

SAVANNAH'S CHARM AWAITS ALL 2011 REUNION ATTENDEES

LAFFEY NEWS



Dedicated to those who served in Battle...and those that Preserve in Peace

July-August-September

www.laffey.org

2011

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE JULY 2011

Reunion time is getting closer. At this writing we have about 70 persons signed up. We need more than that!!! It looks like we'll have a really good time and I hope y'all can make it to that grand old city of Savannah!

This year has been a tough year for our WWII members. Many of them have joined their previously fallen shipmates in Heaven: We shall miss them dearly. Personally, I'll miss sitting and talking with them at the reunions. It is our duty to keep their memory and their stories alive. Please keep all of our shipmates in your prayers.

An update on the ship's return to Patriots Point: The latest news release came from Mac Burdette at the beginning of July. Mac has stated publicly that the ship should be back by the first of 2012. They have sent out requests for estimates to get the job done to bring her back to Patriots Point. Keep checking The Post and Courier newspaper in Charleston or the Mount Pleasant Patch newspaper for updates. These can be found on the internet.

I mentioned in the last edition that we would like to have another work party before the ship returns to Patriots Point. The temperatures in Charleston have been on the high side and it would not be too good for working inside with no moving air. I am going to try to set up one for the fall, with the permission of the Patriots Point people.

The ship's model sales are going well. We have met our expenses and are now working on building up our Work Party Fund. If you haven't sent in your check yet please do so as soon as possible. There will be extra tickets available for sale at the reunion.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our hard working officers of the association. A.J. Tarquino has really done a great job with our Laffey website. Fred Nardei is doing a great job updating our membership roster (no easy task). Thanks Fred, keep up the good work. Our treasurer George Kessler is really doing a fantastic job paying our bills. It gets a little hairy around reunion time, money coming in from reunion attendees, raffle sales, donations - Thanks, George. And I cannot say enough about our most capable Vice President, Bob Wampler. Bob keeps everyone on their toes with paying attention to detail. He is running the Junior Laffey Sailors program and has been signing up a lot of "young-ins". This is really an important move as our membership isn't getting any younger and the work parties are getting harder on our old bodies! Hopefully these kids will be involved in the future maintenance of our ship for years to come. Another of his many tasks has been ordering the license plate frames and ball caps, he is tireless....that may be a stretch? Bob also is the editor of our Laffey Newsletter. This is no small chore in itself. I sure am glad that I taught Bob all he knows way back in the 60's! Thanks to all of you and to all of you who are members of the association: Remember that nothing is possible without your support.

Please keep our sick shipmates in your prayers.

Sonny Walker, President
USS Laffey DD-724 Association

TAPS LIST

The following shipmates and USS Laffey DD-724 Association members and/or their close relatives have been transferred to a better duty station:

Ernest E. Belk, SN 1/c Plankowner and WWII
Survivor of the Okinawa Battle
Served Aboard 1944-45
Passed Away in 1999

Dennis Bogen, Rate Unknown
Served Aboard 1967-73
Passed Away on June 2, 2011

O. Glen Radder, GM3C, Plankowner and WWII
Survivor of the Okinawa Battle.
Served Aboard 2/44-10/45
Passed Away on March 28, 2011

George Rusk, Jr. WT3, Plankowner and WWII
Survivor of the Okinawa Battle
Served Aboard 2/44-12/45
Passed Away on November 14, 2010

Hershel V. Sellers, Jr.
Served in WWII, Earned PUC, Rescued survivors
of USS Yorktown at Battle of Midway
Executive Officer on USS Wiley
Captain of USS Laffey 1953-55
Passed away on May 10, 2011

Please take a moment in silence to honor and reflect upon the memories of those who have passed away: May the departed rest in peace.

NEWS FROM SEVERAL MONTHS AGO

[Patriots Point board commits to land sale strategy](#)

Source: charlestonbusiness.com

(Portion only of the article)

By Ashley Fletcher Frampton. Published Dec. 17, 2010

Patriots Point Development Authority board members on Thursday endorsed the idea of selling off pieces of land to developers, rather than offering

long-term leases only as it has in the past. After months of discussion about development of the 367 acres they control, the board voted 8-1 in favor of moving ahead with land sales. "That was a huge step," board chairman John Hagerty said after the vote, which came a...

