

2015 REUNION IN ORLANDO, FLORIDA – 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

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January-February-March

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

2015

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## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

As usual, we have just returned from the ship and another work party. This was a mini-work party to prepare for the large one scheduled in April. See the write up in this issue.

This New Year looks very promising. When we get the sewage hooked up and the 1<sup>st</sup> Div. compartment fixed up we will be ready to move back aboard for our work parties. It sure will be great not having to climb those ladders to get to our sleeping quarters on the Yorktown. We really appreciate Patriots Point letting us sleep aboard the carrier for the past few years. The accommodations were great other than dragging our gear up 3 decks. We were always hoping no heart attacks would occur while we were getting up there!!

All of us are really excited about moving back aboard. Of course there are new rules that we have to follow: We can no longer use the grill. We have to cook using the microwave. We found that this is not as big of a deal as we thought. We cook eggs, bacon, hot dogs, etc. in the microwave and additionally had cereal and fruit as part of our diets. For lunch we ate sandwiches and soup. The days of large meals cooked aboard are gone but we really don’t need all of that food anyway: **I gained 4 pounds last week** eating those kinds of “home-

cooked meals”!! We went out to eat supper, as usual, and had a good time during our daily evening meal. We are looking forward to many more work parties and “many more good times”.

Patriots Point has plans for more great renovations to the ship too. They are putting a great “Radar Experience” in CIC. I don’t have any of the specifics but I do know it is costing about \$10,000. They are also adding a whole new experience in the After Engine Room. This will include a lot of “Hands On” things for visitors to experience. This will include turning valves, answering bells, etc. It will really be a **“SNIPE EXPERIENCE”** for the folks!

It looks like our ship will finally be used as a teaching/learning aid as she should have been. Now, as people come aboard, they can climb into MT 53 and see the video presentation about how it felt to be inside the mount during the Kamikaze attack. After leaving the mount visitors can then move into the “theatre area” to watch the History Channel video presentation of the Okinawa battle. With the forthcoming other two new presentations mentioned above visitors will get a whole new idea of what it was like to be on our ship during war and peace.

Jill is working hard to get things set up for our 2015 fall reunion in Orlando this coming September. She

was down there this past week looking into hotels and setting up tours. When you see Jill please thank her for her hard work and dedication.

Bob Wampler is having some physical problems and has asked me to relieve him of his Vice Presidential duties. He was worried that he could not handle being president if necessary. He is reluctant to commit being able to do the travelling and the work parties associated with the office of President. However, Bob is staying on as editor of the newsletter. Please wish Bob good luck and thanks for keeping our newsletter an interesting and entertaining piece of reading. I really think his physical problems started when I sent him out on the bridge to chip ice while we were on our way to Argentia, Newfoundland in 1963. At least, that is what he says!!

I thought hard and long for a replacement. I thought about someone that can deal with the politics and the other problems of the presidency. My choice was Chris Kirhagis. Chris is a retired Baltimore City Police Officer. After all of those years on the force I know he can handle the political part of the job. And he attends the work parties and has begun to come to the reunions also.

My thanks are extended to Chris for accepting the position of Vice President of the Association and my thanks to Bob for all of these years as vice president. You have always been my "Stand-By" even when we stood watches on the ship 53 years ago. **Editor's Comment: The "prez" paid me for all of those watches.....I had a rather nice income and bank account because of it!!**

Sadly, we have lost 3 of our WWII heroes in the month of January. Jim Spriggs, who held the Membership Chairman's job for 20 years, passed away January 3, 2015 along with Robert Powell who passed away the same day: Two pillars of the association. Bob Powell was one of the model winners. When he passed he told his son that he wanted the ship to be sent back to the association. I spoke with his son and told him to forward it to Ari Phoutrides. Ari was thrilled and promised to take care of the model. We lost another Okinawa hero on January 6, 2015. Lee Hunt was in the handling room of MT 53 during the Okinawa attack. Lee always visited us when we were there for a work

party. Lee lived in Charleston. They will be missed by all of us.

