

Commander James L. (Jim) Robertson, Ret. Commander, USN Ret., was instrumental in the establishment of the Augusta Sailing Club. He was born and raised in Augusta and graduated from the US Naval Academy at Annapolis, Class of 1922.

After graduation, he served in Southern Europe and helped evacuate White Russian troops who lost to the ascending Communists.

Afterwards he attended the New London, Connecticut submarine school and at age 26 became one of the youngest officers in the history of the US Navy to be given command of his own submarine.

Sometime after obtaining command of his submarine, Robertson urged Hyman G. Rickover, his friend and former bunkmate at Annapolis (both born on the same day, January 27, 1900) to consider applying for submarine school. Rickover did and as history has recorded is responsible for the creation of nuclear powered submarines and aircraft carriers, forever changing the history of all modern navies.

Mr. Robertson's most treasured navy medals was the one he earned for qualifying as a submariner. It was personally bestowed by Admiral Chester W. Nimitz.

Mr. Robertson left the Navy and returned home to Augusta in 1933, first working with the Augusta Chronicle, then briefly with the Georgia Railroad Bank, and then with his friend, Clem Castleberry, at Castleberry's Food Company.

When World War II broke out, Mr. Robertson was instrumental in landing Castleberry's contracts to produce C-rations for the troops and it was quite a windfall for the company. Mr. Robertson was called back to service during World War II and was served as a commanding officer of an advanced naval base in Christchurch, NZ, until the end of the war.

Mr. Robertson returned to Augusta after the war where he remained until his death in 1978. He continued to work as Vice President of Castleberry's Food Co. He convinced his friend Clem Castleberry to help support the Augusta Sailing Club and sponsor what became known as the Castleberry Robertson Regatta by purchasing the trophy and providing plenty of food and drink for the annual event.

Mr. Robertson and Mr. Castleberry greatly enjoyed hosting the annual Castleberry-Robertson Regatta. In the early days, Mr. Castleberry would make sure the food and beverages for the post regatta party was top notch and his huge boat would serve as the committee boat. Mr. Robertson would organize the event and delegate all duties with the efficiency and precision of a submarine commander. It was a very organized, well run event with the best post regatta party of the year.

Biography provide by Godson

James Lawrence Robertson "Larry" Moody