

# ***SCUTTLEBUTT***



**A quarterly publication of the USS Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823)**

**Shipmates Association**

**Volume 16, Number 3**

**September 2017**

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Hopefully, everyone has enjoyed a fantastic summer and each of you avidly awaits the arrival of a colorful autumn. With the change of seasons will come our long-anticipated Newport, RI Reunion. At the request of several members, I am repeating some of the reunion details. Our regular columns are inside as well as a tribute to Captain Ray Ward. This is the last issue of the Scuttlebutt prior to the reunion. I would like to encourage everyone to consider attending and to send in your reservations. This will be fun!

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**Please add the following shipmates  
to the Honor Roll:**

**Captain Ray Ward 1960-1962**

# From the President's Desk

This will be brief. As I write, we have about 60 days until our 12<sup>th</sup> reunion and for the second time it will be held in our only home port, Newport, Rhode Island.

Since I last penned my comments for the Scuttlebutt, we have a new ship, USS Gerald R. Ford (CVN-78), commissioned by President Trump on July 22. We have a new movie, Dunkirk, the retelling of that important week early in World War II. We will have a spectacular solar eclipse on August 21<sup>st</sup> as the moon's shadow races across the nation. I hope some of you will be able to see it.

But now, on to the reunion. Hope to see you there, shipmates!



## Onion Peelings

Happy summer shipmates. First, I want to thank Jim Norton for continuing the Scuttlebutt tradition of excellence. Well done Jim! I look forward to receiving every issue.

We are counting down till our next reunion which will be held in Newport, RI. It was the site of my first reunion and I haven't miss one since. This one is special. Don't forget your auction items. The auction is great fun. Hopefully, Tony Sardinelli will be there with his great models.

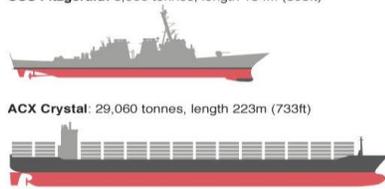
There is a Facebook page, Gearing Class Destroyer, that is very interesting and fun to look at. We all know the Sammy B was a Gearing Class and the site contains many pictures and comments from the members. It is worth a look. There have been many articles and much speculation regarding the recent USS Fitzgerald tragedy. The site contains some very interesting observations regarding the accident. Many pictures of the ship and the dry dock.

Smooth sailings! Stay cool and dry until I see you in Newport.

*Mike Cipolla*



How the ships compare  
USS Fitzgerald: 8,900 tonnes, length 154m (505ft)



Source: Marine Traffic, US Navy



**USS Fitzgerald (DDG-62)**

# On the Scope

By now, anyone who does me the honor of reading my “On the Scope” column knows my feelings about wearing my Samuel B Roberts baseball cap. I do not want to dwell on that theme all the time but recently an incident occurred that once again illustrates responses that sporting my hat can elicit. This event however was a little disheartening.

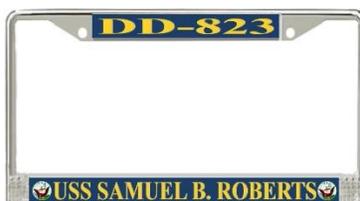
One day, not long ago, while doing some shopping and checking out at my local market, a fella tapped me on the shoulder and stated “Hey, I was on that ship.” I got all excited for as often as people have stopped to talk about the Navy or the ship, I have never had someone tell me they actually heard of the Roberts. Now I was face to face with someone else who, like me, had served aboard her. We immediately began talking and naturally I asked what years he was aboard. His reply was 1971 and our conversation proceeded from there. Unfortunately, this conversation did not go the way I was thinking it would go. His first comment was what a “scuzz bucket” the ship was. From there his comments got more and more derogatory. He didn’t have a single good word for the Sammy B. Every time I tried to say something, his reply was “not when I was on.” He talked about everything and anything that was wrong with the ship and how happy he was when he finally got off her. I came to find out he was part of the skeleton crew that sailed her to Philly to be mothballed. I tried to get him to join our association but he didn’t want any part of it. Eventually our conversation ended and we went our separate ways.