A MEMBER'S UNEXPECTED ENCOUNTER

Having been a Police Officer with the Baltimore City Police Department, I have investigated, charged, and put away thousands of criminals in my 32 year career (1974-2006). Some of these bad guys received long prison sentences. So one could only wonder if and when I would ever cross paths with these criminals after my retirement.

I have been retired for a little over five years. So this past Friday, June 17th, at approximately 8:30 am I was stopped in my pick-up truck at a red light, curb lane. As I said, being retired, I am always cognizant of my surroundings at all times.

There was an older model green Ford Explorer that pulled up behind me in a fast motion. The driver was a black male, mid to late 30's, who exited his vehicle and started to walk toward my driver window.

I had an immediate tendency to consider my above police history comments with concern. So, I reached under the seat between my legs, and pulled out my 9mm Baretta and placed it on the seat to my right, still holding onto it. I kept an eye on the subject's hands, which at this time had nothing in them. When the subject approached my window which was rolled down, he asked me "who in your family served aboard the Laffey".

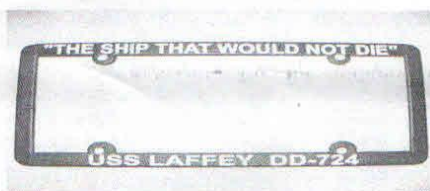
I immediately had a smile on my face for three reasons: one, I did not have to blow this guy away, two, he was under the impression that I was too young to have served upon her, and three, I was proud of the fact that he had recognized my truck license plate frame. At this point I advised him that I served aboard the Laffey in the very early 70's. This person then extended his hand and said "Congratulations, she went through hell on April 16th. Thank You for your service". With that said, he hurriedly went back to his vehicle as the light turned green.

When I took off, I instantly felt goose bumps all over and I felt very proud to the point that I had a tear come out of my right eye. I can only assume because of his age, that he was a naval war buff, and that he studied about the Laffey, and saw my Laffey license plate frame.

This just goes to show and teach us that one should never judge a book by its cover.

Chris Kirhagis, SK3, 12/71 – 12/76

**PLEASE – AVOID BEING EMBARRASSED:
DON'T SHOW UPWELL, NAKED!!!**



You're planning on attending the reunion and you still haven't ordered your USS Laffey plate frames? Surely you want to avoid having everyone else at the reunion pointing their fingers at your vehicle **without** its proper association identification. Think about how badly your car or truck or SUV will feel!

So, let's make certain you don't find yourself in that situation...the owner of a naked vehicle!! Remember, \$1.00 of each frame price goes to help fund the Junior Laffey Sailor Program and the Associate Member Drive. So, what do you have to do to get your license plate frames?

The price for each custom frame is \$10.00 with shipping and handling included. Decide how many frames you might want, write a check made out to the USS Laffey DD-724 Association and send it to:

Bob Wampler, Editor Laffey News
USS Laffey DD-724 Association
100 Landing Lane
Bluffton, SC, 29909-6060

We'll do the rest so your vehicle remains free forever of nakedness and embarrassment! Your car, truck, golf cart, boat etc. will be proud of your decision to purchase their very own plate frame!!

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.

James M. Barrie, Playwright

A MISTAKE WAS MADE.....BY ME!!

By the time I've "crafted" the newsletter and read it, and re-read it, and read it again, my eyes and mind don't seem to be working as well as when the project started. That's what happened in the April-May-June Laffey News.

I did a lot of research and provided a substantial amount of information about Savannah to help those of you attending the reunion to enjoy your visit. However, I failed to show the reunion dates on the registration form. Take a look at the enclosed copy of the registration form with this edition and you will note that this situation has been corrected!!

The January-February-March edition of the Laffey News did list the dates and it was not mailed until June so it might have still been fresh in your minds: But that is not a viable excuse....I simply goofed!!

