

SIGN UP FOR THE 2015 ORLANDO REUNION - SEE DETAILS 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

April-May-June

www.laffey.org

2015

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE MAY 2015

Here it is, summer has finally arrived. I know, you guys in Florida just shut up. Those of us who live in the north are glad to see warm weather again!

I hope everyone is looking forward to the reunion in Orlando this September. It looks like Jill has come up with some fun things to do. I can't wait for the airboat ride in the swampland to check out some live gators and see wildlife in its natural environment. And how can we miss “CHOCOLATE KINGDOM”???? There are many more attractions for us to enjoy, too!

We will be having the memorial service at the Military Museum.

The hotel is certainly cheap enough at \$65 and \$75 dollars per night. And the reunion fee at \$100.00 is super. The rooms are plus tax but included is a breakfast buffet every day. Call Ramada Gateway (800-327-9170) direct to make your reservations. The group rate is for 5 days prior to and after the reunion. So come early and stay late. We have some different door prizes this year too.

I will be sending out the raffle tickets soon. They are at the printers now. We are using a different model builder this year: There have been too many mistakes and confusion with the other builder. The price will still be about the same and it will be built

in San Diego, CA. So break out the checkbook and keep our work party fund in good shape.

We have spent quite a bit of money this year, compared to previous years, to get the sewage system back up to par with a new pump, hoses, piping and valve. We received a very nice donation from the Patriots Point Foundation for \$8,000.00 to help out with this project.

We are purchasing some new tools: a cutting torch, hoses and gauges and some other tools. These tools are expensive but they will make it so much easier for us to get things up and moving again. It is such a pain to spend a day or more rounding up tools and supplies to work with. When we are there for a week we can't afford to spend a day getting ready and a day taking the stuff back to the carrier. If we have our own tools and supplies aboard the Laffey we can get right to it.

Jeff Jacobs is our mentor and he just happens to be on the Board of the Foundation. We cannot thank Jeff enough for all that he has done for us. He also wishes to remain anonymous when it comes to receiving accolades for the great things that he makes happen. I Didn't Listen - So THERE, Jeff.

These have been pretty rough times for all who have been fighting illnesses, hospitalizations and deaths in the family:

We lost a good friend to many of us as Chief Ralph Doll BMCM, passed away in May, 2015. Ralph was aboard the Laffey for 12 years. He turned a lot of us young sailors into men.

The last time I saw Ralph was at Chief Horton Walker's funeral in Norfolk. He was sporting a white beard and with his size, he looked just like Papa Smurf. I teased him about it and we shared a good laugh.

I know that he served with our Korean Crew and the crew from "The Big One", the Cuban Missile Crisis and a few more crises of that era. Ralph served in WWII, Korea and the Cold War Navy. He was a short guy that we ALL LOOKED UP TO! We will miss you Chief.

As most of you know, I lost my Mom last month. I can't say enough about the cards and prayers that we received from a lot of my Laffey family. The donations to the work party fund were greatly appreciated too.

Mom loved the Laffey and was so proud that she won the model at the recent reunion in New Orleans. She considered all of the crew "her boys". All through my Navy hitch I would bring guys home with me. They were treated as her sons while they were at our house. Dave Harhager called her "Mom" since he was home with me the most. John Hudak came later in our retired life. She still treated him like "her little boy". Mom told John that he should shave his beard off! John flew up to MD from Florida for the funeral. He told me that he had thought about shaving his beard off but changed his mind. Thanks again everyone for the thoughts and prayers.

We are hoping for a good turnout for our fall work party in October. Let's hope things go well and we can stay on the ship once again. I will be sending out info via e-mail about the work party.

Let's keep our shipmates who are having health problems in our thoughts and prayers. Also keep our servicemen and women in our prayers as they fight to keep us free and safe.

I hope to see many of you at Orlando.

Sonny Walker, President USS Laffey Association

MINI WORK PARTY RECAP MARCH, 2015

This work party was probably the most expensive one we have ever had. I know this might sound like bad news **BUT**, we are going to receive a donation of \$8,000.00 from the Patriots Point Foundation. This will cover a lot of our costs.