I began to think that for all the good she did during her serviceable years that she should be remembered so negatively by those who sailed her last. If only they had known her history and experienced her when she was alive, doing what she was meant to do, and with the finest of crews, year after year. She was a great gal and deserves better memories. But she has survived in our recollections and is remembered by you, me, and the entire Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Association. See you at the reunion!

*Ken Giardina*

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Association member Tony Ramos sports a DD-823 license on his car in Texas. He knows others either have a Roberts related tag or tag holder. He thinks it might be fun to do a feature in the Scuttlebutt. I agree! Anyone with a Roberts related license or plate holder is asked to take a photo and send it to Jim Norton for inclusion in the next newsletter. Should be fun!





# ECHOES



I grew up in Troy, New York, a city known for many things. Troy was the home of both Uncle Sam Wilson and Herman Melville and in the year 1900, was the sixth richest municipality in the world. Troy's factories made the iron plates for the Monitor and were the world's largest producer of shirt collars, cuffs, oil cloth, and brushes. The city's architecture was unsurpassed and her positioning on the Hudson enabled her to become a leading trade center. But the city was also known throughout the land for something else. Its red-light district and the most heralded of all madams, a lady by the name of Mame Faye, were famous or at the least, infamous. Mame ran a comfort house until the mid-1940s that was close to the rail yards and only three doors away from the police station. Her business thrived, mainly because of the lack of a New England trade, where laws were much stricter and were actually enforced.

Mame would often visit the shirt and collar factories during lunch break and talk to the young seamstresses who were getting a needed breath of fresh air. She would let them know how much easier life could be and how much money they could make working for her rather than in the sweatshops of the day and how much nicer they could afford to dress. She must have been persuasive because she was able to entice a steady stream of attractive young girls to change careers. Mame treated her employees well and there was little turnover. Many of the girls married well and became a part of Troy society.

Old timers tell stories of troop trains going through Troy during both World Wars. Knowledge of the local offerings must have been widespread because when a train would lay over for any time at all, hundreds of the military would de-train and head for the ladies. All the men seemed to know exactly where to go! Locals would gather just to watch this mass movement of troops.

Now to tie the above to the DD-823 and my time aboard her. On three separate occasions in three different countries, I was approached by Americans who asked from where in the states I was from. I would answer New York, thinking Troy was not that well known. However, they would follow-up with where in New York and after my reply of upstate would ask where upstate. I would finally blurt out Troy and invariably would be asked if I knew Mame Faye. Answering no, Mame died before I was born, these strangers would then regale me with stories of my hometown and all they had witnessed in "Pig Town." Mame and the district must have been something back in the day.

*Jim Norton*

# 2017 Newport Reunion

I have been asked by several shipmates to again post the reunion information. It follows! Reunion is being held **October 2 – 6** at the **Mainstay Hotel & Conference Center, 151 Kalbfus Rd. in Newport, RI.** Reservations can be made by calling **(401) 849-9880** and mentioning the **USS Samuel B Roberts Reunion** or **Block 106328.** Rate will be **\$89 per night** for 2 people and it is guaranteed up to **4 weeks** prior to the reunion. Thereafter, rate and availability are only guaranteed if rooms are available. **Reserve Now!** No penalty for cancellation up to **72 hours** prior to arrival. Check-in **3:00 pm**, check-out **11:00 am.**

Registration will commence at noon on **October 2** in the Association's hospitality room. It will continue until just prior to a **Cocktail Hour (cash bar)** at **6:00 pm** and our **Welcome Buffet** at **7:00 pm.** Cost for the buffet is **\$31** per person. The hospitality room will reopen immediately following the buffet. Those desiring to do so can find amusement at the casino across the street or in the myriad of shops and restaurants down by the waterfront.

Buses leave for the **Mansions Tour** at **9:00 am** on **October 3.** The hotel is home to a top-notch restaurant **Northend Steak House**, which features good food at reasonable prices. Meals in the restaurant are not included in our reunion package and are the responsibility of attendees. Our tour will take us through **Ocean Drive** and the **Belleville Avenue** area for an up-close look at **Newport's Mansions.** Tour includes a stop at the **Breakers**, built by **Cornelius Vanderbilt** in **1895.** At around **noon**, the buses will take us to the waterfront where there will be time for lunch, some sightseeing, and a little shopping. Then at around **1:30 pm**, we will be transported for a tour of the **Newport Naval Base**, returning to the hotel around **3:30 pm.** Tour cost **\$58** per person. Hospitality room will be open throughout the day for those not going on the tour. Dinner is up to shipmates.

