

# Scuttlebutt

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



## Greetings Shipmates

Well, another year has come and gone and the Samuel B. Roberts Association has steamed through all types of seas, choppy, heavy swells and the serenity of calm waters and has managed to dock a little weathered but still in fine shape.

As all are aware, we have made some changes to our goals, amongst them probably the most significant is that we no longer be having a biannual reunion but the Association will continue and the life blood of our Association the "Scuttlebutt" will remain. While the number of issues per year might be reduced rest assured it will continue.

Speaking of the "Butt" unbeknownst to everyone, behind each and every issue there is a great deal of work involved in getting each issue out. A major portion of each issue requires the efforts of people contributing stories and articles, editing and then the job by Terry Haskins of putting everything together and sending it to the printer for printing and mailing.

That brings me to the last piece of the little note. You may or may not notice that almost every issue contains articles from almost the same contributors. Remember this is your "Butt" and I encourage each and every one of you, don't be afraid to contribute. We all served on The Roberts and I am sure we all have memories and stories in our hearts and minds waiting to be told. We may have even a picture of our days on the Roberts that  
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# HOME IS THE SAILOR FROM THE SEA

Roster of deceased shipmates. Paying our respects  
Most recent additions are in ***CAPS, Italics, Bold Print and Underlined***  
“Sailor Rest Your Oar”

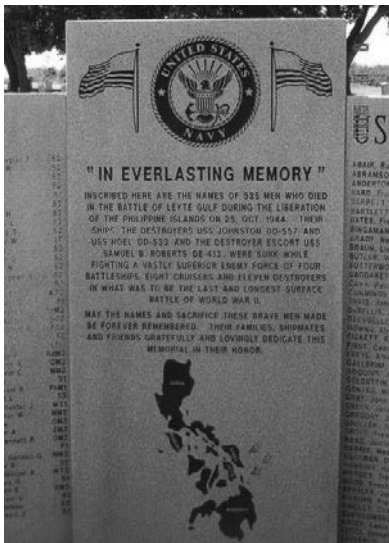
May we ever be mindful of God's wisdom, forgiveness and love. Please keep our defenders of freedom safe.  
Thank you Lord

