

# BY-LAWS (First Edition, Change1)

Originally adopted at the 1999 Biennial Reunion Jacksonville, Florida  
With Change 1 incorporated and approved 2019 Biennial Reunion, Savannah, Georgia

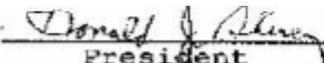


*Fortune Favors the Brave*

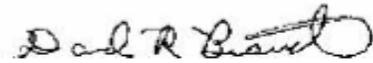
## USS SAMPSON REUNION GROUP

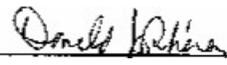
NOTES:

Prepared: Donald J. Shirey  
11 October 1999

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

Approved: Executive Board  
  
22 October 1999



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Member

Adopted:

Number of members present 63 at business meeting 22 October 1999

First Edition, Change 1 adopted by 19 members present at business meeting dated August 17, 2019.

Executive Board Approval:



August 17, 2019

\_\_\_\_\_  
Board Representative (President)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

## PREAMBLE

We, former crewmembers of all United States Ships named Sampson (DDG-102, DDG-10, DD-394, and DD-63) who are drawn together by the strong bonds of respect as shipmates, firmly associate ourselves together in creating the USS Sampson Reunion Group. The principles and purpose of which shall be allegiance to the United States of America and fidelity to its Constitution and Laws. To strive for peace and goodwill between nations, aid and assist veterans, their widows and orphans, regardless of race, creed or place of national origin and to preserve and strengthen comradeship among its members. To perpetuate the memory and history of all ships named Sampson and all of our deceased shipmates. To provide social and recreational activities for its members.

## ARTICLE I IDENTIFICATION

SECTION 1 Name: The name of this organization is the USS Sampson Association currently known as the USS Sampson Reunion Group, hereinafter referred to as the Reunion Group.

SECTION 2 Seal: The seal of this Reunion Group shall consist of a circular device having the crest of the USS Sampson (DDG-10) encircled by the words and figures USS Sampson Reunion Group 1916 - 1991, engraved thereon.

SECTION 3 Headquarters: The headquarters of the Reunion Group are at the home/Office of the Secretary.

SECTION 4 Fiscal Year: The fiscal year of the Reunion Group shall be from January 1 through December 31 of each year.

## ARTICLE II OFFICERS

**SECTION 1 Officers:** The officers of the Reunion Group shall consist of a President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer and such other officers and assistant officers as may be deemed necessary by the Executive Board. The same person, except the President and Spouse of the President who shall not hold office of treasurer, may hold any two or more offices. Officers need not be directors but must be Regular members of the Reunion Group in good standing. Additional offices of Membership Chairman, Reunion Chairman, Newsletter Editor, Historian, Master at Arms, Member at Large and other positions as needed, may be filled by election or appointment.

**SECTION 2 Succession:** Any elected officer may succeed himself in the same office, if he stands for re-election at the biennial reunion business meeting when his term expires.

**SECTION 3 Vacancies:** Whenever any vacancies shall occur in any office, the Executive Board shall fill the same, and, the officer so elected shall hold office until his successor is chosen and qualified.

**SECTION 4 Removal:** Any officer or committee member may be removed by the Executive Board whenever in its sole judgment the best interests of the Reunion Group will be served thereby, but such removal shall be without prejudice to the contracts rights, if any, of the person so removed. Election or appointment of an officer or agent shall not of itself create contract rights.

## ARTICLE III EXECUTIVE BOARD

**SECTION 1 Numbers and Qualifications:** The business and affairs of the Reunion Group shall be managed by an Executive Board composed of the elected officers, and appointed officers to number not less than five (5) nor more than fifteen (15), as the members of the Reunion Group shall determine from time to time. The Executive Board Members must be Regular or Life members of the Reunion Group in good standing, The President, Vice-president, Secretary, Treasurer, as well as the immediate past President of the Reunion Group shall be members of the Executive Board, ex officio. The Membership Chairman, Newsletter Editor, Member at Large or Reunion Chairman may be included to reach the minimum number for a quorum.

