

Naval Vessel Historical Evaluation

FINAL DETERMINATION



This evaluation is unclassified

Name	Hull Number
SAMUEL B. ROBERTS	FFG 58
Vessel Class	Previous Vessel Designation (if any)
OLIVER HAZARD PERRY (FFG 7)-class guided missile frigate	None
Vessel Location	Current Status
INACTSHIPMAINTO Philadelphia	Stricken

Initial Evaluation Date	Initial Finding
12 March 2015	Eligible
Final Evaluation Date	Eligibility for Listing to the National Register of Historic Places
1 June 2015	Eligible

Vessel Snapshot

Lineage	<p>Third U.S. Navy ship to be named for COX Samuel Booker Roberts, Jr., USNR (1921-1942) awarded the Navy Cross, posthumously, for heroism at Guadalcanal on 27 September 1942. The first of two previous ships was a destroyer escort (DE-413) that received a share of the Presidential Unit Citation awarded TU 77.4.3 (“Taffy 3”) for carrying out a courageous torpedo and gun attack on an overwhelming force of Japanese ships off Samar in October 1944, for which her commanding officer (who survived) received the Navy Cross. The second ship, a destroyer (DD-823), received two battle stars for service in the Vietnam War.</p>
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Displacement	4,000 tons
Length	453 ft
Beam	49 ft
Draft	24.5 ft
Speed	30+ kts
Propulsion	Two General Electric LM2500 Gas Turbine Engines; 40,000 Total Shaft Horsepower; One controllable reversible pitch propeller; two 350-hp electric drive auxiliary propulsion units.
Armament	Guided missile launching system with <i>Standard</i> surface-to-air missiles and <i>Harpoon</i> surface-to-surface missiles; 76-mm rapid firing dual purpose gun; two triple tube antisubmarine torpedo mounts; 61 mm close-in weapons system (CIWS). In addition: 2 SH-60 LAMPS multi-purpose helicopters; long/medium range digital sonars; long range air search radar; surface search/navigation radar; electronic support measures receiving set; digital fire control system; digital computer system which integrates all weapons and sensors.
Laid Down	21 May 84
Launched	8 Dec 84
Built By	Bath Iron Works, Bath, ME
Sponsor	Mrs. Ivonette E. Roberts, sister-in-law of the late COX Samuel B. Roberts, Jr., USNR
Delivered	1 Apr 86
Commissioned	12 Apr 86, Bath, ME

Inactivated	n/a
Decommissioned	22 May 15
Stricken	22 May 15

Vessel History

Deployment Summary	<p>Operation PRIME CHANCE, Operation EARNEST WILL, Persian Gulf, 1988; Struck by a mine in the Persian Gulf, 27 June 1988; 10 sailors injured; SAMUEL B ROBERTS loaded on MIGHTY SERVANT II, a 25,743-ton semi-submersible cargo vessel that the Navy chartered from a Dutch salvage firm for \$1.3 million; returned to Bath Ironworks, Portland, ME, to be rebuilt. Roberts made her second deployment in 1990 for Operations DESERT STORM and Operation DESERT SHIELD. The frigate operated as part of the Red Sea Maritime Interception Force, an international force of ships that enforced U.N. sanctions against Iraq. The frigate's sailors boarded more than 100 merchant ships in efforts to prevent cargo shipments to or from Iraq. On 28 March 1991, she returned to Newport.</p> <p>2003-2004: Deployed to the southern command area of responsibility in support of counter-drug operations.</p> <p>2005 UNITAS 46-05 Pacific and UNITAS 47-06 Atlantic Phase; additional drug intervention operations at the end of the year.</p> <p>2006: Participated in NEPTUNE WARRIOR in October.</p> <p>2007: Arrived in the Fort de France, Martinique, for the first port visit of the ship's Partnership of the Americas (POA) 2007 deployment to South America; participated in PANAMAX 2007; rescue missions to Honduras in areas affected by Hurricane <i>Felix</i>.</p> <p>2008: Rescue missions in Panama following catastrophic flooding; additional counter-drug operations into 2009.</p> <p>2009: Four-month deployment in support of the Africa Partnership Station (APS) West, ending in 2010.</p> <p>2010: The Nigerian Navy patrol boat BURUTU collided with the SAMUEL B. ROBERTS while both vessels were in a training exercise. The latter had previously sounded a warning using her loudspeakers that the Nigerian vessel was on a collision course but the patrol boat subsequently scraped along the side of the SAMUEL B. ROBERTS. Collision resulted in the need for</p>
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	<p>\$371K in maintenance and repairs to the SAMUEL B. ROBERTS.</p> <p>2011: Participated in multinational exercise JOINT WARRIOR 2011-1. Later deployed in support of the Africa Partnership Station (APS) East.</p> <p>2012: Participated in ENTERPRISE CSG Composite Training Unit Exercise (COMPTUEX) as part of simulated opposition forces.</p> <p>2013: Underwent a three-week Independent Deployer (ID) Certification Exercise; deployment to the Mediterranean; provided support to the AFRICOM Counter Terrorism, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions with embarked four MQ-8B <i>Fire Scouts</i>.</p> <p>October 23, SAMUEL B. ROBERTS returned to Naval Station Mayport after a six-month deployment, having set a new Navy record of 1,712 <i>Fire Scout</i> UAV flight hours in support of mission tasking, breaking the previous record by more than 800 hours.</p> <p>2014: Participated in multinational exercise JOINT WARRIOR 14-1, off the coast of Scotland, from March 30 through April 10; in June, SAMUEL B. ROBERTS deployed to the Mediterranean with embarked Helicopter Maritime Strike Squadron (HSM) in support of AFRICOM Counter Terrorism, Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance missions.</p>
<p>Awards</p>	<p>On 3 May 1988 ADM William J. Crowe, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, presented medals to crew members of the SAMUEL B. ROBERTS for actions in saving the ship. The Legion of Merit was awarded to the commanding officer, CDR Paul X. Rinn. ADM Crowe also awarded the Navy Unit Commendation medal to the crew as well as the following individual awards: 10 Bronze Star with Combat “V”; 14 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat “V”; and 2 Purple Hearts. An additional 4 Purple Hearts were awarded to crew members hospitalized after the mining of the ship.</p> <p>CDR Rinn was also awarded a Navy Commendation Medal with Combat Distinguishing Device for Superior Performance and Management of Wounded, and the U.S. Navy League John Paul Jones Inspirational Leadership Award. He also received an Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal for Persian Gulf Operations.</p> <p>Other awards: SAMUEL B. ROBERTS was named the Atlantic Fleet's best surface combatant in the 1993 Battenberg Cup competition.</p> <p>Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal – 1988, 1997, 1998, 2000</p> <p>Armed Forces Service Medal – 1996 (3)</p>