- Aber, Joseph G., Jr. ('49-'51)  
Adam, Russell ('50-'52)  
Allain, Charles ('50-'54)  
Anderson, Marlan ('55-'59)  
Antenucci, James ('62-'65)  
Arduini, Al ('49-'52)  
Bader, Robert M. ('53-'55)  
Bailey, Donald U. ('46)  
Balf, Jim ('64-'66)  
Bangert, Bill ('45-'50) *Plank Owner*  
Barker, Donald ('49-'52)  
Barnhart, Dwayne ('56-'57)  
Barnes, Donal ('65-'70)  
Barnett, Sol ('58-'60)  
Baughman, Arden ('55-'57) *Capt.*  
Beck, Wally ('58-'59)  
Berlyn, Barney ('51-'53)  
Bess, James ('47-'50)  
Blackburn, Robert ('58-'61)  
Blackmore, Richard ('68-'70)  
Bonnell, John T. ('64-'66)  
Borgo, Frank ('50-'54)  
Brazda, Charles ('58-'61)  
Bouchard Robert ('54-'56)  
Brown, Herbert Lee ('56-'58)  
Brown, Robert N. ('57-'60)  
Brownlow, P.J. ('52-'54) *Capt.*  
Brush, Richard F. ('53-'56)  
Budd, Terry ('63-'67)  
Butler, John ('59-'61)  
Buzz, Ken ('56-'57)  
Calvi, John ('61-'62)  
Cappelletti, Fred ('47-'50)  
Carella, Anthony J. (Unknown)  
Carpenter, David G. ('48-'52)  
Carter, Franklin "Allie" ('58-'59)  
Case, Edward G. ('51-'53)  
Ceravolo, Bud ('57-'59)  
Chessels, Larry W. ('68-'69)  
Cipolla, Mike ('58-'61)  
Clair, John G. ('54-'55)  
Clippard, James E. ('48-'49)  
Clark, Calvin ('51-'54)  
Cline, Frederick ('46-'47)  
Coleman, Yuell, Sr. ('-' )  
Connaire, John ('57-' )  
Coogan, Richard ('69-'70) *Capt.*  
Cooper, Richard ('48-'52)  
Corbett, Bobby ('62-'65)  
Costello, Joseph ('49-'48)  
*Plank Owner*  
Cox, Earl ('46-'51) *Capt.*  
Craig, Barry ('65-'67)  
Craig, Thomas G. ('58-'59)  
Cramton, Phil ('54-' )
- Crawford, Cecil ('47-'54)  
Crosby, Ed ('54-'55)  
Cummings, Larry ('63-'66)  
Custer, Harry G. ('53-'56)  
Czapiewski, Ron ('62-'65)  
Daniszewski, Anthony ('52-'54)  
Davidsen, Art ('68-'70)  
Davidson, Chuck ('59-'62)  
Davis, Chuck ('55-'57)  
Dawson, Harold ('56-'58)  
DelBarone, Albert ('59-'64)  
Delisle, James Jr. ('57-'59)  
DeRycke, "Louie" ('53-'55)  
Dew, Joseph ('62-'66)  
Durand, Richard ('66-'68)  
Durant, John ('55-'57)  
Dzamko, Joe ('59-'61)  
Eckland, Philip D. ('52-'53)  
Edwards, John T. ('47-'50)  
Edwards, Terry ('65-'67)  
Ekberg, Robert ('55-'57)  
Eva, Larry K. ('58-'62)  
Fedynyshyn, Joseph "Fedy" ('49-'52)  
Fennessy, Eamon T. (mid 50s)  
Fetter, John ('49-'52)  
Fisher, Ray *Plank Owner*  
Fitzgerald, William ('-' )  
Flannery, Robert ('51-'54)  
Flynn, Robert E., Sr. ('57-'60)  
Forth, Delmer ('57-'60)  
Fox, Hervey Ray ('52-'56)  
Free, Harry C. ('53-'57)  
Fretty, Richard ('54)  
Gadansky, Bruce ('64-'67)  
Garabedian, Varoujan ('54-'55)  
Garavano, David P. ('63-'67)  
Gaw, Ronald ('67-'69)  
Gelber, Sam ('52-'54)  
Glaser, Wm. R. *Capt.* ('65-'66)  
Green, Frank ('53-'57)  
Griffin, Gordon ('?'-'?) *Chaplain*  
Grippo, Frank M. ('48-'52)  
Groves, Herman ('50-'53)  
Gunn, John ('?'-'?)  
Hall, Lewis S., Sr. ('50-'52)  
Hamilton, Kenneth ('68-'68)  
Hardagree, John ('60-'63)  
Hartz, Weldon ('53-'54)  
Hashem, Fred "Lucky"  
('46-'49) *Plank Owner*  
Hazel, Lee ('46-'?)  
Karl G. Heinze ('54-'56)  
Henderson, Bill ('63-'66)  
Hendry, Jim ('54-'56)
- Hennessey, William V. ('46-'48)  
*Plank Owner*  
Hesketts, Robert ('54-'56)  
Hester, Benny Lee ('54-'57)  
Hickman, George C. ('46-'49)  
*Plank Owner*  
Hilditch, Francis ('51-'53)  
Hohler, "Reds" ('53-'56)  
Hott, Ralph ('-' )  
Huttman, Louis ('64-'66)  
Hyatt, Gerald ('46-'48)  
Iacovo, Fred P. ('51-'54)  
Ingallinese, John ('54-'56)  
Issa, Leo ('46-'47) *Plank Owner*  
Jacobson, Darwin (Jake) ('63)  
Jones, Floyd T. ('47-'49)  
Jones, Samuel ('67-'69) *Capt.*  
Jones, William E. ('50-'53)  
Kalemba, Tony ('-' )  
Karvalas, James C. ('62-'64)  
Kelly, Gene T. ('46-'47) *Plank Owner*  
Kennedy, Jim ('56-'59)  
Kesselring, Mike ('56-'58)  
Kirk, Edward J. *Plank Owner*  
Klett, Larry ('51-'55)  
Knippenberg, Robert E. ('48-'52)  
Kopfer, Frank ('58-'50)  
Krupinski, Leon ('49-'53)  
Kuhn, Joe ('64-'66)  
Laird, Jack ('49-'53)  
LaFrance, Edgar ('51-'54)  
Landahl, John ('60-'63)  
Lavertu, Adrian ('65-'67)  
Lawrence, Jim ('57-'61)  
Lehr, Charles W. ('62-'66)  
Lindsay, Edward, Sr. ('66-'70)  
Litsch, Frederick ('58-'60)  
Littlefield, Charles A. ('59-'60)  
Lofler, Ted ('46-'47) *Plank Owner*  
Loparco, John ('63-'65)  
Loudermilk, L.B. ('54-'55) *XO*  
Lyons, Matthew '50-'52  
Macagney, Robert ('54-'56)  
**MACE, BRIAN ('66-'68)**  
Malarkey, Ray ('57-'61)  
Malloy, Stephen J. ('47-'48)  
Manzi, Lester "Butch" ('67-'69)  
Marino, Vincent S. ('52-'55)  
Matarazzo, John ('63-'65)  
Markopoulos, Mike, K. ('56-'57)  
McBrien, Adrian ('55-'57)  
McCoy, Leon J. ('52-'55)  
McCreary, Frank ('54-'55)  
McFarland, Orrin A. ('47-'49)  
McGill, Jim ('54-'56)
- McGinnis, Larry ('65-'68)  
McGirr, Morris ('46)  
McKenzie William E. ('54-'56)  
McKinney, Bob ('53-'56)  
McLeod, Norman ('50-'52)  
McNamara, Charlie ('54-'56)  
Meerholz, Marty. ('56-'59)  
Merrill, Frank ('55-'59)  
Merservey, Edward ('49-'53)  
Miller, Edward ('-' )  
Miller, Winston Y. ('-' )  
Moran, Bob ('58-'58)  
Morgan, Jimmy W. (DE-413-1943)  
Morgan, William ('47-'50)  
Mostek, Gerald ('46-'48)  
Muenkel, David ('49-'54)  
Murphy, Edward C. ('64-'68)  
Murphy, Pleasant L ('59-'61) *Capt.*  
Murray, Ron ('52-'55)  
Murray, William ('62-'64) *Capt.*  
Napierala, Thomas ('60-'62)  
Nelms, Dan ('64-'67)  
Nichols, Ronald J. ('54-'56)  
Norton, James ('64-'66)  
Obenauer, Pete ('64-'67)  
Ogilvie, Roger ('52-'54)  
Ogilvie, Robert ('47-'52)  
Old, Robert ('47-'52)  
O'Quinn, Herman ('53-'57)  
Palloni, Frederick, Jr. ('-' )  
Palmisano, Mickey ('52-'55)  
Pandorff, Robert ('50-'53)  
Pappano, Anthony "Pappy" ('48-'52)  
Park, Edward ('48-'54)  
Parker, Dewey J. ('48-'52)  
Parker, Maurice ('-' )  
Paul, Robert ('62-'64) *XO*  
**PEARSON, BILLY DEAN ('51-'53)**  
Petrylak, Joseph J. ('-' )  
Pfeiffer, Joe ('57-'59)  
Phifer, John ('50-'54)  
Pierce, Ken ('46-'49) *Plank Owner*  
Pizzi, Al ('48-'52)  
Powers, Ed ('57-'58)  
Prussack, George W. ('61-'64)  
Rankowski, Charles ('64-'65) *Capt.*  
Ray, Robert R. ('46-'48) *Plank Owner*  
Regina, Joseph ('62)  
Reilly, Paul ('55-'59)  
Rice, Edwin A.. ('-' )  
Robinson, Alden F. ('-' )  
Robinson, Robert L. ('51-'53)  
Robinson, Steven C. ('56-'58)  
Rosario, Norman ('-' )  
Ross, Charlie ('62-'64)

