

# USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413 Newsletter

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 1  
JANUARY, 2013

Dedicated in Memory of Shipmates Whit Felt and Dick Rohde

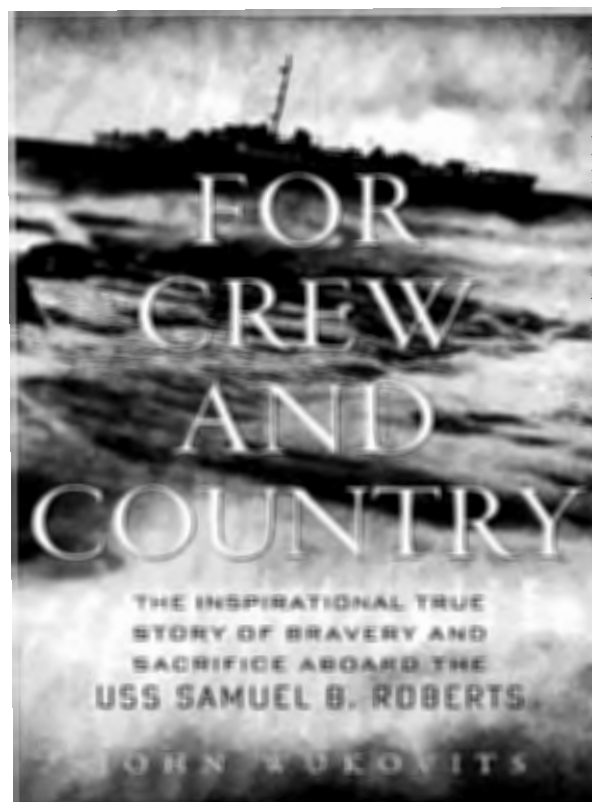
## For Crew and Country.....

The long awaited date has finally arrived. John Wukovits' book **For Crew and Country: The Inspirational True Story of Bravery and Sacrifice Aboard the USS Samuel B. Roberts** will hit store shelves on January 29th. You will not be disappointed as some have said this is John's best book yet. This story has been in the works since John started gathering information about 15 years ago.

If you would like to purchase an inscribed copy for \$30 (\$26.99 for the book plus shipping), you can provide John with the address to which you would like the book sent and the person to whom you want it inscribed via email at [johnwukovits@comcast.net](mailto:johnwukovits@comcast.net) or

regular mail at 1235 Harbour Drive #22, Trenton, Michigan 48183. A check made out to John Wukovits for each copy can be sent to his mailing address. It can also be purchased at Costco, Barnes and Noble (where it will be on the New Arrivals table for the first two weeks in February), Amazon and other bookstores and online retailers.

In John's words "the book relates the amazing tale of a destroyer escort whose crew faced near death against Japanese battleships and cruisers to come to the rescue of General MacArthur's forces in the Phillipines. Told through the experiences of the crew, many who



perished during the battle or to sharks afterward, the book shows rather than being superhuman, heroes are ordinary young men performing extraordinary feats.

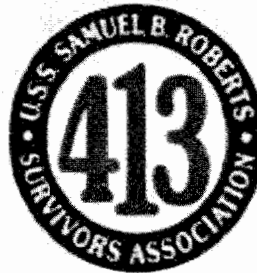
Homer Hickam, who wrote Rocket Boys (called October Sky on the big screen) wrote of this book, 'After I finished reading it, I wanted to stand up and cheer' the story of this 'David versus many Goliaths' and historian Richard Frank called it an 'outstanding account' worthy to be placed alongside James Hornfischer's Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors."

Refer to John's website [www.johnwukovits.com](http://www.johnwukovits.com) for dates and times of appearances and book signing events.

John has informed us that he will be at the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas on April 6, 2013 for an appearance and book signing. As many of you know, the museum has hosted numerous events relating to the DE413. General Mike Hagee and crew have been very kind to the Samuel B. Roberts family over the years and will certainly be gracious hosts for this event. For more information you can access their website at [pacificwarmuseum.org](http://pacificwarmuseum.org) or call (830) 997-8600.

