

2012 Charleston Reunion – A Great Coming Home Event!

LAFFEY NEWS

THE USS LAFFEY DD-724 – THE SHIP THAT WOULD NOT DIE



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

October-November-December

www.laffey.org

2012

“I’LL NEVER ABANDON SHIP AS LONG AS A GUN WILL FIRE” - CDR F. JULIAN BECTON

Now Here This, Now Here This

It's almost the end of the year and 2013 annual dues for non-life members are due on January 1, 2013. **Please contact Fred Nardei, Membership Chairman**, with questions concerning your membership status or merely send him the annual dues in the amount of \$25.00. His address is listed in the Notes Section of this newsletter – Page 8. His phone number is 317-402-7235 (Cell)

President's Message November 2012

Thanksgiving has passed: I think I gained 100 pounds, and we are now looking ahead to the Christmas Holidays. (Yes, more food!!) Cherie has had the Christmas tree up and decorated since a week before Thanksgiving.

Our reunion was a huge success. It was the largest in number of attendees that I can remember. It was so large that we had to split the total attendees into two smaller groups for tours. Everyone had a great time. It was really a thrill to be back aboard our Laffey once again!

Jill Michel did a great job of organizing and running the whole “shooting match”. Jill and her “assistant” Susan worked tirelessly to make this one of our best reunions ever. We had a fun day on Sunday meeting and greeting everyone. There were a lot of first-timers and they all seemed to have had a great time. The old-timers had fun too!

The tour of the Confederate submarine CSA Hunley was a really interesting historical event. We still can't imagine how those many men fit into that small space. The ship is undergoing a restoration and preservation and it is really coming along well. We then went to our favorite downtown Charleston restaurant, Bubba Gumps, for lunch. It was delicious as usual. Afterwards, we enjoyed a live mystery show at “The Black Fedora Comedy Mystery Theater” where some of us actually became part of the cast. We had a lot of laughs.

Our memorial service was a very moving experience: It was held once more on the fantail of the ship. We would like to extend our thanks to Brian from Patriots Point for handling the sound system and for playing the music. Barbara Kessler led us in song with her beautiful voice. Barbara agreed to take over the singing chores because Lareine Kurtz could not attend due to the bad health of her husband Ira.

Our evening dinner cruise aboard the Pride of Charleston was fantastic. The food was super. After the cruise, we returned to the hotel where a game night alongside the pool at the hotel was scheduled. Jill did a great job setting up these games. We had one problem though.....one of the game events included WATER GUNS. Now we all know what water guns in the hands of “children” means.

The game following the pool water gun game was like a large monopoly board where the participants moved around the pool. Remember that the folks were seated around the pool. As my team moved

toward the end of the game, a few of our shipmates...I won't mention any names but one is our treasurer and one is our vice president, along with another "child", and I won't mention his name but he is from Cincinnati, began shooting me in the back while I was waiting to move. This went on for minutes and I was soaked!

This soaking was intended to pay me back because I sent two of them out to chip ice to keep the ship from turning over from the weight of the ice during a North Atlantic cruise and it was also intended to re-establish communications. You would think that 50+ years later they would have forgiven me!! Seriously, it was a fun night and their soaking could have saved me a shower if I had a bar of soap with me!!

We had our banquet night at Omar's (adjacent to the hotel) with a little twist. Jill came up with the idea of having a LUAU instead of a traditional banquet dinner. The dress was Hawaiian shirts, shorts, and slacks instead of coat and tie. It was really fun for a change. There were two Hawaiian dancers to entertain and to teach us how to do the dances. It seemed to take forever, take it from me, as one of the participants we were exhausted. I thought Sal Belsito was "gonna" have another heart attack. But we survived and had a lot of laughs.

After the entertainment it was time for the drawings. Mary Lou Lacore picked out the prizes from where she worked in Kentucky. She shipped them to us and Cherie made up the tags for the silent auction. The highlight of the reunion is, of course, the drawing for the Ship Model. It is always more exciting when the winner is present at the drawing and our lucky winner this year is Bob Toleman. I always love it when the winner is a shipmate and work party participant. I would have been happier had it been me....but....again, that didn't happen. Bob was really happy as were all of us in attendance.

We honored Bob Wampler with a plaque for his devotion to duty as Vice President, leader of the Junior Laffey Sailor program and above all, Editor of the Laffey News. Although Joanie does most of the work, we honored Bob!! Thanks Bob for being there for me.

