

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

April-May-June

www.laffey.org

2013

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

President’s Message June, 2013

The 2013 REUNION is coming!!! Jill has been working her little head off and things are being finalized! It looks like we are going to have a good crowd in New Orleans in September.

There will be a lot of “stuff” (Things to do!) to keep us busy and having a good time. We have been to New Orleans before and love the music in the French Quarter. Not to mention the food that only the Big Easy chefs can uniquely prepare!

I will be getting the chances for the ship model mailed out in the next few weeks. This is our largest fund raiser to keep our work parties going. It is such a thrill to pull the winning ticket and announce the winner. It is especially more fun to have the winner present at the reunion!

The registration form is included in this newsletter. Be sure to send it off as quickly as you can to give Jill a chance to arrange for any extra rooms if they are needed. We hope to see y’all in “Nawlins, Looziana”!! Plan on it!!

The recent work party was another huge success. Our guys really worked hard and accomplished everything we needed to get done. The recap of the work party is in this issue also. Many thanks to Jeff Jacobs and the Patriots Point Foundation for their donation of a 250 gallon rubber bladder (tank) that we have hooked up to one urinal, one wash basin and one sink in the galley. This should save us a lot of time and energy when nature calls. You must

realize that it is like getting plumbing “in the house”. Now we don’t have to climb four decks to go to the head!! However, when the new bladder is full we have to contact our friends at Access Porta Potties to come and pump out our tank.

We also got water hooked up and brought aboard to run the urinal and the sinks. Now we can wash our hands before we eat our meals....”that are cooked in our microwaves”. We wouldn’t want the fire marshal to get upset at us. This was a very tough undertaking for us to complete. After 4 days it was finally hooked up!

Mount 53 was painted inside and out during the work party and is ready for Patriots Point to begin hooking up their new video project. This includes a video with sound effects of the mount in combat. They also plan on having the mount “shake” as if it is firing and also as if it is being hit by Kamikazes. I think the visitors will really get a new experience and understanding of how this mount operated.

Thanks to all of the guys who participated in our spring 2013 work party. We look forward to our next one October 19-26, 2013. If you want to attend and help with this next work party event, give Sonny a call at 410-515-3223 or e-mail Sonny at soncher724@verizon.net.

I hope to see you in New Orleans in September and then some of you at the Charleston work party in October.

Sonny Walker – President

Work Party Recap April 13-19, 2013

This spring's work party was a tremendous success. We got much more accomplished than I had originally expected. This can be attributed to the guys who came and "worked their butts off".

It really is difficult getting these things set up due to the problem of not being able to stay on the Laffey. We can no longer show up when we feel like it. We have to coordinate our berthing spaces with the campers (scouts). The scouting program is one of the largest sources of income for Patriots Point. It would be dumb of us to think we should have the berthing space ahead of the kids that pay their way and make Patriots Point possible. So, we have to be flexible with our schedules for work parties.

The crew that showed up this time really meant business! We had to spend the first night (Saturday April 13th) at the hotel. We made the reservation months ago at The Red Roof Inn. When I called on the 10th, I was informed that they lost our reservation. Wonderful.....most hotels were booked and super expensive. Luckily, we called The Masters Inn and they had rooms for a cheap rate. Now this announcement of a cheap rate will make you wonder if this place was fit to stay in! Well, we were pleasantly surprised and the Masters Inn was really nice. This night's stay took us over the first hurdle.

We moved aboard the Yorktown on Sunday morning after the scouts left. Do you realize how many steps there are climbing up to the deck just below the flight deck? As far as I'm concerned we need to put multiple oxygen stations at the top before the next work party! (HaHa!!)

Our work began on Sunday. Barry Shugarts, Harold Borton, Robie Karlie and new comer Hank Ashton began work in CIC. Sadly, some kids had gone in there with grease pencils and defaced the plotting board that had displayed the attack of 16 April 1945. Barry and Harold cleaned it up and fixed it. The guys removed all of the trash that was torn out of there on the last work party. They cleaned, prepped and painted the entire CIC. These guys worked hard in CIC the entire week!