On **Wednesday, October 4**, at **9:00 am**, buses will transport us to **Battleship Cove** in Fall River, Ma. We will see and wander through, at our leisure, a spectacular group of US Naval vessels including **USS Massachusetts (BB-59)**, **USS Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr.** (very close configuration to Roberts), and **USS Lionfish (SS-298).** Also on display are both designs of the World War II **PT Boats**, the **PT Boat Museum**, and the **USS St. Paul** exhibit. Luncheon for those wishing it will be served at noon aboard **USS Massachusetts.** There will be a memorial ceremony for departed shipmates following lunch. We shall return to the hotel around **4:00 pm.** Cost of the tour is **\$ 48** and the optional luncheon is an additional **\$20.** Hospitality room will be open throughout the day with our reunion auction (a real fun time) commencing at **7:00 pm.**

**Thursday, October 5** is a free day. The hospitality room will open at **9 am** and will remain open throughout the day. The free day is to allow shipmates to visit some of the many Newport attractions in an unstructured manner. The sights of the waterfront are spectacular and the

restaurants and boutiques first rate. There are trolley tours of the city as well as boat tours of the harbor. Finding something to pique one's interest is not a problem. A visitor's brochure will be given to each shipmate at registration. At **5 pm**, we will assemble for **group photos** and at **6 pm** there will be a **cocktail hour** leading into our **formal banquet** commencing at **8 pm**. Our **business meeting** will start at **9 am** on **Friday, October 6** in the **Hospitality Room** and the reunion will **conclude** by **10:30 am**.

**12<sup>th</sup> Biannual USS Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Assn.  
Registration Form**

Names of Attendees: \_\_\_\_\_

**Monday - October 2, 2017**

Welcoming buffet at the hotel. Price per person: \$31.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Tuesday – October 3, 2017**

Tour 12 Mile cliff walk and Visit the Breakers.  
Lunch on own. Tour downtown Newport and the waterfront. Leave 9am – Return 3:30pm  
Price per person: \$ 58.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Wednesday – October 4, 2017**

Tour to Battleship Cove & visit USS Massachusetts, USS Kennedy, etc.  
Memorial Service on Kennedy Price per person: \$ 48.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
Buffet Lunch on USS Massachusetts Price per person: \$ 20.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Thursday – October 5, 2017**

Any interest in a light lunch at the O Club on the Navy Base? Our banquet is in the evening. If yes, details in future issue of Scuttlebutt. Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_  
Reunion dinner at the hotel. Steak \_\_\_ Fish \_\_\_ Price per person: \$30.00 x \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Reunion Fee** \$ 20.00  
**Total** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Fill out form, include check for total made out to USS Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Assn. and mail to:

Kevin McKeown, 47 Long Beach Drive, Sound Beach, NY 11789-1833.

# Captain Ray Ward

Captain Raymond Edwin Ward, 1924 – 2017, USN (ret.) passed away on May 10, 2017. After graduating from Erskine Academy, he attended Northeast University and then Tufts University in Boston, Mass., where he graduated with an electrical engineering degree. He joined the U.S. Navy on July 1, 1943, via the V-12 Program. He served afloat on aircraft carriers, destroyers, and destroyer tenders and was stationed ashore in Norfolk, VA; Newport, RI; Londonderry, Northern Ireland; Philadelphia, PA; Pearl Harbor, HI; Boston, MA; and Waukegan, IL.

During his career as a Navy surface warfare officer, he commanded the USS Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823), the USS Charles H. Roan (DD-853), the USS Bryce Canyon (AD-36); was Commodore of Destroyer Squadron 10; and was Commanding Officer of U.S. Naval Communications Station in Londonderry, Northern Ireland. He retired from the Navy as financial director for CNO (OP-94) staff in the Pentagon in 1976. Captain Ward received the Navy Commendation Medal and the Legion of Merit subsequent to retirement. Following his service, Ray formed a successful consulting firm.