	<p>Combat Action Ribbon – 1988</p> <p>Battle Efficiency Award – 2001</p> <p>Humanitarian Service Medal – 2007</p> <p>Meritorious Unit Commendation – 1993 (RESTORE HOPE), 1995, 2002 (OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM)</p> <p>Navy “E” Ribbon – 1992, 1993 (2), 1994, 1995, 2001, 2008</p> <p>Navy Unit Commendation – 1991 (DESERT STORM), 1998</p> <p>Southwest Asia Service Medal – 1991, 1992</p>
Noteworthy Events	<p>During Operation EARNEST WILL, on 14 April 1988, the SAMUEL B. ROBERTS struck an Iranian M-08 mine while escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers in the central Persian Gulf. The resulting explosion punched a 15-foot hole in the hull, knocked the ship’s two gas turbine engines off their mounts, and flooded the engine room. The ship was almost broken in two and for five horrific hours the crew fought fires and flooding. Ten sailors were injured and taken off the ship by helicopter for medical treatment. Eventually, though, the remaining crewmembers were able to bring the situation under control and the ship was towed to Dubai for temporary repairs. Directed to abandon ship, the ship’s commanding officer, CDR Paul X. Rinn refused and the crew fought on, emerging victorious.</p>
DANFS* Entry	History in process (place-saver).

**Dictionary of American Naval Fighting Ships*

Criteria Evaluation¹

i. Was the vessel awarded an individual Presidential Unit Citation?	No.
ii. Did an individual act of heroism take place aboard the vessel such that an individual was subsequently awarded the Medal of Honor or the Navy Cross?	No. However, the Legion of Merit was awarded to CDR Paul X. Rinn, the commanding officer; 10 Bronze Stars with Combat “V”; 14 Navy Commendation Medals with Combat “V”; and 2 Purple Hearts, with an additional 4 Purple Hearts awarded to crew

¹ Evaluation conducted using triggers established for naval vessels in *Program Comment for the Department of Navy for the Disposition of Historic Vessels*, issued by the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation on 15 March 2010.

	members hospitalized after the mining of the ship, were awarded to members of the crew. The magnificent manner in which the ship and her men stood this severe test compares most favorably with the Navy's essential core values.
iii. Was a President of the United States assigned to the vessel during his or her naval service?	No.
iv. Was the vessel was the first to incorporate engineering, weapons systems, or other upgrades that represent a revolutionary change in naval design or warfighting capabilities?	No.
v. Did some other historic or socially significant event occur on board the vessel?	Yes. See History Summary.
Historic Evaluation Conclusion	Eligible, because of the distinguished lineage and her story of survival that would stand as a tribute to the heroism inherent in that lineage, from the man honored in the first ship to the courageous crew who kept the third ship afloat.
Assessment of integrity of (as appropriate) design, materials, workmanship, feeling and/or association.	Not decommissioned; ship retains its integrity.

Sources	Welcome Aboard Samuel B. Roberts "Crew Saved U.S. Frigate from Sinking," Washington Post, April 22, 1988
	http://www.roberts.navy.mil/
	Archives, Naval History and Heritage Command, USN
	http://www.navytimes.com/article/20100702/NEWS/7020315/Skipper-reprimanded-collision-off-Nigeria
	http://www.nvr.navy.mil
	http://www.navy.mil/navydata/fact_display.asp?cid=4200&tid=1300&ct=4&target=_blank
	http://www.uscarriers.net/ffg58history.htm
	https://awards.navy.mil/awards

Historic Preservation Stakeholder Comment

Historic preservation stakeholder comments received are considered when preparing final determinations. The initial determination for this vessel was made available for comment by historic preservation stakeholders for 60 days. During that time, the Navy received one written comment (below).

Comments Received	Comment Disposition
State of Florida Agreed with the Preliminary DOE	Noted
