

USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413 Newsletter

VOLUME 24 ISSUE 1
MARCH, 2015

Dedicated in Memory of Shipmates Whit Felt and Dick Rohde

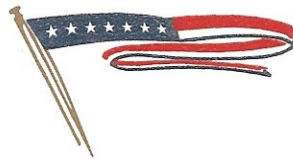
FFG 58 Decommissioning in May 2015

We knew this day was coming and sadly it is right around the corner. The USS Samuel B. Roberts FFG58 is scheduled to be decommissioned on May 22, 2015. All members of the DE 413 Survivors' Association are welcome and encouraged to attend the ceremony. The crew of the FFG58 would especially love to see our survivors. The ship is stationed in Mayport, FL with the nearest airport being Jacksonville, FL.

Rooms are available at the Crowne Plaza in Jacksonville. The phone # is 888-233-9527. Mention USS Samuel B. Roberts FFG58 for reduced rates.



If you plan to attend, please RSVP to Ensign Evan Albright via e-mail at: ealbright@ffg58.navy.mil by April 25th.



*The Captain, Officers, and Crew of
UNITED STATES SHIP SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG 58)
request the honor of your presence
on the occasion of the decommissioning of
USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (FFG 58)
Commander Erica L. Hoffmann, United States Navy
will haul down the Colors on
Friday, the twenty second day of May, 2015
at nine thirty in the morning
at Naval Station Mayport, Florida*

*R.S.V.P.
is requested by 25 April 2015
rsvp@ffg58.navy.mil*

*Participants Uniform: Service Dress Whites
Guest Uniform: Summer Whites
Civilian: Appropriate Business Attire*

With sympathy.....

Two of our DE 413 family members passed away recently. With great sadness we report the deaths of: **Billie LeClercq**, wife of Bob LeClercq (brother of shipmate John LeClercq who perished with the ship)

Billie passed away on October 25, 2014, coincidentally the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the DE413. Billie was present along with Bob at nearly every reunion and was such a beautiful lady inside and out.

Evelyn Lucille Seifert, one of the eight sisters of Paul Henry Carr (who also perished with the ship) passed away on December 27, 2014. "Lucille" was also present at many reunions leaving many memories of fun and laughter for those who were fortunate enough to meet her.

Our sympathy goes out to both of the families of these wonderful ladies.

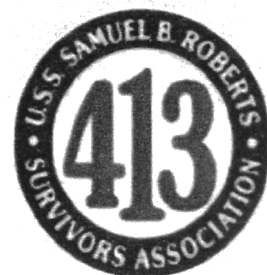
Roll Call

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.

James F. "Bud" Comet	James E. Myers
Herbert E. Eskins	Albert Rosner
E. Glenn Huffman	Jack Yusen
Adred C. Lenoir	

Treasury Report March 1, 2015

Starting Balance 4-15-2014	\$2,661.37
Dues, Donations Received and Deposited	<u>427.79</u>
Total	\$3,089.16
Expenses: Newsletter Printing April 2014	(163.42)
Postage, binders	(241.40)
Paul Carr Museum Donation	<u>(100.00)</u>
Total Expenses	(504.82)
Balance 3-1 2015	\$2,584.34



We received a check for \$57.79 from Marlene Hughes of the USS Gambier Bay V.C. 10 Association from the proceeds of the recent Taffy III reunion in San Diego. Their association decided to discontinue following the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Leyte gulf. Thank you, Marlene.

The following letter is reprinted from the "Sammy B. Scuttlebutt" Newsletter of the USS Samuel B. Roberts DD823

"A Surprise Visit"

I served aboard the Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823) as the CIC officer from June 1966 through June 1968. An incident took place on the ship during the late summer of 1967. It was a Saturday morning in Newport, RI while I had the week-end duty aboard the ship as the Command Duty Officer. I was a LTJG at the time.

On weekends in homeport, the CDO's job is usually pretty laid back. On this particular weekend, the CO, XO and married department heads were enjoying their weekend at home with their families as usual. The majority of the junior officers and enlisted crew were also on the beach. There was only a skeleton crew on board. It was mid-morning and I was lounging in the wardroom reading the morning newspaper dressed only in khaki pants and a t-shirt. The last thing I expected to hear was the quartermaster of the watch making an announcement over the 12-MC from the quarterdeck, when I heard the distinctive sound of the 1-MC click on through the speaker in the ward room, my ears perked up. The next sound I heard was a loud bong thought the speaker followed by three more bongs. Of course I immediately concluded the CO was coming on board and here I was out of uniform. But it got worse...much worse. The bonging didn't stop at four. It continued until there were six bongs on all. Then I heard the quarter master of the watch announce, "Admiral, United States Navy, arriving." I stood up in total shock, An Admiral would never come to a little Destroyer unannounced on a Saturday morning when the senior officer on board to greet him was a LTJG in his t-shirt, or so I thought!

Before I could move, there was a loud knock on the wardroom door. The door was immediately opened by the messenger of the watch. He held the door open and an elderly (probably mid-50's) gray haired gentleman in civilian clothes entered and smiled at me. "I didn't mean to surprise you, son. They insisted on bonging me aboard. I'm actually a retired Rear Admiral. The name's Copeland. I was in the neighborhood and just wanted to see the namesake of my Destroyer Escort that was sunk during the battle off Samar during the war." I was absolutely stunned to be meeting, in person, the legendary CO of the DE-413, the original Samuel B. Roberts. Every sailor aboard the ship knew that the second Navy Cross on the ship's crest was awarded to Captain Robert Copeland. And here I was completely out of uniform. He actually proceeded to apologize for interrupting our ship's usual leisurely Saturday routine in homeport.

All I could think to do was offer him a cup of coffee which he accepted. I then asked if he would mind if I tried to contact my commanding officer, executive officer and anyone else I could think of who would want to meet him. He readily agreed and within 30 minutes the ward room was overflowing with crewmembers. He was given the grand tour of the ship. He then spent two or more hours in the wardroom describing in detail the events in 1944 when the "small boys" in Taffy 3 helped save the American invasion force on Leyte from being cut off by the main Japanese battle force. We all sat enthralled as he recounted the battle and specifically the role of the Samuel B. Roberts (DE413).

I was honored to have been the junior officer that welcomed Admiral Copeland on board that day in 1967 to the namesake of the little destroyer escort with the heart of a battle ship. And, yes, I did even manage to get into uniform before my skipper arrived on board. Admiral Copeland had my back and never let the cat out of the bag. It was a day I will never forget.

Dan Sarno, LTJG

CIC Officer June 1966-June 1968

Samuel B. Roberts (DD823)

New Book by John Wukovits

Be on the lookout for a new offering from one of our favorite authors. **Hell From The Heavens: The Epic Story of the USS Laffey and World War II's Greatest Kamikaze Attack** by John Wukovits will be released sometime in the spring of this year. According to John's website, this book tells the incredible story of the USS Laffey (DD-724), a destroyer whose crew survived 22 kamikaze attacks in 80 minutes in April 1945 off Okinawa.

USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413
Survivors Association
Newsletter 24.1
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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!

