

2014 REUNION - A GREAT SUCCESS - SEE INSIDE

# LAFFEY NEWS

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



**“I’LL NEVER ABANDON SHIP AS LONG AS A GUN WILL FIRE”: CO F. JULIAN BECTON**

**Dedicated to those who served in Battle...and those that Preserved in Peace**

**October-November-December**

**[www.laffey.org](http://www.laffey.org)**

**2014**

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE**

If you didn't make it to the reunion in Charleston....you missed a great time. Jill Michel did her finest job with this one. I think everyone had a wonderful time... All 138 of us! It was great to see all of our old friends and to meet a lot of first timers too. It was especially good to see Emil and Roseanne Jakubic. They have had some rough times lately and we're glad that they made the journey to Charleston.

On Monday we took a bus tour and went to the only tea plantation in the US. I never knew that tea plants produce for 600 years, and that Black, Orange and Green tea come from the same plants. Then we went to a local, nearby distillery (Firefly Distillery) and had a formal tasting of their various vodkas, rum, liqueurs and some homemade white Lightning: We all had that certain smile on our faces after this event!! We then went to the winery area (Live Oak Winery) and tasted their wine variations: Those smiles got even larger!! That was an especially good day.

On Tuesday we went to Patriots Point and had the dedication service for our new Live Oak Tree and the Plaque that honors the 32 men who lost their lives at Okinawa. Channel 4 from Charleston provided electronic coverage and The Post and Courier covered the service for this local newspaper. It was a good media event. In attendance were Todd Nedorostek and Megan

German from Bartlett Tree Experts. They donated the tree and did the planting.

After the tree dedication we moved to the fantail of the ship for our annual memorial service. The folks from Patriots Point had chairs set up with the sound system all ready to go. We had a very nice service to honor our 32 heroes and then we read the names of our shipmates who passed away since the last reunion. Sadly this list included Don Vorgity. Don was a two-time president of the association and will be missed by all of us. Taps was played by Bill Blackstock, Jr., Son of Bill Blackstock SM1 who served aboard the Laffey the same time that I did in the early 60's. We then had the Wreath Service. Bob Logsdon did the honors of dropping the ceremonial wreath into the water off the fantail.

Next we went to the Harbor Breeze Restaurant at Patriots Point for our luncheon and games. We had a good lunch and a fun time for all. The funniest event was a knot tying contest among some of the sailors of the Laffey. If we relied on these guys to get us tied-up to the pier we would have never made it!! Whoever heard of a Snipe who could tie a knot? Fran LaSala tried to convince me that a square knot he had mastered was a sheep shank.... Nice try Fran!

We ended up in the Hospitality Room on Tuesday evening. Now a problem arose and it was all the fault of the Essig family. They **made** many of us

stay there until 2:30 AM. Why yes, we consumed a number of “adult beverages” during this session. My mother had warned me about hanging out with folks like that!

On Wednesday morning we had our Board of Directors and General Membership Meetings. It was announced that we will be going to Orlando, FL to attend next year’s reunion. Jill will be checking it out and hopefully we can find things to do and a place to stay that are affordable for all of us.

In the evening we had our going home party. This year we were honored to have a guest speaker arranged by Jeff Jacobs, our new “Scrounger”: Maj. General James Livingston, USMC (Ret) spoke to us at length. The general is a recipient of the Medal of Honor, three Purple Hearts and a chest full of medals from Viet Nam. What a speaker! He is a member of the Medal of Honor Foundation and is doing a fine job of getting a new Medal of Honor Society Museum built at Patriots Point within the next two years. This should help bring many more visitors to Patriots Point and to the Laffey. General Livingston is a real American Hero. Made you want to run out and join the Marines. I have to tell you, I was speechless.....yes.....I was speechless! I felt like a little kid in his presence.

Jill hired entertainment that was the best we have ever had at any of our reunions. The two young ladies’ offering was called “LETTERS FROM HOME”. These two girls were fantastic and provided a memory of the forties sounds. They tap danced and sang at the same time. I’m not sure when they took a breath? These girls were beautiful and could they really sing! There was one bit where the young ladies set up three chairs and pretended it was a Jeep. They needed a driver and some passengers. They chose John Becton to be the driver. One problem, John is BLIND. When they sat him in the chair and gave him the steering wheel the place was in hysterics. John was driving as hard as he could and the harder he drove, the harder we laughed. We haven’t laughed that hard for a long time. Passengers included John Hall, Bob Logsdon and Joe Kraker... They were a riot.

