



Robert Frederick Kuhns
Seaman 1/C U.S. Navy
10 November 1943 – 1945

Robert was born on 31 August 1917, in Kuhnsville, Pennsylvania. Robert's parents were **Harry C. Kuhns** (c.1886 – c.1922) and **Katie Elvina Bortz** (c.1888 – 6 June 1949). After his father died, his family moved to Wescosville, Pennsylvania, in Lower Macungie Township, where he attended grade school from 1924 to 1932, and then went to work for the Pennsylvania Highway Department. On 2 September 1936, Robert married **Eleanore Bergstresser Keller** (born 4 February 1917). They made their home in Wescosville, and had three sons; **Robert Lee**, **Harry C.**, and **Rodney Jay**. Robert entered the Navy on 10 November 43 as a Seaman Recruit. He underwent recruit training at Camp Sampson, New York, and was then assigned as a cook aboard Landing Ship Tank, *USS (LST-225)*. During May 1944, *USS (LST-225)* sailed for South Pacific waters, and participated in the battles and capture of Saipan (11 June to 23 July 1944), Tinian (24 July 1944 to 1 August 1944), and the southern Palau Islands (6 September to 14 October 1944). At Palau, *USS (LST-225)* served as a casualty transfer point for wounded personnel to be triaged and treated prior to their transfer to transport and hospital ships. Robert continued to serve aboard *USS (LST-225)* in the Pacific until she returned to San Diego in May 1945, after which Robert came home on 30 days leave during June 1945. *USS (LST-225)* later returned to the Pacific Theater where she performed occupation duty in the Far East after World War II ended. Robert was discharged from the Navy as a Seaman 1/C in 1945, and returned home to his family in Wescosville. Robert resumed working for about two years for the Pennsylvania Highway Department, where a friend of his, Walter Anthony, also was working. In 1947, Robert and Walter discovered there was a demand for asphalt paving in the Lehigh Valley. They then borrowed and rented equipment, and worked weekends paving driveways and small parking lots. They soon realized they could make much more money working weekends than they could by working all week for the Highway Department, so they formed a partnership and founded Kuhns & Anthony Paving Company in Wescosville. Upon his retirement, Robert sold the business to Walter's son Peter. Robert enjoyed hunting, fishing, and gardening. He died at home in Wescosville on 3 September 2004, and was buried with full military honors in the cemetery at Jordan Lutheran Church in Orefield, Pennsylvania, where he was a member and had served on the Church Council and the Church Cemetery Association. Robert also was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. He also was a member of the Rural Sportsmen's Association in Trexlertown, and a life member of Wescosville Fire Company. Robert's brother, **Samuel H. Kuhns**, served in the Army Air Corps during World War II. Robert's sons also served in the military, Harry and Rodney in the Army, and Robert in the Navy.



LST-225 at Peleliu, on D-Day
6 September 1944