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The Carr family extends a warm Oklahoma welcome to all. We consider each of you an honored guest. You have met and heard from some of our very special visitors. Now I would like to have you meet a few more.

These men also served aboard the original Samuel B Roberts:
John E (Red) Harrington from Eaton, MD.
Ray Chambless from Davis, OK

Mr. Richard Small, who built the model of the Carr. Dick Small was born and grew up in Idaho and served four and one half years in the South Pacific with the Combat Engineers. After the war he settled in Seattle where he now lives with his wife Vivian. He has been building ship models since 1938 but feels that the USS Carr is one of the most special he has built. Like all great artists, he feels about his creation a little like a parent to child, so he has come to assure that the adoptive home and parents will be suitable for his creation. We are very honored to have Dick Small and his wife with us today. We are also very grateful that he was here to help repair the damage incurred during shipping.

We also have two young ladies here who represent the future of the Carr family. Miss Britain Lemly, great granddaughter of Ruth and Olaf Cox and Miss Megan Rush, our granddaughter.

How many of us think as we go about our daily routines, doing what we consider our small insignificant tasks, that the places we go and the people we meet are in reality "DIVINE APPOINTMENTS.'

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When Lil Comet decided to go the Fair with her grandchild she was probably just thinking what most grandmothers would, that it would be an opportunity to have a special fun time with her grandchild and maybe sneak in some educational experiences along the way. It was there that they "CHANCED" upon the model of the USS Carr. Although she was excited about the discovery, I doubt that Lil could have realized that this particular 'DIVINE APPOINTMENT' would result in our being here today to give that model a permanent home in a museum housed in a restored train depot in Checotah, OK. A small insignificant outing to the fair? Well, months later here we are.

When Richard Small built his first model from scratch, the CSS Alabama, in 1938, using only a Popular Science article for a guide, he embarked on a long enjoyable journey. His skill and the complexity of his models grew with each passing year. He always does extensive research #1 to determine what ship he wants to build and #2 to learn as much as he can of the history of the ship. This attention to detail is reflected in every ship he builds. When in 19 he started doing research to build his next model, he "CHANCED" upon the story of the USS Carr. He became intrigued with this story of a farm boy who became a Naval hero and decided that this would be his next ship. This decision would eventually lead him to Paul Carr's hometown to oversee the placement of his ship in the small museum located there. (That little chore has turned out to be much more than he had anticipated.) Most of us would never consider historical research a 'DIVINE APPOINTMENT'. I doubt that Dick Small did, and yet, as a result of this research, here we are today.

The groundwork for my brother's final 'DIVINE APPOINTMENT' on October 25, 1944 was laid from the time he was a small child. If

a chore was not done in a satisfactory manner, he was made to do it over until "it was done right". "A job worth doing is worth doing well" was probably not music to his ears but it sunk deeply into his character development nonetheless.

Even though we were as poor as the proverbial church mice, my mother's fierce determination to see that all her children get the best education available to them also helped mold his character.

Courage in the face of adversity was part and parcel of all our upbringing. Whining and blaming others was never permitted; responsibility for our own actions and not quitting until the job was complete was expected of us all. Through these small, mundane, seemingly insignificant daily experiences, my brother was equipped to keep his final 'DIVINE APPOINTMENT.'

The grief was still too fresh, the hurt too deep for even the awarding of the Silver Star to make us fully realize his heroism. The fact that he was mentioned in most accounts of The Battle of Leyte Gulf or even that his heroic feat formed the basis for a fictional character in a story in the Saturday Evening Post (that hero lived and married the Admiral's daughter by the way) penetrated the sadness. At that point our loss was still too keenly felt. Then several years later another fair, another exhibit, and another 'DIVINE APPOINTMENT.' While at the Muskogee State Fair, my sister Peggy and her daughter Nancy had naturally visited the Navy recruiting booth in one of the exhibition buildings. One of the "freebies" offered at the booth was a comic book about Naval heroes. Nancy, being at the comic book age, had brought one home with her. A few days later my sister in the midst of those small mundane chores we spoke of earlier ran across this comic book. When she saw that it was about Naval history, she began to leaf through it. She found the story of the battle that has been recounted

here today and my brother's part in it. The David and Goliath comparison and the fact that the Navy was using the story in their recruiting efforts made us aware that maybe his heroism was really more special than we had realized. The Commissioning of the USS Carr and many other events have proved this to be so. This comic book is now a part of the family archives.

I was recently asked by a friend if I ever wondered why my brother's heroic deed should be so honored when there were very many heroic deeds, a great many of which could be considered braver or more spectacular than his. I have thought long and hard about this. I believe that perhaps the reason his story has so intrigued and captured the hearts and imaginations of those who hear it is because it is so simple. A young man doing what he had been trained to do, doing it with all his might, and wanting desperately to see the job through to completion.

If I could have one wish, and I believe I speak for my family in this, I would wish that all who view this model of the USS Carr-- including those future generations represented by the young ones you just met-- would realize that heroic deeds are the end result of all those seemingly insignificant, small, mundane, day to day living experiences that go into molding our character. If we would look at each experience, each task as a 'DIVINE APPOINTMENT' we might approach them differently. It is with this desire that we the members of the Carr Family wish to present this model of the USS CARR to the Checotah Landmark Preservation Society for permanent placement in the Museum here at the Katy Depot.