

A Time of Remembrance

Tenth Anniverary Remembrance Ceremony

*In Honor of
The 37 Americans Killed on
The USS Stark*



sponsored by



Arlington National Cemetery
May 17, 1997

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

May 13, 1997

Warm greetings to all those gathered for the "No Greater Love" remembrance ceremony to honor the courageous American sailors who lost their lives on the USS STARK ten years ago.

The stars were bright and the seas calm on the night of May 17, 1987, when an Iraqi fighter, without warning or cause, opened fire on the USS STARK. Two missiles tore through the hull of the ship, claiming the lives of the thirty-seven men in whose memory you gather now.

These dedicated patriots risked -- and gave -- their lives to protect America's interests in an uncertain world. Far from home, they patrolled dangerous waters, kept vital sea lanes open, and flew the flag of freedom in a troubled corner of the globe. They valiantly shared the burden of America's leadership, answering the call to duty and serving heroically to the end.

As we pay tribute to those who perished on board the USS STARK, I extend our nation's deepest sympathy to their families, friends, and colleagues. The American people will not forget the sacrifice your loved ones made to keep our nation secure. We are grateful for the lives they lived, proud of the way they served, and determined to build a future for this country that is worthy of their selfless sacrifice.

Hillary and I are keeping all of you in our thoughts and prayers.

Bill Clinton

In Remembrance . . .

Doran H. Bolduc

Bradley O. Brown

Jeffrey L. Calkins

Mark R. Caouette

John A. Ciletta, Jr.

Bryan M. Clinefelter

Antonio A. Daniels

Chirstopher W. DeAngelis

James S. Dunlap

Steven T. Erwin

Jerry B. Farr

Vernon Foster

Dexter D. Grisette

William R. Hansen

Daniel Homicki

Kenneth D. Janusik, Jr.

Steven E. Kendall

Stephen G. Kiser

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. Tweady

Vincent L. Ulmer

Joseph P. Watson

Wayne R. Weaver

Terance D. Weldon

Lloyd A. Wilson



A Tradition of Remembrance

For more than 25 years, No Greater Love has been sponsoring annual ceremonies of remembrance at Arlington National Cemetery for those who died in service to our country or by an act of terrorism.

The men and women who are buried in this most hallowed ground are silent reminders of the cost of war and hatred in the world.

Our message and our mission are to let you, the families, know that we honor your loved ones and we will always remember them.

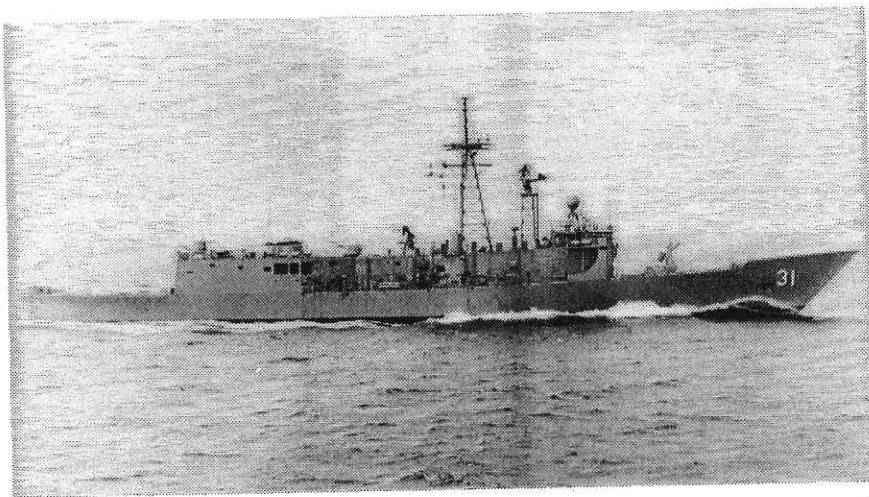
They are not forgotten. We salute you.

Ceremony Site

The site for today's ceremony is in Arlington National Cemetery, Section 60, where four crewmen of the USS Stark are buried: John A. Ciletta, Jr., 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 USS Stark

Today's ceremony is a special salute to the 37 American Navy crewmen who were killed four years ago in the Persian Gulf when their frigate, the USS Stark, was hit by Iraqi missiles on May 17, 1987. The mission of the USS 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.