It started with us staying at the Red Roof Inn for a week. Four rooms for eight guys cost about \$1,900. We have been staying on the Yorktown for a few years now and that was when they had availability for us. We are working so hard to get our ship in compliance with the new rules that have been put in place since she was away for 3 years.

There were eight of us at the work party: Sonny Walker, John Hudak, Dave Harhager, Ken Rohloff, Rich McKinney, Joe Luque, Ed and Bill Fitzsimmons. Those guys busted their butts trying to finish before the end of the week. It ended up that we were a day or two short of our goals. The plumber didn't get to make the connection to the existing system on the pier and we need a day or two to complete the work on the plumbing and the cleaning up the compartments and the heads.

Hudak, Bill Fitzsimmons, Ed Fitzsimmons and Dave Harhager did most of the PVC hook-ups. This was a tough job. But, it really looks good. This took many trips to the hardware store for PVC pipe and connections and hardware. They relocated and installed the new grinder pump and tank in 1st Division.

Ken Rohloff, Joe Luque and Rich McKinney worked in the CPO berthing space most of the time. They pulled out all of the old mattresses (cloth) and put them in the dumpster because they are considered a fire hazard. We have purchased 14 new fire resistant mattresses to replace them. (\$896.00).

They reattached the racks to the support stanchions in lieu of bunk chains. This will give us a better sleep. When they had room enough, they moved into 1st Division and started hanging the bunks in there.

Richard and Ken completed the welding of the new valve installed in the main deck for discharge to the sewage system on the pier.

We had a very successful work party and are looking forward to returning in April to get everything finished.

...AND GEORGE SAID – SHOW ME THE MONEY!

March 26, 2015

Dear Mr. Kessler:

It is with great pleasure that we enclose a check to the USS Laffey Association for \$8,000.00. The dedication and hard work of the Laffey Association sailors and family is an ongoing benefit and huge savings to Patriots Point and a source of good will for the visitors.

Museum ships, like the USS Laffey, are very expensive to maintain. We cannot thank you enough for the time and materials you expend in the ongoing maintenance of your ship and its exhibits to make it the very best it can be.

These funds are to be used at the discretion of the Laffey Association only for

- Ongoing maintenance, upkeep and modifications of the ship and its existing equipment.
- New equipment.
- Exhibit creation, repair or modifications.

The board members of Patriots Point Foundation are all volunteer as well and are happy to support your organization that has proven its commitment for many years. Please let us know if we can assist on a future project.

Regards,

Jeff Jacobs, Communications Officer, Patriots Point Foundation

**WORK PARTY RECAP
April 11-19, 2015**

We had a very good work party and memorial service for the heroes that gave their lives on 16 April 45 in the battle for the ship at Okinawa.

Patriots Point put on a very nice program aboard the Yorktown (due to rainy weather) that honored 2 crewmembers from the USS Maynard Abele. She was sunk on picket duty by a Baca Bomb (A suicide pilot guided rocket). She went down in 3 minutes. The memorial program was originally scheduled to be held on Laffey's fantail but rain was threatening and so it was moved to the fantail of the Yorktown as a result.

Marines from the land battle were present as well as pilots from the air war. We, too, had a surprise veteran of our own present. Arnold Goldberger was a member of the FIDO team aboard the Laffey. He boarded the ship at Ulithi just in time to go to Radar Picket Station One. We were all seated in the front row.

The guest speaker was Rep. James Smith, grandson of Lt. Paul Smith, assistant gunnery officer on Laffey during the battle. James made a fine speech and told of all of the exploits of the veterans present and of the Laffey. We were all very proud. When it became my turn to speak I apologized to the crowd as I felt unworthy to sit in the same row as those heroes.

I have to send out a special thank you to Mary and Ray Broll for donating a slow cooker that we can use to cook some good dinners. I have had it at my house for a long time and now we can finally get ready to stay on board and enjoy home-cooked meals! Thanks again Mary and Ray.

Steve Papp and John (too much milk) Kapuska delivered a check for \$500.00 from the Catholic War Vets of Derby, CT. We used it to buy food for the group for the entire week.

