

Taps to Honor our Fallen Shipmates

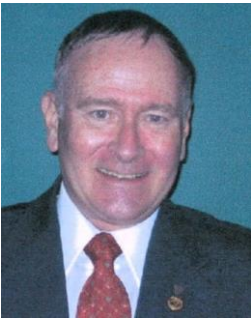
Send updates and corrections to membership@laffey.org

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WWII Memorials <http://russpickett.com/history/laffey.htm>

www.laffey.org Tap on Taps

Ray Weiss passed away on Jan 14, 2025 from Agent Orange-related lung cancer. Ray was a 3rd class Quartermaster on the Laffey from March 68 to Jan 70. Ray Weiss entered the Navy Oct 67 and was discharged Aug 71. Ray was transferred to Vietnam and was a 2nd class Quartermaster, Acting XO on Swift Boat Gun boats. Ray turned 75 on October 24th and lived in Bonners Ferry, Idaho with his wife Kathryn. Ray was a great friend, patriot and loved his time on the Laffey. Information provided by Dennis Colusci,



Charles A. Meyer, Jr. died December 26, 2024. Charlie was a Navy Captain, Medical Corps USNR. He served as the last Medical officer on the ship 1973-1975 when she was decommissioned. He was a fixture at the work parties for many years. We enjoyed many dinners with him and his wife Barbara at reunions. He was a really nice guy.

Obituary: Charles A. Meyer, Jr. entered into rest on Thursday, December 26, 2024, Charles Aloysius Meyer, Jr. MD, SFO, 83, loving husband of Barbara J. Meyer.

Charles was born in Philadelphia, PA and has lived in Augusta since 1976. He graduated from Villanova University Class of 1963 and Jefferson Medical University, Class of 1967. Dr. Meyer was a retired Naval Captain, Medical Corps USNR having served 37 years. He was Chief of Psychiatry Department of Veterans Affairs Medical Center Augusta, Associate Professor Department of Psychiatry and Health Behavior Medical College of Georgia, a Distinguished Life Fellow, American Psychiatric Association; Diplomate, American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology; Diplomate, American Board of Forensic Psychiatry, Board of Directors of the National Commission on Correctional Health Care and American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law. He served as chair of Correctional Medicine Committee, Medical Association of Georgia and on the Board of Directors of the Richmond County Medical Society.

A longtime member of the Augusta West Rotary, Dr. Meyer was a Will Watt and Paul Harris Fellow. He was a member of the USS Laffey DD-724 Association, having served as the last medical officer. The famous Destroyer is now at Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum in Charleston, SC. Captain Meyer was an active member of St. Mary on the Hill Catholic Church, a professed member Secular Franciscan Order; member of 4th Degree Knights of Columbus and Ancient Order of Hibernians. He had the honor of being an Olympic Torchbearer in Augusta for the 1996 Atlanta games.

Dr. Meyer is survived by his wife of 57 years: Barbara Jane Meyer; son: Charles E. Meyer (Stacie) of Flagler Beach, FL; daughters: Katherine D. Podrazhansky (Michael) of Milton, GA and Eleanore Jane Tronco (John) of Belmont, NC; six grandchildren: Ava, Ben, Mark, and Jane Podrazhansky, John Jr. and Katherine Tronco; brother: Andre Meyer of Lexington, VA; sister: Adrienne Tamalavich of Fort Lauderdale, FL and nephews: Joel and Adrian Meyer. He was preceded in death by his daughter: Elizabeth Rita Meyer; parents: Katherine D.

Meyer and Charles A. Meyer, Sr. and brother: Donald C. Meyer of Villanova, PA.

<https://www.thomaspoteet.com/obituaries/charles-meyer-jr-md-sfo>



Fred Raleigh passed away Dec 1, 2024. Fred served aboard the Laffey as a radioman from 1960 to 1961. He attended many work parties and reunions. He was a really nice guy.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/frederick-raleigh-obituary?id=56916263>



Philip Winston passed away Oct. 2, 2024. He was the nephew of Admiral Becton. He served in the US Navy aboard the USS Ranger during the Vietnam War.

<https://www.porterloring.com/obituaries/Philip-B-Winston-Jr?obId=33296738>



Roderick A. "Rod" Morgan, Sr. Passing. He was born March 24, 1934 and died February 15, 2024 (age 89). Rod served aboard USS Laffey DD724 as a Fire Control Technician FT2 from 12/55 to 7/58. Rod proudly served in the United States Navy and the Navy Reserves from 1954-1986 achieving the rank of Fire Control Technician Senior Chief Petty Officer. Rod frequently attended USS Laffey Association WorkParties maintaining the USS Laffey DD724 at the Naval Maritime Museum in Mt Pleasant, SC.

See YouTube Korean War Era USS Laffey Assoc Members <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNv7HMOv2iA>

See Korean War Era Laffey Assoc Members at April 2019 Work Party

<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/KoreanWarEraMembers.pdf>



Bill & Ginny Sarver

Bill Sarver passed away at 92 years of age February 25th 2024. Photo from 2006 Reunion. Bill was a Torpedoman's Mate 3rd Class aboard USS Laffey 12/51-5/55. Bill and Ginny lived in Zephyrhills FL. From Ginny Sarver to Sonny Walker "Dear friend, I just wanted to let you know that Bill and I were married 72 years! How is that for a record. We haven't been able to make the reunions lately but have never forgotten the great times we all shared. God bless all of you

for keeping the ship up for all to enjoy!"



Margret K Casaday passed away on April 14, 2024. Margaret was the wife of Boatswain's Mate Second Calvin Cloer who died from burns and other injuries in Mount 53 on 16 April 1945. Post and Courier Newspaper article "The Love That Would Not Die" – WWII Widow Margaret Casaday visited USS Laffey about 2010.

www.laffey.org/Shipmates/CalvinCloer.pdf

and <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/punxsutawneyspirit/name/margaret-casaday-obituary?id=55238422>



Thomas J Moskie passed away on 2/7/2024 age 84. He was a DK3 Disbursing Clerk Third Class aboard Laffey 59-60. <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/staten-island-ny/thomas-moskie-11659520>



Patrick Striplin Gunners Mate GM3 passed away 1/26/24, in Florida, due to complications from Dementia which has been plaguing him for several years. He was born 11/10/48. He was a Gun Captain on 5"32 Gun Mount in 1960s. He served aboard USS Laffey in the 1960s. Pat attended many Laffey Association work parties and reunions. He described his work as a Gunners Mate on the 5"38 Gun Mount in the YouTube video

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tImW7y5i0Y8> .



Harry Wagner Konkell passed away on January 6, 2024. Captain, USN Commanding Officer USS Laffey 1971 – 1973 <https://www.pressherald.com/2024/01/14/obituaryharry-wagner-konkel-2/>




Richard C Volz (September 1, 1924 - October 13, 2018 (age 94)) served honorably in the U.S. Navy, as a gunner mate, during WW II alongside his twin brother, Bob.Volz . See <https://www.davidfkoch.com/obituary/Richard-Volz> "He was a veteran, having served honorably in the U.S. Navy, as a gunner mate, during W.W. II alongside his twin brother, Bob. They were involved in the Liberation of the Philippines."

Richard's twin brother **Bob Volz** QM2, served aboard USS Laffey 1950-52 during the Korean War. Bob and his wife Barb were very active in USS Laffey Association Reunions. Tap on [BobVolz](#). Per <https://www.davidfkoch.com/obituary/Robert-Volz> "He was a veteran, having served honorably in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Laffey during World War II alongside his twin brother, Dick. They were involved in the liberation of the Philippines. Bob had also served during the Korean Conflict."




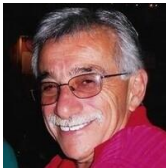



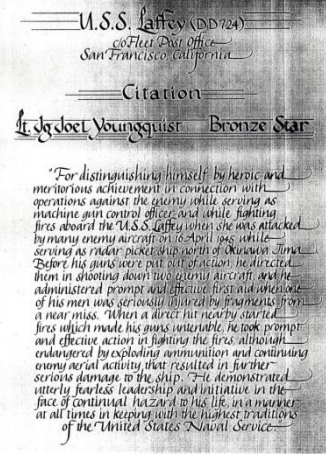

Deaths 2023 and Earlier

Last Name	First Name	Date of Death	When Served Information	Links and Notes
Dovich	Joseph	November 30, 2023	RDSN aboard Laffey 52-56	
Klimesh	Robert	September 6, 2023	 Robert was an electrician aboard USS Laffey (1952-1955). He was an EM2 (Electrician Mate 2nd Class) in R (Repair) Division. He was on the World Cruise around the world. https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/Klimesh.pdf	RobertKlimesh
Oddo	James	July 12, 2023	PN 2/C Aboard Laffey 55-58 Wife Maryanne	
Sweeney	Calvin C.	April 17th 2023	He served in the US Navy 1953 to 1957, mostly on the Laffey as a boilerman, BTG2, petty officer 2nd class. He had his 79th birthday on the Laffey.	Obituary
Clark	David Eugene	March 16th, 2023	Dave was a Quartermaster Second Class on the USS Laffey. serving in the Korean War on destroyers; his final assignment was	Obituary



			https://ompsfuneralhome.com/obituary/david-eugene-clark/	
Courtney	Michael J.	February 20, 2023	Third Class RM in the early 1960s.	Obituary
Clevenge r	Larry L.	1/24/23	MM2 aboard Laffey 3/58-8/61	
Ferguson	Gayron L	January 11, 2023	Late 60's early 70's in the #2 engine room on the Laffey	Obituary
Cunningham	Billy L.	October 10, 2022	Korean War Vet. He served on USS Laffey 1951-52. He was 91.	BillyLCunningham
Kozlowski	Gary	September 2022	MMFN Served on USS Laffey 1960-1964	GaryKozlowski
Giordano	Nick	September 13, 2022	SH3 (Ship Serviceman 3rd Class) 1950 -1952	NickGiordano
De Jong	Richard	7/24/22	SN3 aboard Laffey 68-69	
Hill	Bob	April 2022	1951-53 as a BT1. Went to many work parties and reunions.	
Mathews	Jack	14 April 2022	2/53-10/56 Served with his brother Ron who previously passed away BM3 /C	JohnMatthews
Collins	Thomas W.	March 9, 1921	PO1 aboard Laffey 10/55-6/58	
Najork	Jack	August, 2021	Chief Radio Man on the ship during D-Day and the Battle of Okinawa. Passed away at 101.	#Najork
Conard	John William	December 17, 2021	BM Served during Korean War	JohnConard
Busilacchi	Art	Oct 29, 2021	<i>From Sonny Walker: Art hardly ever missed a reunion in the 90's. He was a really good guy.</i>	
Schneder	John	March 12, 2021	He served aboard USS Laffey from 11/65-to 11/66 as AT2 (Aviation Technician 2nd Class). He operated and maintained the DASH (Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopter).	#JohnSchneder
Keith	Craig	January 7, 2021	LTJG Craig Keith was the Dash Officer aboard USS Laffey 1969 – 1971. The DASH was a Helicopter Drone that carried Anti-Submarine torpedoes. He served as the Laffey Association Newsletter Editor. www.laffey.org/Shipmates/CraigKeith.pdf	#CraigKeith
Cox	James	November 2020	Served during the Korean War as Postal Clerk. His rating was Teleman for teletype	#JamesCox
Nicholson	James	November 16, 2020	1954-1957 as a FP Pipe Fitter	#DonaldNicholson
Harrington	Walter H	November 1, 2020	1950 – 1954 He was PF2 (Pipe Fitter). The PF rating later became the HT (Hull Maintenance Technician)	WalterHarrington

			rating. He was a beloved longtime USS Laffey Association member. https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/WalterHHarrington.pdf	
Jones	Jerry	September 14, 2020	Served in the Vietnam War. Volunteer for the USS Laffey and Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum.	JerryJones
Didszuhn	Pete	7/13/20	FN aboard Laffey 59-61	
Toleman	Robert "Bob"	2 October 2020	1953-1956	#RobertToleman
Greene	Robert Earl	July 14, 2020	Server aboard 1950 – 53 during Korean War	RobertEarlGreene
Volz	Robert Louis	May 16 2020	QM2 Served aboard 1950-52 during Korean War. Per https://www.davidfkoch.com/obituary/Robert-Volz "He was a veteran, having served honorably in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Laffey during World War II alongside his twin brother, Dick. Bob had also served during the Korean Conflict. "	BobVolz
Twin Brother	Richard C Volz		Twin brother Richard C Volz (September 1, 1924 - October 13, 2018 (age 94))	
Kocsis	Thomas B.	May 10, 2020	Tom was a QM2 who served 1960 – 1962	ThomasBKocsis
Knippenburg	Robert E.	February 26, 2020	Knip was an EM2 Served aboard 1957-1960	RobertKnippenburg
Kelly	William	January 10, 2020	 Bill was a plank owner and survivor of the April 16, 1945 Attack. https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/BillKelly.pdf	WilliamKelly
Givens	Dr. Donald L	February 1, 2019 (est)	Donald served aboard the Laffey as a SHSN from 11/50-10/52.	
Shewmaker	John B	June 22, 2019	Served as last Commanding Officer 1973 – 75 of the USS Laffey DD-724	JohnBShewmaker
Bowen	Calvin	January 10, 2019	FC2 aboard Laffey 46-47	
Livingston	Richard Whitte n	December 19, 2018	Dick was a Vietnam veteran, serving in the Navy for ten years and an active Patriots Point Volunteer	RichardLivingston
Freeman Jr.	Earl M	Oct. 7, 2018	BMC	EarlFreemanObituary
Logsdon	Robert L., Jr	Sept. 30, 2018	 Bob served aboard the Laffey from 1950 – 1953 during the Around the World Cruise. He remained in the reserves retiring as a Chief Radarman in 1977 https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/BobLogsdon.pdf	RobertLogsdon


Kapaldo	Waitman	August 19, 2018	Plankowner on board 16 April 1945. Internet Search Waitman Kapaldo to view articles about his ceremony aboard Laffey on Jul 24, 2018 when he was 97 years old.	WaitmanKapaldo
Zack	Daniel	August 13, 2018	SO3 Plank Owner Served aboard 1944-46 Survivor of Okinawa and Normandy	
Schauer	Joseph	August 10, 2018	Member of USS Laffey Association	
Weaver	Robert E.	July 12, 2018	GM1	RobertWeaver
Phoutrides	Aristides	June 7, 2018	 <p>Plankowner and past president of the USS Laffey Association (Aug. 9, 1925 - June 7, 2018). Wife Betty from Portland, OR https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/AriPhoutrides.pdf Dogfights: Japanese Kamikaze Attacks in WWII (S2, E1) Full Episode History Time 12:26 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7qlyU6wR08</p>	AristidesPhoutrides
Lacore	Pete	1 June, 2018	 <p>Pete and Mary Lou Lacore 2003 Above Pete served aboard the Laffey as a TM3 from 1951-55 and was a veteran of the Korean War. Pete, along with his right arm, Walt Harrington, were at many work parties. Wife Mary Lou from Cynthiana, KY</p>	Picture1 Picture2
Delavina	Luis	April 10, 2018	Wife Norma from Seffner, FL	LuisDelavina
Hull	Lloyd Nelson	13 January 2018	 <p>Lieutenant Awarded Brown Star Survivor of Attack</p>	https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/244788243/lloyd-nelson-hull
Belsito	Salvatore J.	November 21, 2017	 <p>Salvatore J. Belsito, was a proud Navy Veteran serving on the USS Yosemite and USS Laffey. While in the service he was trained as a Welder. After he graduated from Brom's opened his own Beauty Salon "Salvatore's Hair Designs" in Worcester and North Grafton. In 1980 he won the New England Hair Stylist Award.</p>	https://www.mercedantefuneral.com/obituaries/4766710
Deckman	James	September 6, 2017	Wife Louise from Palm Coast, FL	JamesDeckman
Greene	Barton R.	6/19/17	FTA3 Served aboard 60-63	BartonGreene
Strand	John	6/3/17	EM3 Served aboard 63-66	JackStrand






	"Jack"			
Clark	William E.	5/28/17	Cdr Served aboard as XO 62-63	
Molohan	Michael A.	5/10/17	SN1/c Plank Owner Okinawa Survivor	
Cowin	Paul	2/23/17	PN1 Served aboard 1968-71	PaulCowin
Lucey, Jr	Robert Patrick	February 15, 2017	FT2 Served aboard 1960-63.	RobertLucey
Almendinger	Ed	2/14/17	FT Served aboard late 60's to early 70's	EdwardAlmendinger
Jakubik	Emil	January 26, 2017	RD2 Served aboard 51-54	EmilJakubik
Youngquist	Joel Clarence	9 Dec 2016	  <p>Supply Officer Survived Attack April 16, 1945 Bronze Star recipient</p>	https://www.laffey.org/youngquist.htm
Suchind	David	11/19/16	USS RICH and Laffey work party volunteer	
Tolley	John	October 24, 2016		
Powell	Elwood E. "Woody"	10/23/16	SFP2 Served aboard 53-57	
Hoag	Frank G.	October 22, 2016	 <p>Plankowner, survivor of Japanese attack. See scrapbook https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/FrankHoag.pdf</p>	https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/172089167/frank-g-hoag
Jacobs	Richard G.	9/2016	WT3 Served aboard 1945-47. Also served in Korean War	RichardJacobs
Gemmell	Fred	July 1, 2016	TM 2/C Wife Grace on board 9/44-2/46 from Tacoma, WA	FredGemmell
Broome	Marshall B.	6/18/16	Served aboard 45-46	
Tazewell	John Parks	May 31, 2016	Captain of the ship 60 - 62	JohnParksTazewell
Harhager	David	May 9,	QM2 9/60 - 5/63 from Swanton, MD. Wife Judy	DavidEdwardHar






