



January - February 1999

Volume 9, Number 1

RELATIVES OF TWO SHIPMATES HAVE BEEN FOUND.

Red Harrington has always said that we should wear our Samuel B. Roberts hats and jackets because you never know who will see them. His theory proved correct when he was approached in a mall by someone who said that his uncle had served on that ship. He turned out to be the nephew of Harold K. Scott, SIC who was killed in action when our ship was lost.

I also received a letter from Bill Mercer who is the Editor of the USS Johnston/Hoel Association Newsletter. Through the internet, he received an inquiry from someone who thought that his uncle might have served on the Johnston. It turned out that his uncle was Shirley R. Macon, Chief Gunners Mate aboard the DE 413. Bill spotted his name by using a magnifying glass on a picture of the monument at Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery. I have been in touch with John Macon as has Red Harrington.

Wear those hats!

VISIT THE USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS, DE 413 WEBSITE ON THE INTERNET.

We now have our own Website on the internet. For those of you who have a computer, or access to one, here is the address:

<http://home.pressroom.com/noahsweb/sammyb/>

As you will see, it is complete with pictures and stories of our ship along with links to other ships and other websites. There are lists of those who were killed when the ship went down and a list of the crew as of October 25, 1944. There is a copy of the report on the last reunion as well as a copy of Dudley Moylan's remarks at the banquet. You can even read the full text of "The Spirit of the Sammy-B".

I believe that you will be quite impressed with the amount of work that our son, Cliff, put in on making this all happen. As you may recall, at the business meeting in Norfolk, we voted to proceed with this project. I am so glad that we did and I think that you will be also. Your comments and suggestions will be greatly appreciated, either to me or to the Webmaster. Our e-mail addresses are on the website.

first page

previous page

[next page](#)

last page

[Sammy B Survivors Home](#) | [Association Info](#) | [Sammy B History](#) | [Other Ships](#)
[Sammy B Mediography](#) | [Outside Links](#) | [Contact Association](#) | [Site Search](#)



U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DE 413
U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DD 823
U.S.S. COPELAND FFG 25
U.S.S. CARR FFG 52
U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS FFG 58



NEWSLETTER

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

A special Xmas and New Years letter to all the survivors, their families and those we have met along the way. Each of you is so special as were those who never made it that Fateful Day. All of you in a special way let the world know that their names inscribed in granite and proudly being carried into the future on our special ships where names are inscribed and a painting hangs to honor those that sailed before.

Each of our reunions was so special and I have never known any ship to have the family feelings we had. Time has done what Japan could not do as each year our ranks are thinned but we still tell the story as a tear falls and a catch in your throat makes your voice change. At most, seven and a half months was all the time we had to learn and do the job that was expected of us. As I pass into my 76th year of life, I realize how many are to be thanked for their help and guidance along the way. I doubt very much if I can make more reunions due to breathing problems and blocked pipes. My fault, but I will look forward to our NEWSLETTER which with all our help can continue to keep all of us informed. We few, we gallant few, we band of brothers who as we pass on, leave a legacy for the young men, women and families to cherish.

Adelaide and I have been here at Saint Marks Village since 1 July, 1998 and are very happily into our golden years and are in a beautiful spot to help those less fortunate than we are. We have one 100 year old and several in their 90's so I guess at 76 I can be called a whippersnapper. Tonight, my wish for a gentle snowfall was granted and 1999 will enter with a full moon to light a white wonder world.

I still love to write and am enclosing several poems you may use if you wish "My Father's Hands", "This Old House", "A Lily Requires No Gilding" and "The Golden Years" are my latest. I am also including "They Never Grow Old" and "A Tribute to a Man" to honor Whit Felt, so true now as when it was written. We honored him and he honored us with his presence, with an aura of love and gentleness that touched one and all. God Bless Leah and may our love furnish a blanket of warmth each day she lives.