**SECTION 2 Election and Term of Office:** Members of the initial Executive Board sitting at the time of the adoption of these by-laws shall hold office until the next biennial meeting of the Reunion Group and until successors are elected and qualified. At the next biennial meeting of the Reunion Group and at each biennial meeting thereafter, the members of the Reunion Group shall elect Executive Board Members to hold office until the next succeeding biennial meeting. Each Executive Board Member shall hold office for the term for which he is elected and until his successor shall be elected and qualified unless sooner removed in accordance with the provisions of the By-Laws of the Reunion Group.

**SECTION 3 Vacancies:** Any vacancy occurring in the Executive Board may be filled by the affirmative vote of a majority of the remaining board members though less than a quorum of the Executive Board. A board member elected to fill a vacancy shall be elected for the unexpired term of his predecessor in office. Any board membership to be filled by reason of an increase in the number of board members may be led by the Executive Board for a term of office continuing only until the next election of Officers by members of the Reunion Group in good standing.

**SECTION 4 Meetings and Notice Thereof:** Meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at such place as the Board may from time to time determine. The Executive Board shall meet immediately before the biennial meeting for organizing and for the consideration of any other business that may properly be brought before the meeting. Other regular meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at such times as shall be fixed by the Board or by its Chairman. No notice of any kind for such annual meeting shall be required.

Special meetings of the Executive Board shall be held at such time as shall be called by the Chairman or any three members of the Board. Notice of such meeting shall be given personally, or by telephone, telegram, letter, e-mail or facsimile transmitted no later than ten (10) days before such meeting. Notice of such meeting may be waived in writing signed by the Board member entitled to such notice whether before or after the time of such meeting and shall be equivalent to giving such notice. The notice of waiver of such meeting shall specify the purpose or purposes of such meeting. Attendance of a Board Member at such a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice thereof, except where a Board Member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objection to the transaction of any business because the meeting is not lawfully called or convened and such board member makes his objection known, in writing upon entering the meeting.

**SECTION 5 Quorum:** No fewer than three (3) board members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business but less than a quorum may adjourn a meeting from time to time.

**SECTION 6 Action by Board Members without a Meeting:** Any action by the Executive Board, which may be taken at a meeting of the Board, may be taken without a meeting, if consent in writing setting forth the action so to be taken, shall be signed before or after such action by all the Board Members.

**SECTION 7 Removal:** Any Board Member may be removed with or without cause at any special meeting of the Reunion Group. Removal may be caused, by the affirmative vote of a majority in number of the Reunion Group present in person and entitled to vote for the election of such board member, if notice of the intention to act upon such matter shall have been given in the notice calling such meeting. If the notice calling such meeting shall go, provide the vacancy caused by such removal may be filled at such meeting by vote of a majority of members present in person and entitled to vote.

**SECTION 8 Powers and Duties:** The Executive Board shall have the power to elect, appoint and remove officers, employees and agents of the Reunion Group and to fix their compensation and/or reimbursements of expenses incurred in the course of doing business approved by the board. The Executive Board shall also have the power to make and execute or authorize the making and execution of all contracts, deeds, transfers, conveyances, and other instruments. To generally conduct all the business of the Reunion Group and to exercise all of its power except such as is reserved to the members of the Reunion Group by these By-Laws.

## ARTICLE IV MEMBERSHIP

**SECTION 1 Classes of Membership:** Membership of the Reunion Group shall consist of the following classes: Regular Members, Associate Members, Honorary Members, Inactive Members and Life Members as defined below. The Secretary shall resolve questions regarding classification of membership.

**Regular Members (R)** Former Officers and crewmembers of all ships named USS Sampson who desire to receive all mailings of the Reunion Group and to exercise their right to vote on Reunion Group business have paid full dues for the current fiscal biennium are Regular Members.

**Associate Members (A)** Former Officers and crewmembers of all ships named USS Sampson who do not desire to receive the newsletter of the Reunion Group or to exercise their right to vote on Reunion Group business and have paid reduced dues for the current fiscal biennium are Associate Members.

**Honorary Members (H)** Spouses or families of deceased or incapacitated former Officers and crewmembers of all ships named USS Sampson who desire to receive the newsletter of the Reunion Group are Honorary Members. The Executive Board may, time to time, award honorary memberships to distinguished individuals to further the objectives of the Reunion Group. Dues are not to be levied upon this class.

**Inactive Members (I)** Former Officers and crewmembers of all ships named USS Sampson who do not desire to receive any mailings of the Reunion Group or to exercise their right to vote on Reunion Group business and have not paid their dues for the current fiscal biennium are Inactive Members.

