

HEY CHARLESTON - THE USS LAFFEY WE'LL BE THERE THIS SEPTEMBER!

# LAFFEY NEWS

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



U.S.S. LAFFEY DD724 & DD459

“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](http://www.laffey.org)

2016

## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE MAY, 2016

It's another spring in the neighborhood, and it is a beautiful one too! We have a lot going on this year including work parties, reunions, raffles, etc. As for winter, it is long gone and but a distant memory. For those in the membership who had to shovel a lot of snow this year, think spring!!

Our early spring work party was an absolute success! I have never seen our guys pull together more than they did this past April. We decided to buy our own paint to alleviate a financial burden on Patriots Point. In comes Jeff Jacobs..... He told me that he would find someone to **DONATE, (Yes, DONATE!)** the paint. Shortly thereafter, he found International Paint Co. in Norfolk, VA. They donated 30 gallons of Haze Gray and 15 gallons of Deck Gray plus 2 gallons of thinner and 2 gallons of primer. We are estimating that this was valued at \$3,000.00. They even paid the shipping! This is high quality paint and should last quite a while. Jeff knew we were looking for a power washer so he provided the name of a nearby company: Hughes Tool Rental in Mt. Pleasant. They let us use their 4000 psi washer for the entire weekend for free! We are now looking into renting a man-lift to paint the high portions of the superstructure in the fall. Mike Pereira is in contact with a company now. We will find out how that turns out in the next edition. Needs, needs, we have so many needs!

Jill is working really hard on the reunion. The hotel prices in Charleston have gone through the roof. She found a nice hotel near the airport for this year: Double-Tree by Hilton in N. Charleston. It will be our home base in the fall of 2016. See the reunion reservation form (Page 11) for details and costs involved.

We hope that you all will be attending the reunion this year: They are such fun!! Be a part of the association's activities, dine together, laugh together, "drink together", tell tall tales together, witness the memorial ceremony in honor of those KIA and wounded in 1945, and refresh old friendships (Many you haven't seen since your onboard Laffey days!) What is really encouraging to see are the new (younger!) faces at the reunions and work parties. They and their families represent new blood in the association: All of them will see to it that the Laffey's legacy continues for many years to come.

I've heard that we will be losing some good friends to retirement at Patriots Point. I have been attending the work parties since 1996 so we should expect that some of our friends will be retiring. We, on the other hand, don't have the good sense to take it easy when we are at the work parties. Our guys just keep going just like the energizer bunny.

On 16 April 2016 we had a memorial program on the fantail of the ship where we told the story of the attack 71 years earlier that took the lives of 32 shipmates and 71 wounded. The people who attended seemed to like the presentation. We found that it is better for the visitors to understand what had happened to the ship before they tour her. This way they seem to appreciate why we feel the way we do about our ship. There was TV and newspaper coverage. We all were very proud to be a part of the crew of the Laffey.

We had some very important attendees at this years' spring work party including Hilary Wagner, Julian Winston, Phillip Winston and Phillip Winston, Jr. who represented Adm. Becton. Jill Michel was there for her dad, John Michel. Danny Essig, Jr and Anthony D'Amore were there for Danny Essig. Walter Laskowski, his wife and niece were there to honor their uncle, Frank Laskowski WT3. And our friend SC State Rep. James Smith sat in the front row and honored his grandfather Lt. Paul Smith. It was great having our WWII heroes represented by so many family members during the past work party.

We've been notified that Rod Morgan's son is in the hospital after a major stroke. He is 59. Please keep Rod and family in your thoughts and prayers. Dave Harhager is at home with hospice attending. (See later email updates) Please keep Dave and Judy in your thoughts and prayers also. Finally, please keep our shipmates who are unable to attend Laffey functions any longer in your thoughts too: We are all getting older and it is becoming more difficult to travel extensively.

Lastly, if you have any suggestions or ideas to improve the association or its functions, please get in touch with one of our officers so we can take it up at our business meeting at the reunion. Better yet, show up in person!!

Sonny Walker  
President

### **WORK PARTY RECAP APRIL 15-23, 2016**

Mike Pereira, Bob Langevin, and I arrived on Thursday 14 April 16 to get things underway. We had an all hands work party (all 3 of us!) and got

everything brought aboard and stowed. Dave (Billy the Boot) and Mary Bossard came in with all of the ship store shirts, hats and other stuff. Of course Billy would show up after we had everything else aboard!!