I am still working with young people and helping them to prepare for the future. I guess the highlight of my life has been the young men and women, then and now, who have taught me so much. Don, Jack, Bud, Mel and it seems thousands of others.

P.S. To all members, associates, families - write a note to our new editor Dick Rohde and let us all know how you are. I have recently met the nephew of Harold K. Scott, S 1/c killed and also the nephew of Shirley Macon, Chief Gunners Mate, killed. The beat goes on. We won't forget!

Love, John E. "Red" Harrington

NEWS FROM THE USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG 58)

I have been in contact with CDR Mike Davis, Commanding Officer of the USS Samuel B. Roberts (FFG 58). They are involved in inter deployment training and are scheduled to deploy to the Mediterranean Sea in February 2000. The FFG 58 just won the NEY award for food service excellence. They are one of two "Small Afloat Units" in the finals for the prestigious Golden Anchor, awarded for the most outstanding retention/people programs on the coast. This would be their unprecedented seventh consecutive award.

Captain Davis is most desirous of maintaining the "very healthy connection this ship and its current crew have with its history and predecessors". He wishes to reassure us that our association's namesake is carrying on in the proud tradition of the "Sammy B."

CDR CHRIS WODE WRITES

I tracked Chris Wode down with a lot of help from CDR Mike Davis. Chris is in Annapolis as Second Battalion Officer. Chris writes, "Of course, I'd love to continue hearing from you all and thanks for offering. The nearly two years that I spent aboard Sammy B. will be etched in my memory banks forever and the times that I spent with your group is a significant part of that wonderful experience. I hope, like Paul Rinn and Joe Sestak before me, that I have the opportunity to taste command at sea again. Words cannot express how fulfilling that is.

I hope all is well with you and yours. Now that we know where each other is, we can stay in touch. I hope you have the happiest of holidays. Please pass on my best to all."



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U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DD 823
U.S.S. COPELAND FFG 25
U.S.S. CARR FFG 52
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A Letter from Maggie Hayes

Dear Dick,

I am sending you a copy of the beautiful writing which the young girl, who is a member of the World War #2 Project (8th grade) at Northwest Middle School, wrote and read to those of us who attended the Veterans Day Program, November 11th.

It touched our hearts to know these young people there are interested in our Veterans who have fought and many died for our Country.

I know you will enjoy this writing and share it with the members of Sammy B. survivors and families of those who cherish the memories of loved ones whose names are etched on marble stones in many parts of the world.

Jessica graciously sent me a copy so that I could share with the Sammy B. families and many others so that the story of our brave men could continue to be told.

My love to you and yours,

Maggie Hayes, DE 413

P.S. I am much better at talking than writing.

THE MEANING AND OBSERVANCE OF VETERANS' DAY by JESSICA . NOVEMBER 11, 1998

To many Americans, Veterans' Day seems just like any other day. Adults may be upset that the mail doesn't run on this holiday or that they must choose another route for work, because the main road is closed for the annual Veterans' Day parade. Perhaps they meant to take time from their busy work days, in order to remember the young men and women who have served our country, but just never got around to it. Children may be happy about Veterans' Day, because they won't have to take out the garbage or recycling bins, since the trucks don't run on this national holiday. They could be overjoyed because of the day off from school, although some school officials are rescheduling the observance of this day to the day before or after Thanksgiving break. This, they say is more convenient to families and school-aged children. Seriously, though, who is going to remember Veterans' Day on November twenty-sixth? Many Americans forget the meaning of Veterans' Day, and look upon it as just another paid holiday from work.

Veterans' Day is so much more than this, though. It is a time to take a while and remember war veterans and is also a time to honor these brave



soldiers who put their lives on the line for the freedom we Americans treasure. Is it too much to ask for a day of remembrance in exchange for our freedom? I think not.