Ross, Frederick A. ('50-'54)  
 Ross, William ('50-'53)  
 Rost, William Jr. ('60-'63)  
 Rukin, Herbert J. ('61-'66)  
 Salva, Steve ('56-'57)  
 Sample, Gene V. Sr. ('49-'53)  
 Sarao, Joe ('55-'57)  
 Samsel, Robert O. ('49-'53)  
 Sarquiz, Joe ('55-'57)  
 Schadler, Frank ('52-'54)  
 Schaefer, Ed (' - '  
 Schroeder, Carl ('53-'55)  
 Schwab, Rollin ('56-'59)  
 Seaver, Llewellyn "Dave" ('53-'57)  
 Senk, Ralph ('54-'57)  
 Senderovitz, Steve ('61-'64)  
 Shannon, Frank ('52-'54)  
 Sheehan, Robert ('50-'54)  
 Sheehan, Joe ('51-'55)  
 Sherry, Peter M. (Unknown)  
 Shields, Robert J. ('52-'56)  
 Shifton, Joseph ('48-'49)  
 Siegerot, Ronald R. ('53-'56)  
 Simmons, Fred S. Jr. '46-'56  
*Plank Owner*  
 Skorupski, Stanley S. ('55-'57)  
 Smith, Charles F. ('64-'66)  
 Smith, Carol ('51-'54)  
 Smock, Merrill G. ('56-'58)

