

Scuttlebutt

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

Volume 18, Number 3

September, 2019



The heat of summer is fully upon us and hopefully we are doing all those warm weather things that make the season so enjoyable. Sadly, we lost a number of shipmates this past quarter. Their names are reflected on page 2 of this Scuttlebutt. Take some time to think about your shipmates, living and deceased and if you are able, come spend some time with the living at the upcoming Annapolis reunion. We are an aging group and must anticipate a thinning of our ranks. It is surprising that shipmates continue to discover the Association and request membership. Roberts was a great ship with great people.

You will find the columns inside that make this newsletter enjoyable reading as well as a recap of reunion planning, a few walks down memory's gangplank, an image or two, and a few things I haven't even thought of yet. Sit back, grab your beverage of choice and relive those thrilling days of yester-year when you were the coolest swabbie in any man's navy.

We Remember

Add names

Wally Beck 58-59

James E. Clippard 48-49

Larry Cummings 63-66

Ron Czapiewski 62-65

Kenneth Hamilton 68-68

Charles W. Lehr 62-66

Robert R. Ray 46-48 Plankowner

Steve Senderovitz 61-64

Earl Smoyer 61-63

From Our President

HELP WANTED
For Association President position
Opening in January 2020



Executive experience not required but may be advantageous.

Leadership skills a plus; listening skills more important

Be ready to work with talented team managing the Association funds, publicity, quarterly newsletter

Some writing skills needed - a one page item each quarter for newsletter and writing occasional letters. Be ready to meet deadlines. Procrastinators need not apply. Politics and philosophy should be avoided. Humor always helps.

Valid driver's license a must since "second signature" may be required on Association business funds or checks

Will review and approve Association reunion contracts

"I am at the end of my tether." There is too much stuff going on around here and I have reached the point that I think of my domestic chores as achievements. After my recent fall, I am like a one-armed paper hanger. Thankfully, my fall on my right ankle/shin produced no broken bones or clots but lots of strange and moving contusions and hematomas going hither and yon around my foot.

"Yes, sad to say, my two terms are up on December 31, 2019. Term limits have benefits and you may have heard that old familiar phrase from departing politicians: True or a dodge. I need to spend more time with my family." The time has come the walrus said.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Ferriman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Shipmates

As one of my official duties, I am including a copy of the letter I am sending to SECNAV Spencer inviting him to join us at the ceremony at the Navy Memorial on the last day of our reunion. Needless to add, I hope you will be there too.



July 30, 2019

The Honorable Richard V. Spencer
Secretary of the Navy
Office of the Secretary of the Navy
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Association will be honored to have you join us at the United States Navy Memorial at a 10:30 A.M. ceremony on October 3, 2019.

Our Association will join at that time many other naval organizations, individuals and private citizens to add our plaque honoring the U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823) service as a ship of the line from 1946 to 1970. Our ship was the second of three ships named to honor Coxswain Samuel Booker Roberts Jr., who was killed at Guadalcanal in September, 1942. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism.

We, the Shipmates of our Association, hope your schedule will permit you to be with us at this short ceremony during our 13th reunion. I have included my home address and contact numbers: 5420 Trentham Court, Dunwoody, GA 30338-3036, 770-559-1044 home phone and 770-940-7880 mobile.

Sincerely

James E. Antenucci
President
U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823)
Shipmates Association

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Bird Droppings **by Don Eagle**

AND THAT'S THE WAY IT WAS

Good grief! It's August already with time sliding by quickly toward the reunion in Annapolis.

At any rate, I thought it would be fun to go back into some of my old letters from July and August 1957 & 1958, to remind my peers of places and events, and to spark a few memories of others who served aboard the Roberts before and after that time. During the months of July and August 1957, the Roberts

carried us on a Middie cruise to Rio, stopping in Trinidad and Gitmo, Cuba, and in the next year, on a Med cruise that took us from Gibraltar to Iran. This little narrative ends in Suda Bay Crete, but we went on to Greece, Lebanon, Port Said, Bahrain, Iran, Aden, and Spain in the months ahead. Anyway, here are a few excerpts from the letters home:

24 July 1957

“Tonight we will be leaving for Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, a trek of about 600 miles. We expect to arrive there on the 30th, and expect to stay there a couple of days and then depart for the states. We can hardly wait to get back home (Newport) to get ready for our cruise to Northern Europe (Plymouth, England and Copenhagen, Denmark). Time really flies by when you are steaming. Did I tell you that IKE will be coming to Newport? He is supposed to come around the 20th of August. Who knows, I may even get to see him.”