OK, then, let's fill out the form and send it in to Gemma McLuckie and plan on having a really great time in historic and beautiful Savannah.....You'll find out why General Sherman spared her during the Civil War (War of Northern Aggression!). Be there from October 2, 2011 through October 5, 2011 (Normal Departure Date – October 6th AM) for one of the best reunions ever....The Savannah Theater performance alone will guarantee that! Oh, one change to the information provided in the last edition: **Leopold's Ice Cream Shop has recently been named as the Fifth (5) best ice cream shop "worldwide": Make sure you go!**

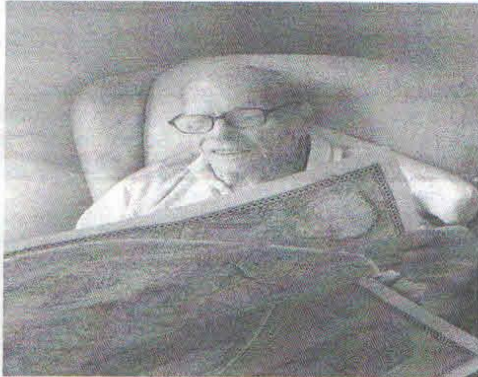
RECENT UPDATE ON CAPTAIN CONGER

Hi Sonny/Bob: Attached is a recent photograph of Skipper Conger reviewing a map and remembering when he and a couple US Navy battlewagons were waiting for a Jap flotilla in the Gulf of Alaska (but, alas, they never came up that far north at that point in time).

He is doing just fine except complaining about the food and car repairs – must be a guy thing, huh?

Michael Snap Conger
Range Services Management Office
NASA/Wallops Flight Facility
Wallops Island VA USA 23337-5099

NOTE: The members of the USS Laffey DD-724 Association extend our best wishes to Commander Conger for a continuation of his speedy recovery from a recent illness. We also thank Michael for providing us with this information and photograph.



ATTENTION JUNIOR LAFFEY SAILORS

As often happens, the best made plans go astray on occasion. We had hoped to have the Laffey back at Patriots Point during the early part of 2011. Obviously, that did not occur and there was no real opportunity for any of you to visit the ship where she is currently berthed.

As a result of this situation, we are waiving the annual \$5.00 membership fee for 2012 to all Junior Laffey Sailors. It was our intention to have you visit the ship and get familiar with it. Those plans were shelved due to the uncertainty of the date of return.

Once we have the ship back to a pier at Patriots Point we will try to schedule a visitation and other events for you to participate in while onboard. We regret the circumstances that developed over this past year.

A word about the annual dues mentioned above. The \$5.00 fee only covers the Laffey News printing and mailing costs for the year with a small contribution made towards promotional items we expect to offer as contest rewards. The remainder

of the costs associated for these as yet to be determined promotional items has been paid for by generous membership donations to the Junior Laffey Sailor Program.

We want all of you to feel that you are a part of the "Laffey Family" and we will do whatever is necessary to have you develop a fondness for our ship and a profound sense of history when you visit the Laffey or read about her legacy.

You Junior Laffey Sailors along with our new associate members are to be the future of our association and we do fully recognize that. We've welcomed you aboard and we want you to stay, and we want your numbers to grow!!

Below shown is the Tee Shirt that each Junior Laffey Sailor will receive just for entering our essay contest that was announced in the January-February-March edition of the Laffey News. There is a 250 word minimum and a 500 word maximum requirement for the essay which is to indicate your viewpoint and/or opinion of the historic legacy of the USS Laffey for her actions during WWII and in particular the Okinawa battle action of April 16, 1945. Read Admiral Becton's book, "The Ship That Would Not Die" that each of you received with your membership and then send your entries/essays to the following address:

Mr. Ari Phoutrides
USS Laffey DD-724 Association
2502 SW Sunset Boulevard
Portland, OR 97239-1220

As I mentioned earlier, Ari is a survivor of the Okinawa Battle and he's looking forward to receiving your essays.

LAFFEY GEAR / APPARREL

As most of you are aware, we have a new supplier for our Laffey apparel: He is a former Laffey sailor and member of the association, Dave Bossard. He was also a "student of Sonny" (like me) and retired as an RMC, USNR.

We will be featuring his up-to date listing of merchandise in the next issue of the Laffey News. In the interim, please contact him directly as shown:

Phone (Cell) 610-698-4653, Fax 610-488-5012,
j davidbossard@aol.com , www.lockerroom4u.com

If you go to the website, click on products and then click on Laffey Ship's Store. Buy Something! He'll thank you for your support! Remember, a portion of the proceeds is donated to the association by Dave