Captain Ward is survived by his wife of almost 68 years, Patricia; and by daughters Susan and Anne.

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Captain Ward was a well-respected skipper of the Sammy B. and an active member and staunch supporter of our Association. He attended every reunion he was capable of attending. Following are some reflections on the man by association members.

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Captain Ward was truly a class act and will really be missed by our Association. I talked with him occasionally on the phone, especially around the time our reunions would come up. I could tell his health was failing. We discussed Bill Fitzgerald, his academy appointment and subsequent duty in Vietnam, the ship that was named after him, and his relationship to the Roberts.

One of my favorite stories about Captain Ward had to do with the first SBR reunion Barbara and I attended. Our plane was delayed and we were late in getting to the opening banquet. As luck would have it, all the tables were full except for the one the Wards were at, and they were the only ones there. Barbara and I sat down, introduced ourselves, and began to chat about the Roberts. Ultimately, I told him that I was a Yeoman and asked what he had done aboard ship. When he said; “Oh, I was the Captain,” I suddenly felt out of my league. Yet, he was so gracious that a friendship developed and continued through the years. I will certainly miss him and have fired off condolences to his wife Pat.

*Don Eagle*

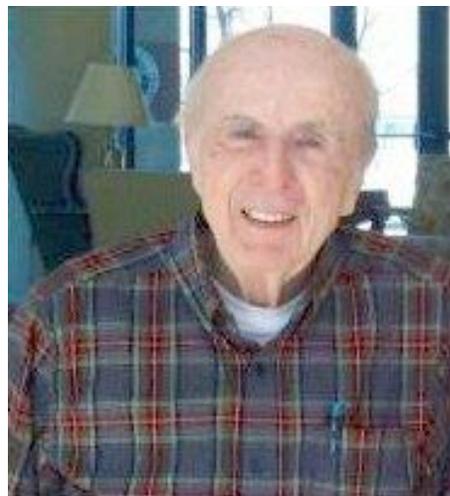
I first met Captain Ward and Pat at the Association's second reunion in 1997 in Virginia Beach. Mary and I were boarding the tour bus at the hotel and most of the seats were taken. Florence McCoy was taking roll call and wanted everyone to take their seats. We scurried to the back of the bus and sat next to this nice older couple. A conversation ensued about the weather and how far we traveled to get to the reunion. Of course, as usual, I was in a talkative mood. Ray listened very closely as I was bragging about working in New York City and living on Long Island, etc., etc.

We exchanged the dates we served on the ship and I advised him that I was in engineering. He asked what division and I told him that I was a boiler tech, a steam jockey. Mary then nudged me and whispered that I was talking too much. At this point I had no idea who he was or what he did. I thought he might be in radio, radar, sonar, or even a yeoman. I finally asked what his function was on the Sammy B. and he replied; "Well, I was the Captain." I sat there speechless for what seemed like a very long time, but was probably only a minute or two. Mary said, "now you've done it." Ray sensed my awkwardness and put me immediately at ease by asking about family, children, etc.

I eventually recovered and started to call him Mr. Ward. He stopped me and said there was no division here between us. He added, "we are just two men who served at one time on the same ship. He put me at ease and we enjoyed many a reunion together. He will be missed.

*Kevin McKeown*

My first meeting with Captain Ward was at the Charleston reunion. I knew who he was and my wife and I had the good fortune one evening of sitting with him at Dinner one evening. He was a very gracious man and put my rather shy wife immediately at ease. We talked about the Roberts, our subsequent careers, our families, the world situation, and numerous other topics. He greatly impressed both me and my wife. I got to renew his acquaintance at subsequent reunions but could sense his becoming frailer with each. He missed the Washington reunion and we knew he would be doubtful for future ones. RIP Captain!



Carole Green has graciously agreed to operate a ship's store for the benefit of the USS Samuel B. Roberts Shipmates Association. Included on the order form below are her initial offerings. You can call, email, or snail mail Carole with your orders. Her efforts are greatly appreciated.

