

# USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413 Survivors' Association NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 19 ISSUE 2  
NOVEMBER, 2010

Dedicated in Memory of Shipmates Whit Felt and Dick Rohde

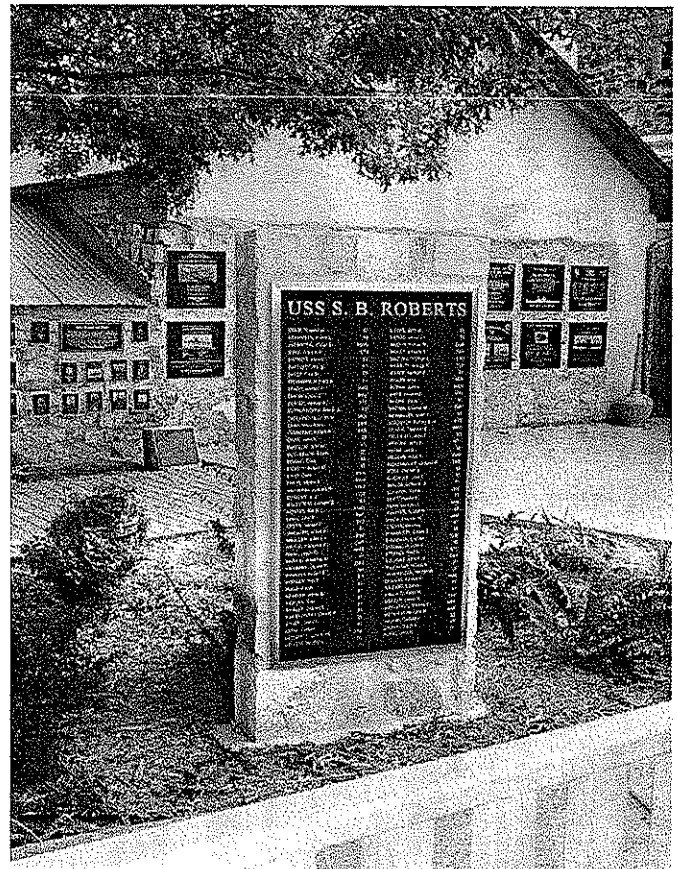
## Bronze Plaque Has a New Home

It is with great relief that we report that the plaque which was originally intended for Fort Rosecrans Cemetery at Point Loma in San Diego is now safe and sound in Fredericksburg, Texas at the Nimitz Museum. If you remember, the monument at Fort Rosecrans bearing the names of all those who perished during the battle had eroded with time and effects of the elements. Our DE 413 Association proceeded (with the blessing and encouragement of the "powers that be" at Fort Rosecrans) to commission a bronze plaque to be placed over the names. After much debate, Fort Rosecrans withdrew their permission and we were left with a bronze plaque that deserved to be displayed in a place of honor. With the help of Mr. Bob LeClerc and the wonderful staff of the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, Texas, said plaque will be placed near the Samuel B. Roberts Pavilion in the courtyard of the museum. We had discussed having the plaque installed in the ceiling of the Pavilion, however once the architect evaluated the structure, it was decided that near the Memorial Walkway was a much better option.

There have been many costs associated with transporting and installing the plaque, and much of it has been generously donated by Bob and Billie LeClerc. In fact, the total cost of the construction of the limestone mounting base for the plaque was \$3,861.79 of which Bob LeClerc paid \$1,861.79 not to mention the countless trips that Bob made up to Fredericksburg to make sure that everything was in order. This organization will be ever grateful for all that the LeClercs have contributed.

The picture at right was taken from inside the pavilion. When it is complete, there will be a header plaque that says: "This will be a fight against overwhelming odds. We will do what damage we can." These words were spoken by Lt.Cdr. Robert Copeland to the crew of the U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DE-413), October 25, 1944, Leyte Gulf, Phillipine Islands.

The ROBERTS sank that day. The names below gave their lives.



## Taps

With great sadness, we report the passing of three Shipmates.