In February we had removed the old carpet and welded plates over the holes in the deck of the CPO Lounge. This time we put down new carpet. This took a lot of time and hard work. Lots of

cutting!!! Richard McKinney, Chris Kirhagis, Gary Barylski and another new-comer Steve Papp did a great job laying the carpet. Also, in the CPO Lounge we purchased a new TV as the other one "disappeared" during the Laffey's stay in the yards. This new addition does help us unwind at the end of the day.

The next thing on our list was Mount 53. Patriots Point has planned to put a video system complete with some gunfire and explosion sounds on the inside of the mount. It was very important for us to get this finished so they can get their project up and running. Pat Striplin, first timer Ron Cossey, who was Pat's striker when they served years ago and Homer Doster did the inside of the mount. It looked great by the end of the week.

On the outside of the mount we had two Snipes, Ken Rohloff and Mike Pereira. I am not quite sure how it happened but Mike was painting the top of the mount while Ken was painting the sides. Somehow, Mike got stuck on top since the rest of the mount was WET. I guess that is what happens when you put two Snipes painting on the main deck. I love it when a plan comes together!

The hardest undertaking was getting water hooked up to the ship and a tank to hold the waste water. We are not allowed to hook up the ship to the pier sewage lines but we did get permission from Bob Howard to hook up something that would be "temporary".

After much thought and help from Jeff Jacobs, member of the Board of Directors of the Patriots Point Foundation, John Hudak and Don Watson, it was decided to put a 250 gallon rubber bladder on the ship. This will have to be pumped out when it is full. We have a company in Charleston that will take care of it for us.

I must tell you that John Hudak, Dave Harhager, Bill Fitzsimmons and Don Watson did a fantastic job to get all of this work accomplished. It took many trips to the stores to get what we needed. Billy Fitz and I ended up on a first name basis at one of the plumbing supply houses. This job was finally completed on Thursday afternoon, and it will save us many, many steps up and down the ladders on the carrier, not to mention that water is now available for the coffee pot!

I must send a major thank you to Jeff Jacobs: He was instrumental in getting the Board to

DONATE \$500.00 for this project. The money covered the bladder and some of the plumbing costs. Our association owes Jeff a lot of thanks.

Bob Langevin brought an unbelievable amount of supplies and tools donated by friends and members of his VFW Post in New Jersey. It took him a long time to unload all of his gear and carry it forward to the B'Osun's locker. Bob spent a lot of time stocking the stores in the lockers up forward. It was really great to be able to walk in there and find the tool or supplies that one needed for our tasks.

On Tuesday night, Bob Langevin hosted a beer and pizza party at the pool of the hotel where he was staying. Everyone was there until the wee hours (10:30PM) (he-he). Heck, we were usually in bed by 9 PM. Thanks so much Bob, for everything.

We had a great surprise this work party. John Nettle, an associate member from Nevada, brought two of his Reserve Buddies, Steve Papp and John Kapusta with him and volunteered to take the cooking chores. These guys did a fabulous job. Since we are not allowed to use the grill, all of the cooking was done in the microwave. We had scrambled eggs, ham, cooked baloney, fruit, etc for breakfast. Lunchtime was typically sandwiches. One day we had spaghetti and meatballs. Try that in a microwave, girls!! There wasn't a single guy at the work party who was hungry!

These work party members kept the CPO Quarters spotless, even while we were laying the carpet when they were trying to prepare meals. Not bad for RESERVISTS!

During this mayhem, we had a nice surprise. Ashley Smith, PR lady from Patriots Point brought her husband and two of his USAF pilot buddies to tour the ship. We showed them all of the spaces and some that were not on the tour. The next day we were invited to tour a C-17 (the super large cargo planes) at the Charleston Air Force Base. It was great. Many thanks should go to these boys who fly those missions all over the world. Two of them are being deployed next week to Afghanistan. Ashley's husband Ben is going to Mississippi to fly two-seater trainers. What a switch from that huge C-17 to a little trainer. We wish these guys all the best.

Ashley is also leaving to be with her husband at his next duty station. She has been such a great help to us and the association. She was instrumental in

getting all of the TV and Media coverage for our ship and all of Patriots Point. She will be missed by all of us: We gave her a Lifetime Honorary Membership for all of her help!

I really need to thank everyone who participated and helped with this successful work party. As usual, I am very proud to be associated with these great guys. We have noticed that the aches and pains are lasting longer than they used to but they will be better by the next work party! Now we understand why the WWII and Korean guys have slacked off. I guess we are next!!!