Smoyer, Earl ('51-'53)  
 Spratt, Tom ('60-'62)  
 Spies, Charles J. ('53-'55)  
STAMM, LAMOINE O. ('53-'55)  
 Stanley, Bob ('50-'54)  
 Staszewski, Sigmund ('51-'55)  
 Stewart, Rod (XO) ('64-'65)  
 Sullivan, F.M. ('47-'52)  
 Taylor, Lawrence K. ('48-'49) Capt.  
 Taylor, Thomas B. ('50-'52)  
 Totman, Deloris ('54-'55)  
TOTTEN, RANDY ('61-'63)  
 Turner, Carol Anton ('57-'59) Capt.  
 Turner, John ('62-'67)  
*(Past President Shipmates Assoc.)*  
 Tyminski, Bill ('51-'55)  
 Vascotto, Richard ('52-'55)  
 Viertel, Otto ('52-'55)  
 Villane, Jack ('52-'55)  
 Villanti, Dr. Anthony ('54-'56)  
 Virilli, Paul ('48-'52)  
 Vogler, Edward Allan ('52-'54)  
 VonSee, Curtis B. ('57-'59)  
 Vorhees, George ('46-'50)  
 Wahl, Harvey G. ('47-'51)  
 Ward, Ray, ('60-'62) Capt.  
 Weist, Francis ('51-'55)  
 Wescott, Lonnie ('51-'52)  
 Wheeler, Fred ('58-'59)

Wheeler, Larry ('63-'65)  
 Wellington, Howard W. ('51-'55)  
 White, Richard ('54-'56) Capt.  
 White, Robert ('46-'50)  
 Wigglesworth, Carl E. Jr. '66-'69  
 Wilcott, Clarke J. ('62-'64)  
 Williams, James G. ('48-'52)  
 Wingenroth, James ('62-'63)  
 Wipperman, Bill ('58-'61)  
 Woloszyn, Joseph ('48-'52)  
 Wren, Bobby ('53-'56)  
 Zenni, Martin ('52-'54)  
 Zerbe, James A. ('53-'56)

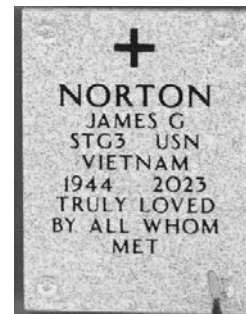


Shipmates, your tour of duty is over, the enlisted have the watch, The Officers have the Conn.

May you have fair winds and following seas forever. The good Lord is with you now and for eternity.



Leon McCoy  
 July 23, 1933  
 June 12, 2022



(continued from page 1)

your fellow shipmates would love to see. So come and reach back in the old war chest, break them out and forward them to us and let's keep the "Butt" flowing with great articles. This article will contain contact information of our board members, so you can send any contributions to them.

Finally, since the general cost of operation functions of the Association have dramatically decreased the need for annual dues are really no longer that important. There-fore starting in **2025** we will no longer require annual dues, but will be required only on even years. Your next dues will be in **2026**.

Thanks, and have a great and healthy New Year.