There are so many people to thank again this year: Our man John Langevin has again outdone himself working at the bar in the hospitality room. For more years than I have been a member of the

association, John and his family have manned the bar. He donates the drinks and snacks then sells them to the attendees. Each time you buy a drink you get a ticket. John draws the winning ticket and gives half of the money to the winner. John then donates the other half of the proceeds to the association treasury. What can we say? John, you are "THE MAN".

I have to take this time to thank someone who is pretty special to me, my wife Cher. We have been married 50 years and she deserves a medal for hanging with me through all of the tough times. Cher donated the gifts for the raffles. She shopped for them, wrapped them, tagged them and had a fun time doing it. I just have to say that she puts up with a lot with me going away on work parties, media trips to Charleston, funerals for those passed shipmates and every other trip I make for the association. Thanks Hon.

Our Association Treasurer, George Kessler, has done a remarkable job collecting the money and paying the bills. Thanks George. Fred Nardei is hanging in there as Membership Chairman. This job is really hard and Fred is really doing well with it. Please remember to notify Fred if your address, phone number or email addresses change. Thanks Freddie. A.J. Tarquino is really doing a super job with our award winning website. Thanks again A.J.

Back to business: There has been no progress with the water and sewage hook up problem on the ship. There are many problems to be solved. Even with this problem, our work parties continue to boggle the minds of the people that see us in action. It is hard to believe that old guys can do that much work! We are beginning to get some new blood at our work parties. Many first timers came and have told us to get ready for their return!

We still can't cook on the grill aboard the ship - But, we have microwaves and cold cuts. We have cereal for breakfast and sandwiches for lunch. We do miss those great breakfasts that we used to cook aboard but those days may be gone. With not being able to sleep aboard the ship, it may affect the Tin Can Sailors and the USS Rich guys. I am not sure that they will be coming down to work on the ship. We do realize that sleeping on the Laffey was all part of the fun. Staying on the carrier is inconvenient but not enough to make us stop coming to work on the ship. As our guys have said: What is more important, our fun or maintaining the ship? We still can hang out in the CPO Lounge in

the evening and then climb the ladders to sleep on the Yorktown. Believe me, we do have fun and get a lot of work done. I am working on having a work party around the 16th of April 2013. If you are interested in helping out please let me know.

On a more serious note, I am saddened to report the passing of my shipmate, Ira Kurtz. Ira was the paymaster in our crew 1960-62. We were always happy to see him! When Ira and his wife Lareine came aboard the ship it just happened to be during one of our work parties. I hadn't seen Ira in 45+ years. It was really great to see him again. He attended many of our work parties and admitted that he didn't know how to work with his hands but we convinced him that even IRA could chip paint. I took a picture of Ira on his knees chipping paint. He looked up at me and said in his quiet, smiling voice, "I know a lot of people that would pay a lot of money for that picture." We laughed a lot over that comment. Ira will really be missed.

I had the honor of delivering the radio central message to Ira in 1960 that his first daughter was born. I wondered how she turned out. At Ira's funeral in New York I got to meet her. She is beautiful. She told me that she had something for me, it was a copy of the message that I delivered to Ira so many years ago.

I want to thank our shipmates in Florida, John Hudak, Don Watson and Fred Nardei for visiting Ira while he was in the hospital and rehab centers. It was a 2 1/5 hour trip to Tampa and they made that journey many times. That is how much Laffey sailors think about their shipmates. Ira, along with our other shipmates that pass this year will be honored at our next reunion in New Orleans next fall.

Our members in attendance at the reunion voted to have our **next reunion in New Orleans, LA**. Jill will be working on that as soon as she can recover from Super Storm Sandy. Jill didn't have any damage but she works for the Power Company and I think they have had their hands full since the storm.

A few of us have been invited to Charleston to be interviewed by NBC News about the saving and maintenance of the museum ships. This program should be aired on a Sunday in December before the Sunday Night Football game. They say that they have an audience of 12 million. Gee, if all of them donated 10 bucks Patriots Point could fix up

the Yorktown and save the Clamagore and pay off the 9 million bucks for Laffey!!!!

I want to wish all of you a very MERRY AND JOYOUS CHRISTMAS and A HAPPY NEW YEAR. We look forward to seeing you all in New Orleans at next year's reunion.