Sonny Walker – President

And Now – a few photos of the work party crew:



The Official April 2013 Work Party Photograph!



Ron Cossey Before Work of the Day Began



After a hard day at work – Time to Relax



Let me show you how this vacuum works!

Per Jill Michel: Save These Dates: September 8th through 11th for the 2013 Reunion

There is something for everyone in New Orleans. So please come, join us in New Orleans for our 2013 USS Laffey Reunion. We will be staying at the Sheraton located at 500 Canal Street, just across from the French Quarter. They have just finished a 55 million dollar renovation and the place looks great. The hotel is in walking distance to a variety of places that you will want to visit.

If you are looking for good food, they have it in New Orleans. From the fried pickles and gator bites at Huck Finn's, Char-Grilled Oysters at Royal House or Po-Boys, Gumbo and prawns at number of other equally good restaurants. On the sweeter side, you can stop by [Café du Monde](#) for beignets or one of the many local candy shops that can offer you pralines in more varieties than you thought were possible.

During the day you may have trouble deciding what you want to do first. You can take a stroll through Jackson Square to see St. Louis Cathedral, [Cabildo](#) or [Presbytère](#) museums and check out the horse drawn carriages. See what bugs you at the Insectarium or talk to the penguins and pet some sting rays at the Aquarium. There is also an IMAX at the aquarium with a few wildlife movies to pick from.

You can catch a ride over to the Garden district where you can stroll through the neighborhoods and check them out. If it's shopping you want, well, that's here too. The Riverwalk has a great view,



Bob Langevin - Quarterdeck Watch



Chris Kirhagis....A Man at Work!

shops and is only a couple blocks away and yet there is another mall even closer.

The one place that I think should be a **MUST** is the **WWII Museum**. You can start with the IMAX showing "Beyond All Boundaries" and then weave your way through the war. Don't feel that you have to see it all in one day: you can return the next day for only 5 dollars. There is so much to see there and they are still expanding.

For nightlife, the hotel is just a few blocks from Bourbon Street where you can hear some good ole Rock 'n Roll at The Beach or Famous Door. Maybe you would prefer to take in some Cajun or Karaoke at Voodoo Vibe or some jazz at one of the many venues along the street. If you are looking to get your game on and try your luck, Harrah's casino is only a block away. Maybe you want to see how the other half *lives*, **or doesn't!** There are a number of ghost tours available every night.

Now you may be thinking, "I just might not want to do all that walking, not to worry. They have buses, trolleys, ferry, Paddlewheel boats, taxis and even horse drawn carriages for your convenience. If you are arriving by car, please be advised that you will be charged \$25 a day for parking at the hotel and **you will not have in & out privileges.**

Please contact the Sheraton directly at (504) 525-2500 to reserve your room. The room rate is \$119 per night (plus taxes). When making your reservation, please make sure to reference "USS Laffey - FAJ6A". The room rates will be available for 3 days before and after the actual dates of the reunion.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact me, Jill Michel (856) 423-4263 or e-mail jill.michel@comcast.net

Hope to see you there!

SPECIAL NOTE: THE DEADLINE FOR YOUR SUBMISSION OF A REGISTRATION FORM IS AUGUST 1, 2013....SO "GITTER DONE"!!

Editor's comment: There is so much to do in "The Big Easy" and Jill has positioned our reunion in one of the best locations in New Orleans. Well done Jill!

Navy Announces Service Dress Khaki Cancellation

Oct 23, 2012

(From - Navy News)

WASHINGTON -- NAVADMIN 314/12, released Oct. 19, announced the Chief of Naval Operations' (CNO) decision to terminate the Service Dress Khaki (SDK) initiative.

The NAVADMIN also reemphasized the optional wear of the Service Dress Blue (SDB) uniform as an acceptable alternative during summer uniform wear periods when participating in events, ceremonies and meetings where wearing a coat and tie is appropriate and when other uniforms are not prescribed.

Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy, said "After May 2012 when the contemporary design for SDK was approved for optional wear, the Navy continued to conduct research with product vendors and with the information gained and reviewed, the decision was made to cancel Service Dress Khaki."

