant Air Force C5s are washed and the dead are memorialized. The six-story hangar, is literally and figuratively, an echo chamber, where the fate of unknown warriors reverberates with the power of bitter foreign wars.

The lives of Weaver, an electronics technician married two years ago; Jerry Farr, a 17-year veteran, and Randy Pierce, 28, who never saw his baby son, were magnified into the affairs of history. Thirty-seven men died, but only 35 bodies were at the ceremony on May 26, 1987. The remains of Terance Donald Welden, 20, have not been found. The family of another sailor, whom the Navy would not identify, asked that his body be shipped home before this ceremony.

Trost said the men of the Stark were mindful of the hazards of their mission. "A deep pall from the war between Iraq and Iran had settled over the gulf," he said. "Belligerents, friends and neutrals slipped in and out among the shadows. Stark's crew understood the risks. Trost described the missile attack as a "strike of madness" that transformed into chaos the Stark's "clean, efficient, secure world."

It took 46 minutes to move the bodies from the plane, with the Navy band playing somber, muffled drum rolls and intermittently, the Navy Hymn. The flight from Rhein-Main Air Force Base near Frankfurt, West Germany, had taken eight hours. By contrast, the 13-minute ceremony was brief and crisp.

Unlike the memorial service on Friday, May 22, 1987, in Mayport, Florida, where all of the families had gathered to hear President Reagan eulogize the dead, today's service was muted. And a hollow hangar on an Air Force base seemed an unlikely place to honor such sailors. But their bodies were to remain here only briefly, some waiting mere hours before the last leg of their journey home.

Barbara Vobejda
1987 *The Washington Post*
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"Those who have long enjoyed such privileges as we enjoy forget in time that men have died to win them."

Franklin D. Roosevelt

The Work of Remembrance

Four of these crewmen ended their journey here in Arlington National Cemetery, the site of today's No Greater Love Remembrance Ceremony. In providing such ceremonies No Greater Love believes that if we want a world at peace it is far better to remember the lives of Americans like these than to forget them. As author Herman Wouk has said, "The beginning of the end of war lies in remembrance."

No Greater Love

America's only organization dedicated to providing programs of friendship and care for those who lost loved ones in war or by acts of terrorism. It also served as the support group for the hostage families.

This volunteer, nonprofit, nonpolitical humanitarian organization, founded in 1971 by Carmella LaSpada, is supported solely by tax-deductible donations from the general public.

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