	Edward	2016		hager
Laskowski	Frank	Jan. 12, 2016	12/43-11/45 Walt Son from Boardman, OH	FrankLaskowski
Kavanagh	Joseph	January 2, 2016	Lt DASH Officer Served Aboard Laffey 1963 to 1965	
Folino	Joe	December 26, 2015	On board 2/47-7/52 Wife Dinah from Turlock, CA	JoeFolino
Plath	George	December 18, 2015	SO3 On board 59-61 Wife Carol from Summerville, SC	GeorgePlath
Illingworth	Donald	Dec. 12, 2015	Morris Plains, NJ Wife Margaret	DonaldIllingworth
Breckenridge	Gail E.	November 24, 2015	SN1/c Served aboard Laffey during WWII after Okinawa	
Dubois	Phillip	November 18, 2015	MR2 Served aboard Laffey 1969-71	
Sykes	Lewis Blair	September 17, 2015	Ensign Served aboard Laffey 1953-55 Graduated from US Naval Academy in June 1953 Retired as Captain 1983	
Gedusky	Elwood C. "Woody"	9/9/15	SFP2 Served Aboard 53-55. Wife Janet from Clackamas, OR	WoodyGedusky
Sprowl	Tom	7/23/2015	Patriots Point Employee Friend of Laffey work party guys	TomSprowl
Oyer	Herbert	June 20, 2015	BM Plank Owner Served WWII	HerbertOyer
Gerhold	Mel W.	6/10/15	QM3 Served Aboard 46-47 Doris Wife of Mel Gerhold died 10/21/14	MelGerhold
Caulk	Daniel O.	June 7, 2015	USMC Korean War Veteran	LonCaulk
Doll	Ralph	5/6/2015	BMCM Served Aboard 1/52-12/63	RalphDoll
Walker	Dorothy	April 25, 2015	Mother of Sonny Walker, Past President USS Laffey Association	
Madison	Earl	4/8/15	EM2 Served Aboard 4/64-6/67 or 63-67 Wife Jane from Mechanicsville, VA	EarlMadison
Padgett	John William	2/13/15	GMC Served Aboard 66-68. Born on March 13, 1933 and passed away on Friday, February 13, 2015. Resident of Bartow, Florida. Married to Lacona.	
Hunt	Lee C.	1/9/15	SN Plank Owner Okinawa Survivor	
Spriggs	Oliver J. "Jim"	1/3/15	 <p>MM3 Plank Owner Served Aboard 2/44-3/46 Okinawa Survivor Board member of Laffey Association. Featured in LAFLEY Men http://www.laffeymen.com/</p>	OliverSpriggs




Powell	Robert W.	1/3/15	 <p>TM3 Plank Owner Served Aboard 44-46 Okinawa Survivor . Featured in LAFHEY Men http://www.laffeymen.com/</p>	
Leitschuh	Clarence Leroy	12/16/14	SN Korean War Vet	ClarenceLeitschuh
Shields III	Beverly C.	11/25/14	MM3 Served Aboard 54-57	
Bahme	Jay	11/10/14	LTJG Plank Owner Served aboard 3/44-6/45 Okinawa Survivor Awarded Purple Heart	JayBahme
Lowe	Herbert W	11/5/14	SN Served aboard 51-53. Herbert W. Lowe, 80, died Wednesday, November 5, 2014, at Hospice of Citrus and the Nature Coast, Lecanto Florida. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of Korea.	
Martinis	Andrew J.	10/24/14	 <p>RM3 Served aboard 45-46 Okinawa Survivor Awarded Bronze Star</p>	AndrewMartinis
Cain	Joseph Ford	9 Oct 2014	Plankowner Radioman 2 nd Class Survivor of Attack Awarded Bronze Star	
White	James R.	9/24/14	MR1 Served aboard 54-56	
Vorgity	Donald	August 8, 2014	 <p>Past President USS Laffey Association. QM 3/C On board 52- 56 wife Nina from Philadelphia, PA. Beloved husband of Nina (nee Pini); devoted father of Jill (Bruce Lampe) Vorgity and Ada (Glenn) Keenan; also survived by 5 grandchildren, Matthew, Hannah (Mervin), Erica, Zachary and Donald; one great grandchild Linda Ruth; and two sisters Nevi Baker and Caroline Vorgity. His family will receive relatives and friends for his Life Celebration on Sat. Aug. 16 from 11 A.M. until 12 Noon at The Sandy Run Country Club, 200 Valley Green Rd., Oreland, PA 19075.</p>	https://www.laffey.org/LaffeyAssoc/HistoryUSSLaffeyAssoc.pdf
Esposito	Robert	July 9, 2014	EM3 on board 67-71 Wife Carol from Hamden, CT	ROBERTESPOSITO
Millow	Michael	March 18, 2014	FT2 Served aboard Laffey 1956-58	



Gauding	Wilbert C.	March 16, 2014.	MM 2/C, Plank Owner, and Survivor of the Okinawa Battle of April 16, 1945,	Obituary
Bowman	Gerald	March 8, 2014	MM2 Served Aboard Laffey 1950-54. Article Korean War veteran, 82, granted dying wish to walk deck of old ship http://www.laffey.org/Newsletters/2013_January-February-March.pdf	GeraldBowman
Andrews	Ralph R.	Jan. 30, 2014	WT3/c Plank Owner Served in WWII Survivor of Okinawa	
Neuleib	Norman D.	Jan. 24 2014	HTC Serve Aboard Laffey 56-63	
Gerber	Charles J. "Joe"	Nov. 27, 2013	RD2 Served aboard 1954-58	
Hoffman	Francis A.	October 2013	Served Aboard Laffey 1956-60	
Rosania	Paul	24 Sep 2013	S 1/C On board 2/44-12/45 wife Elizabeth from Lebanon, NJ died 3/20/20	PaulRosania
Archibald	Robert L.	August 17, 2013	Served Aboard Laffey During Korean War Commissioned as Ensign in 1964 Also Served on USS Rich	
Rogers	Harry Melvin	May 18, 2013	CDR Commanding Officer Served aboard 1963-65	HarryRogers
Mayeda,	Frank	February 3, 2013	RD3 Served aboard Laffey 1945-46 Onboard Laffey during A-Bomb Test at Bikini Atoll. Was present at 2012 reunion in Charleston	
Ketron	Stanley	January 26, 2013	2/44-12/45 Wife Nancy from Jacksboro, TN	StanleyKetron
Battista	Joseph	December 11, 2012	On board 46-47 from Brooklyn NY. Wife Angela died 0/10/2018	JosephBattista
Horton	Charles "Chuck"	December 7, 2012	GMSN Served aboard Laffey 1960-63	
Fox	Frank R.	December 04, 2012	RDM 2/C, served aboard the USS Laffey 1951-54. Wife Grace died 12/4/22	Obituary
Van Horne	Alfred	November 5, 2012	Wife Helen Virginia Beach, VA died 11/20/16	AlfredVanHorne
Kurtz	Ira Arthur	October 28, 2012	DK 2/C, served aboard the USS Laffey 1960-63, Wife LaReine from Belleair, FL	Obituary
Essig	Danny Marti	August 6, 2012	SC 2/C, Plank Owner, and Survivor of April 16, 1945. Daniel Martin Essig, born on May 27, 1924, passed away on August 06, 2012. Beloved husband of the late Eleanor. Loving father of Daniel Jr., Loretta Pichardo, Joyce Hanau, Janet LiDonni, Connie Kraker and Lisa D'Amore. Cherished grandfather of twelve and great-grandfather of one. Lifetime member of the Steamfitters Union Local 638. Served in U.S. Navy during WWII. Dan was a plank owner of the U.S.S.	Obituary


			<p>Laffey, (DD 724), and survived the battle of Okinawa on April 16, 1945. The USS Laffey was attacked by kamikaze planes and was hit by six planes and four bombs. Although the USS Laffey took extensive damage, she survived, but thirty-two men lost their lives and seventy-two were injured. Daniel loved his family, friends and the USS Laffey. Featured in LAFHEY Men http://www.laffeymen.com/</p> 	
Doria	Joseph F. Jr	11 Jul 2012	<p>S 2/C Served 2/44-7/44 during WWII</p> <p>https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/94222144/joseph-f-doria</p>	
Watson	Bertram C.	April 17, 2012	<p>SK 1/C, Plank Owner, Served aboard Laffey 1944-1945, Okinawa Battle Survivor</p>	
Conger	Henry J. (Jack)	Mar. 4, 2012	<p>CDR USN (Ret.) served our country during WWII and later was Captain aboard the USS Laffey '51-'53. Wife Greta Awarded Bronze Star</p>	Obituary
Swann, Jr.	John R.	January 13, 2012.	<p>BM3, served aboard the USS Laffey, January 55 - May 56, wife Ann from Philadelphia, PA</p>	Obituary
Liebertz, Sr.	Gerard "Jerry" Joseph	January 08, 2012.	<p>PMM 1/C, served aboard the USS Laffey, February 1944-,</p>	Obituary
Kycia	Edward A.	November 7, 2011	<p>Torpedo Man 3/C was a survivor of the Okinawa Battle on April 16, 1945. He was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit Citation, American Theater Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal, and the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. Wife Helen from Wethersfield, CT</p>	Obituary EdKycia
Hoobyar	Tom	September 25, 2011	<p>DKSN, Served Aboard Laffey 1960-1962</p>	
Jagielski Jr.	Joseph M	September 16, 2011	<p>MM2/C, served aboard the USS Laffey, December 1951 - April 1955 Wife Helen</p>	Obituary
Teachey, Sr.	Wendell Vann	July 01, 2011.	<p>YN 3/C, served aboard the USS Laffey, 1951-1954, wife Katie P. from Rose Hill, NC</p>	Obituary
Little	George W.	6/20/2011	<p>SN Served aboard 1945-47</p>	
Karr	Robert Irving	June 9, 2011.	<p>GM2/C, Plank Owner, and Survivor of April 16, 1945,</p>	Obituary




Evans	John B.	June 4, 2011.	 <p>Seaman 1/C, Plank Owner, and Survivor of April 16, 1945</p> <p>https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/JohnBEvans.pdf</p>	Obituary
Sellers	Herschel V.	May 10, 2011.	Commanding Officer, '53-'55. Passed away peacefully	Obituary
Radder	Owen "Glen"	March 28, 2011	  <p>Gunners Mate 3/C, Plank Owner, and Survivor of April 16, 1945, wife Doris from Hartford, WI Featured in LAFHEY Men</p> <p>http://www.laffeymen.com/ www.laffey.org/Shipmates/GlenRadder.pdf</p>	Obituary
McDougle	Frank O.	March 10, 2011	RD2C, Served aboard Laffey 1951-1953 Wife Wanda also passed away in March 2011	
DeBell	Richard S	November 28, 2010	LT. (jg) served in the Gunnery Department during the 1952 World Tour	Obituary
Rusk	George	November 14, 2010.	WT3/C, Plank Owner, and Survivor of April 16, 1945, He was 90 years old when he died.	
Warner	David Lewis	October 26, 2010	FM 1/Class, Survivor of April 16, 1945, and awarded a Purple Heart,	Obituary
Nordstrom	Louis D	October 13, 2010	Sonar Man Third Class, Survivor of April 16, 1945, Reported 2/44 Wife Marion from Tawas City, MI	Obituary
Delewski	Lawrence R.	September 15, 2010	 <p>GM 2/c Plank Owner, Bronze Star Medal, Survivor of April 16, 1945. Awarded Bronze Star and Purple Heart for bravery during the Okinawa Battle.</p>	Obituary
Fern	Thomas B	May 27, 2010	 <p>S2/c Plank Owner, Silver Star Award, Survivor of April 16, 1945. Awarded Silver Star Wife Marguerite</p> <p>https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/ThomasFern.pdf</p>	Obituary
Saul	Jimmy L.	May 26, 2010	PO 3/c 1950-53	Obituary
Bodeo	Gordon	April 20, 2010	Rate Unknown, Served aboard Laffey in early fifties.	



Dorris Jr.	Alfred J.	April 2, 2010	 <p>SM1/c Plank Owner, and survivor of the Okinawa Battle</p> <p>Dogfights: Japanese Kamikaze Attacks in WWII (S2, E1) Full Episode History</p> <p>Time 13:15 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7qlyU6wR08</p>	Obituary
Hoch	Walter M.	January 26, 2010	 <p>FC3/c survivor of the April 16, 1945 attack, died at the age of 90. Awarded Bronze Star</p>	Obituary
Koenig	Robert	January 23, 2010,	EN2, Died of renal failure. Robert served '68-'72. He was 58 years old.	
Abaied	James	June 12, 2009	He was a life member of the Laffey Association, and a WWII Veteran. He told his son, Daniel, countless stories of the War, and the men of the Laffey. Daniel took him to the Nashville reunion, and James loved it.	Obituary
Curtin	David N.	November 28, 2009.	RM3/c, a survivor of the April 16, 1945 attack,	Obituary
Julius	Regina Id	June 25, 2009	 <p>Served aboard DD-459 during WWII. Purple Heart recipient suffered in the sinking at Guadalcanal. See https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DvIr4mWNt0c&t=1086s 56.44 minutes (.00 - 20.50 minutes USS Laffey DD459 in 1942)</p>	
Blackstock, Sr.,	William S.	June 9, 2009.	a WWII survivor of the Pearl Harbor attacks,	Obituary
Bell	Charles William	May 26, 2009	Sonar man 2/c. He was a survivor of April 16, 1945.	Obituary
Johnson	Robert E.	May 15, 2009.	<p>Sonar man 1/c WWII veteran, from Toledo, Ohio. Featured in LAFHEY Men http://www.laffeymen.com/</p> <div>   </div>	Obituary
Johnson	Raymond T.	April 16, 2009	Seaman 2/C, a survivor of the April 16, 1945 attack, (64th anniversary of the attack), died at the age of 82. He also served aboard the Laffey at the atomic bomb	Obituary (Submitted by his niece, Bonnie L.




			test at Bikini Atoll. Raymond was from Allentown, PA.	Roth)
Cotton	Thomas Randolph Jr	March 12, 2009	 <p>Captain USS Laffey 1968 – 1970 https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston/obituary.aspx?n=thomas-cotton&pid=125094429</p>	ThomasCotton
Klein,	Andrew 'Andy'	February 28, 2009	RM3, served onboard 1944-45, and a survivor of April 16, 1945. , died at the age of 94. He was from South Setauket, NY.	
Setmire	Glenn M.	November 2, 2009	BM2/c Member of the WWII Crew, Plank owner and onboard April 16, 1945. Glen was awarded the Purple Heart and many other medals. He also served aboard the USS Murphy.	Obituary
Hale Jr.	Richard	January 15, 2009	<p><i>V. Richard Hale Jr.</i> March 2, 1922 - January 15, 2009 Courtesy of CLAUDIA CARLSON</p>  <p>V. Richard Hale</p> <p>He was a WWII survivor of the DD 459. He earned the Presidential Unit Citation and a Purple Heart for injuries he suffered when the first USS Laffey suffered a violent explosion, which sent her to the bottom of Guadalcanal. https://www.laffey.org/v_richard_hale_jr.htm</p>	Obituary
Stacy	John	January 05, 2009	Chief Warrant Officer, served on the Laffey in WWII and a veteran of the Korean Conflict.	Obituary
Nogal	Greydon Morris	Dec.14, 2008	EM3, served on board 1966-1967. He was from Ashtabula, Ohio	Obituary
Yates	David Spencer	Oct. 31, 2008	Active duty on the USS Laffey as a ET/3 7/52-6/56. Died at the age of 77.	Obituary
Owens, Jr.	John	October 20, 2008	CSSN He served onboard 1951-54.	Obituary
McBrinn	John R.	October 16, 2008	RD2, served onboard 1959-62,. He was from Brick, New Jersey.	Obituary
Sawick	Theodore	June 5, 2008	 <p>Commanding Officer (62-63) Previously served as XO on the USS Laffey (1954) Pearl Harbor Attack Survivor Served in U. S. Navy during World War II; started as seaman recruit on PT boats being at Pearl Harbor when the war started to the rank of commander when he retired.</p>	https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38819033/theodore-sawick
Stuer	Joseph	2/19/2008	BTG 2/c We have another shipmate passing. 1944-46 survivor of 16 April 1945 attack.	Obituary
Brandt	LeRoy "Lee"	January 10, 2008	MM2 Served aboard 1952-53	
Samp Jr.	Edward J.	November 23, 2007	We received this notice from Ed Samp's nephew. My Uncle Ed. He was one of the leading gunnery	Obituary Reflections



			officers aboard the Laffey on April 16, 1945. He was 89.	
<u>McClafferty,</u>	William T.	August 31, 2007	 <p>FC3/c passed away surrounded by his loving family, three days after celebrating his 64th wedding anniversary. He was a Plank owner and on board the Laffey April 16, 1945. YouTube interview of the April 16, 1945 battle. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fd4KTMWv-4&t=2s</p>	
<u>Brinkley</u>	Clarence E. "Bud"	June 28, 2007	Member of the WW II Crew, received Presidential Unit Citation	Obituary
<u>Lloyd</u>	William	June 17, 2007	WT3c Served aboard 1946-47 and for the Atomic Bomb test at Bikini Atoll	
<u>McBryde</u>	L.B. "Luke"	June 16, 2007	SM3/c Member of the WWII Crew onboard April 16, 1945, of Tulsa, Oklahoma, died at home.	Obituary
<u>Giles, Jr.</u>	Louis F.	April 29, 2007	S2/c Member of the WWII Crew, Plank owner and onboard April 16, 1945. His daughter Lori Watts reported. Passed away Sunday, April 29, 2007 in Florida of natural causes. He was the beloved husband of the late Dorothy Giles wedded for over 60 years. He was a Maryland resident for over 80 years. He is survived by his children, Lori Watts and Louis Giles, and three grandchildren. He worked as an Engineering Specialist for over 26 years for the National Security Agency. He was a Veteran of World War II receiving a Purple Heart while serving on the USS Laffey DD724.	
<u>Edwards</u>	R.A.	August 3, 2007	Served aboard 1959-61. Sherie Edwards, (daughter of R.A.), informed us of his passing.	
<u>Babcock</u>	Glen Edward	October 29, 2006	Served in WWII possibly on DD-459	
<u>D'Aquila</u>	Anthony	September 21, 2006	Served on board as GM3/c 2/44 to 10/45. Plank owner and survivor of April 16, 1945	AnthonyAquila
<u>Koch</u>	Dennis	August 8, 2006	Served on board 1968-72	
<u>Hatch</u>	Jim	June 25, 2006	Died in North Hollywood, California. Served on board as RM3, 8/45-5/46. Letter from wife Janet A.	
<u>McCune</u>	Challen	May 27, 2006	 <p>Served as Executive Officer on the Laffey and was on board April 16, 1945</p>	Obituary ChallenMcCUNE
<u>Pollak</u>	Bill	May 1, 2006	Passed away in Gig Harbor, Washington. Served on board as an OM3 in the early 1950's.	
<u>Jowers</u>	Bobby	April 26,	Passed away in Cedar Grove, TN. Served in "N" Division	Bobby Jowers