1 August 1957

“Right now I am sitting in my chair, outside the office on the deck, and we are coming alongside the USS Iowa – one of the last two battleships in commission, the other one is the Missouri, which I saw in Cuba. I heard that they too will be decommissioned next year because there is no longer a need for them. Missile ships are just making everything obsolete, and the BB’s are very expensive to run.”

6 August 1957

“To follow along with the map I left you, we left Trinidad and traveled south along the coast of Cuba after leaving Guantanamo Bay, and then due north until we hit Annapolis, Maryland. From there we headed straight for Newport. We got into Annapolis at about 0100 and got rid of the midshipmen at about 0500, departing at 0800 for Newport.”

2 August 1958

“Am on my way to real wealth. I sent 20 bucks to deposit into my checking account, have \$30 in my wallet, and have \$90 on the books here. Of course, we’ll soon be arriving in Gibraltar, then on to Naples, and God knows where else. I don’t expect to end this cruise a wealthy man.”

24 August 1958

“Hi, here it is Sunday morning and hotter than Hades. We have been operating in the eastern Mediterranean for the past week, about 150 miles off of Lebanon. We left Naples last Sunday and proceeded east. Late Sunday afternoon we passed the volcanic island of Stromboli and then that evening went through the straits off Southern Italy. Monday we had General Quarters drills. And on Tuesday we had a sale of foreign merchandise on the mess deck. On Thursday we fired our guns, nothing much on Friday, and yesterday we had ASW training all day, then refueled from the USS Des Moines, a cruiser. At present we are detached and on our way to Suda Bay, Crete for a limited tender period. Should be about a week, and then I don’t know where we’ll go.”

“My Navy clothes are wearing out, and I feel a bit like a ragamuffin. My shoes are falling apart, the sole is half off of one and the tops are wearing out on both of them. Well, just 87 more days to go... I am now officially known as a short-timer. Oh, by the way, I think I saw Sputnik, moving slowly across the sky.”

Well guys, this little vignette sorta sums up a two month period that was both exciting and adventurous. You might want to bring along some of your own memories to Annapolis – to revisit old times, old cruises, and a time that was very special.

Don

**USS Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Assoc.
13th Biennial Reunion
Annapolis – Baltimore – DC
September 30 – October 4, 2019**

Venue – Holiday Inn Columbia/East Jessup, MD 20794

**Monday – Sept. 30 – Reunion registration in Hospitality Suite beginning at
noon**

- **Welcome Buffet in the hotel banquet room beginning at 6:00
PM**

**Tuesday – Oct 1 – Tour to US Naval Academy/Annapolis waterfront/historic
Annapolis leaving at 9:00 AM, lunch on members. Returning
approx. 3:30 PM – Evening free**

**Wednesday – Oct 2 – Tour of Baltimore/lunch on members at Baltimore Inner
Harbor, Baltimore. Harbor cruise. Leaving hotel at 9:00
AM and returning at approx. 3:30 PM. Auction and
business meeting in evening.**

**Thursday – Oct 3 – Bus leaves at 8:30 AM for the US Navy Memorial in
Washington, DC where a plaque will be dedicated to USS
Samuel B Roberts (DD-823). Memorial service expected to
occur at this time. Lunch on members. Bus returns at
approx. 2:30 PM**

**Reunion banquet begins at 6:00 PM with cocktail hour
followed by a plated dinner. Entertainment will be provided by
Ms Terry L. White (aka – The Ol Hippie chick).**

Friday – Oct 4 – Reunion concludes, members depart.

