

Dedication of the U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts Memorial



**Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery
San Diego, California
Wednesday, October 25, 1995**

Sponsored by the U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association

**USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DE 413)
LOST IN ACTION**

Russell Abair, Jr.	Frederick A. Grove	Joseph Orłowski
Albert L. Abramson	Justin G. Haag	Jerry G. Osborn
Wilbur E. Anderton	Woodrow W. Harris	John J. Paone
Francis P. Bard	Donald R. Hausman	Hilan R. Pierson
Harold Barrett	Hubert B. Hawkins	Leopold P. Riebenbauer
Ray E. Bartlett	Troy T. Hodges	Charles A. Ross
Fred W. Bates	Enoch Hood	John T. Rozzella
Richard A. Bingham	Jacob D. Kensler	Arthur E. Saylor, Jr.
Norbert F. Brady	Fred Kilburn	Darl H. Schafer
Lloyd G. Braun	Charles E. Knisley	Harold K. Scott
Vernon R. Butler	Chester P. Kupdlowski	Tullio J. Serafini
William F. Butterworth, Jr.	Lewis C. Kyger	Russel W. Shaffer
Joseph W. Caddarette, Jr.	Joseph Lecci	Charles N. Smith
Paul Henry Carr	John S. LeClercq III	Melvin L. Spears
Robert F. Cummings	Herman J. Levitan	Gilbert J. Stansberry
John K. Davis	John Locke, Jr.	Charles Staubach
John H. De Bellis	Louis V. Longo	William E. Stovall
Ralph Decubellis	Shirley R. Macon	Fred A. Strehle
Elroy Downs	Edward M. Maher	John J. Sullivan, Jr.
Robert W. Fickett	Thomas J. Mazura	Willard A. Thurmond
Cecil First	George H. Merritt	Herbert W. Trowbridge
Albert H. Freye	Herman E. Meyer	George P. Ulickas
Leonard N. Gallerini	Mike Miller	Eugene Wagner
J. C. Goggins	John J. Moran	Percy H. Wallace
Leonard S. Goldstein	William C. Mort	James K. Weaver
Martin C. Gonyea	Steve Mudra	Thomas R. Wetherald
John R. Gray	Charles W. Natter	Cloy W. Wethington
Joseph F. Green	John J. Newmiller	Charles J. Wilson
James A. Gregory	Dudley B. O'Connor, Jr.	Frank M. Zaleski
John J. Groller	Clarence E. Oliver	John R. Zunac

DEDICATION CEREMONY

Master of Ceremonies.....	Richard K. Rohde
Welcome.....	H. Whitney Felt
Invocation.....	LCDR Allen, CHAPLAIN U.S.N.R.
Posting of Colors.....	U. S. Navy Color Guard
Plodge of Allegiance.....	Jack Yusen
National Anthem.....	U.S. Navy Band
Introduction of Honored Guests.....	Richard K. Rohde
Introduction of Families of Honorees.....	Vincent M. Goodrich
National Cemetery System, Dept. of Veterans Affairs.....	Roger Rapp
Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery.....	Helen Szumylo
Keynote Address.....	CAPT Gary Erickson, U.S.N.R.
A Monument to Remembrance.....	John E. Harrington
Reading of Names of Those Lost in Action.....	Survivors Ray Chambliss, Lou Gould, James Gnggs, Mel Harden Adolph Herrera, Joseph Hunt, Jack Moore, Pat Moriarty, Wayne Moses Tom O'Hara, Jack Roberts, Alden Robinson, Ed Wheaton, Bill Wilson Jack Yusen, Bill Rieger
"America the Beautiful".....	U.S. Navy Band
Unveiling of Monument.....	Survivors Bud Comet, Dudley Moylan, Bob Roberts, Ken Saunders Tom Stevenson
Presentation of Wreath.....	Family Members of Honorees Peggy Carr Dodd, Ross Grove, Maggie Hayes, Robert LeClercq Perry Schulze, Maxine Sinclair, Leatha Walls, LCDR Hugh D. Wetherald
"Eternal Father Strong to Save".....	U.S. Navy Band
Rifle Salute.....	U.S. Navy Firing Detail
Taps.....	U.S. Navy Band
Benediction.....	LCDR Allen, CHAPLAIN U.S.N.R.
Retire the Colors.....	U.S. Navy Color Guard
"Anchors Aweigh".....	U.S. Navy Band

Relatives in Attendance of Those Lost in Action

RELATIVES		LOST IN ACTION
Peggy Carr Dodd	Sister	Paul Henry Carr, GM 3/cl
Rose Grove	Sister	Frederick A. Grove, CWT
Maggie Hayes	Wife	Hubert B. Hawkins, S 2/cl
Robert LeClercq	Brother	John S. LeClercq III, LT(jg)
Perry Schulze	Nephew	Paul Henry Carr, GM 3/cl
Maxine Sinclair	Wife	Fred A. Strehle, SC 1/cl
Leatha Wells	Wife	Frederick A. Grove, CWT
LCDR Hugh Wetherald	Cousin	Thomas R. Wetherald, MM 1/cl