"Suffering brings patience, and patience brings perseverance, and perseverance brings hope, and this hope is not deceptive, because the love of God has been poured into our hearts by the Holy Spirit which has been given to us."

St. Paul
Letter to the Romans

Program

Master of Ceremonies

Captain William Perry, CHC, USN (Ret)
No Greater Love Chaplain

Presentation of Colors

U.S. Navy Color Guard

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Dunlap
parents of James S. Dunlap

Mr. and Mrs. William E. Hansen
parents of William R. Hansen

Kathleen Phelps
mother of Jeffrey L. Phelps

Michael Wilson
brother of Lloyd A. Wilson

Introduction of Guests

Rachel Marcus-Hendry
*former Director of Social Services
for the Family Service Center
U.S. Naval Station, Mayport*

A Fallen Hero

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

Scott Calkins
brother of Jeffrey L. Calkins

Message from the President of the United States

"Navy Hymn"

MU1 Alison Turk, USN
*Soloist
U.S. Navy Band*

MU1 Sharon Barry, USN
*Pianist
U.S. Navy Band*

Tribute

Vice Admiral Michael P. Kalleres, USN (Ret)
*former Commander, Cruiser Destroyer
Group 12, U.S. Naval Station, Mayport*

Recitation of No Greater Love Pledge of Peace

Tyrone L. Foster and Vernon T. Foster, II
sons of Vernon T. Foster, I

Roll Call of Remembrance

Carmella LaSpada
Founder/CEO
No Greater Love

Captain John Mitchell, Jr., USN (Ret)
former Commanding Officer
U.S. Naval Station, Mayport

U.S. Naval Sea Cadets
Dahlgren Division
Washington Navy Yard

Placing of roses at graves of:
John A. Ciletta
Christopher W. DeAngelis
Steven T. Erwin
Earl P. Ryals

Kathleen Ciletta
mother of John A. Ciletta

Mr. and Mrs. Robert DeAngeles
parents of Christopher W. DeAngelis

Captain W.G. Ryals, USN (Ret)
father of Earl P. Ryals

**Placing of Remembrance
Wreath**

Vice Admiral Michael P. Kalleres, USN (Ret)

Captain John Dombroski, JAGC, USN
former Commanding Officer
Naval Legal Service Office, U.S. Naval Station, Mayport
currently Chief Judge, Navy-Marine Corps Court
of Criminal Appeals

Carmella LaSpada

"Taps"

Bugler
U.S. Navy Band



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.

No Greater Love Pledge of Peace

No Greater Love decided not only to remember the heavy costs of war and terrorism on children, but to utilize their energies, and in 1985 created the No Greater Love Pledge of Peace. Hundreds of thousands of youngsters throughout the world have made this Pledge.

The Pledge of Peace is an ongoing program in cooperation with the United Nations. Its purpose is to make children aware of the power and responsibility that each human being has to bring about world peace. No Greater Love has been designated a United Nations Peace messenger.