A lot of our work this time was very amusing! A crew worked on MT 51 led by Richard McKinney and our new VP Chris Kirhagis. They started out with a buckle in the plate on the roof of the mount around the edges. They were working on the top and dropped a chisel down inside the gun mount. That resulted in our having to take the doors of the

mount off to search for the chisel. The good news is that the chisel was found. The bad news is, we lost a whole day's work. We had a lot of laughs about it. I told Richard that we were trying to do a "Yard Job while we were at sea". It turned out that we had to leave the big job until this fall with the large work party. Poor Richard really caught a lot of teasing about that. Little Mike Pereira painted the doors and got it looking respectable before we left.

Homer Doster and John Miller took on the job of finishing the ship's office. They found an old desk "somewhere" and decided to paint it. When we walked by, Homer was holding the brush on the desk and Miller was moving the desk back and forth. It was a very strange way to paint but it looked good!! You'll have to ask them about it when you see them. They also cleaned the Laundry and Sick Bay too. While cleaning sick bay they also conducted some medical experiments. You will have to ask them about that too.

Homer, Miller, Mike and Little Mike Pereira, Barry Shugarts and Bob Langevin painted the deck in the theatre (after officers). Homer discovered at the end of the job that he had left his hat sitting at the back of the room. Of course he couldn't get there due to the wet paint. More laughs and teasing. We must remember that he is a SNIPE.

Richard started another job.....never mind!!!

Tom Phelps found the power source to the ship's office and finally got some lights in there. I guess he was waiting for Knip to stay home so he could "strut his stuff".

Bob Langevin, "who usually disappears when he gets to work parties", did a lot of work this time! He always brings loads of supplies donated by the VFW in Clifton, NJ. He spent a lot of time stocking the lockers in the CPO head. They are now full of donated toiletry items. Bob also installed a shower head in the shower area

He also brought down some mess trays that he was going to install in the steam line. However, that didn't work out so they are now displayed in the scullery.

Bob also supplied a bell for the motor whale boat and he installed it too!! Bob also stacked more new

supplies in the cages in the F'ocsle. He painted yellow arrows partially through the tour route. He cleaned the Chief's head and showers 3 times.

On Tuesday he cooked a meal co-sponsored by Bob and his Brother John Langevin. On Thursday night he, again, co-sponsored, with Brother John and the Association, a Pizza night at the VFW in Mount Pleasant. And to complete his week he ran some gopher errands and stood Quarterdeck watch on afternoons! **Editor's Comment: I'm exhausted just reading about Bob's efforts during this Work Party!!**

I forgot to mention Dave Harhager converted to Snipe and worked with John Hudak. They didn't appear above deck very much. They were working below decks connecting the pipes and completing the hook up of the CHT tank. We all think they were just hiding below. They did show up to eat though! Seriously, the pipes were hooked up and flushed out. All we need now is to have the plumber finish the job under the pier and we will be in business.

I am sure there was a lot more work completed but it is hard to keep up with everyone! All of us who were at the Work Party were satisfied with what was accomplished. It was tough because we had a lot of rain...but the guys found lots to do inside.

It sure will be great staying aboard the ship again. Those ladders on the carrier were killing all of us!

We will have another work party in October. The dates will be available as soon as we can get things straight

Smooth Sailing To All.

Sonny Walker
President USS Laffey DD-724 Association

NOW HEAR THIS.....NOW HERE THIS

(IMPORTANT REQUEST)

We need the help and cooperation of all who are receiving our quarterly newsletter, the Laffey News. Recently we have experienced a large increase in the number of members who have relocated/moved without notifying the Association's Membership

Chairman Michael Pereira or me Bob Wampler, Editor Laffey News, of this change.

We ultimately become aware of the move only when the USPS no longer forwards your "snail mail" and provides your new address on the returned newsletter. Unfortunately, this process does not always occur and no information is made available on the returned newsletter. Accordingly, your new address cannot be determined.