We had plenty of donations for door prizes from our members and the Quality Inn & Suites of Patriots Point donated free rooms too. We proceeded with drawings for door prizes and then the 50-50 raffle. The winner of the 50-50 was Hillary Wagner. Next it was time for the ships model drawing. The lucky

winner of the model was Neal Fitzgerald SMSN 62-64. Congrats to Neal. I do need to mention that we sold over \$5,400.00 worth of tickets for the model. That provides us with slightly over \$3,000.00 for our work party fund.

After the goodbyes were said at the party we wandered back to the hotel. **AGAIN**, Cher and I were abducted by the Essig family and forced into the Hospitality Room. It was their fault that we were there until 3:30 AM this time. I can assure you that the Essig family is a lot of fun at all of our reunions! It was sad saying goodbye to everyone but we will see some of them at the work party on the 19<sup>th</sup> of October.

Speaking of the work party, we were informed that we may now get the water and sewage hooked up to the Laffey and we can get back to sleeping and eating aboard her just like the old days. I had told Patriots Point that we would pay to have this hook-up done. We contacted a plumber that Jeff Jacobs told us about and he came to the ship and looked around and is working on an estimate. We told him that we could handle the entire inside plumbing and he could use us to assist outside the ship to save money. At our work party this will be our number one job. John Hudak is in charge of this project. Our Patriots Point contact person is Paul Jeffers. Paul is an old friend and has been working with us for years. It will be good getting back with him again.

We are so proud to be connected with a group like this. No one can understand how it feels to be president of this organization. There are times when you feel that everything is going wrong and you can’t do anything about it. Then along comes some friends that let you know that things will get better, and they do! Just like the tree getting planted, the plaque getting made, the folks from Patriots Point letting us stay on board the Laffey again: This is what makes it all worth the sleepless nights and the pains in the chest.....from stress.....and stuff like that!

Our officers and board members are the best any organization could possibly have. Thanks to every one of you. I just want everyone reading this newsletter to know that this is the best job in the world. I love you all.

Sonny

## **NOW HEAR THIS – NOW HEAR THIS**

For those members who prefer to pay their association dues on an annual basis, it is almost time to do so: **“Your dues are nearly due”!** Several years ago President Sonny Walker and the Association’s Board of Directors established January First as the due date for annual membership dues for the next/coming year (2015).

The annual fee for membership in the USS Laffey DD-724 Association is \$25.00/year. Your check should be made out to the USS Laffey Association and mailed to our new Membership Chairman Mr. Mike Pereira, 92 Elmdale Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889. The check should indicate it is for 2015 membership.

If you are uncertain concerning your membership status, please contact Mike Pereira at 401-787-3014. Mike will gladly look into our membership roster and inform you of your current status. You can also contact Mike via e-mail at the following address: [antiredsox@yahoo.com](mailto:antiredsox@yahoo.com)

### **EARLY INFORMATION ON 2015 REUNION**

Jill Michel, our Reunion Chairperson, has informed us that the dates for the 2015 reunion are September 27th through September 30<sup>th</sup> 2015. The departure/check-out date is October 1, 2015. The 2015 reunion will be in Orlando, FL. (As previously decided by the membership) No other details are available for this edition of the Laffey News. We hope to have additional information available for our first quarter 2015 edition of the Laffey News.

### **THE WORK PARTY REPORT**

**October 19-26, 2014**

The work party was a huge success!!

We finally had a project that was more than just routine maintenance. We received permission from Patriots Point to move aboard during our work parties: In order for us to do that we needed to hook up a fresh water system and get the sewage lines hooked up. This required a lot of work, thought and money. We did not want Patriots Point to have to pay for any of this as it only benefitted us. John Hudak laid out the plans and we were ready to commence work.

In order to burn or weld we are now required to get a permit from Patriots Point. Brian Parsons of Patriots point made sure we had our permit every day so we could start work early in the morning.

We had to make a number of trips to the “Specialty Suppliers” for parts to get started on the fresh water system. Gary Barylski and Don Watson ramrodded that job. The job consisted of putting a new supply hose from the pier to the ship. It also involved running new lines from the starboard side to the port side through the forward fire room. We now have bibs on both sides of the ship making us able to use hoses on each side of the ship for fresh water wash downs or power washing. The line will also supply the forward heads and the CPO galley. We can now shower on board our ship again.