Ken,

President

**President:** Ken Giardina email- [Giarkc@PTD.NET](mailto:Giarkc@PTD.NET) Ph # 610-381-3714

**V President:** Bob Hunt [email- BobHunt@Processwins.com](mailto:BobHunt@Processwins.com) Ph # 843-302-2258

**Secretary:** Terry Haskins email- [haskuf21@cox.net](mailto:haskuf21@cox.net) Ph # 941-586-8691(C)

**Treasurer:** Kevin McKeown email- [navymac@aol.com](mailto:navymac@aol.com) Ph # 631-821-7446 (H) 631-745-4921 (C)

**Chaplin:** Jim Cruce email- [virginiacruce@fairpoint.net](mailto:virginiacruce@fairpoint.net) Ph # 850-584 -7718

**Historian and Webmaster:** Tom Zwemke -email [-zwemke@gmail.com](mailto:zwemke@gmail.com) ph. # 316-218-3707 (C)

## On The Scope

Greeting my fellow shipmates, hoping this issue of the "Butt" finds everyone doing well.

Just yesterday I decided to clean out my filing cabinet and see if I could get rid of a bunch of old papers. Well while doing this I ran across the following, sat down reread it and was so moved by it, that I thought I would include it in this issue of the "Butt".

To briefly put this in perspective, many years ago I had the privilege of being given the task of publishing the book "Through the Years- A Muster Book", for our Association. The book which I am very proud to have published, was made possible with the contribution of many of our members, of which, sadly so many are no longer with us. Looking for a fitting epilogue I put it out to the membership and Don Eagle responded that he would like a crack at it. I thanked him for his help asking only one thing, "Make it put a tear in my eye"

Well shipmates I got what I asked for. Worth reprinting.

## Retrospect

**It's been nearly forty years. Forty years since the USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS (DD-823) was retired and, in one final act of serving her nation, was sunk in target practice and committed to the deep.**

With her went dreams and memories of all who ever sailed aboard her.

She was born of the Second World War, yet never saw service in that war. She was instead, a peacekeeper, providing security to our country and as a goodwill ambassador to other nations throughout the world.

She was an active participant during the Korean war, The Cuban Missile Crisis and Viet Nam conflicts, and helped to keep the peace. In her unobtrusive way, she was a quiet and elegant lady, serving the needs of downed fliers, escorting the " heavies" of our Navy, and serving as a reminder to belligerent peoples that the United States was not a nation to be reckoned with.

She slumbers in the depths, but lives on in the hearts and minds of those men who served aboard her. They are older men now, and remember their youth, the good times, and their friendships forged as they served their country. With clarity, they can recall in exquisite detail the waves breaking over her bow, the fresh breezes that blew across the fantail, and the sights, sounds, and smells of the ship underway.

And she was a willing participant in their youth. She took them to rare and exotic ports to see and to play, she took them to the sea to witness the beauty of colorful sunsets, showed them the Southern Cross of stars, and the awesomeness of God's creation, and she taught them respect, patriotism, and the inter-dependence of working with others.

She lives on. Not in a material sense, but in the hearts and memories of all the young men who gave her life. To them, she will forever be a part of their lives. To them, she entrusts her legacy.

To paraphrase John F. Kennedy,

"Any man who may be asked in this century what he did to make his life worthwhile ...He can respond with a good deal of pride and satisfaction, I served in the United States Navy. And you can add to that "I served aboard the Samuel B. Roberts DD 823."  
Don Eagle

Thanks Again,

Ken



## **Rat Guard**

Circa Fall 1967 Newport RI, the Roberts had just returned to port and set the mooring lines. It was now time to add the rat guards. The rat guard is a funnel shaped device that is split into two equal pieces lengthwise. It is placed around the mooring line and the small ends are wrapped with small line to hold the pieces together in place on the mooring line.

The sonar gang was responsible for line # 5 on the fantail. Jack Hall STG3 drew the short straw he was not happy with the task which involved balancing on the mooring line, holding the rat guard and pulling himself out to the middle of the mooring line. (about 10ft of the main deck and above the water).

Jack (wearing a life jacket) climbed out on the line putting one leg over each side of the mooring line. To free up one hand, he put the small roll of line in the upper chest area of the life jacket. As he moved, he looked much like a bronco rider without a horse, arm waving, hooting and hollering as he tried to stay balanced on the mooring line. He was attracting a lot of attention now.