**Life Membership (L)** is open to Regular and Associate Members who elect to pay a one-time fee based upon Regular Dues multiplied by a factor from actuarial tables based on applicant's age at time of application.

**Non Member (X)** is a person who served in any ship named Sampson at some time, as authenticated by muster roll, cruise book lists and other quasi-official documents. Their names shall not be included in the Crew's Roster, but will be distributed occasionally for recruiting efforts.

**Deceased Member (D)** will be listed separately in an Honor Roll of those shipmates of all ships named Sampson who have answered their last muster. Date of death will be inscribed along with decedents name and rate.

**SECTION 2 Benefits** Membership benefits include a periodic newsletter, mailings for upcoming events, list of Reunion Group members and an E-mail contact list.

Newsletter shall be distributed annually by the Editor to a mailing list of Regular, Honorary and Life Members provided by the Secretary. The Newsletter may be distributed as a printed copy or as an attachment to an e-mail.

The Secretary shall e-mail or mail notices of meeting and other activities to Regular, Associate, Honorary and Life members.

Roster of members shall be maintained and distributed upon request by the Secretary to all Regular, Associate, and Honorary and Life members. An Honor Roll of Deceased Shipmates shall be included in the Roster to perpetuate their memory.

List of Non Members shall be maintained and occasionally distributed to Executive Board Members to promote recruiting.

List of E-mail Addresses shall be maintained and distributed by the Secretary and used to enhance communications and fellowship amongst all members. All categories of members are eligible to be included in this list.

**SECTION 3 Dues** The Regular dues shall be fixed by the Executive Board at the Biennial meeting based on the Treasurer's recommendations in his budget proposal. The Associate dues shall be of Regular Dues and the Life dues calculated for the next biennium. If any Regular Member or Associate Member shall have paid dues for the current or future years in which he applies for Life membership, any dues paid shall be credited toward the fee for Life Membership. There are no dues for honorary members.

**SECTION 4 Voting** Regular Members and Life Members, in good standing shall be entitled to vote on any questions before any meeting of the Reunion Group, or before the Reunion Group as a whole. Associate Members may not vote, but may attend all meetings of the Reunion Group and shall have the privilege of the floor.

**SECTION 5 Transferable Membership** Membership shall not be transferable.

**SECTION 6 Responsibilities** Every member shall be subject to the Reunion Group's Constitution and By-Laws as they may from time to time be amended. Each member also has the responsibility to provide any updates or changes to their contact information such as mailing address and email address when they occur to the Secretary as soon as possible to assist in maintaining up to date and correct roster of membership.

**SECTION 7 Termination** Membership in the Reunion Group shall continue until receipt of the Member's resignation in writing, or until the Executive Board, under circumstances hereinafter provided, shall drop the member from the rolls. Members desiring to terminate their memberships in the Reunion Group shall submit their resignations in writing to the President of the Reunion Group.

**Arrears** Members in arrears more than thirty days shall be suspended from all rights and privileges until such arrears are paid; and members in arrears one full year or more shall be dropped to Inactive membership. An Inactive member who wishes to rejoin is required to pay current year dues, but not required to pay back dues.

**Dismissal** When any Regular Member or Life Member is dismissed from the U.S. Armed Forces, or resigns for the good of the service under circumstances involving moral turpitude or when any member is convicted of a felony, he or she shall, at the discretion of the Executive Board, be dropped from the rolls. When it shall appear to the Executive Board that the continued membership of any member is contrary to the best interests of the Reunion Group, the Executive Board shall have the authority to drop such member from the rolls. No such action shall be taken except for good cause shown and upon notice and opportunity for the member concerned to submit a defense for continued membership.

## ARTICLE V REUNION GROUP MEETINGS

**SECTION 1 Place of Meetings** Meetings of the Reunion Group shall be held at the principle office of the Reunion Group or such other place as the Executive Board may elect. (Principle Office: Home/ office of the Secretary)

**SECTION 2 Biennial Meetings** The biennial meeting of members shall be held for the election of Officers and for the transaction of such other business as may properly come before the meeting. The meeting shall be held at the place selected by the members during the preceding biennial meeting, in the facility and on the dates arranged by the Reunion Committee. A Reunion Chairman and Committee should be appointed immediately for the next reunion.

