

The USS Samuel B. Roberts Survivors' Association

NEWSLETTER



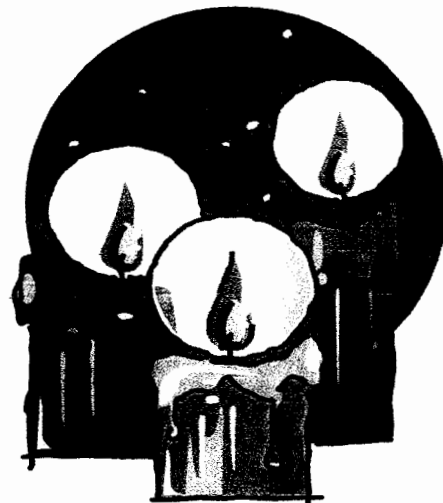
Dedicated to the memory of our shipmate and friend, Whit Felt.

December 2005

Volume 15, Number 2

Buffalo, New York Reunion

By now, this reunion has been filed away in our memory banks, to be opened from time to time to bring back thoughts of our time together in the friendly city of Buffalo. The highlight for me was our visit to Niagara Falls and our voyage on the "Maid of the Mists". Someone said that he didn't remember having such a rough trip on the Samuel B. Roberts. I'm not sure that I quite agree, but it was certainly awe inspiring.



It is that time again when we pause and consider the past year, the coming year and the glorious season that is upon us.

Whether we call ourselves Christian, Jew, Buddhist, Moslem, agnostic or none of the above, we all share this small planet of ours.

Allow me to wish for all, peace, good health and love and understanding and acceptance of one another during the coming years.

THE REUNION

An Overview

Guess I had best start with a disclaimer. This is the 18th day of December and the last day of the reunion was the 13th day of October. Some water has run over the dam since then and I neither seem to be able to remember all that I should nor do I always remember the safe place where I put those notes so that they would be safe. Having said that, on with the show.

We did have a nice group attend this gathering. There were nine survivors present, including Vince Goodrich who was able to attend the closing banquet. Altogether, there were 32 attendees and I think that most would agree that we did have a wonderful time.

Several people arrived on Saturday the 8th but most showed up on Sunday. Patty Hedgeman and her sister Georgia Van Voorst (and husband Hooper) were enthusiastically greeted as they had all the makings for the Hospitality Room.

Monday morning the buses took us to the Buffalo Naval Park for our tour of the facility and the Memorial Service which was held on the fantail of the destroyer, "The Sullivans". Unfortunately, due to some glitches, we were without a color guard or any music. On the plus side, the rain held off and the chaplain gave an excellent talk. The wreath was committed by Susan and John Walsh.

We then boarded the buses for our cruise on the Erie Canal. An excellent luncheon was enjoyed first at a lovely restaurant, canal side. We then boarded the tour boat and rode several miles along the canal, going through one of the locks. We all found this quite interesting. Again, the rain held off for the most part. The hospitality room was well used on Monday night.

On Tuesday, we were off to Niagara Falls to tour the area and view the falls from both the American and Canadian sides. We stopped first at a gift shop to purchase those necessary souvenirs and gifts and then passed through the Canadian Customs. Much to everyone's surprise, even Sam Stewart got through with a minimum of questioning. He did say that the body search was not very invasive although he did not recommend it to everyone. Forgive me Sam, did I remember that right?

Luncheon at the top of the Sheraton Hotel was next on the agenda and it was fabulous. It was a challenge to try everything but Lord knows, I gave it my best shot.

Next we toured a bit and then we were ready for our trip on the "Maid of the Mist" which goes to the foot of the falls. Everyone received foul weather gear and it did not take us too long to find out why. What an incredible experience! The winds, the waves, the sound, the sights - there is no way that I can describe it. I will only say that I am glad that I finally did it. We had visited the Falls before but did not go on the boats. If you have never done this and you get the chance - do it!