Program Participants

(In order of appearance)

Richard K. Rohde	Vice Pres. Samuel B. Roberts Association
H. Whitney Felt	President, Samuel B. Roberts Association
LCDR Allen USNR	Chaplain
Jack Yusen	Director, Samuel B. Roberts Association
Vincent N. Goodrich	Treasurer, Samuel B. Roberts Association
Roger Rapp	Director, Office of Field Operations National Cemetery Association
Helen Szumylo	Director, Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery
Captain Gary Erickson USNR	COMNAVRESCEN
John E. Harrington	Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association
Survivors	Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association
Navy Band	NTC, San Diego
Navy Color Guard	COMNAVBASE San Diego
Navy Firing Detail	COMNAVBASE San Diego

Officers and Directors

U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association

H. Whitney Felt	President
Richard K. Rohde	Vice President
Vincent N. Goodrich	Treasurer
Robert M. (Mel) Harden	Treasurer
John Macko	Director
John Dudley Moylan	Director
Jack Yusen	Director

A MONUMENT TO REMEMBRANCE

To the Ships and Men Who Died that Day, October 25, 1944

You Knew My Name

A monument stands facing the ocean overlooking a far away shore,
A polished granite pedestal listing three ships lost in a war.

You Called My Name

It has been 51 years since it happened. I now know you haven't forgot.
My name has been called with the others, my death has not been for naught.

You Inscribed My Name

My ship and my name have been listed on this granite that faces the sea
The things that I fought and died for and shipmates who still remember me.

You Honor our Names

My family and friends stand in tribute at this spot on a far away shore.
You honor our names with your presence to be remembered for evermore.

You Remember Our Names

Though yesterday seems like a blink of the eye
Fifty-one years have passed and etched in the eons of granite years.
We know that the memories will last.

The Thing That We Feared

We remembered "Band of Brothers" forever on watch below would not be
Forgotten in passing of time. These are the things we now know.

To Those That Follow Behind Us

We wish you the very best. As the years pass in remembrance,
You too may join us in in rest.

These words were penned to somehow show that the fear of being forgotten, unknown, or not remembered for the time we were allowed to spend on this planet and to show we did not die unknown, unloved and unnamed doing the job our country asked us to do.

*A loving shipmate,
John E. Harrington BMN
"Sammy B"*

Contributors to Samuel B. Roberts Monument Fund

Bishop, Jackson
Boxer, Nana
Branham, William
Bray, George
Brennan, Robert
Bridge, RADM Herbert M.
Chambless, Ray
Comel, Bud
Cooloy, Peter
Dahy, Leonard A.
Dodd, Peggy
Dyke, Rosemary (Ralph)
Felt, H. Whitney
Fortier, Joe
Gentry, Elbert
Goodrich, Vince
Gould, Louis
Griggs, James W.
Harden, Robert M.
Harrington, John
Hawkins, Danny
Hayes, Magdalene
Hazel, LeRoy W.
Herrera, Adolph
Hewson, William
Holt, Joe W.
Holt, Lawrence J.
Hoff, Stanley G.
Hutt, Joseph
Jacobs, Butch
Kosl, Peter J.
LeClercq, Robert R.
Macko, John
McMullen, Audrey

Methe, Robert G.
Moore, Jack
Morierity, Patrick
Moore, Wayne
Moylan, Dudley
Myers, James E.
O'Hara, Thomas
Orland, William F.
Pass, B. R.
Roberts, E. E. Jr.
Roberts, Jack G.
Robinson, Alden
Rohde, Richard K.
Saizow, Robert
Saunders, Kenneth W.
Schmidt, Franklin D.
Schwartz, Raymond
Shelan, Bernard
Sinclair, Maxine
Sprague-Reneau, Patricia
Stanley, Robert E. Jr.
Stevenson, Thomas J.
Sirehile, Fred
Studebaker, Wayne & Judy
Todd, Edwin M., Jr.
USS John C. Butler
Wheaton, Edward
Wilson, Bill
Yusen, Eddy & Kara
Yusen, Jack
Yusen, Jeff & Natlie
Yusen, Jerry & Barbara
Yusen, Steve
Zwemke, Tom

We would also like to thank the following individuals who helped immeasurably in making this monument become a reality.