First of all let's think about what these brave men and women have done to deserve much honor and respect from all of us. Try to imagine the following scenario. you are an eighteen-year-old, a senior in high school, who is drafted into the military before the Vietnam War, the Persian Gulf War, or either of the World

Wars. After strenuous hours upon hours of hard training, you are shipped to a land far different from any you've ever known. You never could have imagined what war would be like. There are bullets flying all around you, men dropping to the ground, wounded and in shock to the point that they don't even realize that the blood around them is actually their own, and then coming home with nowhere near the amount of men and women you came there with. Veterans witnessed their friends and fellow soldiers surrender their lives to the swarm of bullets on those fields of battle.

According to the Home of Record information in the files of the National Archives, there were 896 casualties from South Carolina, 1582 casualties from Georgia and 1606 casualties from North Carolina, in the Vietnam War alone. These astounding statistics were compiled by Jay Ebert, United States Air Force.

Veterans went through all of this and so much more, including trying to overcome physical and mental disabilities, once they returned home. If these acts of courage and complete selflessness don't deserve our absolute respect and undying remembrance, I don't know what does. These are men and women who treasured freedom and desired peace so much that they would risk their lives to fight for and protect this country.

When America's young men and women were fighting for their country and their lives, they most definitely weren't thinking about having a day out of the year set aside for them. They were thinking and hoping that they would always be able to pledge to the American flag and not one of another country.

(Continued on page 4)



U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DE 413
U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DD 823
U.S.S. COPELAND FFG 25
U.S.S. CARR FFG 52
U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS FFG 58



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San Diego Reunion Survey Results

As of today, January 30, I have received 24 responses to the Survey. These responses give the following results.

- 20 persons will attend
- 8 persons will probably attend
- 2 persons don't think they'll attend
- 5 persons will not attend.

16 Survivors responded to date. The following have indicated that they will be in San Diego. Dudley Moylan, Tom Stevenson, Glenn Huffman, Dick Rohde, James Griggs, and Jack Yusen. Those saying that they will probably attend include Bill Katsur, Vince Goodrich, Ray Chambless and Ken Saunders. Bob Roberts and Lou Gould indicate that they don't think they will be with us and those who will not attend include George Bray (health), Mel Harden (Mel and Leona will be cruising to Bermuda), Harold McCarl and Red Harrington (health).

Other faithful attendees who will be there include Joe Fortier, Bob LeClercq, and Rita Grove. We will also have four crew members from the USS Raymond, DE 341 including Don Derwoyed.

If you have not yet sent in the survey, please do. This is the only way that we can make any advance plans and negotiate prices for hotels etc. Some of you, and I won't name any names, always come but are usually late in letting us know. Even your best guess is helpful.

Please see Page 8 for a copy of the survey

Maggie Hayes...

continued from Page 3

They were thinking of how much they would love to be home, though they were willing and determined to stay and give their all, fighting for their country. They were thinking of how they would never give up the freedom we Americans have, and how they wanted their children, their children's children and their children's grandchildren to have that same type of freedom. They were thinking about how they needed to stay alive for their husbands, wives, mothers fathers and children, who were waiting back home in America.

The least we fellow Americans can do is to take time on one day out of the year to remember the courage, bravery and loyalty these men and women showed on those battlefields. They placed themselves in an amazing amount of danger, in order to see an American flag ripple against the wind, the Statue of Liberty, still standing tall, and, most of all, to see the smiles upon the faces of their loved ones, back home.

Not only are these veterans some of the strongest, smartest, bravest, most courageous people, and the best heroes we could ever hope for, they also protected their country and our lives, while fighting on those blood and tear-stained battlefields. I couldn't have thought of a greater gift.

My hat is off to this young lady for writing this beautiful tribute. Our thanks go to Maggie Hayes, not only for making this available to us, but for spending so much time and effort and dollars with this class project in Travelers Rest, South Carolina.. You are to be commended. Please give our compliments to Miss Giles for an excellent essay. You can tell that it came from her heart. We also thank the instructor of the class. He certainly inspires those young people and there is no question that at least in one school in South Carolina, U.S.A. some young people are really on the right track. God bless them all.