We make every attempt to see that you receive the Laffey News but we ask you to assist us in our efforts. Should you relocate, get a new phone number, or have a change in your e-mail address, please contact either Michael Pereira at antiredsox@yahoo.com or phone him at (401)-787-3014 or Call Bob Wampler at (843)-705-2296 or send an e-mail to rdwicw@hargray.com. Thank you in advance of your advising of any change to your address, phone, e-mail address or other personal data you want us to be aware of.

COMMENTS CONCERNING A DONATION

Sharon Setmire's donation in memory of her Father, Glenn Setmire, appeared in the previous edition of the Laffey News. I thought it would be appropriate to share with you her note that accompanied the donation. It read as follows:

"Well, it's another year and I'm sending you a donation in memory of my Dad, Glenn Setmire. It will be his birthday on December 17th and he would have turned 93 years old. Dad passed away 5 years ago and this is always my gift to him.

I always want to do something in his memory so I give a donation for his ship and the Laffey Association because I know he would like that. He was always so proud of his service in the Navy and aboard the Laffey.

My Mom still gets the newsletter and it's always nice to know all the goings-on with his ship. Keep up the good work."

Sharon Setmire

Editor's Comment: Thank you for your comments Sharon and please know that it is the standing policy of the association to provide Honorary Status for surviving spouses. If anyone is aware of a surviving spouse who is not receiving their copy of the Laffey News please notify me, Bob Wampler,

and we will reinstate their name to the newsletter mailing data base. (E-mail address shown below or phone 843-705-2296)

WORDS TO PONDER

"You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today," **Abraham Lincoln**

SUBJECT: PASSING OF A REAL SAILOR

Shipmates:

We have lost a real sailor from our ranks: Ralph R. Doll, Master Chief Boatswain Mate.

Chief Doll was a fixture onboard the Laffey. Ralph came aboard in January 1952 and left in December 1963. Those of us who served with Chief Doll will remember him as a fair guy and an outstanding sailor. He joined the Navy in 1944 and retired in 1974. He served in 3 wars: WWII, Korean and Viet Nam. He was a real hero.

Below is a note I received from Lt. Frank Schulte.

Today at 11:24 AM (5-12-2015)

Sonny,

I am sorry to send this web site reference to you about Chief Doll. It should take you to the Virginian Pilot web site and his Obituary which appeared in the Norfolk newspaper this past week. If this doesn't bring it up for you, let me know. I'll get it to you somehow.

Keep up your good work with the shipmates.

<http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?n=ralph-r-doll&pid=174810097&fhid=11524>

Frank Schulte
59 – 62

SUBJECT: PASSING OF ANOTHER SHIPMATE

All Hands:

I was just informed of the passing of another shipmate. John William Padgett

I do not have his rating but he retired as a Master Chief. He served on the USS Philippine Sea CVA-47, USS Shenandoah AD 26, USS Clarke County

LST 601, and the USS Laffey DD 724. In Viet Nam he served in combat with the Naval Mobile Riverine Forces in Vietnam's Delta Region.

He passed away on Feb. 13, 2015. John will be honored at our reunion in Orlando.

Sonny (2-26-2015)

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

Current Officers

- Edgar "Sonny" Walker..... President
(soncher724@verizon.net)
- Chris Kirhagis.....Vice President
(MASH752@aol.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
- John Hudak

Website Manager

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

Laffey News Quarterly Newsletter

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

ANCIENT WORDS OF WISDOW

"Where is there dignity unless there is honesty"?

Cicero

**Navy's New Maritime Strategy Includes More
Destroyers to Pacific**

U.S. Navy leaders' plans to forward deploy two more destroyers to Japan and base another attack submarine in Guam appear to be part of a new maritime strategy expected to be released by the Navy next month.

While most of the details of the new strategy for the Navy, Marines and Coast Guard will not yet be discussed by Navy officials, the effort does include a new examination of the sea-services' ability to

forward deploy and project power in global hotspots such as the Pacific theater and Middle East.

"The sea services have updated the maritime strategy in response to changes in the global security environment, new strategic guidance and a changed fiscal environment," said Lt. Timothy Hawkins, a Navy spokesman, told Military.com.

The new maritime strategy, called "A Cooperative Strategy for 21st Century Seapower: Forward Engaged Ready," will provide a comprehensive overview and build upon Navy priorities such as the need for deterrence, Hawkins explained.