**NEW USS LAFFEY ASSOCIATION TEE SHIRTS
FREE TO JUNIOR LAFFEY SAILOR ESSAY
CONTESTANTS**



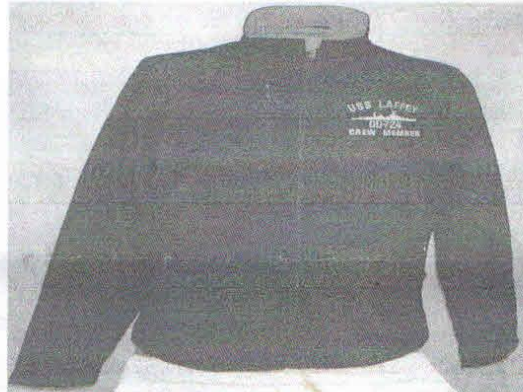
**BELOW SHOWN IS THE NEW SWEATSHIRT
THAT IS BEING GIVEN AWAY TO THE SECOND
PLACE WINNERS FOR AGE GROUPS A AND B**



**AND NOW.....WE'VE SAVED THE BEST FOR
THE LAST PICTURE – FIRST PRIZE IN THE
CONTEST FOR ENTRY AGE GROUPS A AND B**

With the latest in technical fabrics, this soft shell jacket will surely please the contest winners!

Get warmth without the bulk in all types of weather: Hi-tech protection with a sophisticated look. Wind and water-resistant soft shell polyester spandex bonded to tricot. Stand up collar. Wind flap. Open hem with shock cord drawstring. It has zippered side and inside valuables pocket. Features zippered chest pocket and open cuffs with Velcro®.



This jacket is the same one that will be offered for sale to our general membership...So, Lads and Lasses get out those pens or pencils (**after you've read the book!!**) and put your thoughts down on paper and go for the top prize! This jacket is well worth your time and effort. Yes, you can use a typewriter or computer to create your entry as well! Entries must be postmarked by/before Sept. 30th.

**A MESSAGE FROM THE FORMER EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR OF PATRIOTS POINT**

Sonny -

A couple weeks ago another fellow and I put on a Great Battles presentation at the Exchange Club of Charleston. We did it on the Battle of Okinawa with a strong emphasis on the USS Laffey. We had the two top officer and enlisted present along with Lee Hunt at the head table and over 150 exchanges were present. We had the US Navy Color Guard and a bugler, who played taps. The head of our committee Bob Wallace presented a \$500.00 check and the new USS Laffey book by Doug Bostick to Plank Holder Lee Hunt at the conclusion of the program. The program was a great success. Just thought you would like to know.

All the best - Hugh

SPECIAL NOTICE

Due to space limitations in this issue, the Junior Laffey Sailor "Enlistment" Form and the New Associate Membership Application is omitted. Refer to prior issues of the Laffey News to obtain a copy of this document or contact Bob Wampler, editor, at 843-705-2296 and I will mail a copy to you.

THE USS LAFFEY DD-724 SHIP'S MODEL



This is it....Yes indeed! The above example details the model that will be raffled off at the reunion. You don't have to be present for the drawing to win. So, let's all get those tickets in hand that Sonny sent to you, fill them out and send your checks to our President, Sonny Walker, so that you can have a chance to win! Trust me...this model is not like one you might find in a box in a hobby shop. Previous winners can attest to its large size, the accurate presentation of our ship and, well, the darn thing just belongs on each of our mantels or coffee tables! It's pricey and well worth taking a chance on! Buying the tickets is just one more "gitter done" moment so just do it while you're thinking about it.

RECENT POST AND COURIER ARTICLE

The below shown article appeared in the Post and Courier newspaper on June 9, 2011

PATRIOTS POINT AUDIT TO BE SOON

By Warren Wise

The long-awaited audit of Patriots Point requested by one of the state's most powerful lawmakers nearly a year ago will soon get under way.

The maritime museum in Mount Pleasant announced Wednesday that representatives from the Legislative Audit Council will meet with Patriots Point Executive Director Mac Burdette within two weeks to try to answer several pointed questions about the indebted agency's direction spelled out last July by Senate President Pro Tem Glenn McConnell.

Patriots Point Development Authority Board Chairman Ray Chandler welcomed the audit. "I am positive that they will find that we are moving forward on many fronts," Chandler said. "We now have a plan to bring the Laffey back to Patriots Point, hopefully by Christmas. We will announce next week with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers the results of a study to determine the feasibility of building a cofferdam around the Yorktown, so that, as we identify funding sources for repairs, we will be in a position to move forward."

He also said the board has authorized a request for proposals for a structural assessment of the agency's centerpiece attraction, the World War II era aircraft carrier Yorktown, to find out, among other things, how much it will cost to repair the mud-anchored attraction and how quickly they need to act.