The Navy made the decision to terminate pursuing the SDK uniform as an optional uniform due to factors identified during a comprehensive uniform assessment. These factors included the evaluation of quantities of SDK sets ordered/sold, wear test of several models evaluating quality, durability, appearance and fit, and estimated cost per uniform set to the individual.

The NAVADMIN 314/12 also reaffirmed E-7 to O-10 personnel may wear the SDB as a suitable alternative for wear in lieu of summer white and service dress white uniforms when a coat and tie is appropriate.

SDB uniforms may be prescribed for wear year-round to all official functions (when formal dress, dinner dress, or full dress uniforms are not prescribed) and civilian equivalent dress is coat and tie. This uniform is available for purchase in a quality, light weight fabric.

Quotes of the Quarter

For Serious Thought - "To avoid situations in which you might make mistakes may be the biggest mistake of all" **Samuel Johnson**

And For Fun – "Blessed is he who has learned to laugh at himself for he shall never cease to be entertained". **Shirley MacLaine**

Enterprise, Nimitz-Class Carriers Won't Be Museums

Oct 22, 2012 (Reprinted From)

Daily News by Michael Welles Shapiro

A group of Navy veterans want to preserve the USS Enterprise's history, but it appears they'll be doing it without the ship itself.

The veterans learned in March that making a museum out of the aircraft carrier, the largest in the U.S. fleet and the first to be powered by nuclear reactors, isn't an option. More recently they learned that a more modest effort to preserve the ship's island also wouldn't fly. And for the 10 Nimitz-Class carriers in the 11-ship U.S. fleet, a future as a museum seems unlikely.

"Inactivation of nuclear-powered aircraft carriers requires removing large sections of ship structure to facilitate reactor compartment removal and disposal," Rear Adm. Thomas Moore, the Navy's program executive officer for carriers, said in a statement emailed to the Daily Press.

Converting any one of the carriers, all built in Newport News, Moore wrote, would likely "cost tens of millions of dollars." The Navy already ruled out making a museum out of the Enterprise.

One Enterprise Vet Said: "We'd hoped that someplace like Alameda, where we were homeported, or Newport News, Norfolk, Portsmouth or somewhere in that area would like to have it, but the cost is prohibitive," he said. "And once it's taken apart, nobody wants to pay to put it back together."

Another Enterprise vet put it succinctly in a recent issue of the association's newsletter: "Too big - Too nuclear."

The Enterprise was commissioned in 1961, and given the motto, "The First, The Finest." It was and remained the longest aircraft carrier in the U.S. fleet, earning it the nickname the Big E.

Early in the ship's career, it was part of a blockade during the Cuban missile crisis and then joined the first nuclear-powered naval task force. That three vessel group steamed around the world without a single refueling.

The carrier first saw combat in Vietnam in 1965 -- another first for nuclear-powered ships -- and was one of the first ships to respond to the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001, steaming overnight to establish a presence in the North Arabian Sea.

Joe Brunner, a San Diego-area retiree who was a member the Nimitz's commissioning crew, said he's

not surprised to hear that the Navy is reluctant to make a museum out of his old ship and the other carriers in its class.

Ship museums are expensive endeavors, even without the nuclear factor, said Brunner, a member of the USS Nimitz Association.

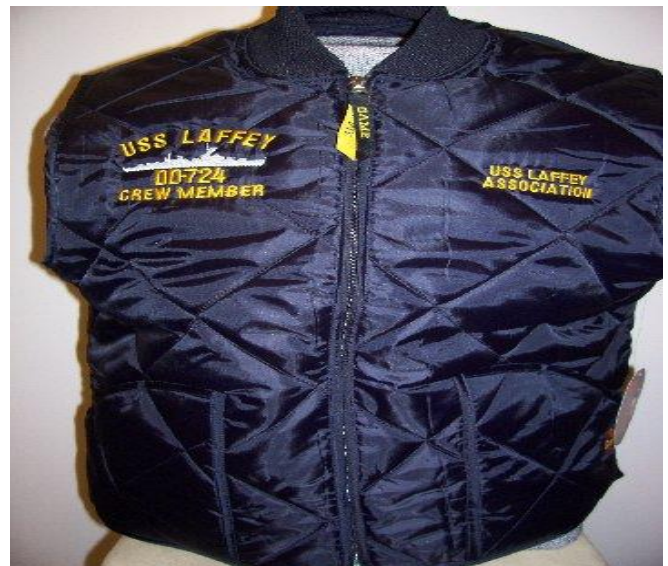
"These nonprofit organizations that take over these ships to preserve them are just about, to the last one, in financial trouble," Brunner said.