Sonny Walker
President USS Laffey DD-724 Association

AHEM! EDITOR'S COMMENTS

In defense of our Treasurer and Vice President: It seems to me that a little retaliatory water soaking is nothing when compared to our leading Radioman (read Sonny Walker) sending us out to chip ice from the totally encrusted radio antennas as the ice covered Laffey pitched to and fro in the North Atlantic. So there, Sonny: we did it, we got you wet, and we're happy that we finally had the opportunity to do so!!! A-h-h-h-h-h-h-h, sweet revenge!! (PS – This is not a serious matter!!!)

Work Party Recap Oct. 14-21, 2012

What a thrill it was to have our work parties going once again. We had 17 hard working guys attend. They gave their all. It was one of the most productive work parties in memory.

There were a couple of new guys along with "the usual suspects". Harold Borton served on the USS Hank and Homer Doster served on the USS Lofberg. These guys immediately became Laffey Sailors. It was a pleasure to have them with us. They both plan to attend the next work party.

Under the new regulations we cannot sleep on Laffey but have to use the Yorktown. The accommodations there are really nice. The only problem is there is no water or sewage on the Laffey. This means when nature calls you have to climb all those ladders to get aboard the Yorktown to use the heads. By the time we old folks get up there...we forget what we went for...ha ha!

We spent more on this work party than usual due to "replenishing" our tools and materials. Due to a very successful Laffey model raffle and generous contributions we had the money to set us up for a long time.

What we accomplished was nearly unbelievable. Don Watson and his crew tackled the cleaning and painting of the entire After Engine Room. It looked brand new when they finished. Donnie's crew included Homer Doster, Harold Borton, Chris Kirhagis, Bill Fitzsimmons and Rich McKinney.

Barry Shugarts, Harold Borton and Bob Lucey worked really hard in CIC removing the Plexiglas walls and then cleaning and painting. This entire space is going to be redone by Patriots Point tour route crew in the near future.

John Hudak, Dave Harhager, Bob Toleman and Ed Fitzsimmons cleaned and painted the CPO lounge to give us a place to work from and to eat breakfast and lunches. We cannot stay on board any longer but we can use that space for our meals (no cooking though) and relaxing in the evening. They also replaced some of the ceiling tiles that were damaged.

All of the supplies used in the CPO lounge were purchased out of our work party account. We were told that anything that is not on the ship's tour route would not be paid for by Patriots Point. This is not a big deal as we are the only ones who benefit from using the CPO Lounge.

Pat Striplin and Ken Rohloff turned to and did a 4.0 job prepping and painting MT 51 and the surrounding deck under the mount. This was a very big job and they did a great job.

Ed and Bill Fitz along with Harhager and Watson painted the area around the DESRON 60 sign. There were numerous "holidays" in that area on the port side.

Ed and Bill again along with Don Watson painted the inboard passageway deck. Bob Langevin removed the chapel that was installed years ago and paid for by his family. It hasn't been decided what this space will be used for in the future. He also painted various spots around the ship.

Bob put on his white hat and dungarees with guard belt and pistol to stand quarterdeck watches. He was a big hit with the tourists. Bob also brought many donated tools and supplies from his friends in New Jersey. Many thanks are extended to all of those donors.

Speaking of Donors, we have a new friend in Charleston. Jeff Jacobs is a member of the board

of directors on the Medal of Honor Foundation. Jeff and his wife Sarah treated the entire Laffey work party to a BBQ luncheon aboard the ship. They served the food and drinks and treated us like royalty. Jeff has been working very hard to get us TV and Media coverage. He is thrilled with the work that is being done by us and the volunteers (Hoot Gibson and David Suchand) aboard the Laffey.

Jeff made contact with a radio show in Philadelphia. He told me to call them and speak live about our work on the ship. It was exciting to explain to everyone how we feel about our ship and the work that it takes to maintain her.

Also accomplished on our week-long work party was the cleaning and painting of the motor whale boat. We only had enough time to paint the outside (hull) and the roof. Donnie, Barry, Harhager and Bob Langevin did this job. Richard McKinney arrived late but did do some work???? He took one of the 20mm guns home to rework it and get it looking good again.

Just to set the record straight, I painted the red Engineering "E" on both sides of the stack. This is just to inform everyone that I did do SOMETHING. Pay no attention to the rest of the guys, they lie.

Bob Langevin arranged for our crew's final dinner to be held at the VFW in Mt. Pleasant. We had ribeye steaks, baked potato, salad and dessert.....the total was \$7.50 per person. What a change from going to the big restaurants. Thanks to the great people at the VFW.