All of the other "workers" started to arrive on Friday. It was a revolving door for a while, some coming and some leaving after the weekend. A memorial program was held on the fantail on Saturday 16 April 2016 to recall and relate the story about the 71<sup>st</sup> anniversary of the attack by 22 Kamikazes on our Laffey. Approximately 100 guests/visitors attended the memorial program. The proceedings were covered by both local TV and Patriots Point Video.

This year is the first that I can remember where we offered to buy our own paint. Jeff Jacobs is "THE MAN" when it comes to scrounging up donations: I don't know how he does it! We had a few area paint companies check into what we needed, but couldn't get any "donations"! Jeff called me and told me that he found International Paint Company in Norfolk that would donate 30 gallons of haze gray and 15 gallons of deck gray. We cannot thank Jeff and International Paint Company enough for their efforts and donation!

We must have had a communication problem concerning when the paint was to be delivered. We had 25 guys shooting daggers at me when there was no paint to work with. However, "Big Mike Pereira" came up with enough prep work to keep a bunch of them working. Jeff also got a power washer donated to us for the weekend to get the superstructure power washed before we painted it. Hughes Equipment Rental in Mt. Pleasant, SC lent us a 4000 PSI washer. The Hughes folks were just top notch and treated us like royalty.

Tuesday morning the paint arrived. It was 12:15 PM and the crew immediately jumped into action. I have never witnessed such a feat: The crew painted the entire superstructure on the main deck in 6 ½ hours. It was an amazing thing to see. Our work party people are just amazing! They all should receive our sincerest appreciation! All I can say is,

the folks at Patriots Point couldn't believe their eyes when they came in on Wednesday morning.

We sure missed old work party members: John Hudak, Don Watson and Davie Harhager. Dave was in the hospital in Florida and then on his way home to Western Maryland. John, being a great shipmate and brother, drove Dave, in Judy Trout's new RV, from Florida to Maryland to his northern home. Donnie was claiming to have a problem with his knee but I think he was just lazy!

I was lost without my brothers but the young shipmates kept things going and got a lot done. Ed Fitzsimmons brought two of his sons, Bill and Bobby, along with his grandson Mason. We nicknamed Mason "Minnion" as he looked like one with his goggles and dust mask. He was a human dynamo. Ah, how energy is wasted on the young. These guys prepped and painted the 5" director. It looked great when they finished.

We even had some work for Jill Michel and Hilary Wagner to do before the paint arrived. Unfortunately, Jill had to leave to return to work before the paint arrived. We had a pool going as to when the paint would arrive and Jill won the money when she guessed 1PM. It was the closest without going over the time. I really think she knew the truck driver and told him what time to get there.

I really must commend Mike Pereira for the way he handled the paint situation. He wasn't there to make friends and was really a tough leader. He set the guys up in teams having some paint the rivets, some cut in, some with small rollers and some with large rollers. He did everything but use a whip but the guys really got down and worked. You have to work hard in order to paint all that they did in 6 ½ hours. The next morning Mike apologized to everyone for the way he acted. I think everyone knew what he was trying to do and were proud of what they had accomplished. Mike really showed everyone how to paint as a team!

I have to extend a special thanks to the Langevin family. Bob brought a truckload of supplies and he gave me an SUV load to bring down also. He had

paper products, canned goods, paint supplies, foodstuffs: You name it, Bob had it donated. He arrived with 4 bayonets for the small arms locker, slings for the M-1's and Thompsons too, ammo boxes and helmets for the small arms locker display.

Bob's brother Donn donated two boat hooks for the motor whale boat. They were painted up and put on display on the motor whale boat. He also had 4 fenders and two life preservers to hang on the whale boat too that were donated by Brother John. John Langevin donated \$500.00 for the web gear and whale boat equipment. It really looks great. This family is just outstanding. Thanks a lot to all the Langevins!!

Bob Langevin did his thing - mostly alone. He did additional restoration in the small arms locker, restored the foam locker (damage control) amidships with painted helmets and foam cans. Ken McCullough and Chris Kirhagis helped with these tasks. They also worked on putting the empty shell casing bags on the 20MM guns. Kirhagis also helped Bob with the installation of the motor whale boat equipment.

