

EAMON T. FENNESSY

11 Paine Avenue
Prides Crossing, MA 01965

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Frank:

A few thoughts about Jim McGill and his premature death.

Jim McGill came aboard the Roberts right after graduating from the Academy in 1954. He came aboard a few months after I graduated from OCS (along with Dave Seaver) in March of that same year. We started a great friendship and since I lived in Boston at the time and our homeport was Newport, Jim was introduced to my family early on.

Our tours aboard the Roberts included GTMO, the Charlestown Naval Shipyard (for two separate overhauls) and several cruises topped off by our Korean World Cruise of 1954 and 1955. As junior officers we rotated through multiple departments but Jim was assigned mainly to Gunnery while I served in Operations, CIC, and Sonar.

Throughout these few years the wardroom got to know each other extremely well and up until his death, Jim was a very close, "brother-in-law." The Navy could not have produced a finer officer, either aboard ship professionally, or as a decent human being in his private life. He became my brother-in-law when he married my sister Kathleen three months after I got married in 1956.

Over the years Jim and Kathleen have attended each of the Roberts' Wardroom reunions except for this year when his health wouldn't allow it. Our families have been very close over the years and we all have been the better for it.

We will miss Jim but will stay in touch with his widow, Kathleen, for the extended future. Our fellow Roberts' group, Dave Seaver, Dick Brush, the late Captain Dick White and Polly White, Jim Leslie, Karl Heinze, Bob Bader, Stan Skorupski, Duane Barnhart, Paul Chapman, Charlie Spies, Jim Strain, Jerry Freed, Elias Perez and Tony Scalese, Etc have stayed in touch even though our ranks are becoming slimmer as the years go by. Jim McGill will not be forgotten and I know he appreciated each of the crew of the Roberts until his last days.

Eamon T. Fennessy (CDR Ret)