Speaking of food, I have to tell everyone that our breakfasts onboard consisted of cold cereal, fruit, buns and coffee. Our lunches were cold cut sandwiches and similar fare. Believe it or not, not one person complained about the food. I have to thank Don Watson and Ed Fitzsimmons for going to the store and buying our food supplies. Bill Fitzsimmons also made trips to procure needed tools and supplies.

I also want to thank Hoot Gibson and David Suchand for all of their work on the ship. They are volunteers and work 2 or 3 days a week. They are an asset to our association.

Finally, we are all looking forward to our next work party in April, 2013. I have to see if we can get our berthing spaces on the carrier before announcing the dates.

Thanks again to all who participated. I am proud to be working with you.

Sonny Walker
President

Editor's Comment: Several issues ago I included a photo of Sonny painting a gun mount during a work party. He seemed to be holding a paint brush of, oh, about 1.5 - 2 inches. Based upon his earlier efforts, I can understand his proud "E" painting accomplishment! Will someone give Sonny a bigger brush and a bigger target during the next work party??!!

Quote of the Quarter

Between two worlds, life hovers like a star twixt
night and morn, upon the horizon's verge.

Lord Byron, British Poet

The Passing of a Friend and Shipmate

The last edition of the Laffey News announced that Danny Essig had just passed away. At the time of the newsletter's printing, we had no details to publish. Danny's obituary is shown below.

Daniel Martin Essig



May 27, 1924 - August 6, 2012

Daniel Martin Essig, born on May 27, 1924, passed away on August 06, 2012. Beloved husband of the late Eleanor. Loving father of Daniel Jr., Loretta Pichardo, Joyce Hanau, Janet LiDonni, Connie Kraker and Lisa D'Amore. Cherished grandfather

of twelve and great-grandfather of one.

Lifetime member of the Steamfitters Union Local 638. Served in U.S. Navy during WWII. Dan was a plank owner of the U.S.S. Laffey, (DD 724), and survived the battle of Okinawa on April 16, 1945.

The USS Laffey was attacked by kamikaze planes and was hit by six planes and four bombs. Although the USS Laffey took extensive damage, she survived, but thirty-two men lost their lives and seventy-two were injured.

Daniel loved his family, friends and the USS Laffey.

Danny Essig Then



Editor's Comment: Danny was not at our recent reunion, but he had gone on to a greater reunion of his former shipmates who have also passed away. We missed not having Danny with us in September but he and his smile will stay with us forever. With our sincerest intentions we say go in peace, Danny, go in peace. Your family members have committed to continuing the Essig presence in the association.....and we are so very, very glad of that.

A Message from Dan Radder

Sorry to hear about the passing of Danny Essig today. My dad Glen Radder and Danny always had great times at the reunions. It was an honor to get to know Danny and his family and we always appreciated how they made our family feel a part of the Laffey family. Danny, I am sure our dad has a drink waiting for you... farewell

The Passing of a Gentle Man

As mentioned in the President's Message, we have lost another wonderful man from the association's roster, Ira Kurtz of New York City and Florida.

I first met Ira at one of the work party dates in 2006. Ira was wearing freshly ironed khaki pants while he chipped and painted the aft deck near the gun mount. It seemed odd that this witty and genteel man would have khakis on while painting, but after getting to know Ira I understood that **this was Ira!**

Over the years, Ira was part of our communications group on the internet. We seemed to "gang-up" on "Ira Lad" over political matters but he always took it in stride. He also would identify me as "a sick puppy" when he disagreed with my comments. I must admit that I will miss those comments defining me as "a sick puppy"! Ira was, simply, a good man.

Rest in peace Ira Lad, rest in peace.

Obituary of Ira Arthur Kurtz



Kurtz, Ira Arthur of NYC and Belleair, Florida, passed away peacefully at home on October 28, 2012: Beloved Husband of LaReine Kurtz. Loving Father of Deborah and Carolyn. Devoted Grandfather of Jack. Dear Brother of Estelle Feine.

Ira served in the US Navy and spent some of his tour of duty aboard the USS Laffey as a DK2, (payroll clerk), 1960-63. Ira was very proud of this ship and attended many volunteer work parties with

the USS Laffey Association, helping maintain the condition of this ship, which is part of the Patriots Point Maritime Museum, in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina. He will certainly be missed by his shipmates.

Work Party Donation

Sonny had previously received a donation from Doug Ward for the work party fund. The check for \$150.00 is in his "Pop's" name. The accompanying note said that his "Pop" was a Plankowner and Okinawa Survivor. The USS Laffey DD-724 Association does sincerely thank Doug for his generous donation.