I have to mention the shower mats and rug that Bob brought and put in the CPO shower. The rug has a big anchor on it. Such class!!!! Did I mention that Bob cooked for us a few times? It was "terrible": He "made us eat" steak one night and shrimp creole another night. Things are really tough when you are roughing it folks!

Richard McKinney has started a new career, he did laundry all week. He tested our washer and dryer with sheets, blankets, pillows and anyone's clothes that needed doing. He also did some welding too but that was when he didn't have any laundry to wash! Richie welded a plate to cover a hole in the superstructure at the rear door on the starboard side.

John Miller really missed his regular partner Homer Doster. He still worked hard with his painting and cleaning and anything else he could find to do. Ken Rohloff and first timer Tom Aust performed a

miracle: They put oxygen bottles in their holders in the after engine room and two bottles in the after emergency diesel room. We looked at the space they had to get these bottles put away and it seemed impossible. I left and went to the store to get more web gear for the small arms locker and when I came back the bottles were in place. They never did tell me how they did that???

Hank Ashton worked hard along with Ken McCullough doing whatever needed to be done, great painters too. Dave Tillinghast came in later in the week but made up for it by chipping, painting and anything else he could find. Steve Smith was first in line for the painting crew. Well, maybe not first but he was there. Steve did some prepping, cleaning and painting and a lot of joking. He is one funny guy.

Sgt. Major Terry Wade told us that he was Sgt. Major for General James Livingston in the 80's when he was a Colonel. They spoke on the phone. It was kinda neat. I hope they can work it out to meet for coffee someday. Terry did a lot of prepping and painting also. He works really well for a Jarhead!

Terry's buddy, Bob Johnson always supplies the potato chips at every work party. He didn't fail us this time either. Bob is a good friend of Barry Shugarts. Speaking of Barry, he had a lame excuse for not being there at the work party: It was he and Stephany's **FIFTIETH Wedding Anniversary**: Congrats to the Shugarts.

"Too Much Milk" John brought his son, JJ Kapusta with him. That man did some hard work. Ah to be young again. We have another new guy, Richard Felsing. Richard was a Lt. aboard Laffey in the early 70's. He is the best clean up man we ever had. He lives close by and is working with A.J. Tarquino to get our website back up and running. He also made sure we left everything stowed properly and locked up so it will be there when we return for our next work party. Thanks Rich and welcome back to the Laffey!

Max Saus worked his electrical magic putting some lights in the Reefer Deck and repaired wiring all over the ship. He had some good help from Danny Essig, Jr who is not used to that kind of work. He let me take his picture with his hands dirty. His dad would be so proud. Ha-Ha!!

Then there was Dan Sr's son-in-law, Anthony D'Amore. Tony really worked hard prepping and painting. He was all set to weld but we couldn't get a "hot work permit" for that day. I think he helped with the electrical work too but I'm not sure. It was really fun having them work with us. I hope they can make it back again soon.

Jill Michel stayed long enough to win the paint arrival pool and then snuck out! Actually, she had to get back to work. It wasn't her fault that the paint was late in arriving. Jill does have us set up for the reunion in September.

Tom Phelps came in for a few days and checked every light bulb in the ship. That's all that electricians used to do any way! I didn't see Tom checking the mast head light like he used to though. I guess there has been too many birthdays eh?

Hilary Wagner represented her Dad very well. She was painting, cleaning, eating, talking, etc. Adm. Becton would be proud of her hanging in there with these hard workers. Speaking of the Bectons, they were represented by the Winstons: Adm. Becton's nephews Julian Winston, Phillip Winston and Phillip Winston, Jr. These guys really worked hard. Phillip and Phil Jr did a lot of power chipping on the deck. They sure know how to make noise. It was a pleasure to have all three of them with us. Julian must have done something but I can't remember. I do know he can really tell some stories about his namesake, Adm. Julian Becton. Thanks to you Texans for coming. It was a pleasure meeting you and we hope to have you back to another work party.

