

USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413 Newsletter

VOLUME 21 ISSUE 1
MAY, 2012

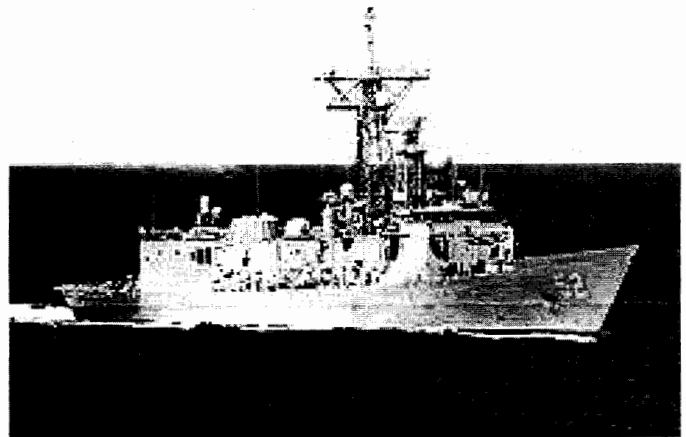
Dedicated in Memory of Shipmates Whit Felt and Dick Rohde

USS Carr FFG 52 To Be Decommissioned

The Carr family recently reported that their Uncle Paul's namesake ship will be decommissioned on March 15, 2013 in Norfolk, VA. This information is verified by the May 2012 issue of SeaPower Magazine (the official publication of the Navy League of the United States). It lists the Carr along with five other Perry-class frigates scheduled for decommissioning in 2013. Sea Power also states that all six frigates will be made available for the Foreign Military Sales Program. This will be a sad day not only for the Carr family, but also for the extended DE413 Samuel B. Roberts family. The Carrs won't be discouraged, however, as they have formed a family corporation to keep Paul's legacy alive. Their organization will be known as the Paul Henry Carr Memorial Foundation Board with their mission "to be meaningful ambassadors of Uncle Paul's legacy." The board consists of eight family members each representing one of the Carr sisters.

The family's current projects include a renovation of the Katy Depot in Checotah, OK which was built in 1890 and last used for passenger service in 1965. The depot was moved to Paul Carr Drive in 1986, opened as a tourist center in 1988 and placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991. It now holds a collection of the town's heritage including the Paul Henry Carr Monument and a scale model of the USS Carr FFG52.

You may have already guessed that the news about the Carr can only be followed by similar circumstances for the USS Samuel B. Roberts FFG58. The website www.seawaves.com lists the year



USS Carr FFG 52

2015 as the last for the FFG58, however, there is some talk of that date being postponed for a year or so. Keith Taylor, the former Command Master-chief of the FFG 58 promised to keep us informed.



USS Samuel B. Roberts FFG58

Taps

With sympathy.....

We report the passing of two more of the fine men who served aboard the USS Samuel B. Roberts DE413. We extend our sympathy to their families.

Oliver E. Coyle, S1/c, of Gaffney, SC died on August 28, 2011. His daughter, Jean High, informed us of his passing and added "My dad was so proud of his Navy experience. His age was 91."

Anthony J. Blaszczyk, CY, of Plantsville, CT died on December 4, 2011. We are so grateful that his granddaughter, Tanis Blaszczyk, informed us of Anthony's death.



We would also like to extend our heartfelt sympathy to the families of:

Ruth Yusen, wife of Jack Yusen, passed away on November 25th, 2011. Ruth is survived by her husband Jack, three sons and six grandchildren.

Also, **Tonya Comet**, daughter of Bud Comet, passed away on December 28, 2011. Tonya is survived by her dad, Bud Comet, four daughters and eleven grandchildren.

Both of these fine ladies added spirit and style to our organization and they will be missed not only by their true families but also by the DE 413 "family" as well.

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

The following article is reprinted from "**The Gismo**" Vol 1 No. 5 September 7, 1944. The Gismo was a newsletter written by the guys on board the DE 413. For more complete editions of "The Gismo", visit the DE 413 website www.de413.org (speaking of which...many thanks to Cliff Rohde for keeping the website "up and running")

"Know Your Shipmates"

Before he was old enough to vote, Mike Miller, GM2/c, was a veteran of eight major and 13 minor South Pacific battles. As a member of the USS San Diego from the time that cruiser was commissioned four months following the sneak attack on Pearl Harbor, Miller spent 21 months cruising and fighting in Jap. controlled seas.