New WWII Era Member Donates Wall Plaque



Margaret presenting the plaque to Sonny

During the September Reunion, one of our newest association members, Margaret Casaday-Cloer, presented the above wall plaque to Sonny during the Luau event. Margaret is a WWII war bride of

Calvin Wesley Cloer who was killed during the Okinawa battle actions. Her gift to the association is now hanging in the Chief Petty Officer's Quarters onboard the Laffey...When you next visit our ship, do take a look at this artistic tribute to the USS Laffey DD-724.

While at the reunion, Margaret also enrolled her two grandsons in the Junior Laffey Sailor Program. Carson and Cameron Sherwood are now the newest young people to officially become part of the legacy of the Laffey.



Margaret with her daughter and her grandsons

Danny Essig Remembered by Friends & Family

The following in memory of Danny Essig donations have been received by the association and serve as a testament to the love and concern others expressed after Danny' passing in August.

Jimmy & Meg Baker	\$100.00
Dave Bossard	\$50.00
Lowell Campbell	\$100.00
Mike Coleman	\$50.00
Mary Dellauechia	\$25.00
James and Sandra Forrest	\$50.00
Andrew and Joan Kuruc	\$50.00
Bob Lucey	\$100.00
Katherine and Fred Miller	\$30.00
Jake Mc Nicholas	\$200.00
John Petterson	\$100.00
John Stevens	\$100.00
The Wilisch Family	\$550.00

The following letter was received from Pete J. Wilisch accompanying the above family donation to the association in memory of Danny:

Sonny – Please accept this check from the Wilisch Family in memory of our dear friend Daniel Essig. He and my father grew up in New York and were good friends throughout their lives. Dan and wife Eleanor were the life of the party, any party and we miss them.

He and El raised a beautiful family and the world is richer for them. I am sure you met some of his children during the annual meetings.

He loved the USS Laffey: It was one of the highlights of his life to attend the annual meetings.

We hope this check will assist in keeping the good ship USS Laffey around for more generations to see.

Sincerely yours, Pete J. Wilisch

New Essig Family Life Members

Daniel and Christine Essig sent a check in the amount of \$750.00 to our Membership Chairman, Fred Nardei. The following note was included:

“Christine and I recently married (9/14) and would like to join the Association as lifetime members in Honor of Grandpa, Danny Essig, Sr. We submitted the online application” Thank you.

Sincerely Daniel & Christine Essig

Editor's comment: The Essig family has always been extremely supportive of Danny's devotion to the Laffey and we now welcome and thank Daniel & Christine for continuing the tradition by honoring Grandpa. The USS Laffey DD-724 Association and all of its members welcome aboard these Essig Family Members...it's good to have you with us!!

A Son's Message/Request

Hello, my name is John Kycia. My Father Edward A. Kycia, was an original plank owner of the second Laffey DD-724. My Dad was a survivor of the kamikaze Attacks at Okinawa in 1945 and never let a day go by where he didn't speak of his beloved ship!

My Dad past away on November 7, 2011 at the age of 86 and was buried in Old Wethersfield, CT, with full military honors. I would ask that my Dad be remembered along with the other recently deceased Laffey sailors during your upcoming

reunion in September 2012.

God Bless you all! Sincerely, John M. Kycia
cdreastins@yahoo.com

**USS LAFFEY DD-724 ASSOCIATION
OFFICERS AND STAFF**

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

Board of Directors

Ari Phoutrides
John Langevin
Francis LaSala
Jim Spriggs
John Hudak

Website Manager

A. J. Tarquino

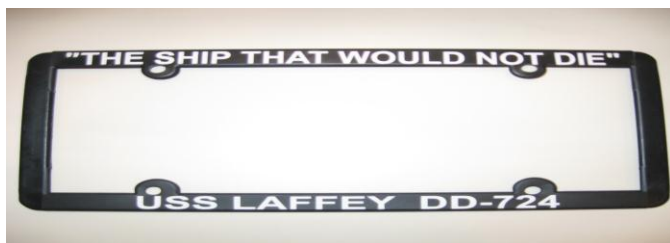
Newsletter Staff

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 non-life members who have not yet paid their 2013 annual dues, please remit \$25.00 to Mr. Fred Nardei, Membership Chairman: **His address is as follows: Mr. Fred Nardei, USS Laffey DD-724 Association Membership Chairman, 13565 SE 93rd Court Road, Summerfield, FL 34491.** For membership questions please phone Fred at (317)-402-7235 (cell phone)