"The principles of our maritime strategy largely remain the same from 2007. It continues to prioritize and value forward presence while emphasizing the continued need for the primary functions of a maritime service which are – deterrence, power projection, sea-control and maritime security," he said.

While Navy officials did not specify whether the new strategy takes up the issue of the Pentagon's Pacific rebalance, officials told Military.com that the document does address the challenges maritime forces face when it comes to accessing and operating in more "contested" environments.

Regarding the Pacific rebalance, Hawkins did re-iterate that the Navy plans to base as much as 60-percent of its fleet in the Pacific region by 2020.

Also, speaking Feb. 26 before the House Appropriations Committee – Defense subcommittee hearing on the Navy budget, Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert made reference to the Navy's ongoing push to rebalance the Pacific Fleet.

Greenert said the Navy's force of attack submarines based in Guam will be increased this year. He also made reference to the fact that two additional destroyers will be forward deployed to Japan.

By the end of this year, the number of attack submarines the Navy rotates through Guam will

jump from three to four, service officials said. Also, the Navy's aegis-capable a guided missile cruiser, the USS Chancellorsville, will rotate through Japan by the end of 2015, service officials said.

At the moment, the Navy operates one carrier, seven destroyers, four mine-sweeping vessels, two cruisers and six amphibious ships from Japan, Hawkins said.

In addition, the Navy has included the rotation of Littoral Combat Ships through Singapore, the deployment of the P-8 surveillance plane and a rotation of Marines through Australia as portions of the Pacific rebalance.

"We have the USS Fort Worth Littoral Combat Ship on deployment over there out of Singapore. When she completes a 16-month deployment, the next ship that comes over will stay. Then another will join and then two more -- so we will have four Littoral Combat Ships by the end of 2017 in Singapore," Greenert told lawmakers.

The Chief of Naval Operations also detailed plans to base the Navy's carrier-based variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, the F-35C, in the Pacific region.

"Our Joint Strike Fighter will deploy to the Western Pacific by the end of this decade. So you see the trend we are putting all the forces out there, either forward stationed or they will deploy there first," Greenert added.

Naval threat assessments and technology development have also squarely been aimed at preparing the force to operate in the Pacific theater, Greenert explained to lawmakers.

"We have benchmarked anti-air, anti-submarine, electronic attack and cyber all to how they would perform in the Western Pacific against potential adversaries out there," he said.

Greenert also said U.S. relations with allies in the region remained strong, citing Malaysia, Indonesia, Singapore, the Philippines and Vietnam. He also added that new partnership opportunities were emerging with India.

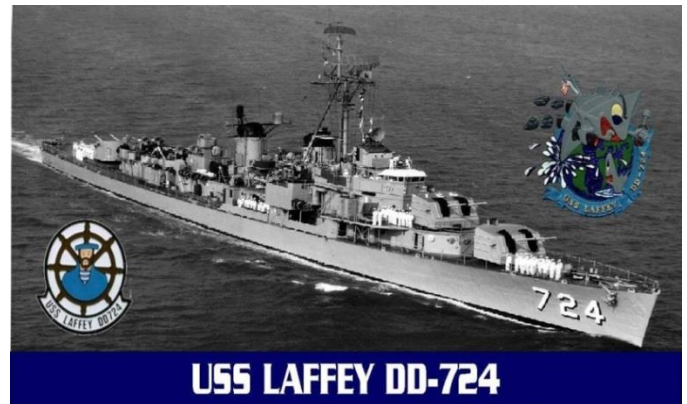
TAPS LIST

Ralph R. Doll, Master Chief Boatswain Mate
Served Aboard Laffey 1/52-12/63
Passed Away May 6, 2015

John William Padgett, Master Chief
Served on many Navy ships and ground commands. Service dates onboard Laffey are not known.
Passed Away February 13, 2015

Dorothy Walker
Mother of Association President Sonny Walker
Passed Away April 25, 2015

Please take a moment to remember these recently deceased association members and pray that their families are comforted as they journey down grief's pathway.



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.