### DD-823 Ship's Store Order Form

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Call (856) 935-4392 or email: cgreen4392@comcast.net  
 Mail to: Carole Green 65 Quinton Alloway Road Salem, NJ 08079-9549

**\*\*Order by # and circle sizes\*\***

(Navy Blue with Embroidered Gold Letters)

Item Description		Cost
#1 Cap, adjustable		\$18
<hr/>		
#2 Lightweight Sweat Shirt	S, M, L, XL	\$24
	2XL	\$30
<hr/>		
#3 Heavyweight Sweat Shirt	S, M, L, XL	\$28
	2XL	\$36
<hr/>		
#4 Golf Shirt no pocket	S, M, L, XL	\$22
	2XL	\$28
<hr/>		
#5 Zipper Front "Hoodie" with pockets	S, M, L, XL	\$40
	2XL	\$50

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City, State, & Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Send no money until billed!!! \*\***  
**All items will be sent with shipping costs added to invoice**

Sweat Shirts, sizes    Lightweight, heavyweight, crew and hoodie

Size	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
Chest	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52	54-56

Golf Shirt

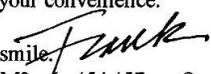
Size	S	M	L	XL	2XL	3XL
Chest	34-36	38-40	42-44	46-48	50-52	54-56

This is the final Scuttlebutt prior to our October reunion in Newport, RI. To get everyone in reunion mode and to provide a glimpse as to what to expect, here is a Frank Green column offering his observations on our 2007 reunion in Valley Forge, PA.

### *Doggone Good Reunion*

Please permit me to pass along my personal highlights of our reunion. They're in no special order, but only as they come to mind. I do have an active imagination at times. There are those who even believe I hallucinate. Do you think that's hard to believe? It's hard to believe you don't find that hard to believe. Here's something you truly can believe - - IT WAS GOOD PLUS ! I honestly think everyone shared, compared, laughed and enjoyed the latest gathering of DD-823 shipmates. Comradery was absolutely the order of the day. Everything would meld together. Tony Sardanelli's DD-823 model was a gathering point and conversation piece. Everyone offered an opinion about what "their ship" had looked like. The defining lines here are, same ship, different shipmates, different times in history. Again the operative word is same. DD-823 was our ship no matter what the silhouette or profile. No matter the adding or subtracting of equipment to better do her job. Updates have been happening since the initial yard period. We all shared, just at different times during SBR's lifetime. Thank you Tony, your haze gray model was the catalyst for many discussions and conversations. Just one of my favorite "Greenisms" goes something like this. The only time in my life I've been wrong was one time I thought I was wrong but I was wrong about being wrong. Did you catch that ? I can, however, tell you about a couple of times I was "almost wrong". An employee at Home Depot noticed my SBR cap and as it turned out, he had been in the Navy aboard a cruiser. After swapping numerous sea stories he concluded our conversation with "see 'ya later shipmate". Hmm, now how can I be his shipmate ? We weren't aboard the same ship. We weren't even in at the same time. Man, was I "almost wrong". My involvement with our organization has taught me the TRUE meaning of shipmate. I was his shipmate. On a larger scale I'm a shipmate to everyone who has ever served in the US Navy and been aboard ship. Because we walked on different steel at different times and performed different duties, nonetheless, we share that common bond. What's different about Navy life's experiences? Correct, only the time they happened and the sailors involved. Believe this, soon women sailors will be attending reunions and telling sea stories. I'd enjoy that, should be interesting ! Can't you just see a young, newly married sailor trying to explain to his bride that 42-26-38 was his female shipmates serial number? Ok. The other time I was "almost wrong" was in Newport, RI at my very first reunion. In retrospect, I missed so much because I didn't extend myself, I didn't open up. I didn't yet truly understand "shipmate". I look at the group picture from Newport and I cannot put names with all the faces. That's too sad. That shouldn't be. I'll never get a chance to apologize to some of those shipmates. When the young sailor at the base gate saluted our bus as we were leaving, she was saluting some of her veteran shipmates. Dam, that made me proud to think we still deserved a salute after all these years. We were fortunate enough to share our sixth reunion with shipmates from all eras. We had "world cruise" sailors from both '54-'55 and '64-'65. We had plank owners, white hats and brass alike. Duties aboard included gunners mates, cooks, yeoman, fire control, boswains, gun bosses, signalmen, mailman, boiler tenders and even a ship's captain. Shipmates all, the list goes on. Our auction was outstanding. My personal thanks to all those who contributed to it's success. Here's a thought, I'm considering being Brian Murphy's agent and leasing him out as a fun and fund raiser. I'll name the company, "Buying with Brian", charge an exuberent fee for his services, convince him everything was a benefit and use the \$\$\$ to treat everyone to a reunion. I'm certainly glad I thought of having that auction. Did I think of that ? I'm sure I was