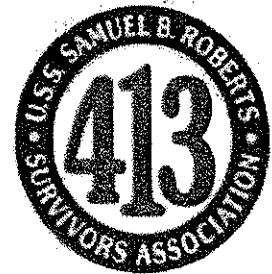
Thomas J. Stevenson Lt.(jg) ,88,of Tobyhanna, PA and Melbourne, FL died Thursday June 24th, 2010. He is survived by his wife Virginia, nine children, 24 grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Burial took place in Westbury, NY.

George Carbon S1/c, 84, of Middleburg Heights, OH died July 13, 2010. He is survived by his wife Mary, two daughters, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren. Burial was at Ohio Western Reserve National Cemetery in Rittman, OH.

Harold McCarl RdM3/c died on February 20, 2009. He is survived by his wife Phyllis McCarl of Belleville, PA

Our sympathy and prayers go out to the families of these heroes.

To borrow the words of Jim Hornfischer **"Bless their great and gallant souls"**



## Veterans Walk of Honor

A \$100 donation will allow your name or message to be engraved on a 4x8 inch brick paver and placed in the Veterans' Walk of Honor at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas. Any pavers relating to the ROBERTS can now be placed in the walkway near the Samuel B. Roberts Pavilion.

Contact Mrs. Marty Kaderli at the Nimitz Museum for further information and an order form.

The Admiral Nimitz Foundation

328 E. Main Street Fredericksburg, Texas 78624

830-997-8600

[www.nimitz-museum.org](http://www.nimitz-museum.org)

## Treasury Report

On 12-31-09 after expenses were paid for the Fredericksburg reunion, we had a balance in the checkbook of \$1,587.71

Starting Balance	\$1,587.71	
Dues Received and Deposited	420.00	(Thank you!)
Donation from Mel and Leona Harden		
Used for Bronze Plaque Monument	<u>1,500.00</u>	
Total.....	\$3,507.71	

### Expenses

Newsletter (Jan. 2010) Printing and Postage ( \$231.74)	
Flowers (Stevenson)	( 65.00)
Bronze Plaque Monument	<u>(2,000.00)</u>
Total Expenses.....	(\$2,296.74)
Balance in checkbook as of 11-14-10.....	\$1,210.97



### A Blast From the Past!

This picture was sent from Madeline (Hinken) Dadd, widow of Shipmate Harvey Hinken. The Hinkens attended the first reunion(1982?) in Seattle and parked their motorhome in Bud & Lil Comet's driveway! Pictured Front row: Lil Comet, Leona Harden, Madeline. Back row: Bud Comet, Mel Harden, Harvey Hinken (holding the Comet's granddaughter). Harvey died 3-5-87 and Madeline attended three more reunions with her current husband Morris Dadd.

# The Story Lives On.....

Below is an email received by Cliff Rohde and forwarded to me in June of this year. Cliff said, "I thought this was very touching" . I agree and I'm sure you will, too.

\*\*\*\*\*

Good evening Mr. Rohde,

My son & I watched WWII in HD and were amazed by the whole experience. Armando became engrossed in studying WWII history through books and movies.

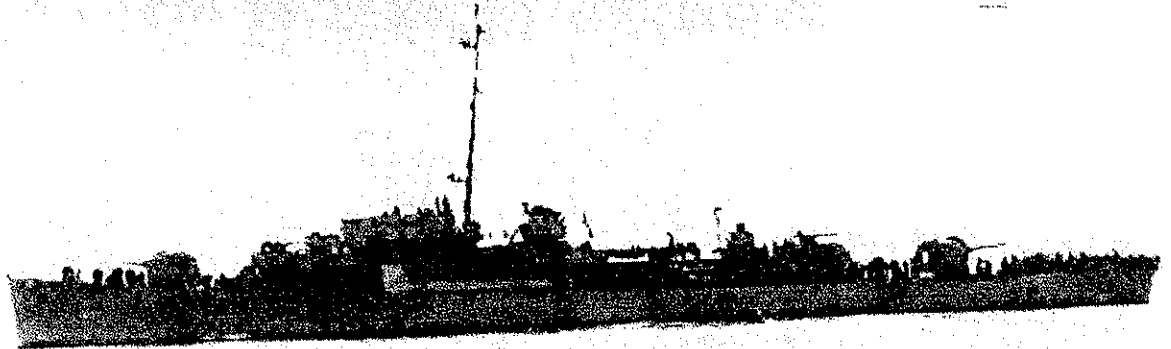
Armando was inspired to compose "Ode to the Samuel B. Roberts" for a middle school project earlier this year. I hope you enjoy it and please share it with everyone who appreciates what "the greatest generation" did for the world.