Dave "Billy" Bossard and Mary Bossard brought their ship store with them. They sold some of their wares out of the ship's office amidships. I actually

saw Billy doing some painting. Being a retired CPO, it was tough to get that paint brush to fit his “coffee cup” fingers but he managed very well. I spoke with him on the phone after we got home and he told me not to put that in the newsletter because it would ruin his reputation. He should have known better!

This brings us to a group from Pennsylvania. These guys really know how to work. Ed Fitzsimmons should really be proud of his sons and now one of his grandsons: Sons Bill, Bob and Grandson Mason. They did a wonderful job putting the 5” director back in shape. They prepped and painted the director and it really looks great. I know Ray Broll would like to see it looking that great. They also were in the group that painted the main deck superstructure. The Fitz’s never seem to tire out. It is such a pleasure to have them with us.

Some of us had a very hard job on Wednesday; we had to play golf with Jeff Jacobs. Some think that it was a game. Obviously they have never seen us play golf. It was WORK! The game was a scramble (best ball) 2 man teams. The teams were Mike Pereira and Ken Rohloff, Defending Champs from last year, Sonny Walker and Max Saus, Danny Essig, Jr and Tony D’Amore. The results were a tie, Mike & Ken and Sonny & Max for first place. Danny & Tony were second. We extend many thanks to Greg and Jeff for getting the tee times for us. Greg and Jeff actually finished first but we said that they cheated by knowing the course! Jeff practiced too much, too. He hasn’t played since last year with us. I think that is too often for him!

We can’t forget our cooks. John “Too Much Milk” Kapusta was the head chef. Raw Clams, Clams Casino, mmmmm! Omelets, eggs how you want them, French toast, hash, clam chowder, bacon, sausage..... I’m gaining more weight just writing (continued above).....

**A MESSAGE TO THE WORK PARTY  
ATTENDEES**

“If we all did the things we are capable of doing, we would literally astound ourselves.”

**THOMAS A. EDISON**

this article..... hot dogs and beans, salads, you name it, we had it. Steve Papp and Nevada John Nettle worked hard serving and cleaning up. They were a great team. I must also mention a \$100 work party donation from the Catholic War Veterans of Derby, CT. This was raised by Too Much Milk John making and selling clams casino to the patrons of the CWV Post 1562. Thanks so much John.

I know there was much more work accomplished but the guys did it “on their own” and didn’t tell me! Next time we will have them fill out a sheet listing their accomplishments during the work party. All in all, I am so proud to be associated with these guys. It makes one proud to see the faces of the visitors when they learn that we all served on such a famous ship.

Our next work party will be in October. We are looking at October 8-15, 2016. This should give everyone time to get home from the reunion, get unpacked, cut the grass, load up and get back to the ship!

This work party we will be painting the 01 level and as much of the ship that we can. Mike is checking out an articulated man lift. They have recommended an 80’ boom to do the job. The machine will stay on the pier and the operator will be in the bucket like a lineman. Mike said we should be able to get the job done in 3 days. They also recommended that we use scaffolding to do the stacks. We are checking on prices at this writing. Of course Jeff Jacobs will probably visit the company and stick them up with guilt to donate the use of the equipment. Stay tuned for that answer.

We hope to see you at the reunion and then at the work party. (Or - At one or the other????) Sonny

**AND THIS IS HOW THEY DID IT**

“Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.”

**VINCENT VAN GOGH**

## **A MESSAGE FROM SONNY**

I received a note from Carol Ploth, George Ploth's widow. It reads as follows:

Thank you to the Association for all the friendship and fellowship he received from your organization. He truly loved the ship and its helpers. I plan to make a contribution every year on his birthday to keep her here!

God Bless – Carol Ploth

### **TAPS LIST**

Gail E. Breckenridge, SN1/c  
Served aboard Laffey during WWII after Okinawa  
Passed away on November 24, 2015

Phillip Dubois, MR2  
Served aboard Laffey 1969-71  
Passed away on November 18, 2015

David E. Harhager, QM2  
Served aboard Laffey 1960-63  
Passed away on May 9, 2016

Frank Laskowski, WT3  
Served aboard Laffey 1943-45  
Plank owner  
Survivor Okinawa battle  
Passed away on January 12, 2016

George Ploth, SOG3  
Served aboard Laffey 1959-61  
Passed away on December 8, 2015

Lewis Blair Sykes, Ensign  
Served aboard Laffey 1953-55  
Graduated from US Naval Academy in June 1953  
Retired as Captain 1983  
Passed away September 17, 2015

### **FAMILY MEMBERS OF SHIPMATES**

Edith M. Rogers  
Widow of Captain Mel Rogers (Deceased)  
Captain of USS Laffey 1962  
Passed away on February 18, 2016  
Please say a prayer for those recently departed members of the Laffey Family: May they rest in

eternal peace and may all surviving family members remember them forever in their hearts.