**With sympathy.....**

We extend heartfelt sympathy to the family of **Helen Rohde** (widow of Dick Rohde, DE413 Survivor and former Newsletter Editor). Helen passed away on August 12, 2012. She had been living near her son Cliff and family in Albany, NY. Her ashes were interred beside those of her husband at Florida National Cemetery in Bushnell, FL.



**Roll Call**

To the best of our knowledge, the following is a list of the living survivors of the USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413. If we have made any errors or omissions, please let us know.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

**Treasury Report January 2013**

Starting Balance 5-30-12	\$1,704.80	
Dues Received and Deposited	<u>830.00</u>	(Thank You!)
Total	\$2,534.80	
Expenses (Newsletter Printing May, 2012)	<u>(-164.53)</u>	
Balance 1-22-2013	<b>\$2,370.27</b>	

**A note of thanks.....**

To the kind staff at the Northwest Savings Bank of Warren , PA especially Anne Reid who waived the charges for our most recent check order.

### “Three Hots and a Cot”

Just after the last newsletter was sent out in May of 2012, we received a note from Leona Harden and daughter Karen McGowan along with a check for \$500 in memory of their late husband and father Survivor Robert “Mel” Harden S2/c. We immediately called to thank Leona for her most generous gift and she replied that it was Mel’s wish.

Mel and Leona have been involved in the Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association since its inception as Mel served as director and treasurer for many years. On a personal note, we became involved in the Association in the late 1990’s and will always remember Mel and Leona making us feel so very welcome and a part of the Samuel B. Roberts family from the time of our first reunion. So thank you Leona and Karen for your most generous gift.

Leona also told a story regarding Mel that we would like to share. As a seventeen year old young man, Mel thought he should enlist in the Navy as “the war may be over sooner than later”. However, not being eighteen years of age, young Mel needed a parent’s permission which Mel’s mother refused. Not wanting to wait, Mel

wrote to his four brothers who were serving in the Army at that time and asked them to write to their mother and try to convince her to let Mel join the Navy. (Yes, Mel had four brothers who served their country in World War II). After one of Mel’s brothers wrote their mother that Mel would be safe in the Navy as he would have “three hots and a cot” every day. Mel’s mother then relented and gave her “OK” for Mel to enlist. (We all know the “rest of the story”!)

After the war when all the family finally got together, one of Mel’s brothers (who was serving in the vicinity of Leyte Gulf at the time of the battle) upon hearing of Mel’s ordeal said “If I had known my little brother was out there in the water for 50 hours, I’d have gone looking for him myself!”

What a great story. Thank you again, Leona.

\*\*If anyone has a story they would like to share please let us know as we would be happy to put it in the Newsletter.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Tune in.....

Starting January 29, 2013 and continuing every Tuesday at 10 pm EST, the Military Channel will show an episode of their series Ultimate Warfare. According to their schedule, on February 12, 2013, Leyte Gulf: Courage at Sea will air. Survivors of the USS Samuel B. Roberts Bud Comet and Jack Yusen were both interviewed at length for the program. You may want to check local listings for verification of date and time. We look forward to seeing Bud and Jack.

### Decommissioning of the USS Carr

The decommissioning of the USS Carr is still scheduled for March 15, 2013 in Norfolk VA. Representatives of the Carr family will be attending the ceremony.

Meanwhile, back in Checotah, OK (hometown of Paul Henry Carr) the Carr family is busy renovating the Katy Depot Museum dedicated to their uncle and brother. We have had some conversations about a possible event at the museum later in the year.

S SUBURBAN IL 604

25 JAN 2013 FN 5 L



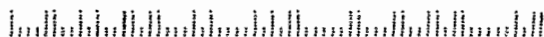
USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413  
Survivors Association  
Newsletter 22.1  
John T. & Susan M. Walsh, Editors  
24945 Marian Avenue  
Elwood, IL 60421

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Phone: 815-478-5444  
Email: [suzieq3657@yahoo.com](mailto:suzieq3657@yahoo.com)  
[jtwalsh4552@yahoo.com](mailto:jtwalsh4552@yahoo.com)

12309251130



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!