**This is going to be a good one. Favorable hotel rates with full breakfast daily. Tours,
fun but not overly taxing, food tasty and plentiful, entertainment. Highlight – plaque
dedication honoring contribution of DD-823 to Navy and country. Best part of reunion
- mixing with others with a shared Sammy B experience.**

2019 USS Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Assoc. Reunion Registration Form

Names of Attendees _____

Monday – September 30, 2019

Welcoming Buffet at the Hotel Price per person: \$52x_____=\$_____

Tuesday – October 1, 2019

Tour of US Naval Academy, historic Annapolis, and the Annapolis waterfront. Price per person: \$48x_____=\$_____

Wednesday – October 2, 2019

Tour of Baltimore, the Inner Harbor and a cruise on the bay. Price per person: \$50x_____=\$_____

Thursday – October 3, 2019

Bus to Roberts “Plaque Ceremony” at Navy Memorial in DC. Price per person: \$30x_____=\$_____

Closing banquet in hotel banquet room.

Dinner choice: Prime Rib_____ Chicken Picata_____ Seared Salmon_____

Total dinners at \$45_____=\$_____

Reunion Fee \$ 20.00

Total **\$_____**

Fill out the above form, include check for total made out to USS Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Assoc. and mail to Kevin McKeown, 47 Long Beach Drive, Sound Beach, NY 11789-1833.

Echoes

As our 13th biennial reunion in Annapolis draws near, there are a few thoughts I would like to share with my shipmates. The first are some musings about Navy life, lo those many years ago, then I would like to express a few concerns I harbor about the future.

Don Eagle's column in this issue looked at some of his specific memories from a defined period of time. Recently I had been looking at my own Navy memories with a detachment only time can achieve. Wanting to "Join the Navy and see the world" is one of my earliest realizations.



That could have something to do with the man holding me up (my father) in the attached photo. He served in both the Atlantic and the Pacific in World War II. His term ran until 1948 when I was four and had some concept of his job. He never talked about his service but it was evident that it had been a terrifying and amazing experience. I desired the same thing.

I was in a rush and joined the Navy Reserves while a junior in high school. Was disappointed when I received scholarships and had to postpone my active duty date. I finally reported for duty two years later after making a mess of college and wasting the scholarships. Was a proud day indeed when I reported aboard the Sammy B and was the start of the most exciting and fun filled period of my life. I got to live the adventure I had so long dreamed of and was not disappointed in the least. However, truth be told, I knew this was not to be a life-long

avocation. Despite all I was seeing, doing, and experiencing, I sensed the major part of my life would be rather more mundane.

Towards the end of my hitch, my uniforms were beginning to look a little seedy and I remember fearing the quarterdeck officer would not let me go on liberty because of it. I was glad that didn't happen because I was husbanding my resources and counting my pennies in expectation of civilian life. Sadly it was summer and all the scrubbing in the world wasn't going to brighten my wardrobe. Looking back, it amazes me that my spit and polish beginning ended up with a less than sterling appearance.

I will continue my musings in the next issue of this newsletter. If any of you have thoughts about your period of service, I ask that you share them with your shipmates.

It will not come as a surprise to any of you that we, as a group and individually, are not getting any younger. Believe it or not, the babies among us are around 70. In the past quarter alone, nine shipmates have crossed over. We have been fortunate to have capable and dedicated persons at the helm of the Association since its origin. Some of the leadership is tired and would like fresh blood to step in to keep the organization running for a few more years. The Association currently has a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Scuttlebutt editor. Anyone with minimal time and a desire to see the Association continue, please make a current Association officer aware of your interest. I can assure you that these positions are not overly taxing and you will be performing a valuable service for your shipmates.

Jim

Onion Peelings

Ahoy shipmates,

Almost time for our reunion countdown. This reunion will be a special one for the Sammy B. If you haven't heard, our gracious lady will be enshrined in the Navy Memorial. It will be an event not to be missed. Jim Norton has worked hard along with Ken Giardina and Tom Zwemke to pull this together. Some notable guests are expected at the ceremony.