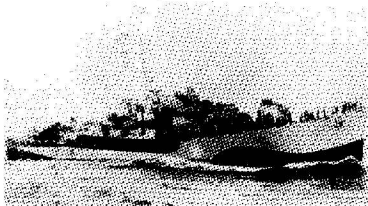
Bill Boyd
Ed Belt
Scott Free
Michael Williams
Gregory J. Cooper
Alan Jacobs
John Iba
Glen Foster
Bob Deal
Sam Lucas

Boyd Granite, Elberton, Georgia
Cal-Mat Concrete, San Diego, California
Lusardi Construction Co., San Diego
Seaman-Poe Construction Co., San Diego
CDR, (USS COPELAND, FFG-25)
LCDR, USNR San Diego
USS ST. LO ASSOCIATION
USS JOHNSTONHOEL ASSOCIATION
USS JOHNSTONHOEL ASSOCIATION
USS JOHNSTONHOEL ASSOCIATION

A Brief History of USS Samuel B. Roberts (DE-413)

The SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DE-413) was laid down on December 6, 1943 by Brown Shipbuilding Co., Houston Texas; launched on January 20, 1944, sponsored by Mrs. Samuel B. Roberts; and commissioned on April 28, 1944. LCDR Robert W. Copeland, USNR, in command. The ROBERTS had a displacement of 1,745 tons; length 306'; beam 36'7"; draft 13'4"; speed 24 knots; complement 222; armament, 2-5", 4-40mm, 10-20mm, 3-21" torpedo tubes, 2 depth charge racks, 8 depth charges, 1 hedge hog. She was of the John C. Butler class.

The ROBERTS was named in honor of Samuel Booker Roberts, Jr., a Coxswain who was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism while serving on the crew of a landing craft that, despite intense enemy fire, rescued stranded Marines from Guadalcanal.



Following a shakedown off Bermuda from May 21 to June 19 and availability at Boston Navy Yard, SAMUEL B. ROBERTS departed from Norfolk on July 22, 1944 and transited the Panama Canal on July 27 to join the Pacific Fleet.

After arriving at Pearl Harbor on August 10 she conducted training exercises and escorted several convoys to Eniwetok. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS proceeded to Manus Island where she joined Task Unit 77.4.3, then steamed for the Leyte Gulf area and commenced operations with the Northern Air Support Group off Samar.

Shortly after dawn on October 25, 1944, SAMUEL B. ROBERTS was protecting American escort carriers off Samar, when a Japanese task force suddenly appeared on the horizon and opened fire. After joining in a daring torpedo attack on the Japanese cruisers and scoring a torpedo hit on one and at least 40 gunline hits on a second, SAMUEL B. ROBERTS was hit by a salvo of 14" shells which tore a hole 40 feet long and 10 feet wide in the port side of her number 2 engine room. The ship was abandoned and soon sank. The 120 survivors clung to 3 life rafts for 50 hours before being rescued. 90 of the crew were killed or lost in action. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS was included in the Presidential Unit Citation given to Task Unit 77.4.3 "for extraordinary heroism in action".

USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DD 873) was named after DE 413. USS COPELAND (FFG-25) was named after the Commanding Officer Robert W. Copeland. USS CARR (FFG-52) was named after Gannet Mate 3C Paul Henry Carr and USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG-58) was named after DE-413.

Rear Admiral Robert W. Copeland



Robert Wilcher Copeland was born in Tacoma, Washington on September 9, 1910. At the age of 18 he enlisted in the Naval Reserve and while at the University of Washington joined the Naval Reserve Officer Training Corps Unit. He graduated from the University of Washington with Bachelors Degrees in Business Administration and Law, and on May 18, 1935 was commissioned an Ensign in the Naval Reserve. In that same year he was admitted to the Washington State Bar and practiced Law until entering into active Naval Service in 1940.

During the early 1940's he advanced rapidly and successively commanded the USS PAWTUCKET (YT 7), USS BLACK DOUGLAS (PYC 45) AND USS WYMAN (DE38).

In 1944 a new Destroyer Escort, DE 413 was being built to respond to the desperate wartime needs. On April 28, 1944 the ship was commissioned USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DE 413) and placed under the command of (then) LCDR ROBERT W. COPELAND.

SAMUEL B. ROBERTS was ordered to the Pacific Theater of Operations and fought in the Battle of Samar. It was that battle in which LCDR Copeland inspired his crew to such heights that, in spite of being a small destroyer escort, the ROBERTS helped turn back the formidable Japanese Battleship, Cruiser and Destroyer Force and contributed to the key victory in the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The ROBERTS was sunk in the battle, but not before she carried out her mission in heroic fashion and earned the reputation of being "the Destroyer Escort that fought like a Battleship". LCDR Copeland was among the 120 survivors who were rescued some 50 hours after the battle. For "extraordinary courage and magnificent spirit in the face of terrific odds" LCDR Copeland was awarded the Navy Cross.

Returning to the United States, he attended the Naval War College until he was assigned duty at Headquarters, Fifth Naval District, Norfolk, Virginia. He was released from active duty on January 25, 1946 but remained an active member of the Naval Reserve. He was subsequently admitted to practice law before the United States District Court, Western District of Washington, Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, United States Supreme Court.

He died on August 25 1973 having attained the rank of Rear Admiral in the United States Naval Reserve.

On August 7, 1982 the USS Copeland (FFG-25) was commissioned at U.S. Naval Station Long Beach California, named in honor of Rear Admiral Robert Wilcher Copeland. His widow, Mrs. Robert W. Copeland served as the Ship's Sponsor.