**Ho, Ho, Ho...The Holidays are Near
Stuff a Plate Frame in Someone's Stocking!!**



Let's make certain that you (**procrastinators and the many new members**) do your part in making everyone know that the Laffey lives! Install these

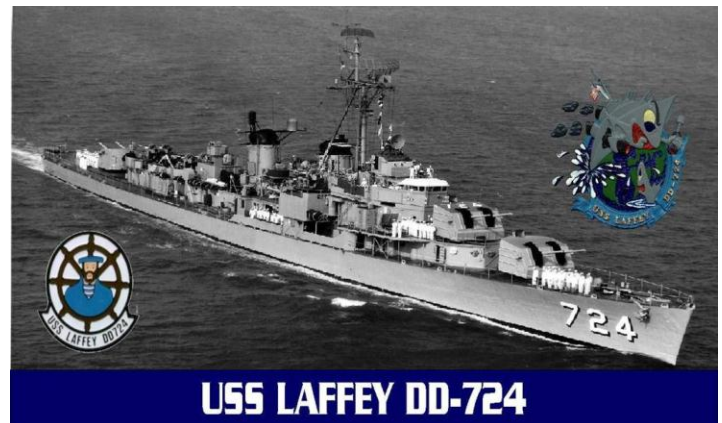
plate frames around your auto tags and be noticed!! Remember, \$1.00 of each frame price goes to help fund the Junior Laffey Sailor Program.

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: Those who receive your gift will be proud of your decision to purchase their very own plate frame!! Be noticed-It's a nice feeling!!

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.

Laffey Men Available now on DVD

Hi Sonny - I sure hope this email finds you and Cher well. Happy Veterans Day to you!
Laffey Men is now available on DVD. It's available for purchase through PayPal on my website: www.LaffeyMen.com. (\$11.95 + S&H)

I am happy to have this story on a medium that a lot of people now have the opportunity to get. This is an amazing story. Thank you for always being so supportive. Hope this last reunion was a blast.
Jessica Cribbs

TAPS LIST

Harold Cox, CS2
Served aboard Laffey during Korean War
Passed Away on August 5, 2012

Pete Cox, CS2
Served aboard Laffey during Korean War
Passed away in 2002

Danny Essig, Ship's Cook Second Class
Plankowner and Survivor 1945 Okinawa Battle
Passed Away on August 6, 2012

Charles F. Gardner, LT
Served aboard Laffey during Korean War
Passed Away on May 2, 2012

Ira Kurtz, DK2
Served Aboard Laffey 1960-62
Passed Away on October 28, 2012

Edward A. Kycia, TM3/c
Served Aboard Laffey 1944-45
Plankowner and Survivor of 1945 Okinawa Battle
Passed Away on November 7, 2011

Robert Smith, BT3
Served Aboard Laffey 1963-65
Passed Away 2008

William Smith, MM2
Served Aboard Laffey 1962-64
Passed Away 2000

Thank you note

Bob Langevin donated \$200.00 for reunion liquid refreshments even though he could not attend. Bob, however, was able to attend the October Work Party so we thank him for both his donation and his participation in the Work Party.....Well done, Bob!

Junior Laffey Sailors Program

For those of you who still haven't sponsored a child, grandchildren, or great grandchildren, please contact Bob Wampler at 843-705-2296 for details. Remember, your gift of JLS Membership will give those young people a sense of the legacy of the Laffey you now enjoy. **JUST DO IT!!** Call Now!

2012 Reunion Photos



Fred Nardei tolls bell to honor WWII deceased as their names are read by VP Bob Wampler



Barbara Kessler leads us in song



President Sonny Walker addresses attendees



Bus trip to visit the submarine Hunley



How did this guy get into Bubba Gump's?



The mystery show and sing-a-long



Food.....Bring Food.....Hurry – Feed Us!!



The Laffey's Lennon Sisters?



Just a couple of old pals hanging around



The Picture Said it All!



Just a portion of the Luau Attendees



Let's get this ceremony underway!!



Sonny and Jill Pretend to be able to do the hula



Part of the crowd at the memorial ceremony



Jill: "These reunions are getting darn tough"!!!

USS Laffey DD-724 Association

Bob Wampler

100 Landing Lane

Bluffton, SC 29909-6060