### **JANUARY 2015 MINI- WORK PARTY**

We had a fine mini work party January 24-31, 2015. The attendees included John Hudak, Don Watson, Rich McKinney, Dave Harhager, Ken Rohloff, Joe Luque, Sonny Walker and Max Sauss. The main job we had to accomplish during the work party was to get the sewage hooked up to the main sewer line running under the pier. This turned out to be a very big job!

Dave Harhager was the designated clip board holder. He did a great job too! John Hudak created and designed the plans to put in a new tank and grinder pump along with a platform to mount on the pier for the connection of the hose from the ship to the pipe connected to the main sewage line.

Jeff Jacobs, of Patriots Point Foundation, is our local "go to guy" and he contacted Coastal Utilities about doing the hook-up under the pier. They also agreed to mount the platform on the pier. After watching them drill the holes and hammer the bolts into the concrete, we decided it was a great idea to have them do it. They have agreed to do this job for under \$3,000.00. We agreed to do all of the work aboard the ship. This included installing a new tank and grinder pump, rerouting the PVC pipe in first division from the port to the starboard side and installing a valve on the main deck where we can attach the hose to go to the pier platform. This will make it possible for us to move back aboard the Laffey to eat, sleep and shower on our own ship. Those ladders are really getting too steep for us to carry our "seabags" up to our quarters on the carrier!

Our guys really worked hard during that week. John got the hole cut in the deck and a "spill catcher tank" was constructed and put in place to hold the tank. Rich McKinney did a lot of the welding as John came down with a bug for a couple of days.

Watson painted the new catch tank. It is now ready for the new tank.

The new tank was delivered and we man handled it forward to put down below. The big problem was... the flanges were 30" and the doorways and hatches were 26". HmMMMMM.? We ended up lifting the tank up to the 01 level by chain hoist and lowering it back to the main deck forward of the breakwater doorway. Now we had to get it down into 1<sup>st</sup> Division. We trimmed the flanges so we could wiggle it through the doorway. We removed the ladders and lowered the tank through the hatch in the forward fan room and down into first division 2 decks below. It was a 3 hour job. Richard did most of the line handling, Ken did most of the bull work, Donnie did the trimming **and Sonny did a lot of the wiggling.**

On Wednesday afternoon we got the call that the platform was ready. On Thursday morning Ken and Sonny drove to Columbia (100 miles) to pick-up the platform in Ken's truck. Richard and Ken installed the valve in the main deck while Hudak and Joe Luque worked hard below finishing up the overflow catch tank and it is now ready for the tank.

On Thursday evening the plumbers arrived and mounted the platform to the pier. We cut the fence and made a hole for the gate. John fabricated the gate and we installed it on Friday. Pat Watters treated us to lunch again this trip. He is General George S. Patton's grandson. He is really a friend of the Laffey!

As everyone knows, this is a very costly endeavor. Jeff Jacobs informed us that the Patriots Point Foundation is going to pay for most of it. These folks are truly friends of the Laffey. Unfortunately, we ran out of time to complete the hook-ups. My thanks go out to the guys who worked their butts off during this mini work party. **I am extremely proud to be a part of this crew!!**

It is necessary for another mini work party to get ready for the main work party in April. We need to get the pipes hooked up below decks and get the tank put into place and the pump hooked up. We should be able to get this done in 5 days.

Anyone interested in attending the April work party (April 11-19, 2015) please contact Sonny Walker: [soncher724@verizon.net](mailto:soncher724@verizon.net) or 410-515-3223.

If we are staying on the ship (providing we get everything done to meet Patriots Point's rules) we will have limited bunks. There will be extra space on the Yorktown. (**.....for all of those who can climb that high!**)

Sonny Walker, President  
USS Laffey DD-724 Association

### **THE LOSS OF A REAL LADY ROSE ANNE JAKUBIC**

Sonny advised that he received this e-mail from Nancy Powell:

Mom passed away peacefully on Christmas day. I am so thankful that I was able to spend some quality time with both Mom & Dad at the reunion this year and then again later in October at their home in MN.