going to think of it. I was getting ready to think of it any day. Of course my point is, who think of it really isn't the issue, teamwork is. I will also say thanks to "Smurphy" for making it both entertaining and profitable with proceeds going to help support our reunion hospitality room. Seven shipmates I have not seen in over 17,000 days (1956-1957) were able to join us. Fellow signalman Bill Johnson, aka "John", and his lovely wife Marilyn were "first timers". It was as good as it gets seeing you two Maine apple growers. I'll keep my deck of cards at ready. Someday we'll meet two more ♡'s players from the past. Dam, that would be good. KIMM = Kilcooley, Impenna, Merrill and Morgan. What an interesting double-duo friendship these guys are. Wish we could have talked longer. You helped make my reunion a positive success and we will meet again, there's still so much to say. Thanks for joining us. Former gun boss Jim Leslie donated his water color rendering of DD-823 to our auction. Great job Jim and mucho gracious. Jim McGill was the absolute highlight of our banquet. His "sea stories from the wardroom" were priceless and genuine classics. All present enjoyed the true episodes of our very own Burt Lancaster. I take enormous pride in saying, thanks to this reunion, I've developed a sincere working friendship with Jim, it makes me feel good inside. Our wives enjoyed the Navy stuff and the company of other wives, friends and family. "Skid" Durant's companion looked a little familiar. My guess would be probably, maybe someone from Monaco ? Wasn't Monaco one of "Skid's" "memorable liberties? Good to see you again Rich. Who wouldn't be fortunate to have Leo Issa as a friend ? Leo continues to impress me with his generosity and interesting conversation. Until next time Leo. New friends have to be an important part of any reunion. Shipmates I hadn't met at a reunion included Tom Mason, Mike Markopoulos, Jim Williams, Tom Puckett, Jerry Whitehurst, Clark Wilcott, Earl Smoyer and Jim Norton. All had sea stories to tell and were an important part in our enjoyable collection of "OI Salts". I understand there's yet another collection of Norton's notable nautical nostalgia in the works. Go for it Jim. Countless meaningful and treasured mementos were dusted off, packed up and hauled a few thousands miles for fellow shipmates to enjoy. My sincere appreciation goes out to every person who attended number six. Special thanks to those of you who traveled so far. As it goes in life, some were unable to attend due to pending health or family emergencies. We anticipate seeing you all at # 7 in Charleston, SC. As a reunion group, we're extremely fortunate to have the McKeowns, aka "Mr. and Mrs. Hospitality Room" as a part of our agenda. Kevin & Mary, along with helpful volunteers, made socializing into an art. My wife Carole, Johanna Edwards with so many others were important in helping make things happen. President Don Eagle's organizing skills transcended the nation, as did Don to also help make good things happen. We missed you Barb. To all shipmates, I'm pleased to announce we now have DD-823 ship's store items available. Caps, sweatshirts and golf shirts. An order form is enclosed for your convenience. Thanks for reading my column.

Remember to stay well and always find a smile.   
Until next time, Frank Green SM2 '54-'57 ©

PS: I don't think I'll mention anything about the dogs. I'm not even going there about the dogs. Why should I say anything about the dogs? OK, I've made up my mind, I'm not going to say a word about those damned dogs. There! I didn't say it!



26 Long Pond Drive Milton, VT 05468

*Sheepmates Association*

*USS Samuel G. Roberts (DD823)*

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*Sammy B. Scuttlebutt*