**Location Selection** Normally the site of the next biennial meeting shall be determined by a majority vote of the voting members present at the current biennial meeting from a list of possible sites presented by the Executive Board. The list of possible sites presented by the Executive Board will be determined by suggestions from members at the current biennial meeting and from members at the previous biennial meeting. The list of possible sites may also include sites gathered by a timely Newsletter proxy. Any interested member regardless of category of membership may recommend a site.

**SECTION 3 Special Meetings** Meetings of the Executive Board may be called by the President or by any member of the Executive Board.

**SECTION 4 Notice of Meetings** Written notice or email stating the place, day, hour and for special meetings the purposes of the meeting shall be delivered to each member of the Reunion Group of record entitled by the President, Secretary or the Officer calling the meeting. If mailed, such notice shall be deemed to be delivered when deposited in the United States mail addressed to the member of the Reunion Group at their address as it appears on the books of the Reunion Group, with postage prepaid. If emailed the email transmission with no errors due to improper email address shall be deemed to be delivered to the member of the Reunion Group at their email address as it appears on the books of the Reunion Group. Waiver by a member of the Reunion Group of notice of a meeting in writing and signed by the member, whether before or after the time stated therein, shall be equivalent to the giving of such notice.

Attendance by a member of the Reunion Group at a meeting shall constitute a waiver of notice for such meeting, except where a member attends a meeting for the express purpose of objection to the transaction of any business because the

meeting is not lawfully called or convened, and such member makes such fact known, writing, upon entering the meeting.

**SECTION 5 Quorum** Ten percent of the Regular and Life Members of the Reunion Group in good standing and entitled to vote shall constitute a quorum. The holders of less than a majority may adjourn a meeting to such time and place as they may decide. All actions shall require the vote of a majority of those present and voting.

**SECTION 6 Right to Vote** Each certificate of membership in the Reunion Group shall entitle the person registered as the holder thereof on the books of the Reunion Group to one vote. Members of the Reunion Group may vote in person.

**SECTION 7 Order of Business at Meetings** Meetings shall be conducted in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order.

Following is the recommended order of business to be observed for both Executive Board and general meetings.

Pre-opening: MAA closes bar, clears alcoholic beverages from meeting room and extinguish the Smoking Lamp.

Opening and welcome by President

Presentation of Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance lead by the MAA.

New members introduced and welcomed.

Minutes of last business and Executive Board meetings read by Secretary and recommended approval to be accepted by members.

Reports from Standing Committees Membership, By-Laws, Reunion, Editor, and Historian. Any recommendations are to be taken up under New Business.

Reading of Communications by Secretary.

Reading of financial report by the Treasurer, presentation of bills to be paid and acceptance of a motion to pay them.

A 10-minute recess if needed may be called by President.

Unfinished Business per list prepared by President and Secretary at Executive Board meeting earlier.

New Business may include, but is not limited to, recommendations from the Executive Board's earlier meeting, By-Laws, Membership, Newsletters. Discussion and Selection of the next biennial meeting place.

Once a reunion location is selected, a reunion chairman and committee shall be determined.

**Location Selection** Normally the site of the next biennial meeting shall be determined by a majority vote of the voting members present at that meeting from a list of possible sites presented by the Executive Board at the preceding biennial meeting. The list of possible sites for the consideration of the membership is to be determined by the Executive Board. Any interested member, regardless of category of membership may recommend a site.

**Good of the Order**

Retirement of Colors by the Master at Arms.

Adjournment by the President.

ARTICLE VI  
DUTIES OF OFFICERS  
AND STANDING COMMITTEES

**SECTION 1 The President** The President shall preside at all meetings of the Executive Board and of the Reunion Group. He shall exercise and perform such other powers and duties as may properly belong to his office as may be assigned to him by the By-Laws or the Executive Board from time to time. If he or she is not present, the Vice President shall preside.

**SECTION 2 The Vice President** The Vice President shall perform all the duties of the President during his absence or disability and shall exercise and perform such other powers and duties as may properly belong to his office or as may be assigned to by the By-Laws or the Executive Board from time to time.

**SECTION 3 The Secretary** The Secretary shall attend all meetings of the Executive Board and of the Reunion Group and shall keep a true and complete record of the proceedings of such meetings in a book to be kept for this purpose. The Secretary shall have custody of the records and papers of the Executive Board and Reunion Group.