Jack attached the rat guard and started the tie down. Shortly after, he lost his balanced and swung under the mooring line holding on with both arms and legs. Jack had his back to us as he went out on the mooring line and it wasn't until he flipped over that we saw a big problem. The roll of small line had looped under the life jacket straps and Jack had tied himself to the mooring line, he could not move. The laughter was heard from a lot of witnesses. It took a while and a couple of sailors to remove him.

## **Breakfast at Sea**

Circa 1968 at sea somewhere. We were in just under heavy sea conditions and I was first to get on the mess deck. I like to have toast, coffee and grapefruit juice. As I was settling down and starting to eat, another sailor showed up and got himself some grapefruit juice.

After a minute or so, he comes to where I am sitting and exclaims that there is something in the juice. I replied, yes, they are small cockroaches. I then proceeded to remove a couple and drink some juice.

He immediately upchucks all over the deck and leaves. A couple of minutes later another sailor shows up in front of me. I warned him about the vomit on the deck, he looks down and at the same time the odor hits his nose and he upchucks. I continued to eat and drink juice.

Sadly, this was not the worst dining experience I had on the Roberts but it does rank very close to the top.

## **Bob Hunt**

### **Kevin and Terry's Heath Update**

I had a gallbladder attack early November, 3 days out of surgery I had a TIA, mini stroke. Effected my whole right side of my body. Now 2 months later I'm well on my way to a full recovery, only my right hand still needs therapy, so please bear with me on the "Butt" I'm right-handed.

As fore, Kevin, in late December he also had a TIA but has fully recovered. He is fighting Bronchitis now but Kevin said he will fully recover.

## **Terry Haskins**

## Tin Can Sailors

The next Tin Can Sailors reunion is in Norfolk, Virginia September 21-25, 2025. You can look up on their website [WWW.destroyers.org](http://WWW.destroyers.org) for more information. We need as many shipmates to attend as we are electing officers for the next two years and other important business at hand. The last reunion we had only 16 shipmates plus guests. We understand we are an older group of men some with hardships of getting around and maybe financial difficulties.

The most recent issue of the Scuttlebutt arrived today, and I wanted to inform you that my husband, John Bonnell, passed away August 2, 2023. You might be interested to know that John suffered from many health issues including heart problems, diabetes, Parkinson's and a stroke. These issues were blamed on his exposure to Agent Orange while he served on the Samuel B. Roberts in Vietnam. He was declared 100% disabled by the VA and received monthly disability payments. I wonder if there are others "in the same boat". He always enjoyed the Scuttlebutt, and I commend you for keeping it going.

Thank you, Alice M. Bonnell

### U.S.S. Samuel B. Roberts DD 823 Shipmates Association

#### 2024 Treasures Report

Ending Balance (12/31/2023) .....	\$ 4,828.09
Deposit (01/01/2024 – 12/31/24) .....	\$ <u>1,305.00</u>
	\$ 6,133.09
Disbursements (01/01/2024 – 12/31/2024) .....	\$ <u>1,179.86</u>
Ending Balance (12/31/2024) .....	\$ 4,953.23
<u>2024 Deposits</u>	
Dues .....	\$ 375.00
Donations .....	\$ <u>930.00</u>
Total: .....	\$ 1,305.00
<u>2024 Total Disbursements/Expenditures</u>	
Scuttlebutt, Letters, Envelopes, Printing & Postage .....	\$ 1,048.86
Terry Haskins – Microsoft Office .....	\$ <u>131.00</u>
Total: .....	\$ 1,179.86

Receipts on file.

Respectfully,

Kevin McKeown, Treasures

Note: Regarding Donations: A \$500 donation was made by a Shipmate in 2024 to be used during a future reunion for the benefit of the membership. Donor to remain anonymous.

February 29, 1966 on our way home from Vietnam we all became "Shellbacks"- Tom Zwemke

# CROSSING THE EQUATOR

Leaving Subic Bay, the next major event in our long deployment was the crossing of the Equator on 29 February. Former "Pollywogs" are not likely to forget this day which was devoted to holding the traditional "Shellback" indoctrination ceremony. Many of us wore signs of our initiation a month later. Throughout this entire miserable day the hot Equatorial sun beat down upon us while we "Pollywogs" crawled around in skivvies, were beaten and required to humble ourselves to the whims of the Shellbacks. Nevertheless, the salt-water soakings, fire hose beatings, the kissing of King Neptune's toe and the Royal Baby's stomach were soon forgotten when, after our final cleansing of the slime of pollywogs, we came up sputtering "I'm a Shellback!"