John Hudak and I had a meeting with Mac Burdette and Bob Howard and we received the rules that we will have to follow when staying on board the Laffey. We can only cook using the Microwave. The cooks on this work party did a great job keeping us fed even with the new rule. In the future Patriots Point will be installing a new fire and smoke alarm system at their expense. Another option would be for a paid fire watch to patrol the ship while we sleep. This is the fire marshal’s idea. Another rule from the marshal is that we can no longer use Forward Officers Quarters to sleep. I assume this restriction is because there is only one way in and out????? This would limit us to 24 guys on each work party. The good news is.... We are back aboard the Laffey.

Back to our work party, the fresh water system was quite costly. The potable water hose itself was over \$500.00. Our guys did a great job getting this project completed. We installed two valves, 150 ft. of hose and fixed the leaks in the joints. This was all done by Don Watson, Gary Barylski, Chris Barylski, Steve Papp, Dave Harhager, Richard McKinnney and Joe Luque. Of course this doesn’t consider all of my trips to the store for parts “and stuff”. Don’t let all those guys tell you that I didn’t do anything. I ended the week logging over 100 miles just going around town for parts.

We got a lot of painting done too. Our painting Guru, Mike Pereira, was informed that they had run out of paint on the carrier. Mike used his Yankee ingenuity and came up with some paint that just happened to find its way to the Laffey. Mike and his crew, Mike Pereira, Jr., Jim Garner, Steve Papp,

Homer Doster, Harold Borton, Chris Barylski, John Kapusta, Jr., Pat Striplin and Fred Nardei worked hard painting MTs 51 and 52, even underneath!! Homer, Harold and Jim Garner put the final coat on the ships office (was the chapel and now is the ships office). I forgot to mention that this crew power washed the entire main deck superstructure before any painting was done.

John Hudak had his hands full (No pun intended!) with the sewage job. It started with transferring the pump and tank hook-ups to the starboard side. John had to cut out the bulkhead that he installed years ago to close in the a/c and heater unit in first division. John, along with Dave Harhager and Barry Shugarts, worked hard cutting the bulkhead down. The next project phase was the opening of the deck to allow room for the new tank and grinder pump. All of these were painstakingly time consuming. We are planning on having a mini work party sometime this winter to see if we can get these items installed before the April work party.

I can't say enough about our cooks, John Kapusta, John Neville and Steve Papp. These guys had our meals ready and tasty! They made the trips to the stores, which is a pain to do, and kept us fat and happy all week.

Did I mention that some of us provided tours too? Pat Striplin took up position in MT 53 and explained the use of the mount and answered many questions from the tourists. Fred Nardei also conducted some tours. I hung around the History Channel video to sign autographs and answer questions. Unfortunately, no one asked for an autograph. It's tough being a star!

All in all, it was a real good work party. I have to thank the young guys, Mike Pereira, Jr, Chris Barylski and first timer J. J. Kapusta, for really busting their butts and helping the old guys out a lot. They painted under the mounts and never complained at all. That has to be one of the nastiest jobs we had this week.

I am happy that everyone made it home safely and all are looking forward to another work party.

Guys, if I missed a job or two that you did, I apologize. **You must realize that I was terribly busy administrating!!!**

Sonny Walker, President

## QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

"We must not allow the clock and the calendar to blind us to the fact that each moment of life is a miracle and mystery."  
**H.G. Wells**

## ENLISTED WOMEN TO JOIN SUB CREWS STARTING IN 2016



The Day | Jul 28, 2014 | by Johanna Somers From Military.Com

The Department of the Navy plans to add enlisted women crewmembers to seven Ohio-class submarines starting in 2016 and to four Virginia-class attack submarines beginning in 2020.

"I think this is just the next step in a process that started a number of years ago to tap into a talented part of the Navy to help run very sophisticated vessels, and to me that's a real huge advantage that the Navy is capitalizing on," said U.S. Rep. Joe Courtney, D-2nd District.

"... Women sailors do a great job on surface ships. They have been doing it for a long time, and obviously, with good planning and accommodation, I think the submarine force stands to gain from having women serve in the enlisted rank as well."