There is nothing that my parents loved more than all of the wonderful memories they have from the Laffey Reunions. Attached are a couple pictures from the last reunion. I will always cherish my memories from my trips with Mom & Dad - especially to Patriots Point. Nancy

### **SONNY'S COMMENT**

We are so happy that she made the last reunion. I got to tease her and, as always, she had some good laughs.

We will miss her terribly. Please keep Emil and the family in your prayers. Sonny,

## WORDS TO CONTEMPLATE

"We are all here for a spell, get all the good laughs you can" **WILL ROGERS**

### NEW SURFACE WARFARE STRATEGY

From Military.com: Jan 14, 2015 | by Kris Osborn

The [Navy](#) plans to distribute more weapons and offensive firepower throughout the surface fleet as part of a new strategic approach designed to address a fast-changing global threat environment, senior service leaders said Jan. 13 at the Surface Navy Association National Symposium in Arlington, Va.

"We're going to up-gun as many existing platforms as we can to achieve more total lethality," Vice Adm. Thomas Rowden, commander of Naval Surface Forces, said at the symposium.

Referred to as "distributed lethality," the new strategy is aimed at upgrading existing weapons and adding weapons to a wide array of platforms, including [destroyers](#), [cruisers](#), [amphibs](#), [carriers](#) and the [Littoral Combat Ship](#) variant called the Small Surface Combatant, Rowden explained.

"The first thing we have to do is look at the weapons that currently exist and see what modifications we can make to those systems to increase our offensive punch," Rowden said at the symposium. "We are looking around the fleet to target lethality upgrades wherever we can."

As part of a discussion of this new strategy, Rowden said the Navy plans to acquire a new, offensive long-range anti-surface weapon that puts U.S. Navy surface forces back on the positive side of the range equation with respect to potential adversaries.

The Navy is already working on developing or acquiring a new offensive long-range weapon for the LCS and the Small Surface Combatant.

However, alongside its efforts to arm the LCS and Small Surface Combatant, the Navy is interested in new offensive weaponry options for destroyers, amphibious ships and other platforms, Rowden explained.

"We need to think about this weapon as something we can back fit throughout the DDG fleet. We'll have between 30 and 33 amphibious ships throughout the life of our current 30-year shipbuilding plan. What's to keep us from equipping these ships with an offensive SUW [surface warfare] weapon?" Rowden asked.

The Navy has been looking at long-range missile options for the LCS for months now. Last September, the Navy [test-fired a Norwegian long-range precision strike missile](#) from the deck of the LCS.

The missile tested is called The Kongsberg Naval Strike Missile. It is a long-range precision strike missile currently used on Norwegian Nansen-class frigates and Skjold-Class missile torpedo boats. The missile is also used by the Polish Coastal Missile Division, Navy officials said.

The Navy is also looking at a Raytheon-engineered extended-range variant of the Griffin missile that triples the range of the weapon and adds infrared imaging guidance technology.

The existing Griffin missile, which can be launched from the air, sea or land, uses GPS and laser guidance technology. The new variant now being tested allows infrared technology to work in tandem with laser designation, Raytheon officials explained.

Beyond individual missiles, the new overall strategy is aimed at distributing new, existing and upgraded weaponry across the fleet to hold potential adversaries at risk and give fleet commanders more offensive combat options.

"It is about taking the budget that we have and making everything that floats more lethal," Rear Adm. Peter Fanta, director of the surface warfare division, said at the symposium.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** The relatively new LCS has appeared in the Laffey News on several occasions in previous editions

### FREE ADMISSION TO FLORIDA MILITARY MUSEUM

From Military.com

The Southwest Florida Military Museum and Library is dedicated to preserving and displaying military artifacts and memorabilia while educating the public about our nation's military heritage. It is the largest military museum in southwest Florida. All of the artifacts have been donated or loaned by the military, government and individuals. The museum is at 4820 Leonard St., Cape Coral, Fla. It is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Sunday. Admission is free. For more information, visit the Southwest Florida Military Museum and Library website at [swfmm.org](http://swfmm.org).