		2006	and was on board 1/51 - 2/54.	
<u>Fletcher</u>	Vic	January 6, 2006	Honorary member of the USS Laffey Association.	
<u>Penn</u>	Kenneth E.	January 2, 2006.		KennethPenn
<u>Csiszar</u>	Al	August 31, 2005	Plankowner. Served on board 1943-45	AlbertCsiszar
<u>Machione</u>	Joseph	July 5, 2005	Served on board 10/54 - 8/57	
<u>Carver</u>	Douglas	Estimated 1 July 2005	On board April 16, 1945	
<u>Glass</u>	Ron	June 12, 2005		
<u>Eastham</u>	Lonnie Herrington "Bill"	April 21, 2005	Plankowner and on board April 16, 1945	BillEastham
<u>Coker</u>	Robert	February 28, 2005	Survived the sinking of the first USS Laffey (DD459)	
<u>Manson</u>	Frank A.	January 20, 2005	Plankowner and on board April 16, 1945	FrankManson
<u>Sabo</u>	Charles	November 26, 2004	Served on board 1957-59 as SM3	
<u>Postupalski</u>	Joseph S.	November 14, 2004	Plankowner.	Picture
<u>Shaw</u>	William Harvey	October 27, 2004.	 Passed away in St. Petersburg, Florida. Plankowner and on board April 16, 1945. Recipient of Bronze Star. https://www.laffey.org/shaw.htm	Obituary
<u>Walker</u>	Horton T.	September 12, 2004		
<u>Nash</u>	F. Keith	August 2004	He was a YN3 on the Laffey '50-'52	
<u>Vodehnal</u>	Slavomir "Slavy"	June 10, 2004	"Slavy" was born on May 25, 1923 and was an honorary member of our Association. He was solely responsible for the publication of "The Indestructible Laffey" .	Slavomir
<u>MacCaskill</u>	Jack	June 6, 2004	On board 6/59-9/61 Wife JoAnne from Lynbrook, NY	
<u>Smith</u>	Paul	April 16, 2004	 Passed away in Atlanta, Georgia. On board April 16, 1945. Recipient of Silver Star as a Lt. Retired as a Captain. https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/PaulBSmith.pdf	Tribute



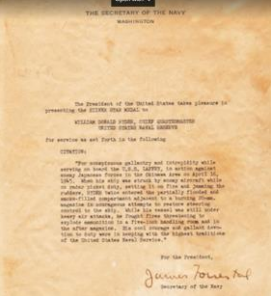
<u>Townsley</u>	James G.	January, 2004	 Lt. (JG) Assistant Gunnery Officer. Recipient of Silver Star on April 16, 1945. https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/JamesTownsley.pdf	
Kaus	Richard	December 22, 2003	Passed away in Springfield, Florida. Served on board the Laffey as a MM3 from 1959-61	
Glatthorn	John (Jack) A.	November 15, 2003	Veteran of WWII, SF 3/C. Placed ship in commission and was on board 16 April 1945. Manned 20mm aft gun when Japanese bomb hit, killing three shipmates. Survived by his wife, Norma and three children. Any recollections from his shipmates would be appreciated by the family. jig@yahoo.com	
<u>Simonis</u>	Cyril (Cy)	July 25, 2003	 Veteran of WWII, SN 1/C. On board, 16 April 1945, wife Charlotte from Beth Page, NY. First president of USS Laffey Association. Wife Charlotte Simonis died 5/8/21	https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/72530290/cyril-c-simonis
Stein	Darrell W.	May 6, 2003	Veteran of WWII, TM2/c. Placed ship in commission and was on board 16 April 1945.	
Carver	Paul James	February 27, 2003		
Besore	Dick	February 11, 2003	Lt jg	RichardBesore
Richmond	Dennis	January 26, 2003		
McIlwain	James	August, 2002	Served as Executive Officer during Korean era.	
Strazykowski	Stanley	July 7, 2002	Veteran of WWII, MM2/c	
Pressburger	Ramon	Estimated 1 July 2002	 Plankowner on board April 16, 1945. On USS Laffey Association Board of Directors. Made custom made knives. Daughter Lynda Drolet from Greeley, PA died 4/14/23.	https://www.laffey.org/Newsletters/02may.htm
Murray	Lawrence	Estimated 1 July 2002	On board April 16, 1945	
Hines	Joseph	Estimated 1 July 2002		
Earlin, Jr.	Raymond	Estimated 1 July 2002		
Lee	Ottis Dean (OD)	February 12, 2002.	Passed away in Roanoke Rapids, North Carolina. Served on board the Laffey as a Boatswains Mate. Striker during the Korean Emergency.	
Cavanaugh	Sonny	October 12, 2001		Letter
Schade	Al	September		


		15, 2001		
Walker	Warren	Estimated 1 July, 2001	 <p>On board, April 16, 1945. Received Bronze Star Medal for bravery 16 April 1945</p>	Article
Kozash	John	July 1, 2001	Served aboard Laffey during WWII and the Korean era.	
Bilsten	Don	30 June 2001	Served aboard USS Laffey during the Korean War from 1950 - 1954	
Davis	Bill	April 14, 2000	Member of DD459. USS Laffey Association Newsletter Editor.	Article
Weygant	Charles A.	July 7, 1999	On board April 16, 1945. QM3/c Served for 34 months in WWII. After graduating from Quartermaster School in Newport, RI, he was assigned to the USS Laffey (DD724) until his discharge in 1946. He graduated from the University of St. Louis in Commerce and Finance. He retired from Merrill Lynch in 1987.	
Remsen	Bert	April 22, 1999		BertRemsen
Newell	Robert W.	March 30, 1999	Served as a gunnery officer, engineering officer, and executive officer on the Kakl and Laffey	
Waite	Stephen J.	January 29, 1999	 <p>On board April 16, 1945. MM1/c he placed Laffey into commission in 1944 onboard late 1945. He was awarded the Purple Heart and a Bronze Star medal for bravery on Radar Picek Station #1 on 16 April 1945. He enlisted in the Navy 1935, serving in Atlantic and Pacific campaigns. After his charge in 1945, he was a framer in Iowa then worked for the State of Oregon and also in underground excavating and construction.</p>	
Dickey	Andrew Thomas	November 15, 1998	On board April 16, 1945.	Article
Adams	Quincy Reid	November 10, 1998	On board April 16, 1945. S1/c He entered the Navy September 17, 1945 and was a plank owner on the Laffey. He was discharged March 18, 1946.	Article
Brown	Donald E. "Doc"	November 2, 1998	On board April 16, 1945.	Tribute.
Huff	Fred F.	Estimated 1 July 1998	SN2/c served aboard Laffey and left the ship in 1945 prior to 16 April 1945	
Hanau	Danny E	Estimated 1 July 1998	Daughter Joyce from East Meadows, NY	
Baumhardt	Arthur E.	February 10, 1998	On board April 16, 1945. Plank owner Boatswain Mate. Retired firefighter of 32 years service.	Article


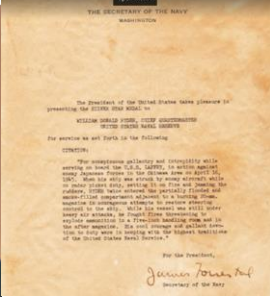
Keyes	William J.	February 6, 1998	On board April 16, 1945. Plank owner in Navy 28 years encompassing 3 wars.	Article
Donald	William Lake	February 4, 1998	On board April 16, 1945. Plank owner. Seaman 1/c.	Article
Rees	Robert C	February, 1998	Shipfitter 1/c on Laffey 1958 - 1967	
Parino	Frank	December 5, 1997	On board April 16, 1945. Plank owner motor machinist 2/c and Purple Heart recipient. https://www.laffey.org/parinoobituary.htm	Article
Roberts	Robert	November 20, 1997		
Murrey	Edward	August 11, 1997	Served as cook on USS Laffey (DD724) in WWII.	Article
Muckerman	Walter A. Jr	Estimated 1 July 1997	WWII Okinawa Battle Survivor	
Johnson	Ralph Wayne	September 19, 1996	BT3 Aboard 1951 – 53. Retired in 1968 as Chief BT.	Article
Henke	Elvin A.	July 27, 1996	 Lt Engineering Officer on board April 16, 1945. Received Bronze Star Illinois Obituaries in July, 1996 Age at Death: 76 Birth Date: April 29, 1920 Registration Place: Illinois Death Date: July 27, 1996 https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/154462769/elvin-alfred-henke	Article
Gebhart	Francis M.	July 18, 1996	Gunners Mate 2 nd class. On board April 16, 1945 Plank owner	Article
Storm	Robert T.	March 17, 1996	On board April 16, 1945	
<u>Becton</u>	Frederick Julian	December 25, 1995	 On board April 16, 1945. Command Officer during the attack. Awarded Navy Cross. https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/AdmiralBecton.pdf	FJulianBecton Article
Leonard	Jack	Dec 8, 1995	S/2 Joined Navy at age 17 on Nov 16, 1945. Reported to USS Laffey March 17, 1946. Received Honorable Discharge Oct 13, 1943. Retired as lab chemist.	Article
Klimkewicz	Ambrose	October 20, 1995	On board April 16, 1945 S2/c RP1	Article
Reed	Daniel	September 7, 1995	Plankowner. MM/1 st Class	Article
Doyle	Pierce	September 5, 1995	Chief Yeoman. On board April 16, 1945. Lived in Pennsylvania.	
Faginski	Raymond H.	August, 1995	On board April 16, 1945. Purple Heart	Article
Darnell	Dr Matthew	May 17, 1992	 On board April 16, 1945. Bronze Star and Purple Heart. Physician who treated wounded during and after the attack	Article

	Cotton		https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/236815724/matthew-cotton-darnell	
Thompson	Henry "Hank"	Jan1, 1995	CM 2/c On board April 16, 1945	Article
Hughes	Thomas J.	September 4, 1994	On board April 16, 1945	Article
Kennedy	Robert	July 17, 1994	Fireman 1/c Plank owner On board April 16, 1945	Article
Kozlowski	Adolph "Ski"	March 20, 1994	Coxswain Plank owner On board April 16, 1945	Article
Wingrove	Samuel	April 14, 1992	On board April 16, 1945	
Hand	William	11 June 1991	Wife Ethel Hand died 6/11/19 Loganville, GA	
Welch	William Harvey	1 July 1991	Wife Marileah Welch died 6/4/17 https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/225229150/william-harvey-welch	
Weitzel	Samuel	23 April 1990	DD459	Article
Runk	Theodore William	9 Feb 1990	 <p>On board April 16, 1945. Received Navy Cross. Ted was one of our heroes in the action at Okinawa 16 April 1945 Captain USN (retired)</p> https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/TedRunk.pdf	Article
Campbell	Robert L.	Estimated 1 July 1989	Passed away in 1989 at the age of 69. He was a Water Tender First Class and a plank owner and a survivor of April 16, 1945. He remained in the Navy and worked up to the level of Chief Warrant Officer.	
Thompson	Buford	18 Dec 1988	On board April 16, 1945 Last plank owner to leave the after engine room.	Article
Hogan	Arthur Ernest	4 Sep 1987	 <p>Machinist's Mate 1st Class Awarded Silver Star</p>	https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134073078/arthur-ernest-hogan
McFayen	Gordon	Estimated 1 July 1986	DD459	Article
Curtis	John	July 1986	DD459	
Pagano	Gil	Estimated 1 July 1985		
Barham	Admiral	Estimated 1 July 1985	DD 459	
McAdoo	William	June 12, 1985	BM2 Served aboard Laffey during Korean War	
Liller	John	24 Feb	May 5, 1943 enlisted in New York City, NY Yeoman 3rd	

	Francis Jr	1984	Class, U.S.S. Laffey (DD-724) Plankowner Wounded 16 April 1945	
Bussett	Karl E.	March 2, 1982	S1c Commissioning Crew wounded but survived 16 April 1945	KarlBussett
Langevin	Regina Id R	11 October 1980	F1c (Fireman First. Class) was a plank owner member of USS Laffey commissioning crew. Son Bob served in US Navy Brown Water in Vietnam. Son Bob was a past president of the USS Laffey Association	
Haley	Wayne H.	14 February 1979	Chief Torpedoman's Mate originally from Brooklyn NY. Plankowner. Severely wounded 16 April 1945. www.findagrave.com/memorial/739627/wayne-h-haley BIRTH 7 Feb 1921 DEATH 14 Feb 1979 (aged 58) BURIAL Calverton National Cemetery Calverton, Suffolk County, New York, USA	https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/WayneHaley.pdf
Wilson	Robert Kennedy	Estimated before 1 July 1975	On board 43-45 daughter Patricia from Florissant, MO	
Swenson	Hilding S.	Estimated before 1 July 1975	Betty from Upland, CA	
Strauss	Vernon J.	Estimated before 1 July 1975	Son Steve from Rochester, MN	
Spray	Thomas	Estimated before 1 July 1975	On board 59/61 wife Frances from Montville, NJ	
Smith	John	Estimated before 1 July 1975	Wife Constance from Bonita Springs, FL	
Schmidt	Bill	Estimated before 1 July 1975	On board 2/44- 46 wife Rita from Pennsauken, NJ	
Scaggs	Lloyd	Estimated before 1 July 1975	FM EM on board 10/51-9/55 wife Katherine from Muncie, IN	
Rees	Tom and Robert	Estimated 1 July, 1975	Brothers from Knoxville, Iowa who served on board the USS Laffey (DD 724) during the late 1950's and early 1960's. Tom passed away in 1975; Robert, several years later. Any Association member remembering either one or both of the brothers, is asked to contact Moe Wadle at moewadle@yahoo.com	
Patterson	Mark	Estimated before 1 July 1975	BT3On board 73-76 Wife Cindy from Findlay, OH	
Meyskens	Frank	before 1 July 1975	DD459 Reunion Coordinator	
Matthews	Ron	Estimated before 1	BM 3/C on board 2/53-10/56 Wife Jackie from Kingston, NY	

		July 1975		
Liebertz	J.L.	Estimated before 1 July 1975	Wife Dolores	
Letourneau	Roland E.	Estimated before 1 July 1975	SN 3/C on board 2/44-2/46 Wife Rita	
Konopka	Edwin	Estimated before 1 July 1975	Helen from Las Vegas, NV	
Jones	K.D.	Estimated before 1 July 1975	Wife Jennette Arden, NC	
Jones	Bob	Estimated before 1 July 1975	 <p>Robert Jones EM 2/c 2/44 – 3/45 Pictures of USS Laffey Crewmembers: http://www.laffey.org/Laffey%20Crew/Rogues2.htm Plank owner EM2/c from February 1944 to March 1945. USS Laffey Association Newsletter Circulation Manager.</p>	RobertJones Article
Ryder	William Donald	17 June 1968	  <p>Plankowner Chief Quartermaster Awarded Silver Star</p>	https://www.laffey.org/CQM%20William%20Ryder.html
Heffler	George R.	before 1 July 1975	DD459 Tug helped Laffey DD724. Chief Machinist Mate	Article
Hagan, Sr	Donald	Estimated before 1 July 1975		
Ford	Lee	Estimated before 1 July 1975		LeeFord
Drolet	Lynda Pressburger	Estimated before 1 July 1975	Lynda Drolet from Greeley, PA died 4/14/23. Daughter of Ramon and Dorothy (Nesbit) Pressburger. Ramon was plankowner and on board April 16, 1945. On USS Laffey Association Board of Directors. Made custom made knives.	
Decker	Norris H.	Estimated before 1 July 1975	Wife Ruth from Battle Creek, MI	
Cox	Harlan	Estimated before 1	Pastor Harlan Cox, RM3. Served aboard Laffey 1969-1972 (See Mrs. Cox's note From East Greensburg, IN	

		July 1975		
Cordonnier	Wilbert G	Estimated before 1 July 1975	From Sullivan, OH	
Cooper	Carl	Estimated before 1 July 1975	From Hilliard, OH	
Clements	James A.	Estimated before 1 July 1975	Passed away last April at the age of 99½ in April. WWII Seaman 2/c Our oldest association member.	
Calloway	Wendell	Estimated before 1 July 1975		Wendell Calloway
Michel	John William	5 June 1971	 <p>MM1/c This picture taken in one of the bombed out compartments of our ship. His commendation from Admiral Becton Wife Lillian Michel. Daughter Jill Michel</p> <p>https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/JillMichel.pdf</p> <p>To John William MICHEL, 651 35 63, Male, USNR V6:</p> <p>Commended at meritorious mast for valorous conduct aboard the U.S.S. LAFFEY during the air action of April 16, 1945, northwest of OKINAWA JIMA when the ship was attacked by twenty-two enemy planes, shooting down nine attackers. Despite the entrance of exploding 40MM ammunition and smoke from the fires overhead your performance and that of the other personnel of the after engine room was exemplary and contributed materially in preventing further damage to the ship. Your quick work in drilling a hole in the after bulkhead of the engine room to furnish air via a hose to two men trapped in the after diesel generator room was also highly commendable.</p> <p>F. J. BECTON, Commander, U.S. Navy, Commanding.</p>	<p>https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/169995963/john-w-michel</p>

Ryder	William Donald	17 June 1968	  <p>Plankowner Chief Quartermaster Awarded Silver Star</p>	https://www.laffey.org/CQM%20William%20Ryder.html
Zebro	Edward Vincent	18 Jan 1963	Gunner's Mate Second Class, U.S.S. Laffey (DD-724) Awarded Bronze Star	https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/240438169/edward-vincent-zebro
32 USS Laffey DD724 WW II Deaths		16 April 1945	See DD724 The Honored Dead https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/Awards.pdf	DD724
59 USS Laffey DD459 WWII Deaths		November 13, 1942	See Maritime Quest for DD459 Roll of Honor and http://www.laffey.org/information_on_the_dd.htm USS Laffey DD459 WWII Memorials http://www.russpickett.com/history/laffey/dd459.htm	DD459

Remembrances and Obituaries

To search press CTR F (computer) or search icon 



Jack Najork was Chief Radio Man on the ship during D-Day and the Battle of Okinawa. He passed away in August of 2021 at 101.