The Navy's most recent integration plan was given to Congress on July 18 and likely won't be released to the general public until the end of the year because Congress must have 30 days of continuous session -- days when both chambers are in session -- to review the plan.

In a letter to Vice President Joe Biden, the Department of Defense explains its intention to modify seven Ohio-class submarines and build Virginia-class submarines to meet "habitability

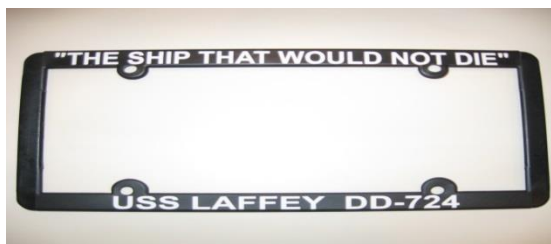
requirements" for crews comprising men and women.

Courtney said the costs of providing separate sleeping quarters for women and adding lavatory signs are minimal compared to shipbuilding costs in general. "This plan does not affect the existing Los Angeles-class submarines," he said. "If they had to modify that would cost money because they weren't built for gender class separation. But the Ohio-class subs were so big that it really wasn't that difficult to set up sleeping quarters for women only and make sure lavatories have proper signage."

Building the new Virginia-class attack submarines to accommodate women's quarters shouldn't require large design or construction changes, Courtney added.

The integration plan calls for women to make up 20 percent of the enlisted crew of submarines on which female officers are already serving. More than 60 women officers are serving on 14 ballistic-missile and guided-missile submarine crews.

Female officers began integrating into the submarine force in 2011 after the Navy lifted its ban on women serving aboard submarines in 2010. Female officers will be arriving at the Naval Submarine Base in Groton by January 2015 to join the crews of the attack submarines USS Virginia (SSN 774) and the USS Minnesota (SSN 783).



### FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA

Let's make certain that you (**procrastinators and the many new members**) do your part in making everyone know that the Laffey still lives! Install these plate frames around your vehicle 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: Your car, truck, golf cart, boat, go-kart, wagon, whatever, will thank you. Be noticed- It's a nice feeling!!

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** Noticed at the reunion....some members still haven't "slapped these plate frames onto their cars"! Now, lets "gitter dun" and make certain you experience Laffey Pride" with these plate frames.

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

#### Current Officers

Edgar "Sonny" Walker..... President  
(soncher724@verizon.net)  
Bob Wampler..... Vice President  
(rdwjcw@hargray.com)  
George Kessler..... Treasurer  
(gfkessler09@yahoo.com)  
Hillary Wagner.....Secretary  
Mike Pereira.....Membership Chairman  
(antiredsox@yahoo.com)

#### Board of Directors

Ari Phoutrides  
John Langevin  
Francis LaSala  
Jim Spriggs  
John Hudak

#### Website Manager

A.J. Tarquino  
(atarquino@columbus.rr.com)

#### Laffey News Quarterly Newsletter

Bob Wampler, Editor and Circulation Manager  
(rdwjcw@hargray.com)

### A RECENTLY RECEIVED REUNION LETTER

My brother Julian and I thoroughly enjoyed our visit with the wonderful members of the Laffey crew, their wives and relatives. The ship looked great and it is evident that her crews are a big part of her not showing her age. The activities and meals were terrific. Neither Julian nor I ever served on a destroyer, but the Laffey's crews made us feel a part of their celebration. Julian served on the Cruiser Canberra and I was a Navy air-dale in VF-21 on the USS Ranger....Viet Nam era.

As a little boy, I once was invited for dinner with the Captain in the Ward room on the Laffey when she was in Florida in the mid-1950s...I was too young to understand then, but the memorial services certainly brought my thinking "up to speed" at Patriot's Point during this reunion. It should never be easy to forget what Laffey sailors sacrificed for our country...from the battles of Okinawa to her decommissioning she and her men served with honor.

I still remember my Uncle Julian, visiting our farm after the war....My father was a Navy pilot, and they would talk.....not to us or their wives, but to each other. There is something very honorable and private between those who have walked in Harm's Way...and survived....an understanding that those who have never been there will never understand. Those thousands, who toured the Laffey when she returned for repair after Okinawa...were in aw....they could see it...feel it.....smell it.....but only the sailors of the Laffey really knew and understood what they had done.....and those sailors who have followed honorably afterwards.....have been adopted into that hallowed class of honored men....who went to sea and war on a small steel ship named USS Laffey (DD724). They know too! May God bless their service, their lives and their memory.