That night at the Hospitality Room, spirits were high and much fun., storytelling and picture-taking was in evidence. Tom Stevenson was in good voice and led us in all the old favorites, including "Skin" and "The Muffin Man".

Wednesday morning, we all gathered in the Hospitality Room for the Annual Business Meeting. More on this later (if I find my notes) but there was no question that everyone wants to continue with our reunions no matter what the calendar or mirror may say. Jim Hornfischer had donated a "Tin Can Sailor Bear" in uniform. A raffle was held and Bob Bingaman was the winner. He and Norma Jean have promised "Sammy" a good home and assured us that he can stay inside once he is housebroken.



SAMMY II

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THE REUNION CONTINUED

Wednesday evening we gathered for our closing banquet. The food and service provided by the hotel staff was excellent and added to the occasion. We were all delighted to have shipmate Vince Goodrich and his wife Fran with us. As many of you know, Vince has been hospitalized for over a year following several amputations on his left leg caused by diabetes. The last one, above his knee has finally healed and he is awaiting a prosthesis. He and Fran were driven to Buffalo by their son-in-law, Staff Sergeant Marvin Goodnoe, recently returned from Iraq.

Following dinner, the survivors present each spoke a few words about their memories and observations of the past. Marvin Goodnoe then gave an impromptu and most inspiring talk about our country, about Iraq and about our armed forces, past and present.

Following our tradition, each of the ladies in attendance was given a long stemmed red rose. We then adjourned to the Hospitality Room.

Thursday morning, we gathered for the Farewell Breakfast and then began our journeys home.

Following is a list of all who attended the reunion. Dudley Moylan, Helen and Dick Rohde, Leona and Mel Harden, Mable and Elbert Gentry and daughter Linda Fowler, Lil and Bud Comet and nephew Daniel McCloud, Tom Stevenson, JoAnn and Glenn Huffman and son Mike Huffman, Sue and John Walsh, Sam Stewart, Leah Felt and daughter Marion Felt, Maxine Sinclair and guest Becky Roebuck, Norma Jean and Bob Bingaman, Georgia and Hooper Van Voorst, Esther and Bill Wilson, Patti Hedgeman, Fran and Vince Goodrich and son-in-law Marvin Goodnoe. Also present for the banquet were Carol Koch and Bob Zinsmeister, friends of the Goodrich's.

We were sorry that others were unable to attend due to illness, family problems or religious holidays. You were missed Louise and Sam Blue, George Bray, Billie and Bob LeClercq, Ruth and Jack Yusen, Mary Lou and Adolph Herrera.

My special thanks to all of you who helped me make this such a special occasion for all and who helped Helen and me with the wheel chair when the ramps were just too damed steep.

A FEW PICTURES



L to R: Elbert, Tom, Glenn, Mel, Dick, Dudley, Bill, Bud



The Group at the Falls

BUSINESS MEETING

Notes on the SBRSA Meeting, Buffalo, 12 Oct. 2005

Our meeting in our Hospitality room in the Downtown Holiday Inn was opened at 10:15 a.m. with Dudley Moylan presiding and seven regular members present.

Notes on the meeting on October 25, 2004 in San Diego were read.

Mel Harden, Co-Treasurer presented the financial report showing income of \$4,680.15 primarily from Dues and Reunion advances, and expenses of \$621.13, giving a total of \$8,850.68 with reunion expenses still to be paid.

Dick Rohde then presented a report on our monuments in the Ft. Rosecrans cemetery. Apparently the lettering is fading and other ships have already started repairs, but we did not decide to do anything at this time. No information was available on possible costs.

There was discussion of the disposition of our treasury if we are disbanded. At the suggestion of the chairman an addition to the By-Laws, which must be approved by two-thirds of actual members voting, was proposed as follows.

"If at a time of actual or imminent dissolution of the Association and there are no regular active members available and more than \$100 in the Treasury after legitimate debts have been resolved, a committee consisting of Patti Hedgeman, John Walsh and Cliff Rohde (or possible substitutes) shall determine the disposition of the remaining amount in accordance with our general purposes."