Robert Klimesh, age 89, of Fort Atkinson, IA, passed away Wednesday, September 6, 2023, at Saint Mary's hospital in Rochester, MN surrounded by his family. Robert was an electrician aboard USS Laffey (1952-1955). He was a mechanic at the Klimesh Ford Dealer in Calmar, Iowa for 42 years. In October 2022 Robert attended the USS Laffey

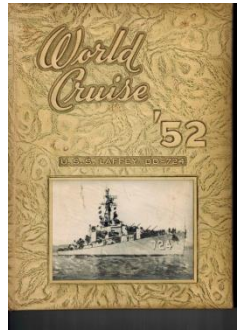
Reunion with 15 family members at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum Mt Pleasant, SC. See <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/Klimesh.pdf> .



John Schneder (Nov 4, 1940 - Mar 12, 2021) AT2 (Aviation Technician 2nd Class) passed away in Cincinnati, Ohio. He served aboard USS Laffey from 11/65-to 11/66. He operated and maintained the DASH (Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopter).



peacefully in his



sleep early Monday morning. He was 91 years old.

Billy Lee Cunningham (March 24, 1931 – October 10, 2022) of Citrus Heights, California has passed away “My father Billy L. Cunningham served on the Laffey from 1952-1953. He told me many stories of shelling the Korean shoreline, and the following world cruise. Dad was always proud of the time he served, and the ship he served on. My father passed away

I inherited my father's Laffey Cruise book. I looked through this book countless times growing up and my father told me stories of all the places they visited. I felt honored when my mother presented me with this book after my father's passing” From Gary Cunningham on Facebook USS Laffey



Gary Kozlowski passed away in September 2022 at the age of 81 Rochester Hills, MI. He served aboard USS Laffey 1960-64 as a MMFN (Machinist Mate Fireman) in A Division and the After Engine Room. Gary was on the 1961 Mediterranean Cruise in the US Navy Sixth Fleet. See the 1961 Cruise Book

<https://www.laffey.org/Cruises/1961%20World%20Cruise/1961medcruiseindex.htm> .

After the US Navy, he did computer programming and systems work. He was a USS Laffey Association volunteer who contributed greatly to the website.

<https://www.sullivanfuneraldirectors.com/obituaries/Gary-Kozlowski/#!/Obituary>



Nick Giordano SH3 (Ship Serviceman 3rd Class). He served aboard USS Laffey 1950-52. Nicholas proudly served our country in the US Navy during World War II and Korean Wars. <https://www.mchoufuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/5022353/Giordano-Nicholas/index.php>



John F. Matthews 1935 – 2022 Jack Matthews passed away on April 14, 2022. Jack was born on February 20, 1935 in his beloved hometown of Kingston, New York. At the age of 17 Jack volunteered for service in the Navy. He served on the destroyer USS Laffey during the Korean War. BM3/C Served 2/53-10/56 on USS Laffey with his brother Ron who previously passed away.

<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/dailyfreeman/name/john-matthews-obituary?id=34283317>

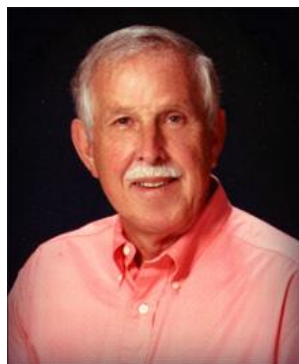


John William Conard (August 27, 1930 - December 17, 2021) Per Sonny Walker "We think he was a BM on board during Korean War. I only met him at one reunion years ago." He was member of the USS Laffey Association. His residence was Alexandria, MN. See <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/23418045/john-william-conard>



LTJG Craig Keith (1948 – 2021) was the Dash Officer aboard USS Laffey 1969 – 1971. The DASH was a Helicopter Drone that carried Anti-Submarine torpedoes. Craig went on several Mediterranean deployments at the height of the Cold War. He served as the USS Laffey Association Newsletter Editor.

<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/CraigKeith.pdf>



Robert "Bob" Toleman, age 81, formerly of West Carrollton went home to be with the Lord on Friday, October 2nd, 2020. He was a graduate of Portsmouth High School in 1953 and enlisted in the Navy following graduation. Bob was extremely proud and passionate about his service in the Navy and being a part of the USS Laffey. Upon his return from the Navy, Bob found his long term job at General Motors being a tool maker until retirement. In his spare time he enjoyed watching his grandkids play sports, Nascar, fishing, being out in the sun, and keeping up on current news. Bob was a kind and caring man that was happiest when with his wife Carolyn and surrounded by family. He was a dad, a stepdad, a grandpa to 6 grandkids and a great grandpa to 9 great grandkids.

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/216357998/robert-lee-toleman>



"Jim was a great friend and a valued member of the association. He was VP for a while and a work party member for many years. Jim served on the Laffey during the Korean War as Postal Clerk. His rating was Teleman, which back in the day he was a teletype guy.

I remember going on the beach with Jim in Charleston. On our way back to the ship we walked by the large windows that used to be near the ship store. We noticed that Jim was missing..... we turned and looked to see him at attention and saluting the Confederate Flag in the window. We all had a good laugh. Jim lost his wife Lib 5 years ago on Nov 25. Jim is being buried on that day in Greer, SC. He will be welcomed by so many of his shipmates, Jim will be honored at our reunion in the fall of 2021." Sonny Walker

"With Jim painting the Fire Hose Rack and Francis Lasala looking on, it reminded me of some friendly needling that took place that day. Jim was the target of the needling, and he took it well. (Mostly) Having picked the task of perking up the red paintwork on firefighting fixtures, Jim got the paint supplied by PP, which was not the correct shade. He complained about it, but was told to use it anyway. Now, you may not believe it, but we had some guys that played 'jokes'. Someone decided that everyone who walked by Jim at work would correct him. I don't know how many times he was told that he was using the wrong color, but Jim eventually lost his cool. The 'joke' worked. Luckily, not to fisticuffs. I was working inside the Forward Passageway & Fan Room and heard a commotion. Hearing voices that meant someone was about to 'Lay Hands On', I went for a look-see. Jim was sitting on the deck in front of the deckhouse, waving his brush at the offender. Luckily, it was a well organized 'joke'. A few onlookers could not contain their glee. Jim recognized his entrapment and cooled down. Laughs and smiles all around. It had to be explained to some visitors (Tourists) that it was 'friendly needling'. I don't know if Jim 'got even', but I know that it didn't adversely affect our Work Party. Other pictures show Jim and Ari painting to the bow in the Bos'n Locker. (Hot & Tight.) Remembering, reminiscing," Ray Broll

FP/2C Donald Nicholson



Don passed away on November 16, 2020. He enlisted in the United States Navy after graduating, where he was a Petty Officer, Second Class FP serving as a pipe fitter on the USS Laffey DD724 from 1954-1957. He and his wife Janet attended many Laffey Association Reunions.

PF2 Walter H. Harrington (1928 - November 1, 2020)



Walt Harrington 1950



Walt Harrington with his boat Laffey 3

Walt passed away on November 1, 2020. He served aboard USS Laffey DD724 from 1950 – 1954 during the Korean War. He was PF2 (Pipe Fitter). The PF rating later became the SFP (Ship Fitter Pipe) and HT (Hull Maintenance Technician) rating. He was a beloved longtime USS Laffey Association member. See <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/WalterHHarrington.pdf>



Jerry Jones Passing July 27, 1947 - September 14, 2020 (73 years old) in Orangeburg, South Carolina. He was veteran of the United States Navy, where he served in the Vietnam War. His love for the Navy transformed into being a volunteer for the USS Laffey and Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum. He was a hard worker and loved the Laffey.



RD3 Robert Earl Greene, 88, of Gastonia, passed away on July 14, 2020 at his home. He was born in Rutherford County, NC on June 22, 1932 to the late James Lee and Mary Sue Dalton Greene. Mr. Greene was a member of Ranlo Freewill Baptist Church and proudly served our country in the United States Navy. His service in the Navy included time on the USS Laffey as well as serving during the Korean War. During Mr. Greene's military career, he received the National Service Defense Medal, the United Nations Service Medal, and the Korean Service Medal with two stars. From Dale Greene "My dad had served on the famous USS 724 Laffey during the Korean war. He was a radar man and had shot down six planes. He never talked about it. He always loved the "Laffey" and I did take him to view it at Patriots Pointe. Watching him walking around the ship I noticed the men had secret places that he was able to show us. The service men had secret places to hide stuff." See <https://www.greenefuneral.com/obituary/robert-greene>.



QM2 Bob Volz 95. From Sonny Walker "We have lost another Korean War Vet on Saturday evening May 16, 2020, Bob Volz QM2, served aboard 1950-52. Bob passed away at 95 years old. Barb his widow is still with us. I will always remember them at our reunions, on the dance floor tripping the light fantastic. He always had a great smile on his face and was happy with the world. He will be remembered at the memorial service on board his beloved ship at our reunion in Charleston in the fall. Bob will be missed by his shipmates and association friends." See <https://www.davidfkoch.com/obituary/Robert-Volz> "He was a veteran, having served honorably in the U.S. Navy aboard the U.S.S. Laffey during World War II alongside his twin brother, Dick. Bob had also served during the Korean Conflict. "



Richard C Volz (September 1, 1924 - October 13, 2018 (age 94)) served honorably in the U.S. Navy, as a gunner mate, during WW II alongside his twin brother, Bob.Volz . See <https://www.davidfkoch.com/obituary/Richard-Volz> "He was a veteran, having served honorably in the U.S. Navy, as a gunner mate, during W.W. II alongside his twin brother, Bob. They were involved in the Liberation of the Philippines."



Thomas B. Kocsis, 78, of Montgomeryville, died Friday, May 1, 2020. Born April 18, 1942 in Trenton, NJ, he was the son of the late Bert and Dorothy (McTighe) Kocsis. Mr. Kocsis was employed as a truck driver for many years and also worked at the Allentown Rescue Mission. A veteran of the US Navy, he proudly served upon the USS Laffey (DD-724). He was also a lifetime member of the NRA and an avid shooter.

Survivors include his daughters, Marybeth Kocsis of Stockton, NJ, Sandra Counterman (and husband Christopher) of Cresco, PA, and Jennifer L. Nelson of Trumbauersville; ten grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; his sister, Diane Kocsis; and former wife, Barbara Lestician of Stockton.

Robert E. "Knip" Knippenburg EM2 (1938-2020)



Engineman Striker Bob Knippenburg in glasses in Berthing Compartment USS Laffey about 1957



Chief Bob "Knip" Knippenburg about 2000

Robert E. "Knip" Knippenburg EM2 Served aboard 57-60 Passed away Feb. 26, 2020. Bob was the past president and trustee of the Maryland State Firemen's Association. He was a member of the Allegany Garrett Counties Volunteer Fire and Rescue Association, and the Midland Fire Company #1, Inc. Bob was a long time member of the USS Laffey Association. Chris Kirhagis and Sonny Walker attended his viewing. Below is Knip's funeral with full firemen's honors including bagpipe and fire trucks.

William Michael Kelly (1926-2020) SM2 Plankowner, Survivor of April 16, 1945ⁿ Attack in Okinawa



Bill Kelly SM2 is the hero that retrieved the national ensign from the main deck that was knocked down by a Japanese Kamikaze. A wounded shipmate was laying outside of the wardroom with his leg blown off. He asked Bill, who was on his way back up to the signal bridge with the flag, if he could have it. Bill gave him the flag and

he died clutching the flag to his chest. From Sonny Walker: "Bill was quite a guy and it was a pleasure to have known him. He passed quietly with some family members with him." **Obituary:** William M. Kelly, 94 of Point Pleasant passed away peacefully on January 10, 2020 at Crest Pointe Care Center, Point Pleasant. His former wife and friend Lillian Kelly was at his side. Bill was born in Kearny and was a lifelong resident of the shore area. He attended Manasquan High School where he received a varsity letter playing football. World War II began, and Bill left high school to enlist in the US Navy. He was assigned to the USS Laffey," The ship that would not die". Bill received his "Purple Heart Medal" during the historic battle that lasted 80 minutes aboard the USS Laffey. After his service Bill returned to New Jersey and delivered milk until he opened Shamrock Janitorial Services, Belmar. Bill was an avid golfer, enjoyed boating and his horses.

Bill was predeceased by his parents Joseph and Bessie Kelly, his brothers James and Thomas Kelly and a sister Marion Hirsch. He is survived by his children, son Michael T. Kelly of Brick, four daughters and their spouses Maureen A. Kelly of Tucson, AZ, Mary Wirtz and her husband James of Martha's Vineyard, Margie Moore and her husband Kenny of Wall, NJ and Monica Bleiler and her husband Keith of Falmouth, MA. Bill was also the grandfather of thirteen and great grandfather of eight. The family would like to thank the nurses and staff of Crest Pointe Care Center for their dedicated care over the years. Memorial donations may be made to the USS Laffey at <https://www.patriotspoint.org/explore/uss-laffey/>.

[Bill Kelly 93rd birthday celebration](#). In January 2018 USS Laffey Association President Chris Kirhagis and Past President Sonny Walker had the opportunity to drive to New Jersey to meet with Laffey Plank Owner Bill Kelly in celebration for his 93rd birthday. In attendance were numerous family & friends. NJ Congressman (R) Chris Smith was also there to present Bill with the Laffey's US Flag that had been recovered during the Okinawa Battle on April 16, 1945. Bill recovered the flag. A severely injured shipmate asked to hold the flag. The shipmate died holding the flag. This flag had been flown over the Nation's Capitol Building prior to its presentation. Congressman Smith also presented Bill with a Proclamation recognizing his involvement of this infamous battle. <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/BillKelly.pdf>



John B. Shewmaker (1935 – 2019) Last commanding officer of the USS Laffey DD-724. , 1973 – 75. Obituary "John B. Shewmaker (age 84) On Saturday, June 22, 2019 of Bethesda, MD. Loving husband of the late Monica Sullivan Shewmaker of 53 years. Father of Paul, Pamela and Tracey. Grandfather of Liam, Patrick, Amanda and Tiarnan. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the OLOL Tuition Fund at the above named church." See John B. Shewmaker <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/5018107/John-B-Shewmaker>



Robert L. Logsdon, Jr. (1917-2018) [Obituary](#). "This amazing man, proud United States Navy retiree, was loved by everyone who knew him. Joined his Lord and Savior on Sept. 30, 2018. Surviving are wife of 9 years, Donnis; children Robert and Charlene (Lyle) Christensen, Sydney Kurtz, Liz (Paul) Stone, Andy (Debbie) Meeder and Kurt (Darsena) Meeder; 16 grandchildren, 18 great-great-grandchildren, and 3 great-great-grandchildren. Family and his many friends will miss him greatly. Bob's memorial page at www.bobbittchapel.com." January – March 2018 [Laffey News](#) has Bob's Photos and Memories 1950 – 1952. Bob was honored at his [100th birthday](#) at the 2017 USS Laffey Association Reunion in Memphis TN. From Chris Kirhagis, President USS Laffey Association: "Bob was a patriot. He served in World War II, Korean War, and Vietnam War. He was a great member of the association. He contributed 1000s of photos from 1950s. He contributed photos of association events. He had great dexterity to move and twist to get just the right angle for his beautiful photos. We loved seeing he and Donnis at our reunions. His memory, photos, and contributions live on the USS Laffey Association website www.laffey.org." <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/BobLogsdon.pdf>



Aristides Phoutrides [Remembrances](#) Obituary Aristides Stephanos Phoutrides Aug. 9, 1925 - June 7, 2018. Aristides Stephanos Phoutrides succinctly and accurately, described himself as "an imperfect man who loved his entire family, his church, his country, his ship and shipmates, and cherished his friends."

Aristides was born in Seattle Aug. 9, 1925. He was the youngest child of Reverend Stephanos and Presbytera Calliope Phoutrides. His father was a priest at St. Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church and, later, at the Church of the Assumption in Seattle. At 16, Aristides graduated from Broadway High School in Seattle and was admitted to Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

World War II intervened, and at 17, he entered the U.S. Navy. His combat experiences on the USS Laffey—both at Utah Beach and Okinawa—were formative. During the battle of Okinawa, the Laffey withstood the most unrelenting kamikaze air attacks in history and earned the nickname "The Ship that Would Not Die." He knew first-hand the sacrifices others had made to enable his safe return from the war.