**Membership Roster** The Secretary shall receive all applications for new or renewal membership. He shall cause to be entered into the roster the names and personal data of all applicants and to forward to the Treasurer all monies received with the applications.

He shall cause this roster to be printed and distributed biennially to all Regular, Associate, Honorary and Life members of record. Updates and corrections to this roster are to be provided to the Newsletter Editor annually. The Secretary shall provide a current mailing list annually to the Newsletter Editor of all members eligible to receive the newsletter.

**Certificates of Membership** The Secretary shall cause to be prepared membership cards for each paid-up member, bearing the member's name, membership classification, and the date dues are paid up to. The Certificates are to be distributed at the current reunion registration and to be signed by the member and countersigned by Secretary at that time. Cards for non-attendees will be mailed out with the member's copy of Roster of Members immediately after the reunion.

**Correspondence** The Secretary shall initiate all correspondence on behalf of the Reunion Group. Other Officers who may occasionally initiate or reply to correspondence on behalf of the Reunion Group shall provide the Secretary with a copy of such correspondence.

**Files** The Secretary maintain and preserve the records of the Reunion Group in a Minutes Book, which is the permanent, record of all meetings and activities the Reunion Group.

**Reimbursement** All actual costs for paper, postage, printing, etc. shall be reimbursed upon submission of all receipts for expenses to the Treasurer.

**SECTION 4 The Treasurer** The Treasurer shall receive and disburse all funds on behalf of the Reunion Group. He shall maintain a set of financial records for the Reunion Group listing all receipts and disbursements of Reunion Group funds that will be subject to biannual audit. The Treasurer will provide a current financial statement annually to the Newsletter Editor for publication.

**Books the Reunion Group** The financial records of the Reunion Group shall be open to inspection by any member. The Reunion Group's accounts shall be audited in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles immediately prior to the regular biennial business and at such other times as the Executive Board may direct. The availability of the audited statement shall be announced in the Newsletter, and it shall promptly be sent at no charge to members requesting it.

**Checks and Drafts** Shall be prepared and signed by the Treasurer for routine operating expenses. The Board of Directors must approve extraordinary expenses, in excess of five hundred dollars (\$500.00).

**Promissary Notes** Officers of the Reunion Group are not authorized to sign promissory notes encumbering the Reunion Group.

**Conveyances, Leases, Etc.** Officers of the Reunion Group are not authorized to sign any document that may encumber the Reunion Group.

**SECTION 5 The Reunion Chairman** When appointed, the Reunion Chairman for the next biennial reunion shall form a committee to assist him in locating facilities in or near to the next reunion location.

**Facilities** The Reunion Chairman is empowered to seek out a facility that will be able to accommodate the anticipated number of members and their guests and provide meeting space, hospitality room, and banquet facilities in an acceptable price range. He is empowered to negotiate terms for rental of the facility and to determine room rates and banquet fees. He shall establish the firm dates of the reunion in coordination with the facility manager. The Reunion Chairman is responsible for reporting results of his search and negotiations to the Executive Board no later than December 31<sup>st</sup> of the current year. If possible, the Reunion Chairman should provide primary and alternate accommodation and activity packages to the Executive Board.

**Activities** The Reunion Chairman and committee shall arrange for appropriate activities including, but not limited to business meeting, banquet, sightseeing tour packages, list of local points of interest and dining places, visits to local Naval Activities including arrangements for a memorial service for deceased members of the Reunion Group. He will not obligate the Reunion Group financially without prior approval of the Executive Board.

**Notification** Initially supply the dates and lodging information to the Newsletter Editor for publication to the Reunion Group for the purpose of members holding these dates open. As soon as available send tentative plan of the day and reservation form to Newsletter Editor for publication to the Reunion Group.

**SECTION 6 The Membership Chairman** The Membership Chairman, in coordination with the Secretary, shall conduct an ongoing search for former Sampson sailors and continuing efforts to restore Inactive Members to Regular or Associate membership.

**Resources:** The Membership Chairman should develop a contact list of veteran's organizations that will publish notices of reunions. He should search the Internet for sites that perform similar services. He should conduct telephone directory searches and review E-mail address lists available to PC users. This list is not an inclusive, nor should the Membership Chairman feel constrained to use only these resources. The Membership Chairman is encouraged to make contact with other DDG Reunion Groups for the purpose of expanding our contacts.