ALL HANDS – LISTEN UP

John Wukovits has written a super new book about the Laffey and her heroic exploits in WWII. The title of the book is: "HELL FROM THE HEAVENS".

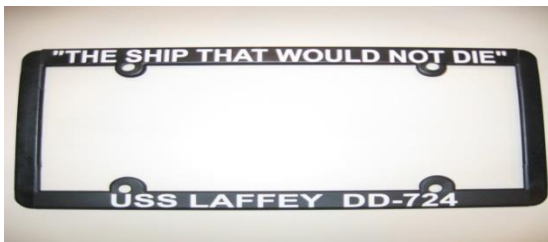
From a letter from John is the following information;

The information about purchasing an inscribed copy: If anyone wants an inscribed copy (or copies), all they need do is email me (johnwukovits@comcast.net) or call me in Michigan (734-673-2560) with the information on how many copies, to whom the books should be inscribed, and where I should mail them. With shipping costs included, the price is \$30 per book, payable by check made out in my name.

John interviewed Ari Phoutrides, Robert Johnson, Daniel Zack, Wilbert Gauding, Lloyd Hull, Jay Bahme, Robert Dockery, Dr. Andrew Martinis, Joe Dixon, Fred Gemmell and Lee Hunt. He also spoke with Marguerite Fern, widow of Tom Fern (Silver Star). I am looking forward to reading this book.

Sonny

WOW! TAKE A LOOK AT THIS PLATE FRAME!



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 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: Your car, truck, golf cart, tricycle, Big Wheel, boat etc. will be proud of your decision to purchase their very own plate frame!! Be noticed- It's a nice feeling!!

Remember: gift a Laffey plate frame to your relatives and to your friends, to your pastor, to your hair stylist, to your dentist, to your doctor to your newspaper carrier, to your lawn service guy, and even the nasty neighborhood kid! **I'm almost 100% certain your gift will be appreciated by all recipients....well, OK, maybe not the nasty neighborhood kid!!**

VA TO DEBUT ONE-STOP BENEFIT WEBSITE

From Military.com Week of May 11, 2015

Veterans will soon be able to log in to just one Department of Veterans Affairs website to manage their benefits, apply for doctors' appointments, and determine their eligibility for programs. The website will go live around May 20, but will first be open to around 50 veterans to help beta test the new portal.

By the end of the year, all veterans will be able to use Veterans.gov to manage more than 350 benefit programs without having to switch websites, call multiple numbers or file large amounts of redundant paperwork.

Once veterans register, the new website will automatically know their eligibility levels for different programs and will tailor their experience using that information. The website will also notify the veteran of various programs they are eligible for but are not using.

STATE VETERAN'S BENEFITS

Everyone knows about the federal benefits available to veterans, but did you know many states also offer great benefits to their veterans? State benefits range from free college and employment resources to free hunting and fishing licenses. Most states also offer tax breaks for their veterans and specialized license plates, some states even provide their veterans with cash bonuses just for serving in the military. Contact your State Department of Veterans Affairs

NEW NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM

Here is the first rendering of the National Medal of Honor Museum to be built at Patriots Point, (Supplied by Jeff Jacobs, Patriots Point Foundation.)



The grass-topped land pavilion (entrance and lobby) for the National Medal of Honor Museum is shown in the foreground; the chapel is to the left of the new museum.



The National Medal of Honor Museum at night. The USS Yorktown is in the foreground **(With the USS Laffey on the other side of the pier!!- Editor's Addition)** and the Ravenel Bridge behind the museum. The star-shaped chapel can be seen directly in front of the museum building.