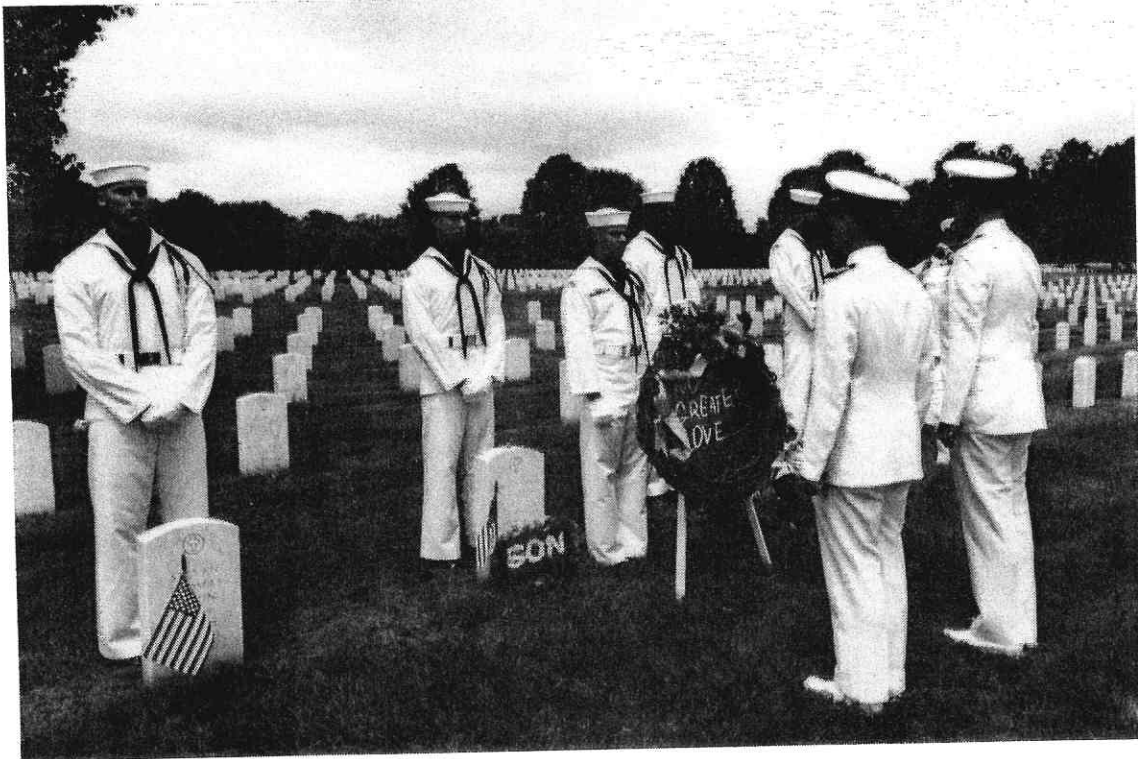
The No Greater Love Children's Pledge of Peace laser disk, containing signatures of children from 100 countries, was flown as part of the official flight kit aboard the ill-fated "Challenger," January 28, 1986. The disk was one of the few items miraculously recovered from the ocean floor after the tragedy, and has been 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 with justice
for all human beings." © 1985*

written by Louis M. Savary
Vice President, No Greater Love



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. 1990.



Captain John Mitchell, Jr., USN, and Chaplain William Perry, CAPT, USN, place the No Greater Love Remembrance Wreath at the seventh annual ceremony honoring those who died on the USS Stark.

No Greater Love

No Greater Love is the only organization in the United States providing annual programs of remembrance, friendship and care for those whose loved ones died in service to our country or by acts of terrorism. No Greater Love was founded in 1971 by Carmella LaSpada with the simple mission of creating national remembrance ceremonies to bring together these families to help them find comfort and meaning in their loss. Over time No Greater Love ceremonies have become more than quiet tributes of remembrance. These events serve as a beacon to people around the world, calling forth and reinforcing all efforts to create a world where, someday, new remembrance ceremonies will be unnecessary.

This nonprofit, nonpolitical, educational, humanitarian organization is a 501(c)(3) organization that is sustained by contributions from the general public and through CFC #1143.

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No Greater Love Annual Days of Remembrance

February 26	<i>World Trade Center Tragedy</i>
February 28 ^a	<i>Persian Gulf War</i>
April 19	<i>Oklahoma City Bombing</i>
April 25	<i>Iran Hostage Rescue Mission</i>
April 30	<i>Vietnam War</i>
May 5	<i>Civil War in El Salvador</i>
May 17	<i>USS Stark Incident</i>
May 24	<i>All Wars and Conflicts</i>
June 8	<i>USS Liberty Incident</i>
July 20	<i>Astronauts who lost their lives</i>
July 27	<i>Korean War</i>
September 2	<i>World War II</i>
September 20	<i>POWs-MIAs</i>
October 3	<i>Operation Restore Hope (Somalia)</i>
October 7	<i>Journalists who died covering Wars or Conflicts</i>
October 23	<i>Victims of Terrorism</i>
October 25	<i>Operation Urgent Fury (Grenada)</i>
November 11	<i>World War I</i>
December 12	<i>Gander Air Disaster</i>
December 20	<i>Operation Just Cause (Panama)</i>
December 21	<i>Pan Am Flight 103 Tragedy</i>

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AFL-CIO Executive Council
Jake West, President
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A.L. "Mike" Monroe, President
International Brotherhood of Painters and Allied Trades
Arthur Moore, President
International Association of Sheet Metal Workers
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Buffy Cafritz

Acknowledgments

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