Thanks again,

**Philip and Julian Winston  
(nephews of Adm. F. Julian Becton)**

### **RECENT LOSSES OF MEMBERS**

**Notice: Condolences**



**VORGITY, DONALD J., August 8, 2014.** Beloved husband of Nina (nee Pini); devoted father of Jill (Bruce Lampe) Vorgity and Ada (Glenn) Keenan; also survived by 5 grandchildren, Matthew, Hannah (Mervin), Erica, Zachary and Donald; one great grandchild Linda Ruth; and two sisters Nevi Baker and Caroline Vorgity. His family will receive relatives and friends for his Life Celebration on Sat. Aug. 16 from 11 A.M. until 12 Noon at The Sandy Run Country Club, 200 Valley Green Rd., Oreland, PA 19075. In lieu of flowers, contributions in his memory may be sent to U.S.S. Laffey Assoc., 2951 Colchester Court, Abingdon, MD 21009 **CASSIZZI F.H., 215-425-0978**

**WHITE, JAMES ROBERT** passed away on Sept. 29th after a long battle with cancer. Jim was born in Ann Arbor, MI on July 31, 1933. He served in the Navy on the USS Laffey, a destroyer now docked at Patriots Point Naval Museum. Jim worked in various aspects of the automotive industry, eventually running a successful distributorship. He and Barbara enjoyed retirement, dividing their time between a home on the Chesapeake Bay in MD and condos in FL. His favorite sports were hunting, boating, fishing, crabbing, and golf. After moving to Sun City Hilton Head, SC 10 years ago, Jim served on the Modifications Committee and the Couples Golf Board. He is survived by Barbara, his wife of 50 years; son James II, daughter-in-law Tina, grandsons Aidan and Gavin of Princeton, NJ; daughter Alison Greene, son-in-law Scott of Jacksonville, FL; and a brother Jack of Weslaco, TX. Jim was a loving family man and a good friend to many -- we were blessed to have him in our lives. Internment will take place at a later date at Beaufort National Cemetery. Donations may be sent to [Hospice Care of the Lowcountry](#), PO Box 3827, Bluffton, SC 29910

**Andrew "AJ" Jerome Tarquino Jr.**



**August 24, 1995 - August 10, 2014**

Andrew "AJ" Tarquino Jr., 18, Michigan City, Indiana, passed away August 10, 2014 at 9:00 am in New Carlisle, Indiana.

He was born August 24, 1995 in Zanesville, Ohio to Andrew Tarquino Sr. of Nashport, Ohio and Malinda Tarquino of Michigan City, Indiana.

Surviving are Brother, Austin Tarquino of Nashport, Ohio; Half-Sister, Cortnie (Jason) Heckman of Warsaw, Indiana; Half-Brother, Norbert Jones of South Bend, Indiana; Many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A.J. was currently taking classes to attend the police academy to pursue his career in law enforcement. He was a very kind hearted person who would help anyone that was in need. He loved snow skiing in the winter and enjoyed collecting any kind of Batman paraphernalia.

Contributions may be made to the family of Andrew "AJ" Tarquino Jr.

**SUBJECT – SHIPMATES PASSING**

I received the following e-mail from Jill Michel: (It is from Tara Miller, daughter of Bobby Esposito).

Hi Jill - This is Tara Miller. I spoke to you last week about the death of my dad on July 9, 2014. He served on the Laffey for 4 years: July 1967-1971 if you need more info you can call me 203-287-9899. Thank you so much. I am going to send you his

picture just in case you need it. He was very proud of his ship and talked about her all the time.

Sonny

**PRAYER REQUEST FROM SONNY WALKER**

All Hands:

We need some prayers for Emil and RoseAnne Jakubic. Emil is suffering from Alzheimer Disease and RoseAnne was just diagnosed with cancer.

They are planning on being at the reunion if RoseAnne's treatments can be set up that way. (They both were present) Please pray for them and their families.

**HE LOOKS GOOD IN A LAFFEY BALL CAP!**

Our favorite "Jar Head Medal of Honor Recipient and guest speaker at the reunion: He really liked the hat!

I wonder.....Is it too late to make a sailor out of him??!!