### **NOTIFICATION OF JIM SPRIGG'S PASSING**

Hi, Sonny,

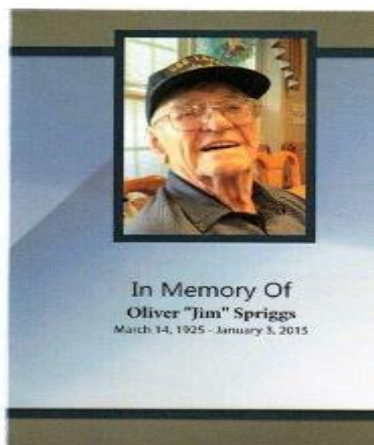
I'm sorry to tell you our dad, Jim Spriggs, died Saturday, Jan. 2, 2015. He had been in hospice care for a few weeks. Tuesday he took a turn for the worse. He was comatose the last two days and slipped away around 4 a.m.

We'll have details about services after meeting with the funeral director tomorrow

Our dad loved the Laffey Association and serving as membership chair with Mom for 20 years.

I so appreciated the association's decision to keep him as an honorary board member even long after he was not able to participate.

Gemma McLuckie and David Spriggs



### **....AND SONNY'S COMMENTS**

It is my sad duty to report that we have lost a mainstay in our association.

I received this message from Gemma McLuckie that her Dad, Jim Spriggs, former Membership Chairman and Board member, has passed away.

Jim was a good friend and a great member of the association. He will be remembered at our reunion this fall.

Sonny

### **.....AND MORE FROM SONNY (1-4-2015)**

**Subject:** Second shipmate passing of 2015

I received a phone call this morning from Mike Courtney. He informed me that Plank Owner Bob Powell passed away this morning from a massive heart attack. Bob was a TM3 and was a survivor of Okinawa.

I remember being very emotional when Bob won one of the first ship models. It was so cool that a Plank Owner could have one of the models.

Bob lived in Appleton, WI.

Bob joins Jim Spriggs, his old shipmate, in Heaven one day apart.

Please pray for his family.

Sonny

### **REPORT RECOMMENDS COMBINING EXCHANGE, COMMISARY SYSTEMS**

(From Military.com)

The commissary and exchange should be combined into a single agency that would sell some products at cost and others at a profit, a panel commissioned by lawmakers recommended.

"The commissary and exchange benefits are valued by many service members, retirees, and their families, and should be maintained," according to a report released Thursday by the Military

## Compensation and Retirement Modernization Committee.

"A consolidated resale organization, with combined resources, increased operational flexibility, and better alignment of incentives and policies, would improve the viability and stability of these systems," the panel said in the report.

Currently, the exchange is operated by a trio of private companies across the services. The system receives some tax-payer funding, which primarily pays for shipping costs to overseas and rural locations, and sells goods at a profit. That income is then turned around to help fund Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR) programs.

The Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), on the other hand, receives \$1.3 billion in tax-payer funding to pay for employees, shipping and store operations. The agency sells grocery items at cost plus a 5 percent surcharge, which covers the cost of construction and building and technology upkeep.

Under the proposed plan, the exchange systems and DeCA would combine into one system. Grocery items would still be sold at cost, but stores would be permitted to sell at a profit other items currently carried by exchanges. The system would still receive tax-payer funding and some income would still be filtered to MWR programs.

One of the biggest changes that may be felt as a result of the recommendations would be to commissary employees. Currently those workers are government employees, with pay amounts dictated by Congress and government-funded retirement and healthcare. The report, however, recommends moving those more than 12,000 workers to "non-appropriated funds" employee status.