# From The Wardroom

## A Surprise Visit

I served aboard the Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823) as the CIC officer from June 1966 through June 1968. An incident took place on the ship during the late summer of 1967. It was a Saturday morning in Newport, Rhode Island while I had the weekend duty aboard the ship as the Command Duty Officer (CDO). I was a LTJG at the time.

On weekends in homeport, the CDO's job is usually pretty laid back. On the particular weekend, the CO, XO and married department heads were enjoying their weekend at home with their families as usual. The majority of the junior officers and enlisted crew were also on the beach. There was only a skeleton crew on board. It was mid-morning and I was lounging in the wardroom reading the morning newspaper dressed only in khaki pants and a t-shirt. The last thing I expected to hear was the Petty Officer of the watch making an announcement over the 1-MC from the quarterdeck. When I heard the distinctive sound of the 1-MC click on through the speaker in the wardroom, my ears perked up. The next sound I heard was a loud bong through the speaker followed by three more bongs. Of course, I immediately concluded the CO was coming aboard and here I am out of uniform. But it got worse...much worse. The bonging didn't stop at four. It continued until there were six bongs in all. Then I heard the Petty Officer of the watch announce, "Admiral United States Navy, arriving". I stood up in total shock. An Admiral would never come to a little Destroyer unannounced on a Saturday morning when the senior officer on board to greet him was a LTJG in his t-shirt, or so I thought!

Before I could move, there was a loud knock on the wardroom door. The door immediately opened by the messenger of the watch. He held the door open and elderly (probably mid-50's) gray haired gentleman in civilian clothes entered and smiled at me. "I didn't mean to surprise you son. They insisted on bonging me aboard. I'm actually a retired Rear Admiral. The name's Copeland. I was in the neighborhood and just wanted to see the namesake of my Destroyer Escort that was sunk during the battle off Samar during the war". I was absolutely stunned to be meeting, in person, the legendary CO of the DE-413, the original Samuel B. Roberts. Every sailor aboard the ship knew that second Navy Cross on the ships crest was awarded to Captain Robert Copeland. And here I was completely out of uniform. He actually proceeded to apologize for interrupting our ships leisurely Saturday routine in homeport.

All I could think to do was offer him a cup of coffee and he accepted. I then asked if he would mind if I tried to contact my commanding officer, executive officer and anyone else I could think of who would want to meet him. He readily agreed and within 30 minutes the wardroom was overflowing with crewmembers. He was given the grand tour of the ship. He then spent two or more hours in the wardroom describing in detail the events in 1944 when the "small boys" in Taffy 3 helped save the American invasion force on Leyte from being cut off by the main Japanese battle force. We all sat enthralled as he recounted the battle and specifically the role of the Samuel B. Roberts (DE-413). I was honored to have been the junior officer that welcomed Admiral Copeland on board that day in 1967 to the namesake of the little destroyer escort with the heart of a battleship. And, yes, I even managed to get into uniform before my skipper arrived on board. Admiral Copeland had my back and never let the cat out of the bag. It was a day I will never forget. Dan Sarno, LTJG CIC Officer June 1966-June 1968 Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823). I was the Petty Officer of the watch that day. It was an honor to meet Admiral Copeland and Captain Rinn (FFG-58) years later, and a privilege to serve onboard the Samuel B. Roberts (DD 823) Terry Haskins, Sec'y



## *Going Home ... The Atlantic*

With one week to go and the Atlantic Ocean between us and home, "Channel Fever" ran high. Even the slight delay caused by bad weather didn't dampen our spirits.

On Good Friday, 8 April 1966, after a journey of over half a year which took SAMUEL B. ROBERTS around the world to Vietnam - touched 5 continents - crossed 3 oceans, 5 seas, and over 48,000 miles, we were.....





*Sammy B. Scuttlebutt*  
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7948 NW 49th Way Gainesville, FL 32653