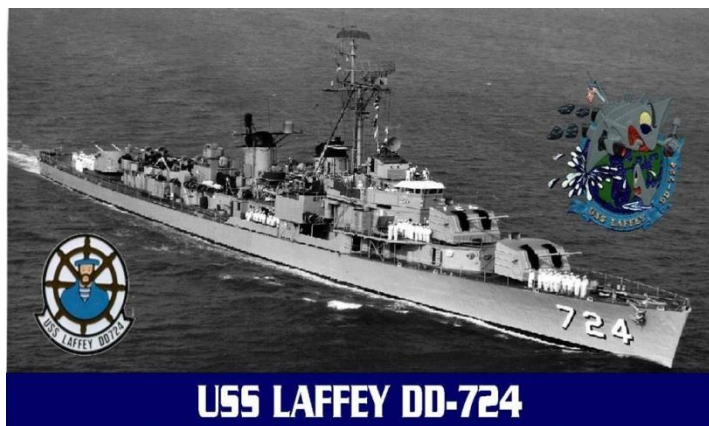
**Maj. General James Livingston, USMC (Ret)**

**WORDS TO LIVE BY**

"Try not to become a man of success but rather to become a man of value".

**Albert Einstein**

## 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.**

### **Navy tells lodges to put Bibles back in rooms**



Stars and Stripes | Aug 15, 2014 | by Travis J. Tritten

WASHINGTON -- Gideons Bibles are going back into Navy lodges.

The [Navy](#) on Thursday ordered the Bibles returned to rooms and said it is reviewing a decision by the

Navy Exchange to remove them from its worldwide network of military hotels.

Atheists had cheered a victory after a complaint prompted the exchange to begin moving the Bibles to its lost-and-found bins this summer, but the Navy said the decision was made without consulting senior leadership.

"That decision and our religious accommodation policies with regard to the placement of religious materials are under review," Navy spokesman Cmdr. Ryan Perry wrote in an email to Stars and Stripes. "While that review is under way, religious materials removed from Navy Lodge rooms will be returned."

Bibles donated by Gideons International are a common sight in Navy lodges and at hotels around the world.

The Navy Exchange sent a memorandum in June to all its lodge managers saying the Bibles and all religious materials left in rooms will be removed using "established procedures for lost-and-found property."

In the meantime, managers were ordered to "refer all inquiries about placing religious materials including Bibles to the chaplain's office for the military installation where the lodge is located," according to the memo written by Bill Mayhue, the Navy lodge program regional manager. It was signed off on by the director of the Navy Exchange lodges program.

"This will allow the commanding officer to determine ... whether the materials will be accepted and how they will be handled and distributed," Mayhue wrote.

The memo was prompted by a complaint in March by the Freedom from Religion Foundation, a Wisconsin atheist group that claims 21,000 members including hundreds of active-duty troops and veterans.

The group sent a letter claiming the Navy is showing an unconstitutional preference for Christianity. Staff attorney Sam Grover said a couple of members had served more than 20 years in the military and said they had never seen any other religious text in Navy lodging other than the Bible.



"That demonstrates the Navy's preference for Christianity over all other religions and nonreligious sects," he said.

Grover said the Freedom from Religion Foundation does not expect Bibles or other religious materials to disappear from lodges. Instead, chaplains could make the Bible available to those who request it or Navy lodges could supply a collection of religious and atheist texts at the front desk, he said.

The group suggested lodges offer patrons the Born Again Skeptics Guide to the Bible, which is sold through its website.

The brief removal of Bibles caused some outrage from religious groups.

The Chaplain Alliance for Religious Liberty, which advocates for the free practice of religion in the military, called it an act of censorship and criticized the Navy for bending to the atheist complaint.

"It's tiresome to see senior military leaders needlessly cave in to activist groups offended by anything Christian," Ron Crews, a retired colonel and chaplain who is the executive director of the group, said in a released statement.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** This article appeared in a recent edition of military.com

### TAPS LIST

Andrew J. Martinis, MD  
Served Aboard Laffey 1945-46  
Okinawa Battle Survivor  
Bronze Star for Heroism  
Passed Away October 24, 2014

James R. White, MR1  
Served Aboard Laffey 1954-56  
Passed Away September 29, 2014

A.J. Tarquino, Jr.  
Son of A.J. Tarquino  
19 Years Old  
Passed away August 10, 2014

