

# Scuttlebutt

## USS Samuel B. Roberts (DD-823) Shipmates Association

February, 2023

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Greetings to all! Well I guess by now almost everyone is wondering what the heck is going on, No “Scuttle Butt” for December and thus far no information with regard to our reunion scheduled for October of this year.

So I will get right down to what has been going on and bring everyone up to date. I am saddened to report that our Association has been going through a difficult period that has impacted our normal routine. For starters, you may or may not have heard that our Scuttlebutt guru Jim Norton is seriously ill and is not able to continue as the coordinator responsible for publishing the Butt. After a search for someone to rise up and take on the challenge of publishing the Butt, Jim Antenucci graciously volunteered to give it a shot. Just as Jim was nearing putting the final touches to the December issue Jim became seriously ill and all work ceased. Jim was hospitalized for several weeks and remains in serious condition and in palliative care at home. ALL OUR PRAYERS go out to him and his family. Meanwhile the unfinished Butt remains in limbo, probably never to be published. Hope this clears up the situation with regard to the Butt.

The second item of importance is the reunion. Whether you are aware or not a second function that Jim Norton has, is the sole organizer of our reunions. Over the last several reunions Jim Norton has been our “go-to-guy” when it came to putting together a reunion package. Since Jim’s illness is in a somewhat cloudy situation and communications with him have been very difficult, it has taken us a while to realize that Jim is not going to be able to organize this year’s reunion. Having finally determined this, we began the process late and it has put us somewhat behind the eight ball. Once we decided that we needed to step up to the plate, we had to find a volunteer who was willing to take this task on and also had some experience doing this type of a project. Three cheers, Tom Zwemke has volunteered.

Before I get into some details with regard to the reunion and where we stand, there are some facts that I wish to express:

Since we have started so late in the game we do not have the luxury of mythically taking our time and exploring each and every option, in addition to Charleston being a popular destination, picking a time frame has been severely restricted. Keeping this in mind we were lucky enough to be able to find an agency that handles reunions, and comes highly recommended, helping with planning this reunion. We are committed to

holding this reunion and are fully aware that sadly we are an aging Association and future reunions are unpredictable. It is therefore with this thinking in mind that I am urging that each and every one do your utmost to try and ATTEND this reunion. Since the avenue of communication to all members normally via the Butt is uncertain, we are making every effort to make information as it becomes available to be made known via our website. PLEASE use it. For those of you who do not have access and wish to ask questions please feel free to contact me, my home phone is 1-610-381-3714.

Please note that many factors have happened since our last reunion that has had an impact on costs associated with reunions, among them hotel fees, banquets, and sightseeing tours. We want you to know that we have made every effort to negotiate the best prices possible. Considering all the factors and the future of reunions please do your best to attend?

## ***The Reunion***

We will be staying at the Crown Plaza Hotel.

**Crowne Plaza, Charleston**  
**4831 Tanger Outlet Blvd.**  
**N. Charleston, SC 29418 (843) 744-4422**

The reunion dates are as follows: October 23, 2023 thru October 26, 2023 departing on the 27th. Bookings will be available from October 22 at the going negotiated rate of \$144.00 per night for 2, breakfast included.

### **Sunday, October 22**

Early arrival attendees – reunion hotel rates of \$144 (including breakfast) is good 3 days before and 3 days after based on room availability

### **Monday, October 23**

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm Check in  
3:00 pm Hospitality Room open  
6:00 pm Buffet Dinner

### **Tuesday, October 24**

8:30 am – 3:30 pm Tour #1 – Patriots Point & Ft Sumter

The world's largest Naval and Maritime Museum includes the aircraft carrier Yorktown, the destroyer Laffey and the submarine Clamagore. You will see the Medal of Honor Museum on board the Yorktown and the Vietnam River Patrol Base exhibit. Then board the Fort Sumter sight-seeing boat for a harbor tour and trip to Fort Sumter (accessible only by water).

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**Wednesday, October 25      Tour #2 – Magnolia Plantation**

This beautiful plantation, founded by the Drayton family in 1676 has survived centuries of history from the American Revolution to today. Following the time here the coach will take you to Market Square for shopping and lunch on your own before returning to the hotel.

1930Hrs. Auction in Hospitality Room

**Thursday, October 26**

Free time for exploring the many sites of Charleston on your own or shopping at the Tanger Outlets across from the hotel.

5:00 pm The onsite coordinator from “A Complete Reunion” is a professional photographer and will take large group pictures, small groups, couples which you can order and pick up on-site and take home with you.

6:30 pm – 9:30 pm Banquet

Make your choice of beef, chicken or fish on the registration form, and enjoy this final meal of this reunion together.

**Friday, October 27**

Check out

You can view the Hotel by linking to the website <https://vimeo.com/516816884>

***Important:*** This year’s reunion is being handled by a third party. Their name is “A Complete Reunion “ACR”. With the exception of the Hotel reservations all the bookings, tours, dinners etc. will be handled by them and payment shall be made to them. You should be receiving in a separate mailing from them with complete details should be coming by May.

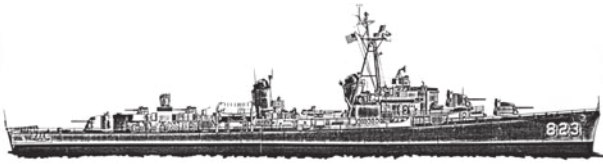
Finally: since things have been, so not routine, we have missed an issue of the “Butt”, I have been asked to remind each and every one of you that as of January, the 2023 dues of \$15.00 is due. Please send in your dues payable to USS SAMUEL B. ROBERTS SHIPMATES ASSOC. and mail to:

**Kevin McKeown  
47 Long Beach Dr.  
Sound Beach, NY 11789**

That’s about it shipmates, remember a lot has happened since our last reunion and who knows what is in store as we move along. SO!!! Please make every effort to make this a great reunion and my thanks to all those who have chipped in during this difficult time.

Best regards,

Ken Giardina, *President*



# Sammy B. Scuttlebutt

USS Samuel B. Roberts (DD823)  
Shipmates Association

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