No solution was reached regarding our archives.

There is a problem with those not receiving stars on their Presidential Unit Citations, about which we made no decision

Future reunions with the possibility of assists from DESA or the Navy Memorial with decision to leave it up to the Board.

The current board members and officers were reelected with Bill Wilson to replace deceased board member Don Young.

Editor's Note: Subsequent to our reunion, the survivors received ballots and voted on the proposal concerning disposition of treasury upon dissolution of the Association. The proposal was approved.



Officers and Board Members Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Ass'n..

Dudley Moylan

Sam Stewart

Bob LeClercq

Bill Wilson

Co-Treasurer, Vince Goodrich

Co-Treasurer, Mel Harden

Newsletter Editor, Dick Rohde

OBITUARIES

**WE MOURN THE PASSING
OF OUR SHIPMATES.**

**DONALD F. YOUNG S2C
AUGUST 19, 2005**

**LOUIS A. GOULD SOM 3/C
OCTOBER 10, 2005**

BYLAWS OF THE SAMUEL B. ROBERTS SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

(As amended November 2005)

The Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association is organized to further the remembrance of the exploits in battle of the *USS Samuel B. Roberts (DE 413)* and of the men who served aboard her and to provide a means of fellowship for those men.

The full voting members of the Association are those who served aboard the *Samuel B. Roberts* on October 25, 1944. There are also associate members consisting of other shipmates, family members, and friends subscribing to our purposes.

The officers are the president, vice president, and secretary-treasurer, and four additional directors, any of whom may be assigned specific duties. The officers and directors are elected at ship's reunion, after candidate recommendations are made by a nominating committee appointed by the president, and will take office upon election. If the time between reunions exceeds two years a mail balloting should be provided. The vice president automatically succeeds an incapacitated president for the remainder of the term, though there is no automatic succession between terms. If one is needed the directors will select a new vice president, and they will also fill any other vacancies of officers and directors.

Between reunions the board will consult and make all decisions relevant to carrying forth our purposes, and only if occasion demands an action that would preclude such full consultation, the decisions may be made by an executive committee of at least three of the board, selected in advance by the board. No officer, director or member may commit the Association to any plan, design, or activity touching upon gifts, remembrances, or reunion features unless specifically authorized in advance to make such a decision and within a prescribed financial limit.

Dues and special assessments will be determined by a vote of the members. A majority vote will prevail, except for bylaw amendments when a two-thirds vote of those voting is necessary. Bylaw amendments should be submitted to the membership at least twenty days before the reunion meeting or mail balloting.

If at a time of actual or imminent dissolution of the Association and there are no regular active members available and more than one hundred dollars in the Treasury after legitimate debts have been resolved, a committee consisting of Patti Hedgeman, John Walsh and Cliff Rohde (or possible substitutes) shall determine the disposition of the remaining amount in accordance with our general purposes.

This and That from Here and There

An Apology,

In the last Newsletter I listed an Obituary for Wilfred J. Labbe, FT3C and said that the details were unknown at present. I received the following from David Labbe. I don't recall just where my information came from but thought that I should officially recognize the passing of one of our shipmates. Thank you for your letter David.

"In your last newsletter it showed the obituary of Wilfred J. Labbe FT3C and also said details unknown at present. My father passed away April 1993 of pancreatic cancer. My mother is alive and approaching her 86th birthday. If more information is needed let me know.

Also I had the privilege of hearing from Don Young a couple of years ago. I also spoke to Mr. Felt and Leah before he had passed away. Good luck to all of you and have a great reunion."

Signed: David Labbe

E-Mail Received,

The following was received concerning one of our shipmates.

"Francis Lee (Bud) Roberts. Bud was my wife's uncle and was from Greensboro NC After the war he worked for Duke Power Co. in Greensboro as a lineman. He suffered an electrocution, survived it and died in 1969. We don't know his rating aboard the Sammy B. and would appreciate any information you or the survivors organization may have on his life aboard the ship.