As all reunion attendees know, we hold elections to install new officers. We are in need of volunteers to step forward and pick up the gavel. Think about helping the association to continue to move forward. I talk (e-mail) with several shipmates associations and a number of them are indicating they may be forced to shut down due to an aging membership and general disinterest within their associations. Let's not let this happen to our association. Several of your shipmates have been volunteering to fill association positions for years. Time to give them a rest. Please, step up and step forward.

On the reunion side again: We always have a lively auction with the proceeds used to stock the hospitality room with drinks (non-alcoholic of course) and snacks (non-caloric of course). Please bring articles that will provide spirited bidding and a few laughs. Above all, come prepared to have a great and memorable reunion. Please take many pictures of your shipmates and the various venues.

I leave you with this final thought... "Be well, be safe, see you in DC.



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USS Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Association Contacts

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Chaplain

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Webmaster

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On The Scope

Greetings shipmates! It is hard to believe that after a long and difficult winter that spring came and went and summer is winding down. By the time you read this article in the “Butt”, fall will be knocking on the door. As the seasons fly by, so will this quarterly edition of my “On The Scope” column fly by. However, rather



than try to spin another tale about days gone by or pay a tribute to anything Navy, I have decided to give a sales pitch one last time for our up and coming reunion. It really promises to be a great event and as a result of the undying efforts of your staff will include a very important and memorable moment that will give to the USS Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) and those who served aboard her a well



deserved just and lasting tribute, deserved by all. To miss being part of this dedication service will be something I am sure, that in the future, you will regret. Aside from the dedication ceremony, the reunion is so much more. There are new places to go and see and a few to revisit with the sailors of the Roberts who can relate to your memories and stories and even more importantly, create new ones. Therefore, I am urging one and all to give yourselves a gift to have fun, take pride in, and most importantly to create a fond new memory that will last forever. Smooth sailing my fellow shipmates. I hope you will rest your oars in Annapolis.

Above are pictures of the challenge coin to be given out at the reunion. Want one? See you there.

Dues

If you have yet to do so, I request you send in your 2019 Association dues. Proceeds from the dues are used to fund our communications efforts (Scuttlebutt and website). They are but \$15 per year and should be sent to Kevin McKeown 47 Long Beach Drive Sound Beach, NY 11789-1833.

Ship's Store

Anyone wanting to purchase Roberts themed apparel for the upcoming reunion should contact Carol Green who runs our ship's store. She carries a variety of items like hats, tees, sweatshirts, hoodies, etc. You can reach Carol at cgreen4392@comcast.net or (856) 935-4392. Order form is also available on our website at samuelbroberts.org. Order early to insure delivery.

Plaque Dedication Ceremony



On October 3 from 10:30am – 12:30pm join your shipmates as we enshrine the USS Samuel B Roberts (DD-823) into the Navy Memorial.

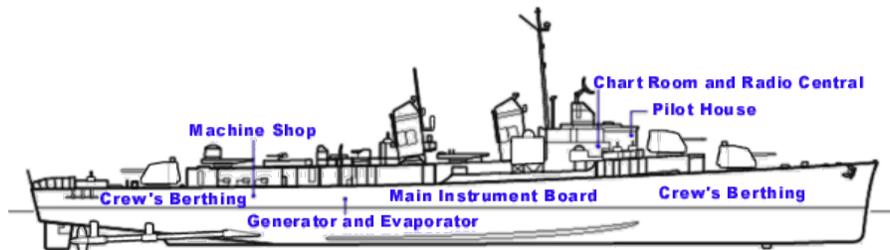
Opening remarks will be made by Rear Admiral Frank Thorp (Ret), President & CEO of the US Navy Memorial followed by comments from SBR Shipmates Association Officers.

Following that, the enshrinement will take place in the hall way just outside the theater.

Its an event you won't want to miss as a part of the 2019 Reunion.



Kevin McKeown's new vanity plates. We know where your heart lies Kevin.





26 Long Pond Drive Milton, VT 05468

Shipmates Association

USS Samuel B. Roberts (DD823)

A quarterly publication of the

Sammy B. Scuttlebutt