### **A MESSAGE NO ONE WANTS TO GET**

I (Sonny) received this e-mail this morning (May 8<sup>th</sup> – 2016) with a sense of deep, deep sorrow:

With great sorrow and grief I'm letting you know that I lost my husband, lover, companion and friend tonight at 12:08 am.

Judy (Harhager)

### **I HAVE LOST A CLOSE FRIEND**

I have experienced the loss of a great shipmate.

Dave Harhager and I have been buddies for 55 years. This is the toughest loss for me of all of the shipmates that have passed away before him. Dave was a friend, a shipmate and mostly a brother.

He fought the dreaded cancer for 5 years. It finally beat him. He used himself as a Guinea Pig for any experimental medicine the doctors wanted to try. He wanted to help others fight this deadly disease.

I will never forget his smile and that giggle of his. Dave was always there to calm things down if guys were disagreeing about something at the work party.

He was fun to play golf with and fun to go AWOL with (of course that was a long time ago) and even fun to do extra duty with after we got caught! Dave will always be remembered by his shipmates as a hard worker and a fun guy to be with.

Goodbye my brother. Sonny





**DAVE HARHAGER AND SONNY AT AN EARLIER WORK PARTY**

**DO WE HAVE ANYTHING LIKE THIS??!!**

Russia's upgraded Kirov-class cruisers will be among the deadliest vessels on the planet, fitted with 80 anti-ship missiles and highly advanced air defenses.



© Provided by Autoblog

The US Navy's aircraft carriers are the envy of navies across the globe. But nearly as desired are Russia's rare *Kirov*-class battlecruisers. They're nearly as long as an *Iowa*-class battleship, but where America's ancient monsters relied on nine 16-inch guns to hit targets 23 miles away, the *Kirov*-class' main armament is 20 P-700 Granit anti-ship cruise missiles. These weapons have a range

of nearly 400 miles, making them very worthy of NATO's nickname, the Shipwreck.

Despite being a tremendous threat to any surface ship across the globe, Russia only fields one of its four *Kirovs*, the *Pyotr Veliky* (Russian for Peter the Great, shown above). While the *Peter the Great* is serving as the flagship of the Russian Northern Fleet, its sistership, the *Admiral Nakhimov*, is undergoing an exhaustive refit. She should be ready to set sail by 2019, at which point the *Pyotr Veliky* will receive the same set of upgrades. And yes, both ships are going to be far more deadly.

(The above story was released by Autoblog)

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Look at what the Russian Navy has been doing while we have been downsizing our fleet. We are living in strange times where our leadership allows for our military to be continuously downgraded and we seem to be oblivious to the realities of ships such as the above!

**RECENT DONATIONS – ALL APPRECIATED!!**

**Catholic War Veterans of the USA**, Derby, CT  
\$100.00 for General Use by the Association

**Walter Laskowski (nephew of Frank Laskowski)**  
\$1,000.00 In Memory of Frank Laskowski, Survivor of Okinawa Battle

**Joel C. Youngquist** - \$200.00 – For General Use by the Association

**A LETTER FROM THE CATHOLIC WAR VETS**

St. Michael Post 1562 Catholic War Veterans of the USA, Inc. 112 Derby Ave. Derby, CT 06418

Ahoy Sonny,

Your "Mess Cook" Steve Papp convinced the "Too Much Milk" cook John Kapusta to prepare a batch of his famous "Clams Casino" to sell to our patrons as a means to raise funds for the USS LAFFEY ASSOCIATION. The proceeds from this endeavor totaled \$100 which is contained in check #3864 being presented to you by Steve and John.

It is also important to note that with a little peer pressure from his shipmate Steve, John willingly



donated the cost, his time, and his culinary talents to make the Clams Casino Fund Raiser a success!