Bud is survived by his wife and children in Greensboro, NC Any information that you or the association may have will be greatly appreciated." Ed. Note: He was a F1C.

John W. Tesh, 1178 Nelson Drive, Harrisonburg VA, 22801. Tel: 540-434-2470. Email: Jtesh225@aol.com

Info from Vince Goodrich,

Vince sent me some information which he had received a while ago from the Dept. of the Navy concerning the COMBAT ACTION RIBBON. Since there was some discussion about this I thought it worth passing along.

There is a Combat Action Ribbon to which we would be entitled but there is no medal associated with the ribbon. It is the sole device for recognition.

If you have questions about any medals, awards or devices, you should contact:

Bureau of Naval Personnel
Retired Records Branch
9700 Page Avenue, 5th floor
St. Louis, MO 63132

Mel Harden

Mel and Leona Harden have moved to Delaware. Their new address is:

Robert M. "Mel" Harden
37500 Leisure Drive
Selbyville, DE 19975 Tel: 302-436-9692

The Buffalo News

While in Buffalo, some of us were interviewed by a reporter from *The Buffalo News*, Donn Esmonde. I thought it was an extremely well written article and would like to quote some excerpts.

"They were in town last week. Not many people noticed. They looked like any other group of grayhairs, adorned with eyeglasses and hearing aids, moving slowly in comfortable shoes. You can't tell a man's past by his walking cane or slow shuffle or sly smile. So the guys from the USS Samuel B. Roberts came and went, with little stir. That's the way they like it. Real heroes don't need a brass band. They know what they did, they know why they did it, they don't need applause or approval. Although it is nice when it comes."

"I talked to a few of them at a downtown hotel. The old guys are alike in some ways, different in others, but forever joined. Some were 18 years old when they went in the water, bobbing like bottles in the South Pacific. Some were burned, others were torn by shrapnel, all thought it was all over. For days they drifted, their minds slipping from lack of food and water " Thanks Donn!

More of the Same

Good News - Next Reunion:

We have a new committee, hard at work on our next two reunions. John and Susan Walsh, Sam Stewart and Patti Hedgeman have volunteered to put together our next two reunions. Can't tell you what a relief it is for this old guy. I know that they will do a bang-up job, they are all hard workers and are inspired. We all thank you for making sure that our reunions will continue.

Sick Call:

When I last spoke with George Bray, he was not doing all that well. He's still living in his old home, alone and trying to settle up his sister's affairs, sell his house and get rid of a lot of "good stuff". George, please move to Jacksonville with your daughter. Remember, you can't take it with you.

Vince Goodrich expects to be fitted with his prosthesis toward the end of this month. Best wishes Vince but please don't try to tap dance for a while.

Sam Blue continues to be plagued with problems with his arms and hands. Does not have feelings in them. He is being tested and is spending a lot of time with the VA.

Helen Rohde is now the proud user of a new pacemaker. She had been having a lot of problems since our return from the reunion but now all is well. Thanks for modern medicine and for old time prayers.

I have not heard from Peggy and Harry Dodd for a while but know that they have been having some serious health problems. Cards and prayers are certainly in order. We miss you two at our meetings.



Don't forget to sign up for Medicare Rx Coverage.

**Don't forget to visit our
website
www.de413.org**

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A word about dues

While you are in the writing mode, from all of those Christmas Cards, why not write out a check to SBR Survivors Ass'n. for your annual dues and send it to me at the above address. Our reunion paid for itself but we may soon be facing some additional expenses. Any amount gratefully accepted.

Thank you!

I guess that it's time to wrap this one up and get it to the printer. Hopefully you will receive it before the end of the year.

My wishes for you for the coming year were expressed earlier in this Newsletter and I echo them. May you all have a healthy and happy New Year - 2006. Can you believe it?

Please send me news of what is going on in your life so that I can pass it along. My one and only New Year's Resolution is to get the news out to you more often during the coming year. Tomorrow, Dec. 21 is a very special day. The 40th anniversary of my 40th birthday.

May God bless you all and don't forget to hug one another.