After the war, he resumed his studies at University of Washington graduating with a degree in Chemical Engineering. On Aug. 27, 1949, he married Betty Demas of Portland. Their family includes three children, Stephen and his wife Kathy, Elaine and her husband Dana, Cynthia and her spouse Paula; six grandchildren; and two great-grandchildren.

Aristides had a long and rich retirement fueled by boundless energy. Dedicated to his church and his ship, he volunteered for many years in service to the Holy Trinity Greek Orthodox Church in Portland. He was a proud, past-president of the USS Laffey Association and a regular volunteer at Patriots Point in South Carolina where the Laffey—now a National Historic Landmark—is preserved as a museum ship. With the keen and exacting mind of an engineer, he embraced computer technology; became an avid, meticulous gardener and traveled extensively across the world.

As Pappou, he was beloved by his family and his many friends. They, in turn, were embraced by his love, buoyed by his unwavering support and graced by his generosity of spirit. He died peacefully at his home, surrounded by family June 7, 2018.



Admiral Frederic Julian Becton Wikipedia Article

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Frederick_Becton

New York Times Obituary Adm. F. Julian Becton, who was at the center of a dramatic two hours of naval history when his destroyer survived a swarm of Japanese kamikaze planes off Okinawa in 1945, died on Monday at his home in Wynnewood, Pa. He was 87.

The 2,200-ton U.S.S. Laffey, guns blazing, battled an onslaught by 22 suicide planes, 6 of which struck the ship. Two bombs also hit the ship; one jammed the rudder of the Laffey, whose deck was a mass of flame.

The Laffey's crew shot down eight or nine of the planes, but it paid a high price: 31 crewmen were killed or unaccounted for, and 60 were wounded. Admiral Becton, then a commander, escaped injury. His deft maneuvering and the skill of his engineers were credited with

bringing the Laffey, riddled like a sieve above the waterline, back to Seattle for repairs. He received the Navy Cross for extraordinary heroism. It was not his first close call. He was in command of the destroyer Aaron Ward when she was part of an Allied convoy that was attacked off Guadalcanal in April 1943. The Aaron Ward and two other vessels were sunk, but the enemy lost 39 planes. Admiral Becton was also decorated for the Laffey's support role in the invasion of Normandy and other wartime action. He received four Silver Stars, two commendation ribbons, two Presidential Unit Citations and the Croix de Guerre.

Frederick Julian Becton was born in Des Arc, Ark., and graduated from the United States Naval Academy in 1931. He served on battleships and destroyers, rising to the post of executive officer before being put in command of the Aaron Ward. He retired in 1966 and told the story of the Laffey and her crew in a book, "The Ship That Would Not Die" (Prentice-Hall, 1980).

Admiral Becton is survived by his wife of 46 years, Elizabeth Reuss Becton; two daughters, Julie B. Becton of Wynnewood and Hilary B. Wagner of Warrington, Pa.; a brother, John, of Hot Springs, Ark., and two grandsons.

The article as it originally appeared December 30, 1995, Page 001033 The New York Times Archives

Barton R. Greene Obituary Barton R. Greene died Monday, June 19, 2017 at Rose Garden at Ann's Choice in Warminster. He was 75. Born in St. Louis, Mo., Mr. Greene has been a resident of Lower Bucks County since 1970. He was a member of Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia. Mr. Greene was a Field Engineer for NCR Corporation in Trenton, N.J. for 30 years and A.D.P.C. also in Trenton, for 13 years until his retirement in 2007. He served proudly in the U.S. Navy on the USS Laffey. Mr. Greene enjoyed gardening and baking, loved the Philly sports teams, however, his greatest pleasure and enjoyment was the time spent with his family.

Beloved husband of the late Marian (Irene) D. Greene, he was the loving father of Barton A. Greene and Andrea Farish (Mark). Mr. Greene was the devoted grandfather of Dylan, Devon, Aaron and Addison; and brother of Jon Greene of Houston, Texas; Lois Jackson of Oconomowoc, Wis.; Gail Armstrong of Palm City, Fla., Wanda Herman of Huntingdon Valley, Pa. and the late Roberta 'Skeets' Parker. He will also be sadly missed by several nieces and nephews.



Robert Patrick Lucey, Jr Obituary Lucey, Robert P. Dad, Gramps and Great Grandpa Born 2-23-41, passed away peacefully at home, lovingly surrounded by his family. Preceded in death by his beloved wife Karen; sister Marilyn Herkel and sister-in-law Joyce Ranheim. He is forever loved by his children: Todd (Tammy) Lucey, Rene (Doug) Gavic, Jolene (Lynn) Christensen; grandchildren Doug (Olivia), Nicole (Jackson), Shaden, Shaun, Katie, Kalie and Drew; great granddaughter

Ruby; brother Joe (Barb); sister Mary (Clarence); brother-in-law Tom; special nieces Amy and Carrie; nieces, nephews, cousins, friends, dear friend Wendy and precious dog Mac. Bob proudly served in the United States Navy aboard the USS Laffey 724. He worked for Control Data and 3M before retiring to lovingly take care of his wife. Above everything, Dad was devoted to his family. He ensured we always knew how much he loved us and how incredibly proud he was of each of us. He found the good in every situation. Even if you were not family, he made you feel like family. He always had words of wisdom, a smile or hug to share. He was our rock, our inspiration. We were blessed to call him our Dad and we will miss him completely. "I Love you more."



Waitman Kapaldo Obituary for Waitman Kapaldo, age 97, of DeMotte passed away at Hospice of the Calumet Area of Munster, IN on Sunday, August 19, 2018. He was born April 17, 1921 in Morgantown, WV to John Sr. and Alice (Smith) Kapaldo.

Waitman attended Morgantown Public Schools, Class of 1938. After graduating he proudly served in World War II, serving on the U.S.S. Laffey during the battle at Okinawa Island. Upon discharge he went to college at the Illinois Institute of Technology in Chicago, IL. Waitman married Nancy Cary on December 24, 1948 in Harvey, IL and celebrated 69 years in a loving marriage. He was employed as an electrical engineer for Allis-Chalmers in Harvey, IL for 30 years. While retired he pursued a painting career as an accomplished wildlife artist. Waitman participated in community projects, painting murals, in Lake Placid, Florida. He also sold paintings at Jameson Galleries. Waitman loved to fish & hunt, was an avid outdoorsman, excellent swimmer, and loved nature and his family.

Waitman is survived by his wife: Nancy Kapaldo of DeMotte, IN; children: Patricia Brackman of DeMotte, IN; Debra (Scott) Ware of Cedar Springs, MI; David Kapaldo of Springfield, VA; Waitman (Penny) Kapaldo Jr. of Edenton, NC; Robert (Peggy) Kapaldo of Howe, IN; 14 grandchildren; 27 great grandchildren; siblings: Jack (Deloris) Kapaldo, John (Lola) Kapaldo, Donald Kapaldo, Dorothy Burd.



Richard G. Jacobs [Letter](#) from daughter. Obituary Richard G. Jacobs, 89, of Carlisle, passed away Monday at Cumberland Crossings. His beloved wife of 60 years, Beverly, passed away in 2008. Born December 13, 1926 in Easton, he was the son of the late Michael Jacobs and Mabel (Weaver) Jacobs Savitz, and was a graduate of Wilson High School.

He was retired from Bell Telephone; was a longtime member of Paxton Presbyterian Church and was a Navy veteran of WWII and the Korean Conflict. Surviving are his daughters: Susan Shuey (and husband, David), Newville and Diane Jacobs, West Fairview; one grandson: Nathan Shuey, Newville; one brother: Donald Jacobs, Felton, DE and one sister: Carolyn Royer, Reading.



Captain Harry Melville Rogers, "Mel," died May 18th 2013. [Obituary](#) (1922 – 2013). He was CO USS Laffey 1963-65 <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/110871372/harry-melville-rogers> (United States Naval Academy Cemetery)



John "Jack" Strand Obituary John D. "Jack" Strand, age 72, of Mansfield, passed away peacefully, in the comfort of his home, with his loved ones by his side on Saturday, June 3, 2017. He was the beloved husband of the late Lois E. (Girard) Strand, to whom he was wed for nearly 37 years at the time of her death on July 10, 2007.

Born in Boston, MA on December 17, 1944, he was a son of the late Angelina C. (Scipione) Strand and Lloyd M. Strand. Jack grew up in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston and was educated in Boston schools. During the Vietnam War, he proudly served his country as a member of the United States Navy and was honorably discharged from duty on April 8, 1966 with the rank of EM3.

Jack was the retired owner of Axent Communication, Inc., a company he proudly operated along with the help of his family. He had made his home in Mansfield for the past forty-six years, and was a member of the Mansfield VFW and the Mansfield Lodge of Elks.

His family was the focal point of his life and he treasured times spent with his grandchildren. Jack was an avid New England sports fan, and loved listening to music. He also enjoyed playing card games and trips to area casinos.

He is survived by his devoted daughters Christine E. Cook and her husband Bill of Stoughton, Susan J. Seifert and her husband Nate of Mansfield, and Jennifer L. Strand and her longtime boyfriend Jason Lachapelle of Cumberland, RI. He was dear brother of Carol McMichael and her husband Bob of Virginia. He was the cherished grandfather of Sofia, Madelyn, Morgan and Gabriella, and is also survived by many loving nieces and nephews.



Paul Cowin It is with great sorrow we share the passing of Paul H. Cowin, age 75, of Independence, Mo. Paul was born December 26, 1941, in Eminence, Missouri, to Opal (Townsend) and Luther Cowin. Paul was the seventh of ten children. He joined the United States Navy at the age of 17. Where he proudly served 30 years of service, including tours in Gitmo, Viet Nam, and aboard the USS DD724 Laffey and the CGN35 USS Truxton. He also spent five years at the Kansas City recruiting Office. While in the Navy, he earned the Good Conduct Award, Combat Action ribbon, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Meritorious Unit Commendation, Navy Expeditionary Medal and National Defense Service Metal, just to name a few.

He married the love of his life, Doris Foulks on May 13, 1972. Following the Navy he worked at Yellow Freight in Kansas City for 25 years, where he retired from the teamsters union. Paul was an avid hunter and fisherman. He loved the outdoors. He also loved to ride and proudly wore the colors of the Patriot Guard, CMA (Christian Motorcycle Association) and the American Legion Post 40. But Paul's biggest mission in life was winning souls to the Lord. He was never too busy to pray for you and call your name out to the Lord in your time of need.

As Paul has gained his heavenly wings he's left behind so many loved ones including his loving wife Doris;, two sons, Paul Craig, wife, Laura, and Zhawn; seven grandchildren, Zachary wife, Megan, Andrew, Douglas (Brand), Brittney, Nathaniel and Madelynn; sisters, Bonnie Smith, Doris Roberts, Betty (John) Brooks; brothers, Roger and Steve; along with more loving family and close friends than we can list. He was preceded in death by his parents, brothers, Leo, Ivan and James, and sister, Lorene.

Services to honor and pay tribute to Paul will be held from 6 to 9 p.m. tonight, Feb. 28, at Living Waters Family Worship Center, 211 S. Osage, Buckner MO 64016. A celebration of life officiated by Pastor David Mahurin will begin at 10 a.m. Wednesday, March 1, at Susquehanna Assembly of God, 622 N. Jennings Road, Independence MO 64056. Interment following at Missouri Veterans Cemetery on Business Hwy 13, Higginsville, Mo.

Published in The Examiner on Feb. 28, 2017



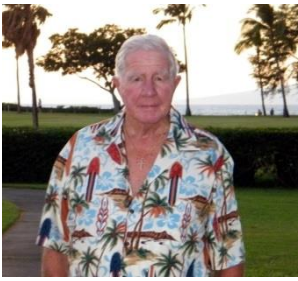
Edward 'Ed' Almendinger Obituary Edward 'Ed' Almendinger 'Coolest Dad and Grandpa' Edward "Ed" Almendinger, 68, of Summit, N.J., passed away, surrounded by family, on Feb. 14, 2017. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held on Tuesday, Feb. 21, 2017, at 10:45 a.m. at St. Teresa of Avila Church, 306 Morris Ave., Summit, N.J. Entombment is in Somerset Hills Memorial Park. Born in Bridgewater, N.J., to the late John and Lily (Hahmel) Almendinger, Ed was a 1966 graduate of Sparta High School. Following high school, Ed served in the U.S. Navy from 1967 to 1972 on the U.S.S. Laffey and proudly received the National Defense Service Medal. Upon his honorable discharge from the Navy, Ed joined the Department of Veterans Affairs facility in Lyons, N.J., where he worked for 35 years, rising to chief of maintenance and repair, before retiring in 2003. It

was there that he also met his loving wife and travel companion, Norie. A talented musician, Ed enjoyed a lifetime of jamming and playing gigs with his brothers. He also shared his talents on guitar at the Rest Stop Rejuvenate and the 5:30 Mass on Sundays at St. Teresa of Avila Church, Summit. Ed was predeceased in 2009 by his wife, Norie Almendinger (nee Salcedo), and a brother, Michael Almendinger in 1971. He is survived by his children, Thom Almendinger (Melissa) of Hillsborough, N.J.; Dawn Steinert (Jason) of Dexter, Mich.; Eric Salcedo (Kristine) of Summit; Karen Kelly (Tim) of Holmdel, N.J., and Leslie Salcedo of Summit He also leaves his beloved grandchildren, Olivia, Sophia, Gretchen, Cameron, Heidi, Aidan, Gabriella, Addison, Ethan and Tristan; his brothers, John Almendinger (Shirley) of Dunellen, N.J., and Bill Almendinger (Pattie) of Bedminster, N.J., and a sister, Marianne Wlasiuk (Larry) of Tampa, Fla., as well as many nephews and nieces who loved him dearly. In lieu of flowers, donations in Ed's name may be made to St. Joseph's Indian School (stjo.org), 1301 North Main St. Chamberlain, S.D., 57325.



Fred Gemmell Obituary Fred McWilliam Gemmell Age 91, was called to his eternal home on Friday, July 1, 2016. He was born to Fred and Marion Gemmell. Fred was the loving husband of Grace, father of Fred (Holly) of Del Mar, CA, Steve (who passed away in 1972), Lori Hansen (Vic), Terri Montgomery (Greg), brother to Dorothy Bradfield of Oak Harbor, grandfather of 19, great-grandfather to 14, and uncle to numerous nieces and nephews and a dear friend to many. Memorial contributions can be made to USS Yorktown Foundation or visit <https://www.patriotspoint.org/explore/uss-laffey>.

<http://www.mountainviewtacoma.com/obituaries>.



Joseph Battista Obituary Joseph "Buddy" Battista, 84, of Garner, NC and formerly of North Branford & Mystic Passed away on December 11, 2012. Born to the late Catherine and Joseph Battista in New Haven, CT and resided in North Branford for most of his life. He is predeceased by his wife of 46 years, Patricia Peterson Battista.

Buddy was a man of many talents. He retired from St. Johnsbury Trucking after a long career. He was well respected and loved by everyone that had the chance to meet him.

Surviving are his loving sons and daughters, Deborah & Scott Hallier, Kathryn & John Rosenkrantz, Beth & John Gura; by his loving grandchildren, Nicholas & Nicole Morrone, Joe, Jeff & Johnny Rosenkrantz, Michael, Melissa & Stephanie Gura, Matt, Mike & Bambi Battista; by his loving great grandchildren, Christian, Alana, Joey & Sofia whom he truly adored; by his sisters, Dolly Voos & Marie (Tony) Ponzillo and many nieces and nephews. He is predeceased by his brothers, Almond "Curly" Provenzano, Arthur & James Battista. Buddy is also survived by his wife Rita Niver & his son Gary (Despina) Battista.



Emil Jakubik RD2 Served aboard 51-54 Obituary Jakubic, Emil J. Jr. "Jake" Age 86 of St. Louis Park, passed away peacefully January 26, 2017. Preceded in death by his wife, Rose Anne; parents, Emil and Lucille; step-mom, Alice; brothers, Robert & Thomas; step-brothers, Donald & Richard Morrow. Survived by children, Nancy (Rick) Powell, Patricia (Vince) Mans, Therese (Ken) Zimmermann, Steven Jakubic and Elizabeth (Mike) Lentz; grandchildren, Matthew (Jaime) Powell & Kristen Powell, Joseph, John & Jacob Mans, Jeffrey, Michael & Katheryn Jakubic, Ryan & Caitlin Lentz; great-grandchildren, Carson & Emily

Powell; brother, Phil (Jane) Jakubic. Mass of Christian Burial 10 am Thursday at The Church of the Holy Family, 5900 W. Lake St., St. Louis Park. Interment Fort Snelling National Cemetery. Gearty-Delmore 952-926-1615 gearty-delmore.com.



Robert Esposito Obituary Robert "Bobby" Esposito, age 65, of Hamden, passed away on July 9, 2014 at Yale New Haven Hospital. Born in New Haven on January 10, 1949, he was the son of the late Pasquale & Rose Nuzzo Esposito. Bobby is survived by his wife, Carol Garcia Esposito; his daughter, Tara Esposito Miller & her husband, Michael of Hamden; his son, Marc Esposito & his wife, Kristen, of Milford; his sister, Donna Esposito, of East Haven; brother in-law, Joseph Northrup, of East Haven; niece, Jennifer Conte, & her husband, Michael; nephews, David & Joseph Northrup; great nephew, James Conte, and many aunts, uncles & cousins. He was predeceased by his sister, Marilyn Esposito Northrup. Bobby was a US Navy Veteran during the Vietnam War, serving on the USS

Laffey, a drummer for many local bands and an electrician for 34 years at Yale University, Physical Plant. Bobby's family would like to thank the Yale Health Plan and Yale New Haven Hospital for the care he received during his time of need.