Editor's Comment: We all know that The USS Laffey also participated in the Cuban Missile Crisis!!

New Items Available From the Locker Room: Official Source of USS Laffey Gear



STYLE 1222-V - The Finest Vest



- Wind resistant nylon Taffeta shell
- 5oz. poly-fill lining with thermal knit backing
- 100% polyester rib knit collar
- Full front zipper
- 2 outer pockets
- Adult Sizes: S-5XL
- Up Charges Might Apply (Adult Sizes Only)
- Machine washable
- Imported

STYLE 4750 - The Express Jacket



100% Oxford nylon outer shell

- Coated for wind and water resistance
- 7oz diamond quilt lining
- Raglan Sleeves
- Fleece lined collar with inside storm flap
- Outer right chest zipper pocket, front zippered pockets and inside chest pockets
- Open bottom hem, side seam zippers to accommodate accessories
- Velcro cuff closures

Dave Bossard, owner of The Locker Room and member of the USS Laffey DD-724 Association has just announced the availability of the above shown two apparel items designed for Laffey sailors, their spouses, and children/grandchildren and beyond!

Give Dave a call at cell # 610-698-4653, or fax him at # 610-488-5012 to discuss pricing details, sizing, and any up charges that might apply to your selection.

From the Editor's Desk

On April 23rd, 2013, a group consisting of 24 Sun City Hilton Head residents visited Patriots Point to specifically tour the USS Laffey DD-724. Barb O'Connor, the founder of the WEGO's (What Ever is Going On), a part of the Sun City Hilton Head Travel Club, had wanted to visit our ship since she knew of my affiliation with the association. She asked me to personally conduct a thorough tour of the Laffey....and that it was!

We spent almost 2-1/2 hours exploring every open part of the Laffey! What impressed me was the fact

that all of us were crowded into the viewing area of the looping History Channel account of the Okinawa battle and most agreed they could not believe what the ship experienced that morning of April 16th, 1945: Their heads motioned in disbelief and not a single person left the room until the entire presentation was completed!

Only a few of these WEGO guests had military backgrounds and those who did were either Army or Air Force. By the time the group was about to leave the Laffey tour, all of them were expressing extreme pride for and about the Laffey and the events of that day in April, 1945.

After the tour of the Laffey, all went aboard the USS Yorktown for "lunch on metal trays" in the CPO Galley. (I think that's why everyone really wanted to eat on the Yorktown!) We did a short tour of the Yorktown including the Medal of Honor Museum and were now off to the Clamagore.

None of these "tourists" had ever experienced the "utter joy" of crawling down into the belly of the sub and most were really glad to emerge from it at the opposite end! There were plenty of sore muscles and aching backs after this last visit. From there we had a 2.5 hour trip home....tired but well informed on what Patriots Point has to offer and especially the USS Laffey DD-724.



The WEGO'S Group Photo during their visit

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)

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Just a Reminder to all USS Laffey Veterans

It's official; DD-214's are NOW On-line.

The National Personnel Records Center (NPRC) has provided the following web site for veterans to gain access to their DD-214's

On-line:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

NPRC is working to make it easier for veterans with computers and Internet access to obtain copies of documents from their military files.

Military veterans and the next of kin of deceased former military members may now use this new on-line military personnel records system to request documents.

Other individuals with a need for documents must still complete the Standard Form 180, which can be downloaded from the on-line web site. The requester will be asked to supply all information essential for NPRC to process the request and delays that normally occur when NPRC has to ask veterans for additional information will be minimized.

The new web-based application was designed to provide better service on these requests by eliminating the records center mail room and its processing time.

4-5-13: A message received from Sonny

Hi Guys,

I just received a check from Robert C. Johnson (Bob) WWII, for \$500.00 for the work party fund. These guys just don't quit!!! Bob's letter says:

"Sonny",

"I am enclosing a check to be used by the work party for expenses. Sorry I can't be there, but I hope this will help you guys out on the expenses.

Thanks for all of the time and effort you all put in to maintain the LAFFEY.

From a shipmate who served 1944-46.