Reimbursement: All actual costs for postage, post cards, etc. shall be reimbursed upon submission of all receipts for expenses to the Treasurer.

**SECTION 7 The By-Laws Chairman** The By-Laws Chairman will collect recommendations for changes to the By-Laws from all interested members and presents the recommendations to the Executive Board for review and publishing in the Newsletter. All recommendations are to be read and voted on at the regular biennial meeting. The By-Laws Chairman shall cause all approved changes to be included in revision of the By-Laws. A copy of the revised By-Laws is to be distributed by email, or printed form when necessary, to Honorary, Life and Regular Members prior to said changes taking effect.

**SECTION 8 The Newsletter Editor** The Newsletter Editor shall collect articles of interest to Reunion Group members from Offices and Chairmen of committees and from any interested parties. Annually, he shall compile these articles into a newsletter and he will email this newsletter to a list of all Regular, Honorary and Life Members as provided by the Secretary. He will print and send copies when necessary.

Reimbursement: All actual costs for paper, postage, printing, etc. shall be reimbursed upon submission of all receipts for expenses to the Treasurer.

**SECTION 9 The Historian** The Historian shall maintain permanent scrapbook of photos, memorabilia, etc. from prior meetings of the Reunion Group and any donated items relating to a member's service in Sampson.

**SECTION 10 Master-at-arms** The MAA shall be responsible for display and presentation of Colors at all meetings. The MAA shall assist the Officers of the Executive Board in maintaining good order and discipline at all meetings of the Reunion Group. He shall assist the tour guides in boarding members and guests on tour busses.

**SECTION 11 Member at Large** Members at Large do not have a specific list of duties. Rather they serve the board's strategic needs as determined by the president at any given time. Members-at-large may have various responsibilities and projects – short or long-term – during their elected two-year term.

**SECTION 12 Delegation of Authority** In case of absence of any officer or for any other reason the Executive Board may deem sufficient, the Board may delegate the duties of such officer to any other officer or member present.

SECT10N 13 Compensation of Officers No officer of the Reunion Group shall be compensated for performing his assigned duties.

## ARTICLE VII AMENDMENTS

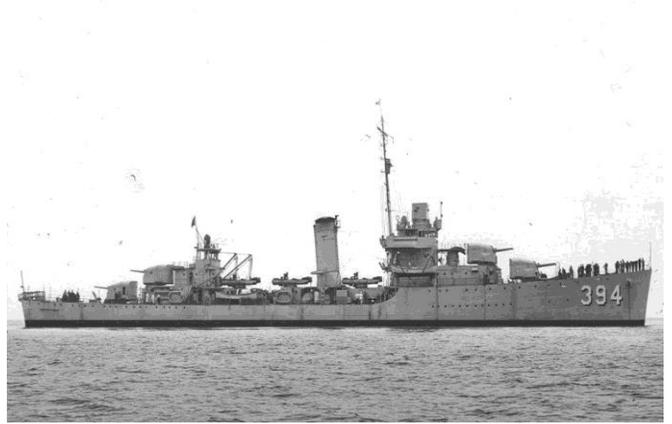
SECTION 1 Amendments Proposed amendments to or changes in the Constitution and By-Laws must be submitted to the By-Laws Chairman and have the approval of, the Executive Board and shall be circulated among the members entitled to vote at least thirty days before the proposed change to be voted upon. Each Regular and Life member in good standing shall be furnished a ballot on which to record his or her vote. No amendment shall become effective until the approved change has been published in the Newsletter.

## ARTICLE VIII LIMITATIONS

SECTION 1 Limitations Notwithstanding any other provision in this Constitution and By-Laws, the Reunion Group's objectives are limited to and shall include only charitable, fraternal and educational purposes within the meaning of those terms as used in section 501 (c) (3) of the Internal Revenue Code or the corresponding section of any future federal tax code, and all references to the objectives of the Reunion Group shall be construed to include such limitation. The Reunion Group shall not, except to an insubstantial degree, engage in any activities or exercise any powers that are not in furtherance of the objectives of the Reunion Group as so limited.



USS Sampson (DD-63) 1916-1921



USS Sampson (DD-394) 1938-1945



USS SAMPSON (DDG-10) 1961-1991



USS Sampson (DDG-102) 2007-Present