Machinist Mate 2 Gerald Bowman, 83, of Elkins, passed away Friday, March 7, 2014 at Willard Walker Hospice Home. He was born August 3, 1930 in Wild Cat Holler, Dardanelle, Arkansas to Sparlin Bowman and Nettie Raulston Bowman. Gerald was a Veteran of the Korean War and made three trips around the world aboard the USS Laffey. After his tour of duty, Gerald married the love of his life since the age of 12, Lori. He spent twenty two years as a field supervisor in the USDA, implementing the food stamp program. After he left the USDA, Gerald sold real estate in the NWA area with Lindsey and Associates. Behind his work life, Gerald and Lori raised two children, Kevin and Kim. He was known and remembered by everyone he met by his genuine love and thoughtfulness. He had a strong faith and loved being outdoors. He took care of his soul mate, Lori for nine years after she was diagnosed with Alzheimer's.

In February of 2013, the USS Laffey, now a museum in port at Patriots Point, South Carolina held a special celebration where Gerald walked the gang plank 60 years after his first step onto the ship. The Dream Foundation and Hardees made the memorable trip possible. His Navy uniform and a recorded account of the war is now part of the USS Laffey Museum. In September of 2013, he and his daughter Kim made one last trip to his beloved, Belize, his last bucket list wish. The last three years of his life were spent with his daughter, Kim and his grandchildren Hunter, Hayden and Hannah, who were his daily caregivers and his best friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Clarence "Bo" Bowman; his soul mate Delora "Lori" Wilkinson Bowman. Survivors include his daughter, Kim Bowman Billings; son, Kevin Bowman and wife Pam; grandchildren, Hunter Guffey, Hayden Guffey, Hannah Billings, Brandon Demarest and Loren Lucas and his best friend, JD Drummond. A special thank you to Dr. Amy Morton, WRMC Hospice and the Willard Walker Hospice Home. See <https://www.arkansasonline.com/obituaries/2014/mar/12/gerald-bowman-2014-03-12-36443/> and https://eugeneleeslover.com/Sailors_Stories/Gerald_Bowman_Laffey.html .

Lonnie Herring 'Bill' Eastham Obituary 79 of 3795 Rouse Loop Road died Thursday April 21 2005 at his home. Bill was born in Lenoir County to the late John Albert and Chalice Herring Eastham. Bill served twenty two years with the United States Navy retiring in 1964. He was most proud of his service on the USS Laffey DD724 during World War II. From 1970-1981 Bill owned and operated the Speedy Mart in La Grange. Bill was a member of the American Legion Veterans of Foreign Wars and The Fleet Reserve. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery with full military honors. Bill is survived by his wife of thirty six years Rosa Rogers Eastham; four

children James Herring 'Jim' Eastham of Florida Sheila Elizabeth Jackson and husband Tim of Creedmoor Diane Michelle Landrum and husband Mitch of Virginia Beach and Mitzi Young of Cheyenne Wyoming; four step-children Kenneth Ray Ward and wife Kay of Grifton Norman Douglas Ward and wife Gail of Supply Kathy Marie Thompson of Southern Pines and Dennis Ward and wife Sheree of Fuquay-Varina; a sister Lavonia Taylor of Newport; ten grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Memorials may be made to the USS Laffey Association co Sonny Walker 2951 Colchester Court Abingdon MD 21009. Arrangements are with Rouse Fun



Richard L. Besore Obituary age 72, Pittsboro, formerly of Indianapolis, died Sat. Feb. 8, 2003, in St. Vincent Hospice. He was born Dec. 26, 1930. Mr. Besore practiced law for 26 years retiring in 1991 as associate general counsel for Indiana Bell. Previously, he was a partner with the Henderson and Stark Law firm. Prior to becoming an attorney Mr. Besore was a research chemist at Plate Glass Company and Pure Carbonic Company. Mr. Besore served as a Lieutenant j.g. in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War and received the Presidential Unit Citation, the Korean War Medal and the China Sea Service Medal. He received a bachelor's degree from Beloit College in Wisconsin in 1952 and received his J.D. from the Indiana University School of Law - Indianapolis in 1965 with highest distinction. Mr. Besore was a Phi Eta Sigma Honorary and appointed Order of the Coif. He was a fellow of the Indiana Bar Association and also a member of the Indianapolis, 7th Circuit, American Bar Associations and the Indiana Trial Lawyers Association. Mr. Besore was a past president of the Board of Directors of the

Christamore House and of the Brendonwood Common, U.S.S. Laffey Association, Ulen Country Club, Indianapolis Athletic Club, Classic Car Club of America, Indianapolis Sailing Club, Masonic Lodge of Illinois, Scottish Rite and Friends of the White River. Survivors include his wife Carol Jean Besore; daughters Deborah Schilling, Missy Healy, Barbara B. Denton, Caroline Besore Kirk; mother Virginia Besore; sister Barbara Robbins; seven grandchildren; and a devoted Springer Spaniel, Lucy. Services will be 10 a.m. Tues. Feb. 11 in North United Methodist Church, 3808 N. Meridian St. Indianapolis, with calling in the North Church parlor immediately following the service. Leppert & Hensley Mortuary Nora Chapel is handling arrangements. Private internment services will be held Tuesday at Crown Hill Cemetery. Memorial contributions may be made to Friends of the White River, P.O. Box 90171, Indianapolis, IN. 46290. Published in the The Indianapolis Star on Feb. 10, 2003



Albert A Csiszar Obituary beloved husband of Deborah (Rose) of Edgewood, KY; loving father of Esther (Jeffrey) Kater of Villa Hills and Jorja (Larry) Kremer of Edgewood, KY; devoted grandfather of Elizabeth, Nathan, Toria, Frank and Zachary; dear brother of the late Frank Csiszar, Helen Wagner and Erma Dauer. Preceded in death by a granddaughter, Rebecca Kremer. Passed away Wednesday, August 31, 2005, age 83. Resident of Edgewood, KY. Albert was born September 25, 1921 in New Bremen, KY. He was raised in Midland, PA with five siblings. He lived in Winton Place, College Hill and most recent Brighton Gardens in Edgewood, KY. Albert was the owner/operator of Burr Oak Electric Inc. for 40 years which was located in Winton Place and was a former Navy Chief Electrician in World War II. He was a member of the Executive Board of the USS Laffey Association.

Kenneth Elwood Penn, (Age 69) Of Fredericksburg, died Thursday, December 29, 2005 at Mary Washington Hospital. He was born April 5, 1936 in Alexandria and retired from the D.C. Department of Corrections as a Fire Protection Specialist. He served in the United States Navy and was very proud of his service aboard the USS Laffey.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Ruth Ann Pegelow Penn; his parents Edith M. and Stephen G. Penn; and a great-granddaughter Abbey Rae Moseley.

He is survived by his wife Evelyn Lawson Penn of Fredericksburg; three sons Wayne A. Penn and his wife Kimberly of Lake Caroline, Kenneth G. Penn and his wife Barbara of Portsmouth, VA and Charles L. Penn and his wife Leigh of Spotsylvania; one sister Hilda M. Ward and her husband Arthur Lyell; one brother Robert E. Penn and his wife Catherine of Martinsburg, WV; seven grandchildren Carrie Staples, Brandy Moseley, Megan Penn, Tyler Penn, Katelyn Penn, Taylor Penn and Shaun Michael Hannaway; numerous nieces and nephews; and his constant and faithful companion, Tipper.

During his retirement he enjoyed woodworking, working in his yard and restoring antique automobiles with his best friend Nelson (Sonny) Seale.

The family will receive friends at 11 a.m. Monday, January 2, 2006 at MULLINS & THOMPSON FREDERICKSBURG CHAPEL, where a service will be conducted at 1 p.m., the Rev. R. Kenneth Brooks officiating. Burial will be private. The family requests that contributions be made to the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, 40 Patriots Point Road, Mount Pleasant, SC 29464. Published in The Washington Post on Dec. 31, 2005



Anthony "Tony" D'Aquila, 83, of West Redding, husband of Marie (Paradiso) D'Aquila died on Thursday, September 21, 2006, at Danbury Hospital.

Mr. D'Aquila was born in Vinchiatturo, Italy, October 19, 1922, son of the late Nicola and Columbia (Spencieri) D'Aquila. He immigrated to the United States from Italy at the age of six settling in Corona, N.Y. He attended New York schools.

An advanced machinist-auto mechanic, Mr. D'Aquila was in early years with Cardinal Engineering of Brooklyn, N.Y. and Consolidated Edison. From 1949 to his retirement in 1974, he was a machinist with the City of New York Department of Sanitation.

A World War II U.S. Navy veteran, Mr. D'Aquila was a Gunner's Mate Third Class having served aboard the USS Laffey. He was a recipient of the European African Middle Eastern 1 Bronze star, Philippine Liberation Ribbon 2 stars, Asiatic Pacific Theater Ribbon 4 Bronze stars, Purple Heart, Victory Ribbon and American Theatre. Mr. D'Aquila was invited to speak at Joel Barlow High School in conjunction with Memorial and Veterans Day commemorations.

A summer resident of Redding since 1954, he and his family became permanent residents in 1975. He was a volunteer fireman of the Redding Fire Dept., Company #1, a member of the Fire Police and an auxiliary policeman of the Redding Police Department.

He enjoyed as a hobby and passion repairing and rebuilding small engines and tractors.

A member of the Military Association of the Purple Heart, he was also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, the Disabled American Veterans, the American Legion, the USS Laffey Association and of St. Patrick's Church of Redding Ridge.

In addition to his beloved wife, Marie of 58 years, he is survived by a daughter, Catherine "Cathy" D'Aquila, RN of Newtown,; Nicholas M. D'Aquila of Valparaiso, Fla. and Anthony "Junie" D'Aquila of Middlebury; a sister, Carmela Primiani of New York, N.Y.; a grandson, Anthony D'Aquila and several nieces and nephews.

Mr. D'Aquila was predeceased his granddaughter, Angie D'Aquila. See <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/209837870/anthony-d'aquila>



Challen McCUNE, Jr. See <http://www.laffey.org/McCune.htm>
Obituary: Challen, a resident of Seattle, passed away on April 27, 2006. He was born in Belle Plaine, Iowa on March 24, 1919 to Valentine and Challen McCune, Sr. He was preceded in death by his parents, his sister, Sybil Henry, and nephew, Phillip Henry. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy Marie; daughters, Chris (Sam) Matsen and Laura (Mark) McKagan; grandchildren, Dean (Hannah) and Greg Matsen, Sean and Scott McKagan; great grandchildren, Alan and Kara Matsen, Jackson McKagan; and nephew, Rick Henry. Challen graduated from Belle Plaine High School in 1937. After attending the University of Iowa for 2 years, he enrolled in the Navy's V-7 course at North Western University and was commissioned an ensign. He married Dorothy on May 29, 1941 in Honolulu, Hawaii. After a brief honeymoon, Dorothy returned to the States and Challen was deployed to serve his country. Challen served on a number of ships during WWII, including the USS Wyoming, USS Detroit, and USS Owen. In 1943, he was promoted to Lieutenant. He

served on the destroyer USS Laffey in 1945. As an executive officer on the Laffey, he survived the famous battle off of Okinawa on April 16, 1945, where his ship took many hits from Japanese kamikaze fighter planes, causing many casualties and damaging the ship. In July of 1945, Challen was honorably discharged and returned to the states to be with his family. Challen's passions were Dorothy, his family, golf, traveling, and the many friendships he developed over the years. He was a member of the Sand Point Country Club in Seattle for 40 years. He played several times a week and earned himself a few hole-in-ones during his golfing days. He played many courses and toted his clubs with him on his many travels, just in case he spotted a golf course. Challen was a furniture representative and worked for the Sealy Mattress Company for over 20 years. He was awarded Salesman Of The Year and made many good friends at the stores where he "peddled" his mattresses. He also was a Shriner, having been a member for over 50 years. He liked to play the piano, listen to music, play bridge, and take walks with Dorothy. He and Dorothy traveled to Europe, Asia, Mexico, The Caribbean, Australia, and other parts of the world. They also took trips in Washington State and saw a lot of North America. For the past 20 years they spent their winters in Hawaii and Arizona, where they had a little place in Peoria. Challen, also known as "Bub", was a fun loving man with a keen sense of humor and a contagious smile. Known to his wife as "Bubby", his grandchildren and great grandchildren as "Bucka" and to his friends as "Mac", Challen will be sorely missed, but never forgotten. His legacy will live on for generations to come from the many fond memories he leaves with all of us who were fortunate enough to know him. Published in The Seattle Times on June 11, 2006

Jay Bahme Jay Bahme, 93, of Houston, Texas, died peacefully in his sleep on November 10, 2014 with his wife of almost 57 years, Florence Bahme (nee Kaplan), by his side. Mr. Bahme was born in Waco, Texas, in 1921, the 5th of six children of Samuel and Jennie Bahme (nee Brickman). He worked his way through Baylor University and, upon graduating in 1943 with a degree in accounting, immediately enlisted in the United States Navy. A member of "The Greatest Generation," he served as a communications officer during World War II, on a destroyer, the USS Laffey, which earned the nickname "The Ship That Would Not Die" after successfully withstanding a sustained assault by kamikaze bombers during the Battle of Okinawa. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal for the wounds he sustained during this battle.

After his honorable discharge from the U.S. Navy, he settled in Houston and started a small accounting firm. Over the years, his firm and reputation grew, eventually leading to a successful merger with the nationally-recognized accounting firm of Seidman and Seidman (a precursor to the international firm of BDO Seidman). He rose to become Managing Partner of Seidman's Houston office and then served as Regional Managing Partner, ultimately becoming a member of the firm's Executive Committee and leading its national mergers and acquisitions group.

He loved his work as a Certified Public Accountant, but thrilled for a challenging game of tennis or a spin in his fire-engine red 1983 Datsun 280Z. Nothing, however, matched his devotion to his wife, children and grandchildren. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughters Karen Mantel, Susan Blumenfeld (Glenn) and Jennifer Bahme (Alberto Alvarez), seven grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his five siblings and son-in-law, Marshall Mantel.

Friends and family are invited to graveside services on Thursday, November 13, 2014 at 2:00 PM at Emanu El Memorial Park, 8341 Bissonnet, Houston. In lieu of flowers, the family appreciates contributions in his memory to a charity of the donor's choice. Published in Houston Chronicle from Nov. 12 to Nov. 13, 2014



Mel W. Gerhold, 87, of Buffalo, WY passed away on Wednesday, June 10, 2015 at Johnson County Healthcare Center in Buffalo. He was born May 14, 1928 in Baltimore, MD to Charles and Margaret (Becker) Gerhold.

He was raised in Baltimore and graduated from the Maryland Institute of Fine Arts. Mel joined the Navy during WW II and served on the Destroyer USS Laffey. He was later stationed in China and was recalled during the Korean War.

Mel married Doris A. Myers on September 14, 1952 in Maryland. In 1972, Mel and his family moved to Crawford, NE. He lived on Richardson ranch and later bought a ranch. After retirement, he and Doris moved to Buffalo, WY in 1997 to be closer to family.

He was a member of St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Buffalo, Kalif Shrine, Anchor Masonic Lodge #7 in Buffalo, VFW, American Legion, Western Artist of America, Museum of Fur Trade, and the Bradford Brinton Museum.

Mel was preceded in death by his parents; his wife, Doris on October 21, 2014; and brother, Carl. He is survived by his two sons, Kurt (Cindy) Gerhold of Sheridan, WY and Eric (Robin) Gerhold of Buffalo, WY; and several grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Clarence Leroy Leitschuh Obituary CLARENCE LEROY LEITSCHUH, 83 LAKELAND - Mr. Clarence 'Slim' Leitschuh, 83, passed away Tuesday, December 16, 2014, due to heart failure. He was born in New Douglas, IL, and moved to Lakeland from Frenchtown, NJ, in 1996. Slim attended First Baptist Church at The Mall. He was a U.S. Navy veteran of the Korean War, serving on the USS Laffey, and was a member of the V.F.W. Slim was an avid golfer. He liked to fish and hunt and loved to tell a story to anyone who listened. He is survived by his wife, Karen Leitschuh; daughters, Karen (Steve) Unglaub of Easton, PA, Debbie (Jon) Friedline of Boswell, PA, and Tracy (Paul) Machiesky of Milford, NJ; five grandchildren: Paige, Megan, Maggie, Michael and Scott; brothers, Loren & Delmar Leitschuh and sister, Ethel Korte, all from IL, and nieces and nephews. He was preceded in death by his wife Bernice in 2009, his parents William and Clara Leitschuh; his sisters Rolean and Irma and his brother, Irvin. A celebration of life service will be held at 9:00am Saturday, 12/20 at Skyview Estates Clubhouse, 3003 Sego Lane, Lakeland, FL. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the National Kidney Foundation , 1040 Woodcock Rd Suite 119, Orlando, FL 32803.



Andrew J. Martinis M.D. Edmonds, Washington 1925 – 2014 passed away peacefully on October 24, 2014, surrounded by his family. Born November 4, 1925, in Everett, Washington to Paul Andrew Martinis and Pearl Cecelia Marincovich Martinis. Predeceased by his parents and his five siblings. Survived by his wife Magna Mjones, children Dale and Berrie (Cliff), and grandchildren Della, Dillon and Daniel. Served in the South Pacific on the destroyer USS Laffey during World War II. Practiced as a vascular surgeon at Swedish Medical Center in Seattle. Received Bronze Star

Louis De La Vina Obituary FEBRUARY 3, 1932 – APRIL 10, 2018. De La Vina, Louis, 86, of Seffner, passed away April 10, 2018. Born in Tampa, FL, he was a retired School Teacher who loved spending time with his family; especially his grandchildren and friends. He loved football, especially the Gators, was a 1st generation Spanish American born in Tampa, FL, was a U.S. Navy Vet that served in the Korean War and a member of the USS Laffey Association (DD-724). He is predeceased by his parents Antonio De La Vina and Maria Piedad Aparicio and is survived by his wife Norma De La Vina, daughter April Stillwagner (James), grandchildren Ariana Stillwagner and Alana Stillwagner, , brother Anthony Del La Vina, and sister Lydia Benson. Burial at Hillsboro Memorial Gardens.