Born at Mingo Junction, a suburb of Steubenville, Ohio, Mike finished the second grade and then accompanies his mother for a "visit" to Czechoslovakia. The visit dragged out for eight years and he meanwhile completed grade school and two years high schooling in a village near the Hungarian Border. Preparing to return to his father and two brothers in Ohio, Mike's last recollection of Czechoslovakia is vivid. Three days prior to his planned departure, Mike had a chance to watch the "draft" as it is operated in Europe. He tells that overnight and without notice the village in which he lived was stripped of young men, all headed for military service.

Fifteen years old and accompanied only by a younger sister, Mike started the long trip back to Ohio via Cherbourg, Bremen, Southampton and New York. Even though the year was early 1938, Bremen was jammed with soldiers, he recalls. His mother remained in Czechoslovakia while that little country was overrun by the Germans and the Miller family has not heard from her since 1940.

Returning to the public schools in Ohio, Mike was compelled to begin in the first grade that he had completed nine years before. During the first semester, he completed seven grades and the following year he graduated. A job as a butchers helper followed and Mike dreamed of joining the Navy. Then came Pearl Harbor and the Navy immediately had another recruit. After three weeks "boot training" Mike went aboard the USS SAN DIEGO and a few months later began the long stretch of Pacific duty.

His cruiser arrived at Midway hours after that decisive engagement had been completed. The USS SAN DIEGO then took part in the Battles of Guadalcanal and Santa Cruz and also in the invasions of the Marshall and Gilbert Islands. The SAN DIEGO played a prominent part in neutralizing Rabaul, New Britain. Eleven bombardments in nine days is the record of the USS SAN DIEGO at Rabaul. During the Battle of Santa Cruz the task force of which his cruiser was a part was under aerial bombardment for more than nine hours. Greatest thrill was in the Battle of the Gilberts and Marshalls as Mike and his shipmates watched three heavy cruisers, three light cruisers and 20 Jap merchant ships sink under the weight of bombs from planes in the U.S. task force.

Hit by one burst of shrapnel in 21 months battle service, the SAN DIEGO had more luck than most of the ships with which she operated. Recalling several of the narrow escapes, Mike tells of torpedoes passing fore and aft simultaneously as their cruiser sped through "Torpedo Junction", section of the Coral Seas. On another occasion, in the same sector, a plane dropped depth charges on a tin fish headed for SAN DIEGO.

During all this action the SAN DIEGO was too busy to replace the screws installed for her shakedown speed runs and despite the fact that they were in constant battle zones for 21 months, Mike had only six half-days liberty. He did get 30 days rehabilitation leave when the ship docked at San Diego for an overhaul and then he was assigned to the USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS.

Saddened by the uncertain fate of their mother, the Miller family last month received further bad news from the War Department. Mike's brother Andrew, an Army Sergeant, was killed in action during the invasion of France. Our GM does not even know the whereabouts of a second brother, a veteran of 5 years army service.

In charge of light guns and captain of a heavy, Mike dreams of a time that he will return to Steubenville and that beautiful and curvaceous dancer whose picture takes up a large section of his locker.

***Editors note: The "rest of the story" is that Mike Miller was killed in action in the battle on Oct. 25, 1944. Does anyone know if the Miller family was ever reunited with their mother? What about the younger sister who accompanied Mike on his journey back to the U.S.? Did the "second brother" ever return from his service in the Army?...so many unanswered questions.

Mothers Day Tribute

The following is a Mothers Day tribute to all mothers but most especially to those moms who lost their sons on October 25th 1944.

The following poem was among some papers found by Peggy Carr Dodd's (#7 sister of Paul Henry Carr) daughter Nancy Milam. It is with her permission that we are able to share it with you.

MY LAST VISIT WITH MAMA

Composed by Peggy Carr Dodd 1971

Little did I know.. not long ago... as I turned to go
 That would be the last time.. to see my Mom... well enough to talk to me
 Yes, the day had been pleasant... the visit sweet.
 But somehow I know there was a special meaning... of mud on my feet.
 I didn't want to dust it off...I wanted to leave it there
 Because it reminded me of our walk together... to see her garden fair.
 She wanted me to view the beans, the greens...so plentiful in a row
 And she told me that God above had given her the strength as she worked them so.
 I could never vision nor could I ever guess
 The last harvest of those vegetables would come after God had laid her to rest.
 Oh, how I miss my Mother none can ever know
 But some day I'll see her in heaven because she often told me so.

Author's Corner

While we anxiously await the official publication of John Wukovits' new book, every bit of information as the final date approaches is newsworthy. It looks like the title is going to be **For Crew and Country: A Tale of Bravery and Sacrifice Aboard The U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts**

We are hoping to have some kind of "gathering" regarding the book once it is printed. This may revolve around a book signing event and would possibly be held at the Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX. Since we don't have any firm dates yet, we will have to keep you updated once we have more information.....Stay tuned!