Sincerely - Robert (Bob) Johnson"

Editor's Comment: The USS Laffey DD-724 Association would like to express our thanks for the generosity Bob Johnson has provided by his letter above. We sincerely appreciate all donations but we are especially appreciative of the donation level that our WWII Laffey sailors have maintained to help preserve our historic treasure, the USS Laffey.

Additional donations recently received

Andrew and Joan Kuruc In Memory of Danny Essig	\$50.00
Bob Lucey In Memory of Danny Essig	\$100.00
Katherine and Fred Miller In Memory of Danny Essig	\$30.00

Ms. Beverly Thompson \$40.00
In Memory of Cdr. Jack Conger

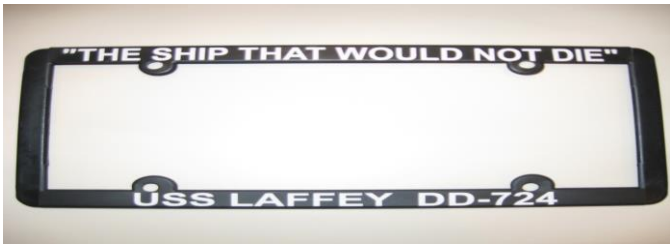
Robert Burnett \$25.00
Work Party Donation

Bob Langevin \$200.00
Donation is intended for the purchase of liquid refreshments during the 2013 Reunion in New Orleans. Bob, unfortunately, will not be able to attend the reunion this year. Thanks, Bob, for your continuing generous donations to our reunions.

John Nettle \$100.00
Work Party Donation

Our sincere thanks go to all of you who provide in memory of donations and donations to work party events. Your generosity is greatly appreciated!

We've noticed: Some of you don't have our Laffey Plate Frames installed on your cars!



If you are driving to the reunion, please get these frames" installed on your vehicles before you leave home! New members should "gitter done" too!! **Don't allow your cars to leave home naked!**

For those longtime members who have yet to install these frames on your vehicles.....What in the dickens are you waiting for? Get up from your Lazy Boy lounge and send in your order....and you know I'll be saying "Why Bless Your Little Heart"! PS – They look great on cars, trucks, golf carts, boats, wagons, scooters, skate boards, and anything else you might be using to move from place to place!

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: And your car, truck, boat, or golf cart will look just "as pretty as Terry Bradshaw after his diet program"! OKAY, OKAY.....Maybe not as pretty as Terry Bradshaw: You might have to get an auto detailing polish and do a little work!

Attention All Hands:

We just saw on Facebook that Plankowner Bob Powell fell and broke his hip. His daughter posted it on Facebook. He is coming home tomorrow. Please keep Bob in your thoughts and prayers. Sonny (4-21-13)

(Later on the same day) Mike Courtney just called him (at the hospital), he is recovering. He had a heart attack last night and they are keeping him for a couple more days before sending him to rehab. Mike told me that, after rehab, he will be living with his son in MN. I hope things work out fine for him.

ATTENTION JUNIOR LAFFEY SAILORS

We acknowledge that our original intentions of having you aboard Laffey over night will not occur due to Fire Marshall Regulations. We were not able to be "grandfathered in" to allow this to happen because we were away from Patriots Point for a number of years.

The carrier USS Yorktown has an ongoing program for berthing young people and we might attempt to get overnight privileges on her instead. There is a cost for these overnight stays on the Yorktown: More on this in future editions of the Laffey News.

I would, however, like to get some feedback from you Junior Laffey Sailors to see if you might be interested in such a visit. Our emphasis would still be on the Laffey with guided tours and historic discussions. Please let me know of your interests by sending me (Bob Wampler) a note via snail mail to 100 Landing Lane, Bluffton, SC 29909 or send an email to rdwjcw@hargray.com (Subject JLS)

Lastly, the Laffey News is interested in having an involvement of Junior Laffey Sailors with the newsletter....Yes, we are looking for a "few good young men and a few good young women"!

You will be able to develop your own stories with or without pictures concerning the Laffey. The stories could be about the Okinawa battle, Bartlett Laffey, a visit you had on the Laffey, the historical significance of the Laffey, etc.