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U.S.S. SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DD 823
U.S.S. COPELAND FFG 25
U.S.S. CARR FFG 52
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NEWSLETTER

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

Can You Help Solve Some of These Mysteries?

While typing up some information for the Web Site, I found some inconsistencies and wonder whether any of you can shed some light.

1. We had a shipmate who was killed in action named either Robert W. Fickett or Robert W. Pickett. He was a Seaman Second Class. Our monument in San Diego lists him as Fickett. The plaque aboard the FFG 58 lists a Robert W. Pickett. Capt. Copeland's book lists him as Pickett and the list that Whit Felt issued with Bud Comet's help in 1982 lists him as Pickett. Does anyone remember?

2. Our Monument in Fort Rosecrans National Cemetery lists John R. Zunac, Fireman First Class, a Carpenters Mate Striker. In Captain Copeland's book, he states that John Zunac was sent home for a dependency discharge the day after we arrived at Pearl Harbor since one of his brothers was killed in action in the invasion of Southern France and another was seriously injured in an elevator

accident. The parents were elderly and dependent on the boys for support. (Ch. 3, pp 21,22)

3. The Monument Lists Frank M. Zaleski, a Seaman Second Class. His name does not appear in Capt. Copeland's book nor is it on the Whit Felt list. He is not on the plaque aboard the FFG 58.

4. Chester F. Zaborski, Seaman Second Class is listed in Capt. Copeland's book as member of the crew. His name is on the Bronze Plaque on the FFG 58 however he is not on the Whit Felt List of 1982.

5. For some unknown reason, Bill Wilson's name was left off the Plaque on the FFG 58.

6. There are many misspellings in the plaque, some are as follows:
Barlett for Bartlett
Brodsey for Brodkey
Bruan for Braun
Chamberless for Chambless
Cobe for Cole
Comway for Conway
Decuerllis for Decubellis
Faeye for Freye
Gallenini for Gallerini
Hagg for Haag
Kupidklowsky for
Kupidlowsky
Wetheraid for Wetherald

There may well be others but I could spot these by looking at Bill Katsur's video. (Thanks Bill)

The plaque was probably donated to the ship by the first Captain, although I am guessing. I also feel that much of the information came from the Copeland book. It is probably much too late to do anything about the errors, but that is just my thought.

If any of you have any information that can clear up some of the questions, it would be good to get them on record for future generations. This is another area where the Website for the DE 413 will be important. Please let me know your thoughts and I'll pass them on to the Board of Directors.

Also, if any of you have been checking the video for names on the plaque, there is a problem which came to light. One of the rows of 28 names, from Lecci to Mort, was inadvertently left off the video. This could easily have happened when Bill & Dorothy were taking the film. Someone must have walked in front of the camera, andoops.



1999 USS SAMUEL B ROBERTS
SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION REUNION SURVEY

President Jack Yusem has asked me to include a survey so that he will be better able to plan our 1999 Reunion. As indicated on Page 2, San Diego, California was selected by the majority of those who responded to the survey.

The tentative dates of Saturday, October 2nd to Wednesday, October 6th, 1999 have been selected. Bearing that in mind, please complete the following. We would appreciate responses from survivors and associate members. All of you are important to our reunions.

1. On the date listed above:
 - a. I would definitely attend. ☐
 - b. I will probably attend. ☐
 - c. I don't think I'll attend. ☐
 - d. I will not be able to attend. ☐

2. There would probably be _____ of us.

NAME: _____

COMMENT: _____

Please return to Dick Rohde, 9045 SW 91st Circle, Ocala, FL 34481 just as soon as you can.

If you have any change of address or telephone number, please let me know.
E-mail addresses would be appreciated.

[first page](#)

[previous page](#)

[next page](#)

[last page](#)