Chandler said Patriots Point is operating with a profit and has several initiatives under way to increase cash flow, including the development of 36 acres near the water-based museum.

"We had a process review meeting today (Wednesday) and their staff will come down in about two weeks," Burdette said. "I don't know how long the audit will take or when they will present their findings. This is a performance audit, not a financial audit."

McConnell raised questions 11 months ago about the direction of Patriots Point, saying the tourist attraction "has drifted into a state of inertia and has become overcome by its disabilities."

The Charleston Republican wanted to know how the naval museum plans to repay a \$9 million state loan to repair the warship Laffey. "We have been

given two years to figure that out," Burdette said Wednesday.

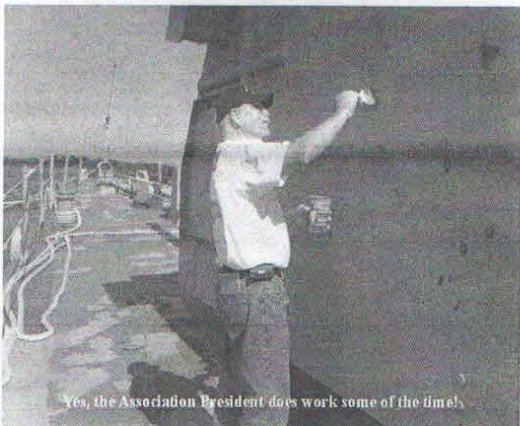
McConnell also questioned the agency's business plan for the future, how it plans to generate money to return Laffey to the docks and how it plans to generate revenue to conserve its aging vessels, among other concerns.

"They want to know how well we are being run," Burdette said. "They want to know, do we have a long-term plan for maintenance costs of the ships? Do we have a business model for maximum revenue potential? Are we compliant with state regulations? Are we getting the maximum benefit from our leases?"

Burdette said Patriots Point has undergone at least two audits by the state agency since the Yorktown dropped anchor there in 1975, but one in 1990 was called off because of other pressing matters within the state. "We have a lot of things going in a good direction," Burdette said. "I'm kind of taking it as a report card, and hopefully it will tell us what we can do better."

Once the audit is completed, Patriots Point will be presented a draft report to comment on or dispute its findings. It will then go to the Legislative Audit Council, which will issue a final opinion.

MAN AT WORK



Yes, the Association President does work some of the time!

During previous work parties our President, Sonny Walker was always accused of being the official greeter to visitors while the others, under his heavy

hand, were forced into slave labor like goals and work loads. He was also the "official photographer" of the work being accomplished....by others!!

Now it seems that he still retained his picture taking role because we have a ton of photos on our website of the recent work party.

However, and I'm not certain who he bribed to take this photo, it would seem that Sonny is trying to portray himself in a different light. Yes indeed, that is our President slapping on some paint. I'm not certain how much time Sonny dedicated to painting but please note that there is little evidence of paint on his arm, his shirt or his pants.....Nice try Sonny!!!

USS LAFFEY DD-724 ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND STAFF

Edgar "Sonny" Walker..... President
Bob Wampler..... Vice President
George Kessler..... Treasurer
Julie Becton..... Secretary
Fred Nardei..... Membership Chairman

Board of Directors

Ari Phoutrides
John Langevin
Francis LaSala
Jim Spriggs
John Hudak

Website Manager

A. J. Tarquino

Newsletter Staff

Bob Wampler.... Editor and Circulation Manager

FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN

Please be reminded that the Board of Directors of the USS Laffey Association voted to have all dues payable on the 1st of January of each year. This will help to eliminate the confusion surrounding when to send your membership dues. For those who have not yet paid their 2011 annual dues, please remit \$25.00 to Mr. Fred Nardei, Membership Chairman: His address is shown in the Laffey News Notes Section.

LAFFEY NEWS NOTES:

- Please notify the editor (Bob Wampler) of any change in your address and inform him of any spelling or numerical errors that are

contained on your newsletter mailing label. Changes and corrections should be sent to the editor whose address is shown on the back page of this and every edition of the Laffey News (or call and leave a message at 843-705-2296). You should also include a **new phone number** if your address changed.

- USS Laffey Association Membership Applications can be found at our website: www.laffey.org. Please encourage others to join or rejoin our dedicated and proud membership!