James Deckman Obituary James W. Deckman, Jr. 90, of Palm Coast, FL., died peacefully September 6, 2017 at the Stuart F. Meyer Hospice House. He was born April 11, 1927 in Harrisburg, Pa., eldest son of James W., Sr. and Catherine Smith Deckman. He is survived by his wife of 69 years, the former Louise Goldy, whom he married on April 24, 1948. Jim attended Bartram High School in Philadelphia, and began his working career at National Biscuit Company until he enlisted in the United States Navy during WWII, serving as a cook in the Pacific. Following his honorary discharge, he returned to National Biscuit for four years, and re-enlisted in the Navy during the Korean Conflict. After his service, Jim worked as a milkman for Turner and Westcott, then as an Insurance Agent for National Life, and subsequently worked for the Philadelphia Inquirer. He and his wife were also foster

parents to 58 children. Jim was an active member of the Palm Coast United Methodist Church, the United Methodist Men, the Palm Coast VFW, and the Lions Club. He was presented with Lion of the Year in 2003-2004, and in 2009 received the Lions' most prestigious Melvin Jones Award. In addition to his wife, Louise, he

leaves three children; James W. Deckman III, and his wife, Darlene, of Milford, N.H., David A. Deckman of Dunwoody, GA., and Janet Jensen and her husband, Curtis, of Palm Bay, FL.; one brother, Robert Deckman and his wife, Margaret, of Aston, PA.; two sisters-in-law, Rita and Jean Deckman, five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews. Jim was preceded in death by his parents; two sisters, Joanne Reineck and Carol Ketterer, and two brothers, George and Charles Deckman. A memorial service celebrating his life will be held Saturday, September 23, 2017 at 10:00 AM at Palm Coast United Methodist Church, 5200 Belle Terre Parkway in Palm Coast. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the church.



Henry J. Conger Obituary Virginia Beach - CDR Henry J. Conger (Jack) U.S.N. retired of 3100 Shore Dr., Virginia Beach, died March 4, 2012. CDR Conger was born in Norman Park, Ga. on May 11, 1916, the son of Isaac Young and Mary Willis Conger, both deceased. He lived in Tifton, Ga. and was a 1933 graduate of Tifton High School. He also attended Marion Military Institute from 1934-1935.

CDR Conger entered the U.S. Naval Academy in 1936 and graduated with the class of '41 on February 7. He spent the next four years on the U.S.S. IDAHO participating in the Atlantic Neutrality Patrol, as well as twelve major engagements in the south and northern Pacific. Other engagements included tours of duty on the U.S.S. TARAHA, on the staff of the battleships and cruisers in the Pacific, on the board of inspections and survey in Washington D.C., head of the electrical engineering department at the U.S. Naval Academy, on the staff of the CINCLANTFLT, WESTLANT, and SERVON TWO, as well as the executive officer on the U.S.S. Porter He enjoyed command-at-sea as the commanding officer on the destroyer U.S.S. LAFLEY, DD-724, now home ported in Charleston, SC.

As commanding officer of the U.S.S. LAFLEY, his ship received several citations for knocking out shore batteries in Wansan Harbor during the longest ship to shore battle of the Korean War. CDR Conger was awarded the Bronze Star with a "V" for valor for this engagement.

Retiring from the Navy in 1961, he obtained his Master's Degree in Physics and Mathematics from the College of William and Mary. He joined the Norfolk school system, teaching Physics at Norview High School. He retired from his teaching career as head of the Science Department in 1981.

He was a member and Deacon of Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, a life member of the Retired Officers Association, the U.S. Naval Academy Alumni Association, and the American Philatelic Society.

CDR Conger is survived by his wife, Greta Ginnuth Conger, a son CAPT Michael Dewitt Conger, USN (Ret.), and his wife Annette, a daughter, Patricia Jean Noble and her husband Carter, two grandchildren, Rod Noble and Wendy Papelino and her husband Kyle and several nieces and nephews. He was predeceased by his first wife, Lois Jane Conger, a son, James Rodreick Conger, a brother, Dr. Preston Dewitt Conger, Md., and a sister, Elizabeth "Sister" Harris.

The family would like to thank the entire staff at Westminster-Canterbury on the Chesapeake Bay, especially the nurses and staff of The Hoy Center.

A celebration of Jack's life will be held at the chapel at Westminster-Canterbury on Saturday, March 10, 2012 at 2 PM. Burial will be in Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, monetary donations may be made to the Westminster-Canterbury Foundation or Royster Memorial Presbyterian Church, 6901 Newport Ave., Norfolk, VA 23505.

Donald Illingworth Obituary Schering-Plough operations manager, Navy veteran Donald Illingworth, 81, of Fairfield, N.J., passed away on Saturday, Dec. 12, 2015, at Morristown Medical Center. Donald was born and raised in Bloomfield, N.J., before moving to Fairfield 51 years ago. He proudly served his country in the United States Navy until being honorably discharged. He was a member of the Essex Masonic Lodge No. 7 in Caldwell, N.J. Donald worked as a general manager of operations for Schering-Plough in Kenilworth, N.J., where he worked for over 30 years before retiring in 1989. Survivors include his beloved wife, Margaret "Peggy" A. (nee O'Dea); his dear daughters, Cindy Ferguson and her husband, Don, and Lisa Illingworth; and his four treasured grandchildren, Kelly, Don Jr., Courtney, and Carolyn. <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/name/donald-illingworth-obituary?pid=176907867>

Stanley Ketron Stanley Hugh Ketron, age 88, of Kingsport went to be with the Lord on Saturday, January 26, 2013. Mr. Ketron was a lifelong resident of Kingsport. He worked as a printer for the Kingsport Times News. He was a HAM radio operator, whose call sign was K4RPX, and a self-taught electrician. Mr. Ketron served in the U. S. Navy as a gunners mate on the USS Laffey until he was honorably discharged in 1945.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Christley Elcaney Ketron and Marie Amanda (Overbay) Ketron; his wives, Barbara Eugenia (Hamlet) and Nancy Jean (Vermillion) Harris; and his son, Michael Lynn Ketron.

Mr. Ketron is survived by his children, Nancy Louise (Ketron) Frye and husband John of Jacksboro, TN, Patsy Jean (Ketron) Chavoustie and husband David of Indianapolis, IN, and Timothy Ray Ketron and wife Donna of Kingsport; grandchildren, Michael David Chavoustie, Gabrielle Elizabeth (Chavoustie) Horrocks and husband Thomas, Kathryn Jean (Chavoustie) Phillips and husband Michael, and Allison Leigh Frye.

A military graveside service will be held at Oak Hill Memorial Park on Thursday, January 31, 2013 at 1:00 PM with Reverend David Templeton officiating and American Legion Hammond Post #3 and Gate City Post #265 providing military honors.

Memorials may be made to the USS Laffey at Patriot's Point, Charleston, SC.



Ed Kycia Obituary Edward Andrew Kycia, of Old Wethersfield and Black Point Beach Club, and loving husband to Helen Aszklar Kycia for 61 years passed away peacefully on Monday, (November 7, 2011). Born in Hartford to Joseph and Prakseda (Buda) Kycia on October 26, 1925, Ed graduated from Hartford High School Class of 1943. He shortly thereafter entered the U.S. Navy and served aboard the Naval Destroyer USS Laffey in the Pacific Theater. He was aboard the Laffey (The Ship That Wouldn't Die) while it successfully repelled the most extensive Japanese Kamikaze air attack ever mounted against any U.S. warship. He was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon, Presidential Unit

Citation, Asiatic Pacific Campaign Medal, American Theater Medal as well as the Philippine Liberation Ribbon. Returning from Naval service Ed continued to work for the U.S. Government for 40 years retiring in 1985. He was an avid Red Sox fan and Yankee hater. He was a member of the DAV Chapter 12, Tin Can Sailors, NARFE, Navy Memorial & The Polish National Home. Ed is survived by his wife Helen; and their children Mary Ann Bello and her husband Charles of Alpharetta, GA., Ed Kycia and his wife Mary and John

Kycia and his wife Diana all of West Hartford. He is also the proud grandfather to Tyler and Kathryn Bello, Maggie and Danny Kycia, and Jay and Matt Kycia. Besides his immediate family, Ed leaves two brothers and their spouses Mike and Dotty Kycia, and Julian and Jean Kycia, as well as many nieces and nephews.



Frank Laskowski Obituary YOUNGSTOWN - Frank Laskowski, 93, formerly of Girard, passed away early Tuesday afternoon, Jan. 12, 2016, at Park Vista in Youngstown, following a long and fulfilling life. Frank was born March 30, 1922, in Youngstown, a son of the late Wladyslaw “Walter” and Maryanna Wroblewski Laskowski, and was a lifelong area resident. He attended The Rayen School, and then worked at the Ravenna Arsenal before he joined the U.S. Navy during World War II. During the war, he proudly served aboard the USS Laffey, which was known as “the ship that wouldn’t die.”

After the war, Frank attended jewelry school for two years, and worked at General Fireproofing for 35 years, retiring in the early 1980s.

He was a lifelong member of St. Casimir Church in Youngstown, until the church closed several years ago. He was a member of the Trumbull County Lapidary Club, the Girard Senior Center, and of PLAV Post No. 87. Frank was also a member of the Knights of Columbus, Fr. Venglarik Council, No. 1516, where he became a Lifetime Honorary Member.

Frank leaves a niece, Marcella Dionisio of Medina; three nephews, Walter A. (Debra) Laskowski, Kenneth P. (Carol) Johnston, and James H. Johnston, all of Boardman; seven great-nieces and great-nephews; and his companion, Sarah Dzur, with whom he shared his life for the past 50 years.

A brother, Walter A. Laskowski, and two sisters, Gertrude M. Johnston and Sister Mary Clarentia (formerly Helen Laskowski), preceded Frank in death.

Family and friends may gather from 11:30 a.m. to noon, Friday, Jan. 22, at St. Christine Church on South Schenley Avenue in Youngstown, where a Memorial Mass will take place at noon, with a military tribute to follow.



Herbert Oyer Obituary Oyer, Herbert M. Jr. 90, of Carlisle, formerly of Weymouth, June 20. Beloved husband of the late Christine (Psaros) Oyer. Loving father of Michael W. Oyer and his wife Janet of Carlisle. Loving grandfather of Cheryl Kaufman and her husband Timothy of Duxbury and Candice Oyer and her husband Ian Adelman of Somerville. Devoted great grandfather of Finigan, Myles, and Emerson Kaufman. United States Navy Veteran, WWII.

Alfred Van Horne Sr. Obituary Virginia Beach - CDR. Alfred Lee Van Horne, Sr., USN retired, 84, entered Heaven on November 5, 2012. Married to the love of his life, Helen Margaret Van Horne, for 64 years. Al was a strong role model for marriage, love and family to his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. A man of strong character, he was known for his faith in God, his love of his country and the Navy, his integrity, and his committed service toward others.



He was born in 1928 to Walter and Hazel Van Horne in St. Clairsville, Ohio. Al served 31 years in the US Navy, retiring honorably in 1976 at the rank of Commander. Well decorated over the life of his career, he received the Bronze Star with a Combat V for his service in the Vietnam War.

Left to cherish his memory are his loving wife, Helen; sons, Alfred (and wife Lorraine) Robert (and wife Sandra) and David and daughter, Laura Sharp (and husband Jeff); Al's grandchildren: Ben, Christina, Meghan, Daniel, Joshua, Katherine, Andrew, Jacob, Noah, and Claire; and Al's 10 great grandchildren.

A graduate of Virginia Wesleyan College after retirement, Al was a member of Haygood United Methodist Church, Kempsville Masonic Lodge, Norfolk Scottish Rites, Khedive Temple Shrine, Cape Henry Chapter 424 National Sojourners, Heroes of '76, D.A.V Chapter 20, and Retired Officers Association. Burial at Rosewood Memorial Park with full Military Honors.

Paul Richard Rosania died September 24 at home with his family by his side. Mr. Rosania was born in Somerville, resided in Piscataway, before moving to Lebanon in 1980. He was the owner and operator of Let Yourself Go Travel in Bound Brook, a travel agency he started in 1979 and retiring this year. He also partnered with his wife, the light of his life, Elizabeth, as a co-owner of Community Medical Referral Inc., Bound Brook. Mr. Rosania was a Navy Veteran of WW II. He travelled extensively, enjoyed watching sports and had hoped to retire to Atlantic City and enjoy his retirement.

Surviving are his wife of 58 years, Elizabeth, his daughter P. Sherilyn Delouisa and his grandchildren Alexis and Jared Max. Also surviving are his siblings, Edna Allena, Marie Bernabe, John, Jim, Bernie, Stanley and Michael Rosania, his predeceased siblings include Ronald and Dale Rosania and Ethel Bush.



BMC Earl M Freeman Jr. passed away on Oct. 7, 2018, and lived in Virginia Beach, Va. at the time of his death, his wife Elenora Freeman has pre deceased Earl on May 21, 2018

Our President Chris Kirhagis and Past President Sonny Walker attended the Internment at Arlington National Cemetery on January 3, 2019, along side of his wife who had been interned on June 2, 2018. They were married for 70 years.

President Kirhagis was first notified by retired BMC Robert Skirbe of Maine. Both Earl & Robert served on the Laffey when it when into a reserve status as BM1 & 2, and they bonded in a close friendship. Skirbe went on to say that they were trading off escalation of ranks back and forth and were transferred to the next same assignment shortly after each promotion. One would be the subordinate, then the other one would be. If the story is correct, they both ended up retiring from the Navy as BM1's.

The internment included a Navy Chaplain who conducted the Eulogy, 8 Navy pall bearers in dress blues, and seven color guards in dress blues who gave the 21 gun salute, followed by a Navy bugler.



Joe Folino Obituary Joseph James Folino Jr. passed away Saturday, December 26, 2015. He was born October 25, 1927 to Joseph and Anne Folino in Ambridge, Pennsylvania. Joe served his country in the U.S. Navy during both WWII and the Korean War. The aerospace industry brought him to CA in 1956 and he lived in the Los Angeles area for a number of years before moving to Turlock. Joe was also an owner of the Red Steer restaurant for 11 years.

Over the years, he has been an active member of the USS Laffey Association, the Screen Actors' Guild, National Authors Registry, American Legion, and Kiwanis Club.

Joe is preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Anne Folino. He is survived by his loving wife of 38 years, Dinah Gray Folino, children, Michael Folino and Sabin Woods, grandchildren, Aiden and Ashe Woods, and siblings, Bob Folino and Joanne Johnson.

Sonny Walker Remembrance: SHSN. Joe and I became friends years ago at our reunion in Las Vegas. It was almost immediate. Joe had the distinction of being As time goes on, the shipmates that we honor are friends of ours. Some aboard the decommissioning crew in 1947 and on the recommissioning crew in 1950 when he was recalled for the Korean War.

Joe was a man for all seasons. He was an author, restaurateur, barber, movie star and many we can't even talk about. He had so many stories we could spend all morning ... make that all day, talking about him.

He was full of life and fun to be around. Joe told me a sea story about Korea. GQ sounded, he was in the shower, he tried to get back to his compartment but everyone was rushing up the ladder. He had to get to his GQ station on the bridge. He wrapped the towel around himself and took off for the bridge. He arrived in a towel and shower shoes, he put on his helmet and sound powered phones around his neck. The Captain walked over to him and said "Folino, aren't you out of uniform?" Joe, always ready with an excuse said, "YESSIR, BUT SKY ONE IS MANNED AND READY!!!" The captain laughed and told him to get his butt below and get some clothes on and get back up here.

Joe was in two Elvis movies, wrote three books, was in an ultralite plane crash, heck he even worked for the Mafia in Pittsburgh and married the boss's daughter. Not Dinah.... She came later and straightened him out. I really must say that he lived an exciting life.

Joe held many offices in our association. He was the newsletter editor too. He was always there to answer a question about the association or the ship.

After his stroke he wasn't able to talk for quite a while. I would call on the phone and he would get excited and you couldn't understand him. Of course I would tease him and ask him what language he was speaking this time. He would giggle. It was just a fun relationship that I will always hold dear.

George Ploth Obituary George Frank Ploth, Sr. Summerville - George Frank Ploth, Sr., 75, of Summerville, SC, husband of Carol Miller Ploth, passed away Tuesday, December 8, 2015. A Memorial Service will be held Friday, December 18, 2015 at Summerville Presbyterian Church at 1 PM. Burial will be private. Flowers will be accepted or memorials may be made to USS Laffey DD-724 Association, c/o Edgar Walker, 2951 Colchester Ct., Abingdon, MD 21009 or Fallen Firefighters Foundation, PO Drawer 498, Emmitsburg, MD 21727. Mr. Ploth was born February 17, 1940 in Hempstead, NY, a son of the late Richard M. Ploth and the late Elizabeth A. Ruland Ploth. His education included a BS from Southern Illinois University and a MS from The Citadel. George was a Chief Petty Officer in the US Navy (Ret.) and a former Navy UDT diver, an instructor at Naval Mine Warfare School, Instructor at City Colleges of Chicago, and a lifetime member of USS Laffey Society. Mr. Ploth was the former Chief of C & B Fire Dept. He also served as a police dispatcher and a volunteer firefighter. He gave 38 years of dedicated service to the citizens of the Town of Summerville and was a longtime member of Summerville Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his loving wife, Carol M. Ploth of Summerville. He was a loving father, grandfather and great-grandfather to: son, George F. Ploth, Jr. (Hope) of Summerville; daughter, Kelly A. Younger (Tony) of N. Charleston; a brother, Bruce M. Ploth (Elizabeth) of Hamilton, NJ; three grandsons, Joshua R. Ploth-Olsen, Zachary T. Ploth-Olsen and Nicholas G. Ploth; two granddaughters, Meagen P. Ploth, and Britni Petersen; and a great-granddaughter, Sophia E. Ploth-Olsen. In addition to his parents,

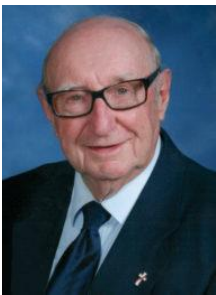
George was predeceased by a sister, Barbara Ploth; grandparents, Frank and Sarah Ploth, and Raymond and Florence Carmen. www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston

Sonny Walker: SOG3 was a sonarman aboard the ship during my only MED Cruise in 1961. I didn't know him very well. He came to a work party last year. It was good to see and talk with him. We didn't know that he was fighting illness. We were surprised to hear that he passed away not long after visiting his ship for the last time.