The commission's report was ordered by Congress in 2012. Commission members and their staff held town hall listening sessions, surveyed service members, accepted comment submissions, and attended a Military.com Spouse Summit while conducting research for their recommendations.

## QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

"The best portion of a good man's life is his little, nameless, and unremembered acts of kindness and of love."

**William Wordsworth**

## TAPS LIST

Jay Bahme, LTJG, Plank Owner  
Served Aboard Laffey 3/44-6/45  
Okinawa Survivor  
Awarded Purple Heart  
Passed Away November 10, 2014

Lee C. Hunt, SN, Plank Owner  
Served Aboard Laffey 44-46  
Okinawa Survivor  
Passed Away January 9, 2015

Clarence Leroy Leitschuh, SN  
Korean War Veteran  
Passed Away December 16, 2014

Robert W. Powell, TM3, Plank Owner  
Served Aboard Laffey 44-46  
Okinawa Survivor  
Passed Away January 3, 2015

Beverly C. Shields, MM3  
Served aboard Laffey 1954-1957  
Passed Away on November 25, 2014

Oliver J. "Jim" Spriggs, MM3, Plank Owner  
Served Aboard Laffey 2/44-3/46  
Okinawa Survivor  
Board Member of USS Laffey DD-724 Association  
Passed Away January 3, 2015

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

## VA ANNOUNCES NEW REGIONS

**Week of February 02, 2015 – MILITARY.COM**

The Department of Veterans Affairs has announced that it is taking the first steps under the MyVA initiative to use state boundaries to divide the country into five regions. The new regions will allow VA to begin the process of producing a single regional framework to enhance internal coordination. Each organization within VA will begin work to ensure their structures are aligned within this framework by the end of June, 2015. The regional map is available at [www.va.gov/opa/publications/docs/myva-5-regions-map.pdf](http://www.va.gov/opa/publications/docs/myva-5-regions-map.pdf)

**MY HEALTHEVET**

**Week of February 02, 2015 Military.com**

The Department of Veterans Affairs My HealtheVet website is designed to allow veterans enrolled in VA health care to check their health records, make and cancel appointments, or refill prescriptions from a computer or tablet. Veterans can send secure e-mails back and forth to their doctors about available treatments without having to go in for an appointment or wait for a phone call. The VA hopes to expand the program and other benefits under one specific app for Android or iPhones as early as this summer.

**WORK PARTY DONATIONS**

Robert & Elaine Wilson \$100.00

**SHIP'S STORE SALES DONATION**

Dave & Mary Bossard \$100.00

**IN MEMORY OF DONATIONS**

**For Andrew Martinis**

Beme Martinis & Magan Jones \$500.00

**For Glenn Setmire**

Sharon Setmire \$50.00

**For Lee Hunt**

Partridge Creek Gun Club \$100.00

**For Oliver J. "Jim" Spriggs**

David & Jean McLuckie	\$100.00
Mike & Aggie Coleman	\$50.00
ARMM United Methodist Church	\$50.00
Stewart & Linda Hall and Chase & Bebra Wood.....	\$40.00
Ray & Elizabeth McGuffey	\$35.00
Dr. Edward & Eleanor Perzel	\$150.00
Ailene & Leo Turner	\$50.00
David, Gemma, & Leila McLuckie	\$500.00

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

**Current Officers**

Edgar "Sonny" Walker..... President  
 (soncher724@verizon.net)  
 Chris Kirhagis.....Vice President  
 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 (Recently Deceased)  
 John Hudak