Bravo Zulu - Job Well Done.

Best regards,  
Thomas M. Voytek, Post Commander

**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)  
Hilary Wagner.....Secretary  
Mike Pereira.....Membership Chairman  
(antiredsox@yahoo.com)

**Board of Directors**

Ari Phoutrides  
Bob Langevin  
John Langevin  
Francis LaSala  
John Hudak  
Bob Wampler

**Website Manager**

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

**Laffey News Quarterly Newsletter**

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

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** Our supplier of the Laffey Plate Frames for automobiles recently informed me that they have closed down their business and will no longer offer the custom frames (The ship that would not die) to our association. We will attempt to locate another supplier who will not require us to purchase bulk quantities and have us inventory those quantities ourselves. I will inform you of my search results later. Bob Wampler, Editor.

**WORDS OF WISDOM TO PONDER**

"We turn not older with years, but newer every day."

**Emily Dickinson**

**GROUP PHOTO TIME AT THE WORK PARTY  
APRIL 2016**



This picture represents only a portion of the attendees at the Spring Work Party in April, 2016: We had a really large group at this semi-annual work party. Hm-m-m...They cleaned up "right good"!

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** We have many, many, more pictures from this event and we'll share them with you in the next edition of the Laffey News – Space limitations in this issue prevented inclusion.

**SPECIAL REUNION NOTICE**

**During Sunday evening's reunion registration in the hospitality suite, some snacks will be available. However, Jill has advised that reunion attendees should dine out before attending the formal registration.**

**Bases No Longer Accept IDs from Five States**

Some U.S. military installations are no longer allowing visitors to gain base access using official ID cards from five states — and other installations may soon follow. State-issued driver's licenses and identification cards from Illinois, New Mexico, Missouri, Washington and Minnesota can no longer be used to obtain a visitor's pass because those cards don't comply with federal standards, officials said.



## USS LAFFEY ASSOCIATION 2016 REUNION ITINERARY

### CHARLESTON, SC

\*Note: Transportation **WILL BE PROVIDED** for all group activities listed below.

#### DAY 1 **SUNDAY - SEPTEMBER 25, 2016**

REGISTRATION: 6:00 P.M. – 10:00 P.M.

REGISTRATION WILL BE HELD IN THE HOTEL HOSPITALITY ROOM.

#### DAY 2 **MONDAY – SEPTEMBER 26, 2016**

**MORNING:** TRIP TO THE CHARLESTON CITY MARKET.

The City Market, or Centre Market, is a historic market complex in downtown Charleston, South Carolina. Established in the 1790s, the market stretches for four city blocks from the architecturally-significant Market Hall, which faces Meeting Street, through a continuous series of one-story open market sheds, the last of which terminates at East Bay Street. The Market Hall has been described as a building of the "highest architectural design quality." The entire complex was listed on the National Register of Historic Places as Market Hall and Sheds and was further designated a National Historic Landmark. DON'T MISS THE SWEETGRASS BASKETS OR CERTIFIED AUTHENTIC HAND MADE IN CHARLESTON ITEMS!

**LUNCH:** **ON YOUR OWN.** THERE ARE A NUMBER OF GREAT EATING SPOTS CLOSEBY THE MARKET.

**AFTERNOON:** BOONE HALL PLANTATION TOUR. <http://boonehallplantation.com/>

Boone Hall Plantation was founded in 1681 when Englishman Major John Boone came to Charleston and established a lucrative plantation and gracious home on the banks of Wampacheone Creek. The family and descendants of Major Boone were influential in the history of South Carolina, the colonies and the nation. The McRae family is proud to present that history, covering over 330 years, on a daily basis.

Boone Hall Plantation is also one of America's oldest working, living plantations. They have been continuously growing and producing crops for over three centuries. Once known for cotton and pecans, they are still actively producing strawberries, tomatoes, and pumpkins, as well as many other fruits and vegetables for visitors to enjoy.

The McRae Family purchased the plantation in 1955 and it was Mrs. McRae who furnished the house with antiques and began giving tours. Today, the McRae Family still owns the property, and they continue to make improvements to the plantation so that visitors can experience what plantation life was like. The knowledgeable staff will help you understand the day to day activities of those who lived on plantations as well as the history of the people who lived here at Boone Hall.