If you are even remotely creative and want to get involved with our association, this is your chance to do so. Yes for those too young to be "super creative" alone, you can get help from Moms, Dads, Grand-parents, great-grandparents, etc. Please contact me (Bob Wampler) at the above shown addresses....Or call me at 843-705-2296.

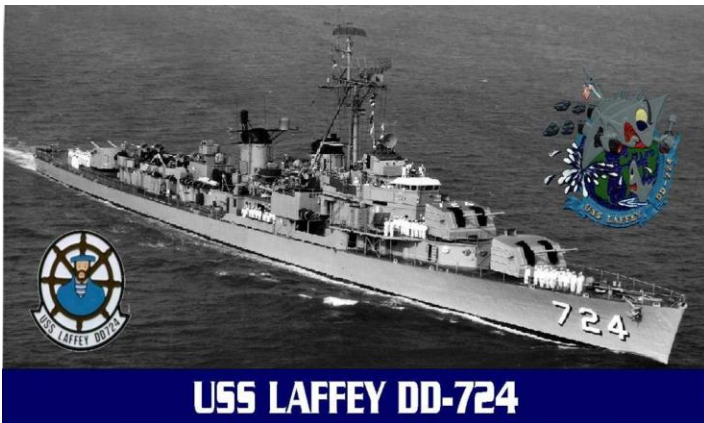
An earlier note from Sonny on Frank R. Fox

ALL HANDS:

I regret to inform everyone of the passing of another Laffey Shipmate: Frank R. Fox RD2 passed away on Dec 4, 2012. Frank was a Korean War Vet and served as a Radarman on the Laffey. He also was Secretary of the Laffey Association for many years and he was always a lot of fun at the reunions. He will be missed by all of his shipmates.

Sonny

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.



Bartlett Laffey, Medal of Honor Recipient – The Civil War - For his heroic actions at the battle of Yazoo City, MS on March 5th, 1864

Preliminary Itinerary Notes 2013 Reunion

Breakfast is not included with the hotel package However, you can receive a \$5 voucher for any day that housekeeping does not tend to your room (Your choice - optional).

You will have time to venture out on your own while in New Orleans. We will be adding a Memorial Service to the schedule but at this time we are not sure where it will be held. Additionally we will have a Hospitality Room during our entire stay!

September 8th, Sunday Night

6 pm to 10 pm
Registration in Hospitality Room

September 9th, Monday

9 am We will be loading the buses for a "Super City Tour"

September 10th, Tuesday

11:30 am Jazz Cruise (lunch included) aboard the Steamboat NATCHEZ

September 11th, Wednesday

Time to be announced - Board Meeting
Time to be announced - General Meeting

6:30 pm to 10 pm Mardi Gras Party on the hotel premises, yes, complete with beads!!!

Note: The registration cut off date is 08-01-13

Also, please refer to the January-February-March edition of the Laffey News for other suggestions for your stay in New Orleans. Have a lot of fun and a great reunion!



**2013 USS LAFFEY REUNION
REGISTRATION, NEW ORLEANS, LA**

Reunion Dates: Sept. 8th - 11th 2013 - Cost for activities \$150 per person
NOTE: REGISTRATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE DATE IS AUGUST 1, 2013

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Number of Persons Attending _____

E/Mail: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

What Years did you serve on the USS Laffey:

What was your rate:

Will you have a vehicle to park: **Note: In/Out Privileges Are Not Included in the Daily Hotel Parking Rate.** (I need to give the parking garage a rough count)

What day do you expect to arrive:

Will this be the First reunion that you are Attending? _____

Special Needs and/or Allergies: _____

Please let us know **if you will NOT** be attending a specific function during the reunion. We must pay per person: You will not be refunded but the money will remain with the Association instead of paying for something unused.

**Send Reunion Registration and check made out to "USS Laffey Association" to Jill Michel, 26 Quaker Road, Mickleton, NJ 08056-1303
Contact: Jill Michel @comcast.net or call 609-870-0600 / 856-423-4263
Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.**

Please contact the Sheraton directly at 504-525-2500 to reserve your room. The room rate is \$119 per night (plus taxes). Make sure to mention "USS Laffey - FAJ6A" **There is an additional \$25 per day for the parking garage (If needed) but this rate does not include in/out privileges.**
USS Laffey DD-724 Association

**Bob Wampler
100 Landing Lane
Bluffton, SC 29909-6060**