

# USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413 Newsletter

VOLUME 26 ISSUE 1  
JANUARY, 2017

Dedicated in Memory of Shipmates Whit Felt and Dick Rohde

## USS Copeland Reunion

USS Copeland FFG -25 was one of the namesake ships associated with the USS Samuel B. Roberts DE-413. Named after Rear Admiral Robert W. Copeland, she was commissioned on Aug. 7, 1982 and decommissioned on Sept. 18, 1996.

“Gone but not forgotten” as stated on the patch pictured here is an appropriate statement considering that the crew of the Copeland held their second reunion last summer.

We received word of the reunion from Copeland’s former Captain **Chip Seymour**. Chip attended some of our DE-413 reunions and wanted our Survivors to know that they were remembered at the Copeland reunion.

Chip writes: “The wonderful COPELAND crew celebrated its 2nd Reunion in St. Louis, Missouri 23-27 June, 2016. About 30 shipmates and relatives attended what was, once again, a memorable time reminiscing about our time together on one remarkable FFG some 35 (!) years ago. We even had our own Catholic Padre, Father Rich Burton, the Commissioning Communications Officer, say Mass and lead us in

prayer at key events. **We remembered and toasted the truly heroic crew of SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DE-413). They will never be forgotten.”**

Thank you, Chip, for remembering our crew at your reunion.



## Taps

With heavy hearts, we inform you of the passing of our beloved shipmate, **Jack Yusen**, on October 10, 2016. Jack was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth, and is survived by his brother Jerry (Barbara) of Lincolnwood, IL and his three sons Jeff (Natalie), Steve, and Ed (Kara), and six grandchildren.

Along with many others, Jack and Ruth were part of the driving force behind the organization of the DE 413 Survivors.

### 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**

**Herbert E. Eskins**

**E. Glenn Huffman**

**Adred C. Lenoir**

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### **Treasury Report January 10, 2017**

Starting Balance	\$2,489.23
Dues, Donations Received and Deposited	<u>225.00</u>
Total	\$2,714.23
Expenses: Newsletter Printing June, 2016	<u>( 251.24)</u>
Including Postage	
Flowers (J. Yusen)	(127.91)
Total Expenses	( 379.15)
<b>Balance</b>	<b>\$2,335.08</b>

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### **With Sympathy.....**

Our sympathy goes out to the Carr/Dodd family for the loss of **Peggy Joyce Carr Dodd** who died on July 19, 2016. Peggy was preceded in death by a daughter Judy. She is survived by her husband Rev. Harry Dodd and daughters Nancy (Stephen) Milam and Becky (Robert) Carpenter, and numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

Peggy, the "penultimate Carr sister" per her nephew Mike Rush, was present at many reunions with her husband Reverend Harry Dodd..

Of the eight sisters of Paul Henry Carr (KIA10-25-44) only Juanita Carr Rush is still living.



## USS SLATER HONORS DE DAY



On DE Day, local dignitaries (from left to right: Bill Scharoun, Paul Tonko, Kathy Jimino, Kathy Sheehan, Pat Fahy, BJ Costello and Dan McCoy) assemble and Marianne Donovan remembers USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS.

The **Destroyer Escort Historical Museum** featuring the **USS Slater DE-766** in Albany, NY has long been a favorite of our organization. We even held a reunion in Albany with a memorial service aboard the Slater back in 2003. Timothy Rizzuto, Executive Director, sends out a monthly newsletter that is both entertaining and informative. The July, 2016 edition featured the above photo and the following article:

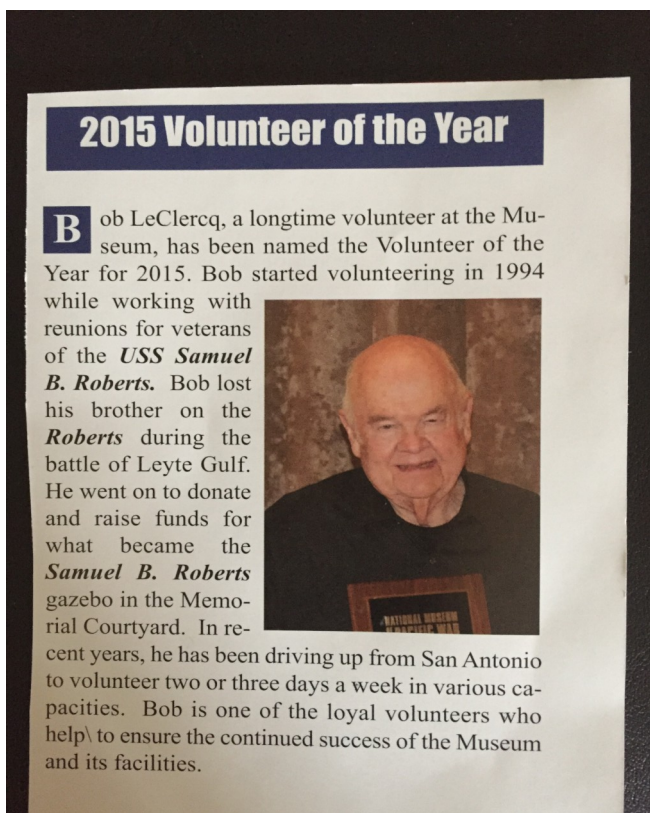
**The third Saturday in June is traditionally recognized as DE-day**, the day DE veterans set aside to honor their lost shipmates. Ten destroyer escorts were lost while in US service in world War II, and another five were damaged beyond economical repair. Over 1,300 US Navy and Coast Guardsmen gave their lives on these small ships. On 18 June we honored their memory. We had a wonderful turn out of civic officials, including Congressman Paul Tonko, Rensselaer County Executive Kathy Jimino, Albany Mayor Kathy Sheehan, Assemblymember Pat Fahy, and Albany County Executive Dan McCoy. Host and emcee was DEHM chairman BJ Costello. Board president Tony Esposito served as chaplain and WWII vet Bill Scharoun (Gunner's Mate, USS OSMUS DE-701) read the names of the destroyer escorts lost in action. Flowers were laid by WWII sonarman Lawrence "Rocky" Rockwood (USS COONER DE-172) and **Marianne Donovan**. The most touching moment was when Marianne dropped the carnation for **USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS DE-413**, sunk in the Battle of Samar. Her father was lost on that ship, and she never knew him. Steve Stella was on hand to play taps in what turned out to be a very moving ceremony. (article quoted directly from "Slater Signals" Vol 19 No 6, June, 2016)

For information on the **USS Slater**, to make a donation, or to receive their Newsletter, go to their website at [usslater.org](http://usslater.org)

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**Bronze Plaque and FFG-58: Paul Rinn** promises to keep us informed and told us that currently the bronze plaque with the names of all who served on the DE-413 resides at the Navy Historical Center in the Washington, D.C. Naval Yard and they are discussing where to properly display it in the Museum. The FFG-58 is being worked on to create a museum ship/display but needs a home and an organization to take her over.

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**Custom Embroidered ball caps and custom t-shirts for any U.S. Navy ship that ever sailed are available from Ship's Hatch in Arlington, VA [www.shipshatch.com](http://www.shipshatch.com) or phone 703-413-6289**

## Bob LeClercq Volunteer of the Year 2015



**2015 Volunteer of the Year**

**B**ob LeClercq, a longtime volunteer at the Museum, has been named the Volunteer of the Year for 2015. Bob started volunteering in 1994 while working with reunions for veterans of the *USS Samuel B. Roberts*. Bob lost his brother on the *Roberts* during the battle of Leyte Gulf. He went on to donate and raise funds for what became the *Samuel B. Roberts* gazebo in the Memorial Courtyard. In recent years, he has been driving up from San Antonio to volunteer two or three days a week in various capacities. Bob is one of the loyal volunteers who help to ensure the continued success of the Museum and its facilities.

The article pictured here was featured in the **Nimitz News Dispatch** (Newsletter of the Admiral Nimitz Foundation and National Museum of the Pacific War). Our own **Bob LeClercq** was honored as Volunteer of the Year for 2015.

Bob has devoted himself not only to the museum but also to WWII veterans as a whole, especially those of the **USS Samuel B. Roberts**.

Congratulations, Bob, we are so proud of you.

On another note, regarding the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, TX.....on November 11, 2016, **Jim Hornfischer** presided over a book signing event for his newest offering **The Fleet at Flood Tide**, an amazing account of the Pacific War during 1944 and 1945. Since the event occurred on Veterans Day, Jim's final comments were most appropriate: "Some time in the 2030's, according to statistics kept by the VA, the World War II generation will be gone. The finite records they left to the libraries, museums and archives will be but a pale semblance of their living energies. So today, we thank them, and all the generations that followed in uniform. We thank them for their service. On this day among all days, thank you."



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We were unable to attend Jim's book signing on Veterans Day, but some of our good friends happened to be in Austin visiting their granddaughter and decided to go down to Fredericksburg to see the museum. Mike and Tina O'Connell not only stopped in for the book signing but also met Bob LeClercq. Mike is pictured with Bob. Mike's better half (Tina) is behind the camera.

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**Speaking of books....**We received this e-mail via the website:

"Hi my name is Susan Weaver and my dad was Patrick J. Moriarty who served on the Samuel B. Roberts. I just purchased **For Crew and Country** (by **John Wukovits**) and will pass it among my grandchildren to read. Very accurate book, I know because my dad told me war stories."