If you wish to support this project, secure donations can be made through Patriots Point Foundation, an all-volunteer 501c3 organization that for reasons

unknown has seen fit to make me a board member (Jeff Jacobs) If you do donate, make sure to say 'MOH Museum' or let me know. You may also visit their official site: MOHmuseum.org

RECENTLY RECEIVED DONATIONS

In Memory of Dorothy Walker, Mother of USS Laffey Association President Sonny Walker:

Paul & Brenda Citro	\$50.00
Joyce & Lawrence Hanau	\$100.00
Bob & Erma Hill	\$25.00
William & Deborah Hiteshew	\$25.00
Robert & Barbara Jones	\$50.00
Margaret Martin	\$25.00
Jill Michel	\$25.00
Ari Phoutrides	\$50.00
(To be dedicated to Work Party Fund)	
Frederick Walzog	\$25.00

In Memory of Earl Madison, EM2:

Mike & Aggie Coleman	\$50.00
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In Memory of Jim Spriggs, Lee Hunt, and Robert Powell:

Ari Phoutrides	\$100.00
(To be dedicated to Work Party Fund)	

In Memory of Rose Anne Jakubic:

Jill Michel	\$25.00
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In Memory of Jim Spriggs:

Jill Michel	\$25.00
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In Memory of Joan Michel:

Jill Michel	\$200.00
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In Memory of Lee Hunt:

Ted & Cindy Willard	\$25.00
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Work Party Donations

Arnold Goldberger	\$200.00
Barry Shugarts	\$100.00
Pat Striplin	\$100.00
John Tazewell	\$25.00

2015 USS LAFFEY REUNION - ORLANDO, FL

From Jill Michel: "It's that time of year again to start thinking about the reunion. Look out Mickey we are heading your way!"

We will be staying at Ramada Gateway, Kissimmee, Florida. They have hotel/motel rooms. All of the rooms have refrigerators and the Tower (hotel rooms) also have microwaves. The Tower rooms are \$75 (plus tax) a night and the poolside rooms are \$65 (plus tax). A breakfast buffet is included in the room price. The Ramada will be holding a block of rooms for us until August 27th. The hotel does not have an airport shuttle service but Mears transportation is available at the airport for \$37 round trip.

Call Ramada Gateway (800-327-9170) direct to make your reservations. They are offering the group room rate for the 5 days prior and post of the reunion days.

Sunday night we will have Registration and appetizers in the Hospitality Room starting at 6pm.

Monday you will have free time and we will be gathering for Food & Fun in the evening in the Hospitality room.

Tuesday, in the late afternoon we will be heading over to the Military Museum for our Memorial Service and to Capone's for an

entertaining dinner. Wednesday we will start the day with our group meeting following the Board of Director's meeting and that night we will be having our banquet dinner at the hotel.

There is so much to see and do in the Orlando area:

On MONDAY: We are offering "A day at Seaworld" for \$75 which includes Admission, One-time dining and transportation to the park. (provided we have 15 people interested)

We can also make arrangements for Airboat Rides, Holy Land Experience, Gatorland and a trip over to Old Town along with a Factory Adventure Tour at Chocolate Kingdom. There is a concierge located in the lobby of the hotel that can help with discounted tickets for anything you may be interested in seeing in the area. Oh yeah, there is also this place called DISNEY WORLD, like us they have a lot of characters. The hotel offers transportation to parks in the area and of course there is also transportation to the local shopping centers. There is also a car rental available at the hotel."

HE SAID WHAT??

"If you cannot convince them, confuse them."

Harry S. Truman



2015 USS LAFFEY REUNION REGISTRATION, ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Reunion Dates: Sept. 27th - 30th 2015

Cost for Activities: \$100 per person

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: _____

What day do you expect to arrive: _____

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

T-Shirt Size/sizes: _____

Special Needs / Allergies / Diets: _____

Please let us know if you are interested in any of the following items as a group and we can make the arrangements. These would need to be paid in addition to the reunion cost. Feel free to e-mail any interest to get specific costs (still working out some of these details)

Trip over to Old Town along with a Factory Adventure Tour at Chocolate Kingdom _____ Holy Land Experience _____ Gatorland _____ Sea World _____ DISNEY WORLD _____

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 would stay in 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. **NOTE: Cut-off date for registration is September 11, 2015**

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 Ramada Gateway directly at 800-327-9170 to reserve your room. The motel daily room rate is \$65 (plus taxes) (No Elevator) and The Tower room rate is \$75 per night (plus taxes). Make sure to mention "USS Laffey Reunion" when booking your reservation.

USS Laffey DD-724 Association

Bob Wampler

100 Landing Lane

Bluffton, SC 29909-6060