Take care & God bless,

Reynaldo Rivera  
Murrieta, CA

## *Ode to the U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts*

Silently waiting in a heavenly shipyard  
 Moored to the dock is a proud ship  
 The Samuel B. Roberts, the finest of all destroyer escorts  
 The smooth hull shining in the sun  
 The crew is like brave knights of old  
 Fine guns challenging the heavens  
 When God looked upon the ship, he wished the angels manned it  
 But angels already man it, the crew are angels themselves.  
 The Sammy B. sunk in the sea of Samar  
 But it sails in the sea of eternal glory.



## More on the Monument.....

We received the following letter from the Nimitz Foundation:

October 20, 2010

Thank you to the members of the USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DE-413 Survivors Association for your generous donation of \$2,000.00 to the Admiral Nimitz Foundation.

This is payment in full for the new SAMUEL B. ROBERTS monument holding the large bronze plaque listing those killed in action with her sinking.

The limestone mounting is complete and the large bronze plaque has been mounted. Bob LeClercq will be coming up soon to see it.

We appreciate the great friendship the National Museum of the Pacific War has with the crew and family of the USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Marty Kaderli

Membership and Memorials

\*\*Thanks to you, too, Marty. We appreciate everything that you do for our organization!

## Generous Donors

Just as this Newsletter was ready to go to print, we received a check in the amount of \$500.00 from Shipmate Glenn Huffman to be used toward costs associated with the shipping and installation of the bronze plaque. We are most grateful to Glenn and JoAnn for this donation. We thank the Huffmans, Hardens, LeClercqs and all of the members of The DE413 Survivors Association for their contributions to this project.

## Websites To Explore

**John Wukovits** has been busy working on his book about the USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DE 413. John tells us that he has been conducting many interviews with various Shipmates, family members and friends. The book will be going to the publisher St. Martin's Press in late summer Of 2011. For more information, go to John's website at [www.johnwukovits.com](http://www.johnwukovits.com).

### USS Slater

I received an e-mail from Vern Connor whose uncle was Edward W. Driskill Sc2. He was curious as to where the 40 mm gun was located as that was his uncle's battlestation. I recommended that he go to the website for the USS Slater-DE 766 "The Only Destroyer Escort Remaining Afloat in the US" to get a good idea of what the Roberts would have looked like. If you are interested the website is [www.usslater.org](http://www.usslater.org)

## Roll Call

### List of Survivors

Following is a current list (to the best of our knowledge) of the living Survivors of the USS Samuel B. Roberts DE413.

---

Anthony Blaszczyk  
 Robert R. Brennan  
 James F. "Bud" Comet  
 Oliver E. Coyle  
 Herbert E. Eskins  
 Elbert Gentry  
 Robert W. "Mel" Harden  
 E. Glenn Huffman  
 Bill Katsur  
 Adred C. Lenoir  
 James E. Myers  
 James M. Roberson  
 Albert Rosner  
 William H. Wilson  
 Jack Yusen

---

#### A Request:

I received a phone call from Mr. David Braun asking for any information regarding his uncle Lloyd G. Braun MM2/c who served aboard the DE 413 and was killed in the battle on October 25, 1944. If any of the Survivors can provide David with any information, he can be reached at Phone #330-637-2850 or e-mail Patriot1776@NEO.RR.com

#### In the News.....

Former Commander of the USS Samuel B. Roberts FFG58 Vice Admiral Joseph A. Sestak Jr. was narrowly defeated in his United States Senatorial race in the state of Pennsylvania.