**Website Manager**

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

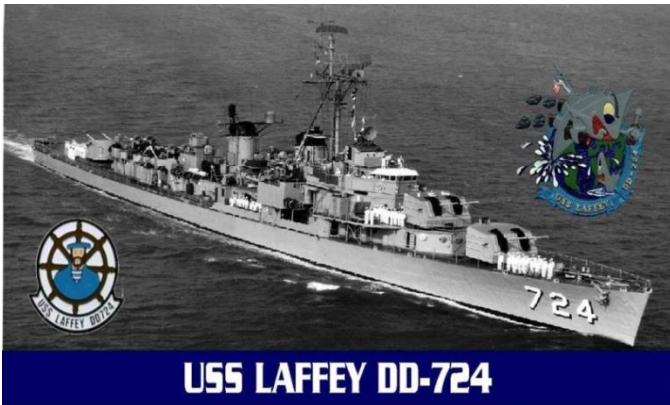
**Laffey News Quarterly Newsletter**

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

**WORDS TO LIVE BY**

"It does not matter how slowly you go, so long as you do not stop."  
**Confucius**

**THIS SPACE LEFT OPEN BECAUSE BOB WAMPLER, EDITOR LAFFEY NEWS, RAN OUT OF "STUFF" TO SAY!!!**



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.**

**NOW HEAR THIS – NOW HEAR THIS**

For those members who prefer to pay their association dues on an annual basis, it is time to do so: 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.

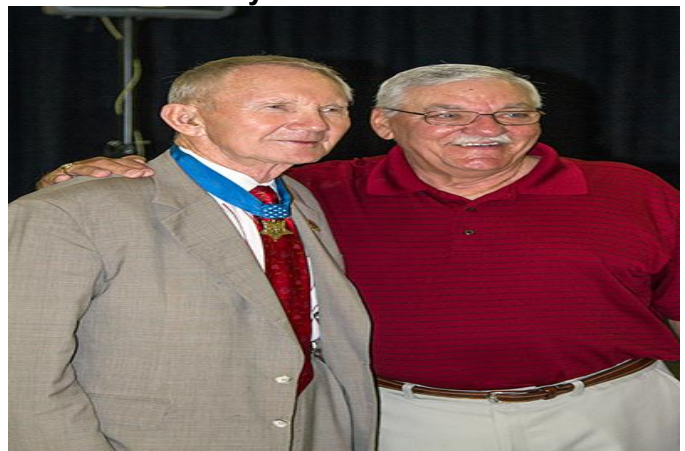
If you are uncertain concerning your membership status, please contact Mike Pereira at 401-787-

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)

**MORE REUNION PICTURES**



**So Fran – Did you catch “heck” over this?**



**Does a President outrank a General?**

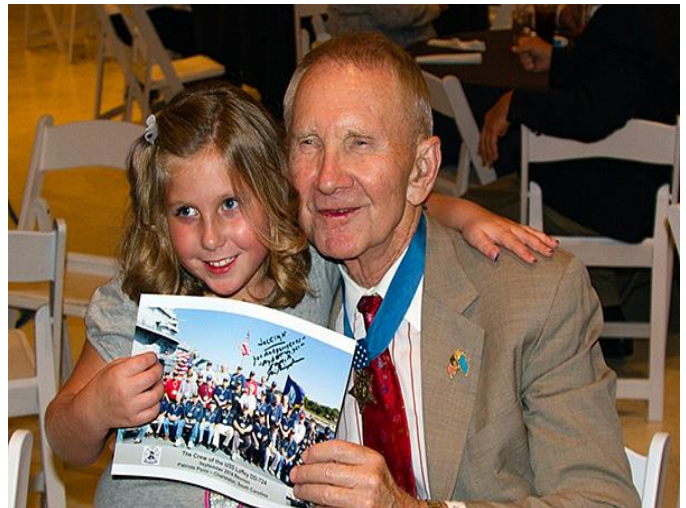


**Pat Striplin “volunteers” to be part of the show**





**Member Don Nicholson and Great Granddaughter Jocelynn**



**Now Jocelynn - No cuddling with the General!**



**The winner of the knot tying contest is...Don Nicholson's Great Granddaughter, Jocelynn.**



**The Andrew Sisters: "Letters from home"**



**Sorry George....You didn't have a chance!!**



**Major General James Livingston, USMC speaks**



**Let's keep that chow line moving!**

### **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 27<sup>th</sup>. 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. 27<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> 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