Annual \$25.00 membership fees, life membership fees, and new membership \$25.00 fees should be in the form of a check or money order made out to the USS Laffey DD-724 Association and then sent to **Mr. Fred Nardei, Membership Secretary, 13565 SE 93rd Court Road, Summerfield, FL 34491. (RECENT CHANGE)** For membership questions please phone Fred at (317)-402-7235 (Cell Phone).

Herschel V. Sellers Jr.
Courtesy of his niece, Julie Clark

My Uncle, Herschel Vernon Sellers, Commanding Officer of the USS Laffey '53-'55, passed away peacefully, on Wednesday, May 10th and was buried next to his wife, Bobby, in the Chattanooga National Cemetery.

He was always so proud of his service on the Laffey and was thrilled that funds were raised for the ongoing repairs.

A few years ago, I came to the Laffey workweek, in his honor and was able to meet so many of the wonderful men who served on the ship. I took pictures and shared them with Herschel and it bought back many memories for him. He remained honorable until the day he died.

Regards, Julie Clark



Herschel V. Sellers Jr.
Captain of the USS Laffey
1953-55

PORTION OF OBITUARY:

Jr. Herschel V. Sellers Jr., of Lookout Mountain, Ga., a retired naval officer and UTC math professor, died on Tuesday, May 10, 2011. He was 93. He was born in Baxley, Calif., in 1917 and received degrees from the U.S. Naval Academy and Purdue University. Mr. Sellers was awarded the Bronze Star medal for meritorious service during WW II and his ship the USS Wiley on which he was an executive officer received the Presidential Unit Citation.

After the war his assignments included tours of duty on both the U.S. Navy destroyers the USS Ellyson and the U.S. Laffey as the commanding officer. He displayed a courageous effort to rescue the survivors aboard the listing aircraft carrier USS Yorktown during the Battle of Midway, a turning point of WW II.

USS LAFFEY AUTO PLATE AVAILABLE



One of our members has created an auto license plate suitable for mounting on vehicles not having a front plate state tag requirement. They can also be installed on golf carts. The cost of each plate is \$23 with shipping and handling included. Normal delivery is within 3 weeks.

The USS Laffey Association is not directly involved with the ordering or shipment of these great looking plates. Instead, your orders and payment checks should be directed to the following:

Mr. Bob Karas
452 Wilmington Circle
Oviedo, FL 32765-6186

Include your phone number and address with the mailed-in order.

WORK PARTY DONATION RECEIVED

We recently received a donation from Robert C. Johnson in the amount of \$500.00 dedicated to the work party fund. Sonny and those who will attend future work party events will see that this generous offer is put to good use. Robert C. Johnson is a WWII Laffey sailor and a survivor of the Okinawa battle of April 16, 1945. This example of dedication to the USS Laffey DD-724 is greatly appreciated by our association and its members...Thank you very much, Robert.

A MESSAGE FROM RICHARD J. EVANS,

We listed the passing of John B. Evans in the last newsletter and would like to publish the comments that were made by his Son in a June e-mail. They are as follows:

"It is with great sadness that I must inform you that my father, John B Evans, passed away quietly in his sleep on June 4, 2011 at the NJ Veteran's Home in Paramus NJ. He had been a lifelong member of the association and contributor to the restoration of the ship as it underwent the hull repairs. He has had photos and artwork of the Laffey placed up in a variety of places throughout his house and at his room in the Veteran's home - she was never out of his sights"

Thank You

ILL SHIPMATE NOTICE

All Hands:

One of our shipmates, Lon "Bushy" Caulk, former Marine and friend of Mel Gerhold and Bill Lloyd is in an assisted living home in Maryland with dementia. His prognosis is not good.

His daughter-in-law told me that he is terminal and he doesn't have much time left. He does remember his time at the Laffey work parties.

If you wish to send Lon a card it would be appreciated:

Daniel "Lon" Caulk
Room 242
Hart Heritage Estates
1915 Rock Spring Road
Forest Hill, MD 21050

Lon is a Korean War veteran with the Marines. He came to the work parties with Bill Lloyd. I saw him not long ago (of course that could have been a year) at a store and he looked great.

Thanks,
Sonny

Military Quotes

- Any ship can be a minesweeper ... once.
Source not known!
- It is generally inadvisable to eject directly over the area you just bombed.
US Air Force Manual
- Never tell the Platoon Sergeant you have nothing to do.
Anonymous Marine Recruit
- Five-second fuses only last three seconds.
Infantry Journal
- If the enemy is in range, so are you.
Infantry Journal



Georgia on our minds!