**Another e-mail** via the website from Amy Rozzelle: "I never knew anything about my grandfather, my grandmother remarried shortly after he was lost at sea and it was and still is taboo to speak or ask about him. I STRONGLY believe picture 216 (from website) is my grandfather. ( John Troy Rozzelle, KIA 10-25-44) That picture looks just like my son and my father too. Is there a chance anyone is still alive that may have known my grandfather??? Or any way I can get more information about him?? My personal email is amy32571@yahoo.com"

**Keep the stories alive! Join the Genealogical Society Sons& Daughters of WWII Veterans**  
**For information VISIT [www.sons&daughtersofww2veterans.org](http://www.sons&daughtersofww2veterans.org)**

## A Picture is Worth A Thousand Words

Editors Note: Seeing the picture of **Marianne Cummings Donovan** at the service on the USS Slater reminded me of a story. Sue and I met Marianne and her husband, Joe, at the reunion in Fredericksburg, TX in December of 2009. Marianne told us she had not known her father, Robert Cummings EM3/c, as he was KIA on the 25th of October, 1944. Marianne mentioned she had a picture of her father with four other shipmates taken in Honolulu just prior to his death. She didn't know the other four sailors. In the picture, she said how four of the shipmates had nice smiles while her father had somewhat of a silly grin. It immediately reminded me of a picture Dick Rohde had sent me of my father, Robert Walsh FC/3, with four other shipmates, one with somewhat of a silly grin. When Marianne showed us the picture, it was indeed the same one Dick had sent me previously. When I pointed out that one of the shipmates was my father, we were both a little taken back that 65 years later, the children of those sailors would meet at a reunion held to honor the memory of their fathers and all of the crew members of the **USS Samuel B. Roberts DE-413**.

Pictured here: (Sept. 1944 Honolulu, HI)

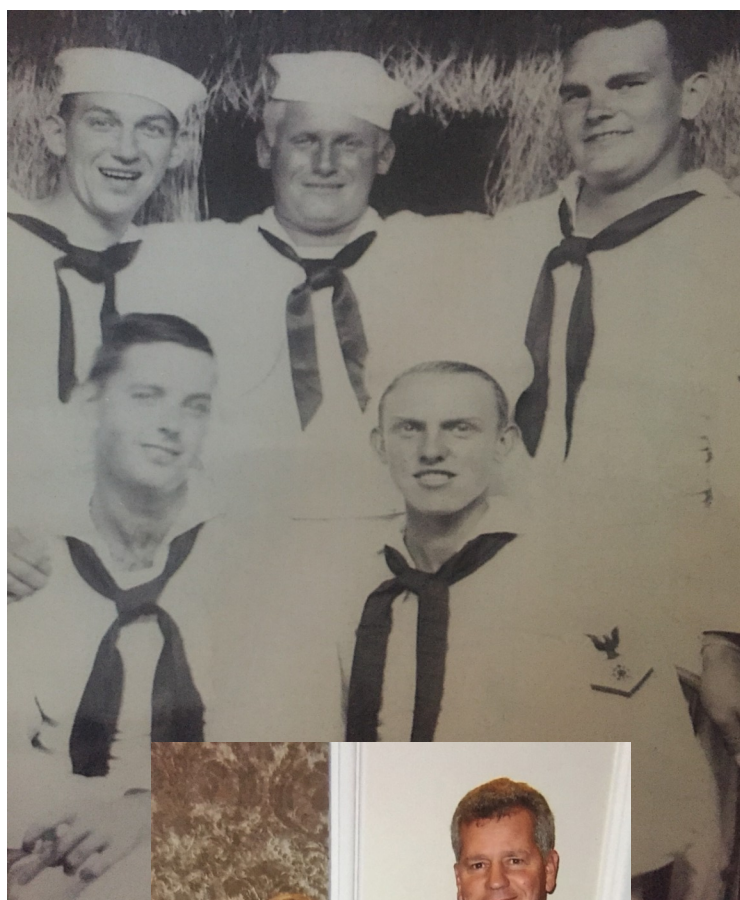
Back row left to right:

Robert P. Cummings, Thomas Mazura,  
Robert L. Walsh

Front row left to right:

Charles H. Cronin, Jr., Elbert Gentry

(Cummings and Mazura were both KIA  
10-25-44)



Pictured here: (Dec. 2009 Fredericksburg, TX)

Marianne Cummings Donovan, daughter of Robert P.  
Cummings and John Walsh, son of Robert L. Walsh



USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413  
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**Website: Don't forget to visit our website : [de413.org](http://de413.org)**

**Annual dues are \$10.00 per year payable to : Samuel B. Roberts Survivors Association**

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