Doris Gerhold  
Wife of Mel Gerhold  
Passed Away October 21, 2014

May the souls of our departed rest in peace and may those family members left behind be given the strength to cope with the grief that accompanies the loss of a loved one

**DONATIONS: All are sincerely appreciated and we thank you for your continuing support.**

### In Memory of Don Vorgity:

Juli and John Zelahy	\$ 100.00
Madeline R. DiPasquale	\$ 10.00
Larry Ubil	\$ 25.00
Marsha Lynn Grahame	\$ 100.00
Englewood Company, Inc.	\$ 100.00
Sandra Friedman	\$ 100.00

### Work Party/General Donations

Captain Bill Clark	\$ 25.00
Charles Gress	\$ 100.00
Joel Youngquist	\$ 100.00
Oliver Long	\$ 50.00
Captain John Tazewell	\$ 25.00
James Hart	\$ 100.00
Meredith Bowman	\$ 15.00
Robert C. Johnson	\$ 225.00
Pat Striplin	\$ 100.00
L. Graham (Chic) Sale	\$ 100.00
Harold Borton	\$ 100.00
Eddie Palmer	\$ 100.00
Larry Wear	\$ 10.00
Richard Klein	\$ 25.00
Doug Ward	\$ 20.00
Bob Lucey	\$ 100.00
Edith Rogers	\$ 75.00
Anna Hall	\$ 25.00
Ed Pochatek	\$ 75.00
John Kish	\$ 25.00
Pat Wilson	\$ 25.00
Lareine Korte	\$ 150.00
Bob Johnson	\$ 25.00
Larry & Linda Smith	\$ 25.00
Mike & Kathleen Pereira	\$ 100.00

### REVISED/NEW EXHIBIT AT PATRIOTS POINT

We have posted the "We Gotta Get Out Of This Place" music video we filmed to YouTube. All the performers are Vietnam veterans who have helped

us build the Vietnam Experience Exhibit. Please enjoy the video and share it with everyone you know. The exhibit opens this weekend. Vietnam veterans are free Saturday and Sunday. All veterans are free on Tuesday. Happy Veterans Day weekend! Christopher Hauff, Patriots Point

**PICTURES....PICTURES.....WE'VE GOT LOADS AND LOADS OF REUNION PICTURES!!**

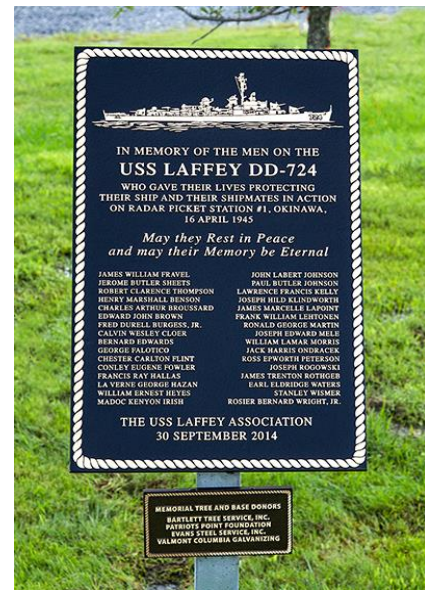
(A special thank you goes out to our member Michael Coleman who provided the following pictures for inclusion in this newsletter. NOTE: These pictures detail the Memorial Tree and its WWII Plaque dedication as well as the Memorial Service aboard Laffey. The next edition will contain many, many photos from the farewell dinner and other reunion experiences)



**Sonny Walker comments about the new plaque**



**Crowd begins to assemble for plaque unveiling adjacent to the memorial tree**



**Plaque listing deceased from the 1945 Okinawa Battle - Positioned near the memorial tree.**



**Don Watson prepares to unveil the memorial plaque dedicated to Okinawa Battle deceased**



**President Sonny Walker addresses the Memorial Ceremony Attendees aboard Laffey**



**The 2014 Okinawa Battle Memorial Ceremony**



**The Laffey sailors gather together on the fantail**



**SM1 Bill Blackstock's Son, Bill Blackstock, Jr. provides TAPS during the memorial ceremony**



**The sixties generation has a group photo**



**Barbara Kessler and Lariene Kurtz accompany Sonny Walker in song (Thankfully!!!)**



**The fifties were well represented for a photo-op**

**USS Laffey DD-724 Association**  
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