JOIN THE FUN IN SAVANNAH!
USS Laffey Association 2011 Reunion Oct. 2-5

In Savannah, you can explore the gorgeous historic downtown district, rich cultural and art offerings, River Boat Cruise, vibrant nightlife and friendly, relaxed atmosphere. Not to mention great food! There are a number of museums, and ghost tours.

Plan to arrive early. Jill will arrive on Thursday, Sept. 29, and several others are coming into town on Saturday, Oct. 1. Or stay longer to see more of Savannah. The Quality-Inn Midtown will honor the Laffey group rate from check-in on Sept. 29 to check-out Oct. 8.

***But the best part is sharing memories with your crewmates
and making new friends!***

Laffey Association 2011 Reunion Activities:

Subject to change

Sunday, October 2

Reunion registration

7-10 p.m. Meet & Greet, Hospitality Room

Monday, October 3

We take trolleys to the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist to honor our fallen comrades. Buffet lunch together at The Pirate's House (included in reunion fee) followed by tour of Savannah's Historic District.

Laffey Fun Night

We have taken the "liberty" of putting a "Laffey" twist on games. Feel free to wear your favorite team's fan gear -- college, pro or Navy! (But no cleats allowed.)

Tuesday, October 4 - Dinner and a Show

Hey Y'all!

We take trolleys to Paula Deen's The Lady and Sons Restaurant for dinner. (**NOTE:** Our reservation is limited **-by the restaurant-** to the first 100 people that are paid in full). If there are more than 100 registrants, we will arrange dinner for additional folks at another of Savannah's fabulous restaurants.

After dinner: The Historic Savannah Theater, "Southern Nights" high-energy music, dance, and comedy.

Wednesday, October 5

Board Meeting and General Membership Meeting

After the General Membership Meeting: You'll have plenty of free time to take in sights on your own around the beautiful city of Savannah.... or hang in the Hospitality Room with friends. (The trolley company is giving us coupons worth \$4 a person for when you want to explore downtown.)

Farewell Dinner, 50 / 50 Drawings and Model Ship Raffle

NOTE: Registrants will receive a final official itinerary, a list of things to do in Savannah, and a souvenir when they sign in at the hotel.

LAFFEY REUNION OCTOBER 2-5, 2011

HOTEL:

Quality Inn-Midtown, 912-352-7100 or toll-free at 877-424-64237100 Abercorn Street, Savannah, Ga. 31406

\$65 per night plus 13% tax. 30 double and 30 King. First floor. Full hot breakfast buffet daily. Group rate honored from check-in on Sept. 29 to check-out Oct. 8.

PLAYING CARDS:

Jill Michel is taking orders for USS Laffey playing cards until Aug. 1. The cards will be distributed during the reunion to those who ordered them. Cost is \$11.30 per pack and is payable at the reunion. Jill: 609-870-0600 or jill.michel@comcast.net. (Ordering information for anyone not attending the reunion is in the April-May-June Laffey News. Packs can be mailed to your home with shipping added.)

SPECIAL NEEDS:

Those of you with allergies or physical needs will get special attention, we promise! If you have a food allergy, you'll get a phone call so you can tell us specifics. We have arranged for handicap-friendly transport for those of us that have difficulties walking or standing.

ALL THE SIGHTS: Bob Wampler has prepared a list of his favorite places to see in Savannah. See the last *Laffey News* for details. Reunion participants will get a copy, along with booklets filled with information.

USS Laffey 2011 Reunion Registration

Savannah, Ga., Oct. 2-5, 2011

Cost for activities: \$150 per person **Deadline to register: EXTENDED to Aug. 15, 2011**

Name: _____ Number of Persons Attending: _____

Names of guest(s) _____

Address: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

What day you expect to arrive: _____

Special Needs / Allergies: _____

Need a seat on a handicap-accessible trolley? _____

Send this Reunion Form and a check made out to "USS Laffey Association" to:

Gemma McLuckie, 2003 Tewksbury Road, Columbus, OH 43221.

Contact: **Jill Michel:** jill.michel@comcast.net or call 609-870-0600

Gemma McLuckie: g55luckie@yahoo.com or call 614-488-2201