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B.J. Costello Elected Board Chairman of the USS Slater

Albany Attorney and Navy Veteran to Lead Restoration, Preservation and Educational Efforts

Albany – The Hinman Straub law firm congratulates Bartley J. “B.J.” Costello III, Esq. on his election as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Destroyer Escort Historical Museum, the [USS Slater DE 766](#).

Costello, a Navy veteran, who has served on the Slater board for six years, succeeds Sam Saylor, who served as chairman since 1993.

“It is a tremendous honor to serve alongside the many Slater volunteers who I’ve come to know and respect for their donation of time and talent to help maintain the USS Slater,” said Costello, who served as Executive Officer of the USS Genessee AOG-8 during the Vietnam War. “When I’m aboard the Slater, I’m reminded of the people who served our county in so many ways, and continue to serve today. Too many of them paid the ultimate sacrifice for our freedom.”

The Slater, a Destroyer Escort (DE), is the last floating ship of its kind in America. In World War II, 563 DEs battled German U-boats in the North Atlantic and Japanese Kamikaze and submarine forces in the Pacific. Following the war, the U.S. Navy deactivated the Slater and transferred the ship to the Greek Navy. The Slater, in severe disrepair, returned to the U.S. in 1991 and found a home in Albany. Today it serves as a floating museum, available for educational tours, overnight stays and special events, including armed services reunions.

Costello said the top priority of the Slater Board of Trustees is to raise funds for a complete hull restoration, which will require dry-docking at a cost of about \$2 million.

“This is an important part of our nation’s history,” Costello said. “The continued maintenance of the Slater will provide a very real reminder of the value of this ship and of the people who served aboard her.”

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View additional biographical information about B.J. Costello [here](#).

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