

USS Samuel B. Roberts DE 413 Newsletter

Volume 27 Issue 1
July, 2018

Dedicated in Memory of Shipmates Whit Felt and Dick Rohde

FFG-58 30th Reunion

Tom “Gunner” Reinert from the FFG-58 was kind enough to give us a re-cap of their reunion which was held in April of this year in Washington DC. His report follows:

Our 30th reunion since we hit a mine in the Persian Gulf was held at the Crowne Plaza National Airport. Plank owners and those who were on the Sammy B when she hit a mine back in April 1988 began arriving on April 12th. On Friday, we had a reception in the Arlington ballroom. Seeing old shipmates again is very special. We heard a lot of sea stories and there was a lot of catching up of old friends in the lounge.

Saturday morning we met in the lobby for a tour of Washington DC. Our first stop was the **National Museum of the United States Navy**. If you have not been there it was great. They had a display on all three of the Samuel B. Roberts and the plaque from our ship with the names who were on DE-413 when she sank. They had just restored the plaque and you were not allowed to touch it without white gloves on. We departed there and went to Arlington National Cemetery. While there we visited the graves of two of our shipmates, Doc and YN1 Hass. Captain Rinn led us in a prayer for the shipmates. We then went to see the changing of the guard. When we left the cemetery we spent the remainder of our tour seeing DC.

Saturday night we had our dinner in the Arlington ballroom. Chaplain Dupree gave our opening prayer. Keith Harman, the National Commander of the VFW was our guest speaker. There were several great door prizes and an auction for pieces of the Sammy B. Each crew member present also received a piece of the Sammy B's deck that had been donated to us. It was a late night for most of our shipmates knowing some would be leaving in the morning.

The weather Sunday morning had us cancel our golf trip. Sunday night we had a moonlight tour of Washington DC. The weather did not want to be our friend but I think all who made the tour had a good time. Our guide from Old Town Trolley Tours was Mr. History (a Navy vet) and he was fantastic.

Thank you, Tom, for letting us know about your reunion and especially for giving us the status of our most important plaque!



Taps.....

With great sadness we mourn the loss of:

E. Glenn Huffman of Tulsa, OK. Glenn was one of the last survivors to be “found” by the survivors organization quite by chance when he was visiting the Nimitz Museum. Glenn quickly became a great supporter of this organization and continued to do so until his passing. He was very proud of the fact that the keel for the DE-413 was laid on his birthday, December 6th.

Glenn was preceded in death by his first wife, Delores. He is survived by his wife JoAnn Kilpatrick and his son Mike of Wisconsin. JoAnn’s two daughters and granddaughters also survive.

Roll Call

Our last living survivor:

Adred C. Lenoir age 94, of Clanton, AL

Treasury Report

Starting Balance	\$2,127.29
Dues, Donations Received and Deposited	<u>150.00</u>
Total	\$2,277.29

Expenses: Newsletter Printing Jan 2018	(93.11)
Postage	(98.00)
Flowers, Glenn Huffman	<u>(224.95)</u>
Total Expenses	(416.06)

Balance	\$1,861.23
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Thank you note from **JoAnn Kilpatrick Huffman**:

To the USS Samuel B Roberts DE 413 Survivors Organization:

It is with grateful hearts that the families of Ernest Glenn Huffman thank you for the beautiful floral tribute you sent for his memorial service. He was so proud to have served his country in the U.S. Navy and during the past years he so enjoyed the survivors reunions. Those friendships were very special to him and me as well.

Most Sincerely,

JoAnn Kilpatrick and Mike Huffman

Taffy III Reunion Plans for October of 2018

If you have any questions regarding the reunion hosted by the USS Gambier Bay and USS Kitkun Bay to be held in San Antonio, TX **October 18-22nd 2018** please contact:

Marlene Hughes, Reunion Coordinator E-mail address mahhome@cox.net

In addition, there are plans underway for a final reunion in 2019 in San Diego to observe the 75th anniversary of the Battle of Leyte Gulf. This reunion will include all of the ships of Taffy III.

Exciting News From John Wukovits

One of John's recent books **Hell From the Heavens: The Epic Story of the USS Laffey and World War II's Greatest Kamikaze Attack** appears likely to be coming out in a movie (which will be titled "Destroyer") in the near future. According to John, the movie has been in the works for about two years and Mel Gibson has signed on to direct. It is not yet 100% certain as the producers need to finalize financing with a major studio. The screenwriter is Rose (Mel Gibson's girlfriend and mother of his 1 year old son) who kept in constant contact with John as she wrote the script asking many questions about naval customs, etc. John was impressed with her dedication to "getting it right".

In our most recent correspondence with John, he said that Gibson has been scouting locations in Australia and Mark Wahlberg has signed on to play the lead.

John's next book will be released in August : **Soldiers of a Different Cloth: Notre Dame Chaplains in World War II.** He is also working on another book (John do you ever rest??!!) which is about the last four men to die in the war who were aviators that took off from the carrier **Yorktown**.

Congratulations, John, on your movie deal and on your continued success as an author!

Thank you to Allicia Bray Briant Davis (daughter of shipmate **George Bray**) for sending us old newsletters and correspondence from her dad's archives. We will try to make these available on the website in the near future.



We had a family wedding in Austin, TX in January and couldn't pass up the opportunity to swing down to Fredericksburg to visit the Nimitz Museum and say hello to our friends Bob LeClerc and Marty Kaderli. Our daughter Katie and son Patrick went along to see for themselves a place that is very near and dear to us.

Pictured above at the SBR Pavilion:

Katie (Walsh) Hunt and Patrick Walsh



Pictured above:

Marty Kaderli, Katie (Walsh) Hunt, Sue Walsh, John Walsh
Patrick Walsh and Bob LeClerc

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Late Breaking News:

We have been informed by members of the Carr family that **Paul Carr** will be inducted into the **Oklahoma Military Hall of Fame** in November. What a great honor this is for the Carr family and for our fellow shipmate who gave his life for our country on October 25, 1944.

Additional information may be obtained at <http://www.okmhf.org/>

