

Tribute

The Waldorf National Little League Board, Coaches, Players, Parents and Supporters whole-heartedly recognize Robert Dean Stethem as our true American Hero.

Robert represents the strength and dedication carried out by our U.S. service men and women daily.

Like our youngsters today, Robert was also a Little League player. As you will hear it today and as Robert heard it in his youth, listen carefully to the Little League Pledge, specifically, "I trust in God, I love my Country."



USS STETHEM DDG 63

Stethem Family

Robert Stethem's family has a long and proud Navy history. His father, Richard, served the Navy for 26 years in the area of financial dispersing. After retiring as a Senior Chief, Mr. Stethem continued this work for the Navy in a civilian capacity. His mother, Patricia, served in the Navy before raising her family. Mrs. Stethem later worked for the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. His brothers, Kenneth and Patrick, also served in the Navy. Kenneth served as a Chief Boatswain's Mate and Navy SEAL and Patrick as an Underwater Construction Team Diver, First Class. Patrick served for ten years at UCT ONE, the same unit with which Robert had served.



WALDORF NATIONAL LITTLE LEAGUE 30TH ANNIVERSARY & OPENING DAY CEREMONIES APRIL 19, 2008

A SPECIAL TRIBUTE

"Steadfast and Courageous"



**Petty Officer Robert Dean Stethem
Steelworker Second Class (DV)*Diver
United States Navy
November 17, 1961 – June 15, 1985**

Awards and Decorations

Robert Dean Stethem was posthumously awarded the Purple Heart and Bronze Star. He is buried in Arlington National Cemetery.



Special Thanks

The Stethem Family
WNLL Family
Thomas Stone HS JROTC

Honors

In 1990, the Robert D. Stethem Memorial Sports Complex opened. The complex is the home of Waldorf National and Waldorf American Little Leagues and provides ten fields, two of which have 90' diamonds.

The U.S. Navy Seabees named the Port Hueneme Naval Construction Training Center Headquarters Building in his honor.

In 1994, the U.S. Navy christened the *USS Stethem* (DDG-63) in his honor.



Biography

Robert Dean Stethem was born in Waterbury, Connecticut and has three siblings: Sheryl (Sierralta), Kenneth and Patrick. The Navy family relocated periodically before moving to Waldorf, Maryland in 1976. Robert graduated from Thomas Stone High School in 1980, where he played defensive back on the varsity and junior varsity football teams.

Robert departed for the Navy on May 4, 1981. After training, he was assigned to the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 62 in Gulfport, Mississippi. In 1984, he was assigned to the Underwater Construction Team One in Norfolk, Virginia.

On June 14, 1985, Robert Stethem was returning from an assignment in Nea Makri, Greece aboard TWA Flight 847 when it was hijacked by Hezbollah terrorists. As a result of his U.S. Military status, Rob was brutally beaten and tortured for many hours. When the terrorists' demands were not met, Robert Dean Stethem was murdered.

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