Meanwhile...Jim Hornfischer has a new book entitled **A Navy SEAL at War**. Jim writes: "I was given a rare and exciting opportunity to co-author a book with legendary Navy SEAL Marcus Luttrell, author of the legendary best-seller **Lone Survivor** (2007)" Of course it's a wonderful opportunity for all of us as well: to read another one of Jim's great books.

Did You Know?.....

Rosemary Dyke of Ohio (widow of Shipmate Ralph Dyke) told us in a phone visit that she and Ralph were married not long after the war and they received a wedding gift from Ensign J. Dudley Moylan. It was a set of Currier and Ives prints which Rosemary still has in her home.

Bob and NormaJean Bingaman ((Bob is the brother of Shipmate Richard Bingaman F1/c KIA 10-25-44) still have a Christmas present that Bob's mom sent to Richard in the fall of 1944. The package was returned unopened and it remains so to this day in the Bingaman's home.

Bud Comet Donates Model of DE 413 to Pacific War Museum

The National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX recently added a special piece to its display in the Leyte Gulf section.

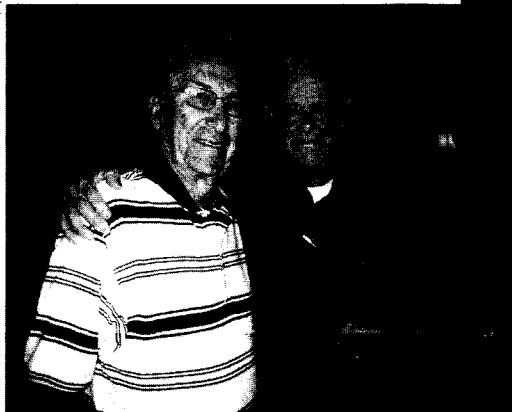
Thanks to **Bud Comet**, a distinctive model of the DE 413 will have a new "port" in the museum. This model was commissioned by Bud's late wife Lil to be crafted by her nephew Pat Floyd who also builds airplane models for Boeing in Seattle. Pat researched extensively to get every detail correct.

As Bud officially signed ownership of his model to the museum, he was assured by Joe Cavanaugh, Site Manager and Mike Lebens, Museum Curator, that his keepsake will be cared for and preserved for many generations to come.

Bud was accompanied by his daughter Jamie, his nephew Pat Floyd and Pat's wife Kathy. Shipmate **Glenn Huffman** also made the trip to Texas to honor Bud's donation. Glenn was joined by his brother Brent Huffman.

All of these proceedings were organized by our friend in Texas, Mr. Bob LeClerc. Bob continues to honor the memory of his brother, Ensign John LeClerc, and keeps the rest of us humble with his quiet and gentlemanly presence.

Bud Comet and Pat Floyd Pictured with Model



Shipmates Glenn Huffman and Bud Comet (Bob LeClerc in background)

DE 413 Survivors' Association Treasury Report 5-30-12

Starting Balance (10-19-11)	\$1,505.26
Dues Received and Deposited (Thank You!)	<u>385.00</u>
Total.....	\$1,890.26

Expenses

Newsletter Printing (Oct. 2011)	(\$118.46)
Flowers (Blaszczyk)	<u>(67.00)</u>
Total Expenses.....	(\$185.46)

Balance in checkbook as of 5-30-12..... 1,704.80

Roll Call

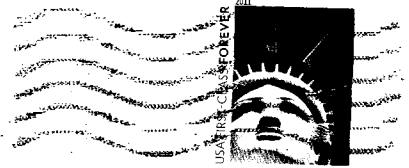
To the best of our knowledge, the following is a list of the living survivors of the USS Samuel B. Roberts DE413. If we have made any errors or omissions, please let us know.

- | | | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Robert R. Brennan | E. Glenn Huffman | James E. Myers |
| James F. "Bud" Comet | Bill Katsur | Albert Rosner |
| Herbert E. Eskins | Adred C. Lenoir | Jack Yusen |

Change of address: Please note that there is a change of address for Esther M. Glassman-Wilson (widow of shipmate Bill Wilson). Esther is now located at 620 Phillips Street, Apt. 210, Wyndham West, Kalamazoo, MI 49001. Her phone # is (269) 375-3169.

USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DE 413

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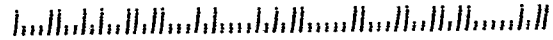
USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413
Survivors Association
Newsletter 21.1
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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



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jtwalsh4552@yahoo.com

12309261130



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

Phone, write or e-mail us with any news or information for the next Newsletter

Thank you!