**EVENING:** FUN NIGHT BACK AT THE HOTEL. **FOOD INCLUDED**

DAY 3

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 27, 2016**

**MORNING:** MEMORIAL SERVICE ON  
USS LAFFEY AT PATRIOTS POINT

**LUNCH:** ***INCLUDED.*** ON BOARD USS YORKTOWN. IN THE MESS HALL WITH OLDFASHIONED METAL TRAYS! 😊

**AFTERNOON:** AFTER LUNCH

Charleston Harbor Cruise

Board the classic, 85-foot Carolina Belle and cruise the scenic Charleston Harbor while hearing fascinating local stories and seeing more than 75 landmarks, some critical to our nation's history, including:

- Fort Sumter - Charleston's premiere historic attraction
- Civil War Forts Moultrie and Johnson
- USS Yorktown: the famous World War II "Fighting Lady"
- St. Michael's Episcopal Church
- Stately homes on the Battery
- Arthur Ravenel Jr. Bridge - the largest suspension bridge in North America

Dolphin sightings are a thrill and may or may not be seen they often swim alongside the Carolina Belle. This tour captures the history of the Holy City from a unique perspective. Come Join Us!

**EVENING:** ***DINNER ON YOUR OWN***

DAY 4

**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2016**

**MORNING:** BOARD MEETING FOLLOWED BY THE GENERAL MEETING

**AFTERNOON:** FREE TIME

**EVENING:** FAREWELL DINNER

**We hope you enjoy visiting with old and new shipmates and we further hope you appreciate how well the ship looks after all of the labors of our work party crew members. BRAVO ZULU to each of them!**

# 2016 USS LAFFEY REUNION REGISTRATION, CHARLESTON, SC

Reunion Dates: Sept. 25<sup>th</sup> - 29th 2016

**Cost for Activities: \$150 per person**  
**Hotel Name and Location: Doubletree by Hilton**  
**in North Charleston, 7401 Northwoods Blvd.,**  
**North Charleston, SC 29406,**

**Phone: 843-518-6200. They do have an airport**  
**shuttle and it can be used to travel to a local**  
**mall for free time shopping. When making your**  
**reservation please mention you are attending**  
**the USS Laffey Reunion**

**Cost per room: \$119/day with breakfast**  
**included.**

Names of attendees:

---

---

Address of USS Laffey Member/Sponsor

---

---

---

Total Number of persons attending:

---

Email address of sponsor: \_\_\_\_\_

USS Laffey Association Sponsor Phone:

---

USS Laffey Sponsor Cell Phone:

---

What Years did you (The Sponsor) serve on the  
USS Laffey:

---

What was your rate:

---

What date/day do you plan to arrive?

---

Will this be the first reunion that you are attending?

---

Emergency Contact (Not traveling with you):

---

---

Special Needs / Allergies or Diets? Identify:

---

---

Please let us know if you will NOT be attending a  
specific function during the reunion. We must pay  
per person when a function/event is scheduled.  
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, 2016.**

Contact: Jill. Michel @comcast.net or call 609-870-  
0600 / 856-423-4263 (**NOTE dot/period after Jill**)

Please feel free to call with any questions or  
concerns.

## NEW THIS YEAR

You can email this reservation information to Jill  
Michel (See email address above) and then mail  
your reunion cost check to her at the above shown  
address. Prior to the check receipt you will get an  
"on the list" message and a "paid" message upon  
receipt of the check.



**Y'ALL PLAN ON COMING TO THE REUNION IN  
SEPTEMBER. SEE OUR SHIP AGAIN: IT LOOKS  
ALMOST BRAND NEW! NOW THAT CARRIER  
YORKTOWN IS BIG AND IMPRESSIVE, BUT  
OUR LAFFEY IS REALLY, REALLY PRETTY!!  
CONSIDER THE REUNION AS HOMECOMING!**

**SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE: Please send (via  
mail) to Jill Michel (Address Above) or email to  
her a "baby" picture or a Laffey era picture (No  
Originals) of you and she will have them on  
display during the reunion "for all to see"! They  
can be returned at the end of the reunion.**

**USS Laffey DD-724 Association**

Bob Wampler  
100 Landing Lane  
Bluffton, SC 29909-6060