\*\*\*\*\*

#### USS Samuel B. Roberts DD-823

The DD-823 Survivors' Association has graciously extended an invitation to anyone in the DE-413 family to be a member of their organization and to attend any of their future reunions. You may visit their website at [www.samuelbroberts.org](http://www.samuelbroberts.org)

\*\*\*\*\*

#### News from Jim Hornfischer

Author of The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors Jim Hornfischer has written a new book entitled Neptunes Inferno: The US Navy at Guadalcanal. It will be published by Random House and available January 25, 2011.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Association Dues are \$10.00 per Year*

*Payable to:*

*Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association  
 c/o John T. Walsh  
 24945 Marian Avenue  
 Elwood, IL 60421*

**We get letters.....**

After the Newsletter went out in January, we received the following:

\*\*\*\*\*

Ahoy John and Susan Walsh,

Great to know that you are taking over the Newsletter. Sorry to hear about Dick Rohde's death. I met Dick at your San Diego reunion many moons ago. I wanted to thank him and the crew of the Roberts for helping save our fanny at the Leyte Gulf invasion.

On the day the DE413 was sunk I was on one of the support ships at the Leyte invasion, the USS TEAK AN-35. The enemy had two large Task forces coming in on us from both directions. Their intention was to sink as many support ships as they could. Due to the Samuel Roberts and other great ships, plus our airplanes, they turned the enemy around before they could reach us.

My ship survived the war and returned home early 1946, thanks to the Samuel Roberts and other great ships and planes.

Milt Meehan

RDM 2/C USS TEAK AN-35

\*\*\*\*\*

Hi, Just received the 413's Newsletter and it is getting to be that every time something comes in another friend is lost. It was my pleasure to work with Whit Felt and Jack Yusen for a number of years. I'm from the Fanshaw Bay and if it hadn't been for you men on the "Tin Cans" my bed might not have been so dry that night following the "Battle off Samar"

Take care, Bill Hewson, Ontario, CA

More letters, e-mails, etc.....

I had the extreme pleasure of visiting the USS Samuel B. Roberts FFG58 yesterday with two of my grandsons. The FFG58 is in the yard at Mayport for an overhaul. I want my grandchildren to remember the DE413 and pass it on to their children and never forget the heroics of those brave men of the 413. God bless them ALL.

Jim Randall

Son of Sherwood Lee Randall S2c

\*\*\*\*\*

**From the Home Front:**

Fred Strehle (son of Maxine Strehle Sinclair) reports that Maxine is currently living in an extended care facility in Marion, Mississippi

Patty (Rohde) Marder tells us that her mom, Helen has moved up to New York to be near son Cliff. I spoke with Helen on the phone before the move and she sounded well. Since then, however, Helen did have an appendectomy and is currently recovering.

With sympathy.....

Shipmate Herbert Eskins wife Bertha passed away in March of 2009. Herbert still lives in Chicago and is doing well.

Lynn (Nabors ) Bennet (daughter of Shipmate Joseph Nabors) let us know that her mom, Mildred, passed away in 2009.

Alice M. Walsh (widow of Shipmate Robert L. Walsh) died April 26, 2010 following a brief illness.



*[Handwritten signature]*

USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413  
Survivors Association  
Newsletter 19.2  
John T. & Susan M. Walsh, Editors  
24945 Marian Avenue  
Elwood, IL 60421



RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Phone: 815-478-5444  
Email: [suzieg3657@yahoo.com](mailto:suzieg3657@yahoo.com)  
[jtwalsh4552@yahoo.com](mailto:jtwalsh4552@yahoo.com)

1230952611 0511

*Holiday Greetings and Wishes for a  
Happy and Peaceful New Year!*