Capt. Frank Albert Manson Obituary Funeral services for Captain Frank Albert Manson, USN Retired, will be held at 1 p.m. on March 10, 2005 at Fort Myer Old Post Chapel with burial at Arlington National Cemetery thereafter. FRANK A. MANSON was born December 26, 1920 in Drumright, OK and died January 20, 2005 in Culpeper Regional Hospital from cardiac arrest. His survivors include his wife, Orie Lee Manson; their children Frank K. Manson, Jennifer Joy Manson Wilson and Barbara Lynne Manson Wilson, 10 grandchildren and three step-grandchildren. Memorial contributions may be made to the USS Laffrey Association Work Party Fund, c/o Treasurer, Joe Folino, 960 Gary St., Turlock, CA 95380.

Published in The Washington Post on Mar. 6, 2005



Robert E. Weaver GM1 was onboard from 1956-62. He seemed to pop up in every cruise book. Each year he had another stripe. He retired a CWO3. Bob and his friend Robbie Robinson GMC came aboard the ship while we had a work party going on years ago. It was good to see both of them. Bob was a good old boy from southern Virginia. Big guy and very quiet. I would hate to be on his wrong side but I never saw him angry. **Obituary:** Robert E. Weaver, 83 July 12, 2018

Deacon Robert E. "Bob" Weaver, 83, of Lancaster, completed his earthly journey Thursday, July 12, 2018, at St. Anne's Retirement Community. Born in Hanover and raised in Columbia, Bob was the son of the late Fabian S. and Grace C. (Hockensmith) Weaver. He was the loving husband of Judith C. (Connor) Weaver, with whom he would have celebrated 60 years of marriage on August 2.

Bob was a 1952 graduate of Lancaster Catholic High School. He went on to proudly serve his country in the US Marine Corps during the Korean Conflict. Upon his honorable discharge in 1956, he attended the Lancaster Business College. Over the next 20 years, Bob owned several small businesses in the Lancaster area and began studying to become a permanent deacon in 1975. In 1978, he was ordained as part of the first class of permanent deacons of the Diocese of Harrisburg. He spent the next part of his life's journey serving as a Chaplain for the former St. Joe's Hospital/Lancaster Regional Medical Center for over 37 years.

A devout Catholic, Bob was a member of Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, Lancaster, where he was part of the Men's Club. He also belonged to the Knights of Columbus #867, where he attained the level of 3rd Degree. Bob enjoyed hunting, fishing, walking, and was a diehard fan of the World Champion Philadelphia Eagles!

In addition to his wife, Judy, Bob is survived by his five children: Kevin R. Weaver, companion of Tracey Shifflett, of Columbia; Michael P. Weaver, husband of Gini, of Lancaster; Christopher J. Weaver, husband of Lisa Mertzman, of Lancaster; Maria T. Weaver-Hollowniczky, wife of Brad, of Lancaster; and Rosemary G. Williams, wife of Jason, of Philadelphia. Bob is also survived by his two sisters, Betty Shelley and Mary Brown, both of Elizabethtown; by eight wonderful grandchildren and three great-grandchildren; and a special family friend, Melissa Donley and her daughter.

Family and friends are invited to a viewing from 6 to 8PM, Wednesday, July 18 at Sacred Heart of Jesus Catholic Church, 558 W Walnut St, Lancaster, PA 17603. A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 11AM, Thursday, July 19, at the church. Family and friends will be received at church one hour prior to the Mass. Interment with military honors will follow at St. Joseph New Catholic Cemetery, Bausman. In lieu of flowers, contributions in Bob's memory may be made to Lancaster Catholic High School at www.lchsyes.org.

Lee Ford Sonny Walker Comments What can we say about Lee? He worked here at Patriots Point. He was in charge of taking care of Laffey. Whenever we needed something Lee would come up with it. He loved this ship. He actually had a framed picture of the ship hanging over his mantle in his living room. He was a great friend. We all miss him.

Chief Wendell Calloway Sonny Walker Remembrance Wendell was on the USS RICH and the USS Clamagore. He came to our work parties to cook a pig with Hoot Gibson. He loved our ship and was a good worker at the RICH Work Parties. He too will be missed for his funny e-mails and stories.



Captain John Parks Tazewell. September 25, 1920 – May 31, 2016 Born in Delaware. Resided in Virginia Beach, VA. Obituary: John Parks Tazewell, 95, passed away on May 31, 2016, at Westminster-Canterbury in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was born on September 25, 1920, in Wilmington, Delaware, to Calvert Walke Tazewell and Sophie Goode Tazewell.

John grew up in Norfolk, Virginia, and graduated from Maury High School in 1939. After high school, he attended the U.S. Naval Academy and graduated in 1942. During World War II, he served on the destroyer U.S.S. O'Bannon, and battleships U.S.S. Alabama and U.S.S. West Virginia, and was awarded a Bronze Star (V). After the war, he attended the Navy Post Graduate School and Massachusetts Institute of Technology, where he received a Masters of Science in Electrical Engineering. He also served as Commodore of a destroyer division, which included NATO-manned U.S.S. Claude V. Ricketts, Commanding Officer of the destroyer U.S.S. Laffey 60 - 62, Commander of the Norfolk Test and Evaluation Detachment, project officer for the Tartar missile program, and program manager of the Aegis missile area defense system. He retired in 1970, at the rank of Captain.

After retirement, John volunteered with a number of organizations in Norfolk, Virginia, including the Senior Services of Southeastern Virginia (formerly SEVAMP), Chrysler Museum Library and Lee's Friends. He enjoyed sailing, rowing, traveling and visiting his children and grand children with his wife and best friend, Elizabeth "Betsy" Taylor. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167198577/john-parks-tazewell>.

Sonny Walker Remembrances : What can I say about my favorite captain?

Captain Tazewell graduated from the US Naval Academy in June 1942. As an Ens. he served as Torpedo Officer on USS O'Bannon DD450. He was behind the first Laffey when she was sunk at Guadalcanal. While at lunch a few years ago, he told me that he had a friend on the Laffey that was sunk. They knew they were sunk by a Torpedo. He saw John later and asked him, as torpedo officer, did you put a fish into us? The captain assured him that he did not hit the Laffey.

Tazewell spent most of WWII on Battleships. USS Alabama, USS West Virginia and after the war he was Fire Control Officer and Assistant Gunnery Officer on the USS Wisconsin. He attended MIT where he received a Master of Science Degree. Some shore duty followed and then back to sea. He was Exec of the D.H. Fox DD-779. He then served on the USS Boston CAG-1 as Weapons Officer. In 1957 he was ashore again. Bureau of Ordnance as the TARTAR Guided Missile Project Officer.

In June of 1960 he became the skipper of the USS Laffey which, according to him, was the high spot of his career. Harhager, Watson and I came aboard the same day in October of 1960. We were honored to serve under our new captain.

There are many stories about Captain Tazewell and his crew. He restricted John Hudak on the way back from the MED in 61. The restriction ran from the time we left Naples until we arrived in Norfolk. If John wanted to leave the ship he would have to swim.

I was late coming back from a weekend liberty once and had to go to Mast. I had a great excuse. "Captain, I was so sleepy that I had to pull over and sleep to keep from getting killed or killing someone else." Captain Tazewell said "That is very commendable Walker but did you ever think about leaving earlier?" That was the captain. He still gave me extra duty.

At lunch once I asked him what it was like to take your own ship out for the first time. He told me that he was unsure of himself the first time so he just said "Mr Ross, take her out!" and he watched everything Exec LCDR Ross did.

We threw him a party in Va Beach a few years back. We had 19 of the old crew show up from all over the country. It was a great party.

We told him that he had turned boys into men. I mentioned that most of the enlisted guys had been in front of him for some infraction or another. The captain just smiled and said "They make the best sailors!". It was a very moving evening for all involved.

That was our captain. He was more like our Dad.



David Edward Harhager (1940 - 2016) Obituary David Edward Harhager, 76, of Swanton, having fought a courageous battle with cancer, died Monday, May 9, 2016, at Frostburg Village Nursing Home, Frostburg.

Born in New Castle, Pa., he was the son of Dorothy Virginia (Wilson) Poskevich, Deland, Fla., and the late Edward Harold Harhager. He was also preceded in death by one sister, Diane McClish.

Dave was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served from 1959 to 1963. He was a seaman in Bayonne, N.J., where he was also a member of the National Honor Guard, performing with The Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo at Madison Square Garden in June and July of 1960. He finished his service as a quartermaster second class on board the USS Laffey, DD724, which is the most decorated destroyer serving in World War II, and currently can be found in the naval museum at Patriot's Point in Charleston, S.C. He was a lifetime member of the Laffey Association and attended many of their work parties from 1996 to January 2016.

Dave worked as a carman, welder and inspector for the Bessemer and Lake Erie RR in Greenville, Pa., for many years and finished his working career as an electrician for MC Dean out of Chantilly, Va.

He was an avid golfer, playing the sport with his lifetime partner, Judy. He is also survived by his wife, Judy (Wampler) Harhager, Swanton; son, Edward Harhager, York, Pa.; daughter, Jennifer Kushner and husband, Sean, Greenville; grandchildren, Casey Marie and Hunter David Hause, Greenville; brothers and sisters, Dale and wife, Betty, Dennis Harhager, Darlene Philips and husband, Mark, Deb Yokubeak and husband, Dave, and

Dan and Doug Poskevich; sister-in-law, Helen Mainhart, Brookfield, Conn.; numerous nieces and nephews including, John and Kathleen Mainhart, Heather Carlson, Karleen and Taylor Weiss, Terri Mease, Todd Harhager, Chris and Matt Manley, Mark and Rob McClish, Tracy Schimp and Lisa Poskevich.

Sonny Walker Remembrance: QM2. I'm sorry to take so long but these last two are probably more dear to me than most of my family. Not counting my wife, kids and grandkids. As I said, Dave and I came aboard the same day. He went to the deck Division for a while and later to operations as a QM striker. We actually didn't hang out with each other until the end of the MED Cruise in 1961.

We were in The Bluebird Club in Naples, the last day of our cruise. We were leaving for the US the next morning. The liberty boat came for Laffey and the table emptied except for Dave and me. We knew there was another boat yet that night. Everyone had ordered a bunch of drinks and left them, untouched, on the table. We couldn't leave all of those drinks.....

When we came home we started to hang out along with Jimmy Watanuki QM3. Jimmy and I were going to Madison College to see Cherie. We were driving out the gate and found out we only had a few bucks for the weekend. I said "Do you know anyone with money to go with us?" He said Dave had 15 bucks. We turned the car around and asked Dave if he wanted to go to a girls' college for the weekend. I never saw anyone get showered and changed so fast. That was the beginning of a life-long friendship. Cherie fixed Dave up with a schoolmate... Judy Wampler. Must have been a good match, it lasted a lifetime.

While we were in the yards Dave and I decided to go see the girls who were home in Baltimore. We had a 48 hour liberty that started on Saturday morning. We left on Wednesday. Barry Shugarts answered up for us at quarters and made our excuses for not being at quarters. Well, we thought we were smart but not as smart as our Division Officer who was a mustang LT. D.C. Robison. He gave us 40 hours extra duty in the bilges. 4 hours per night. The snipes were so happy to see those clean dungarees come down that ladder. They immediately put us under the evaporator tanks chipping paint. What a job.

We were in each other's weddings. We were there for each other whenever needed. When the job market got bad in Western PA, Dave came to Baltimore to work. He lived at our house for a year until he bought a house and moved his family to Maryland.

The years went by and we didn't see each other that often but were still there if needed.

We got a call one morning about 0400 that their son was in a terrible accident. Cher and I rushed to Shock Trauma. We were there first. It was a long morning. Eddie had broken his neck and was paralyzed from the chest down.

Years went by, they lived in Baltimore, then back to PA and finally in Florida in the winter and Western MD in the summer. Things were good.

A couple of years ago Dave was diagnosed with Cancer. He fought it like crazy. He used every experimental drug that the doctor recommended. It worked for a long time. Dave continued to come to the work parties. He was amazing. Finally, it wouldn't work any longer. We knew it was over when he sold the house in Florida and moved back to Western Maryland for good.

He couldn't fly home because he was too sick. Judy Trout bought a brand new 35' RV and volunteered John Hudak and her to drive them up to Western Maryland from Florida. While there, John built a ramp to allow Dave to use a wheel chair in and out of the house. Judy helped Judy Harhager get the house set up for them. We can't thank Judy and John enough for all that they did for the Harhagers.

Cher and I drove up a couple of weeks later. It was the hardest visit that we have ever had. We laughed it up in the bedroom with Dave. Cher and Judy walked into the other room when we were getting ready to leave. Dave and I talked quietly together for a long while. We had a few giggles as only Dave could. I looked him in

the eye and asked "Davey, do you remember how we got back to the ship when we left the Bluebird Club?" We both busted out laughing and he said "NO!". We laughed again. It was good. I told him "It's been a good ride eh brother?" He looked at me, smiled and said "Yep". I kissed him on the bald head and we laughed. That was our last visit. My friend of 56 years died a few days later.

Oliver J. Sprigs Sonny Walker Remembrance Jim was a great member of the association. Jim was our membership chairman for many, many years. He only gave it up when his memory started failing him. Jim was always ready to tell stories to whoever would listen. His stories were interesting to listen to. Many didn't know that Jim was reported missing after the Okinawa battle. His folks received the telegram that he was missing and then found out that he was just missed in the counting. It was a real shock to his folks when he turned up all fine and dandy. Jim was always there to welcome someone new to the association. We will miss him.

Jim's shipmate Bob Powell died the very same day that Jim passed. I will always remember Bob as one of our WWII vets to win the ship model. It was very moving to announce his name and watch him walk across the floor at Omar's to acknowledge his win. Bob was a really cool guy. A big loss to us.

Lee Hunt SN died that same week as his two shipmates Jim and Bob. What can we say about Lee? He always showed up when we were at the work parties. He couldn't work, not that we would let him, and always had that smile on his face. When they opened up the video in MT53 Lee was invited to the first showing. As luck would have it, we were there for a work party. I stood next to Lee and kept an eye on him during the playing of the video. He stared straight at the screen. Once I saw him take off his glasses and wipe his eyes. When it was over I asked him what he thought. He very quietly said "That's as real as it gets". Lee was in that mount during the battle and he lost 6 of his buddies there.

When asked by Mac Burdette if he wanted to watch it again Lee said "No thank you". We will miss his visits to the work party guys.

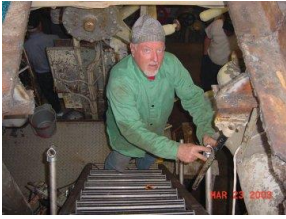
Earl Madison Sonny Walker Remembrance served aboard 63-67. He was a shipmate of mine, although he was a Snipe he was a GOOD OL BOY. His buddies called him Good Old Earl. He was young to go as quickly as he did.

Ralph Doll. Sonny Walker Remembrance Master Chief Boatswain Mate. Chief Doll knew a lot of Laffey guys as he served with the Korean guys and also the crew from the early 60's. He was the consummate sailor. He took pride in his ship and the boys that kept her that way. I never saw him upset or mad at anything. He always smiled. When he had the quarter deck you could get back aboard if you had too many to drink too. When I saw him at Chief Walker's funeral it was the first time I had seen him since 1963. He had grown a beard that was like the Amish. Ralph was a short guy and I told him he looked like a Smurf. When we gave Captain Tazewell a surprise party in VA Beach, I called Ralph and asked him if e could pipe the captain aboard at the restaurant. He was 80 at the time. He told me that "If I can get enough air, I'll do'er", And he did a great job. He was a real sailor.

Mel Gerhold Sonny Walker Remembrance was a real cowboy from Wyoming with his hat and boots and belt buckle and all. Until he opened his mouth and out came his Bawlrmer accent. You couldn't fool me about a Bawlrmer accent. Mel moved out west and became a very famous western artist. His paintings are hanging in the cowboy museum out there in Wyoming.

Lon Caulk Obituary On June 7, 2015 Daniel O. Caulk; beloved husband of the late Helen L. Caulk (nee Kreh); loving father of Brian P. Caulk and his wife Carol, D. Kevin Caulk and his former wife Melinda, David M. Caulk and his wife Melanie, Bruce A. Caulk and his wife Catherine; cherished grandfather of 9 grandchildren and 5 great-grandchildren.

Sonny Walker Remembrance Lon was a Jarhead that came to many work parties. He was a good friend of Bill Lloyd (who passed away a few years ago) and Mel Gerhold. We always teased Lon about being a Jarhead but he loved the Laffey. Lon was in the Marines during the Korean War. **Chris Kirhagis Remembrance** Lon Caulk was a Major of the Baltimore Police Department, and he was the Commanding Officer of The Southeastern District where I worked as a patrolman. He came to work parties.



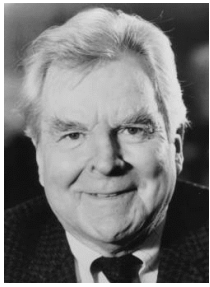
Woody Gedusky Sonny Walker Remembrance loved coming to the work parties. He loved welding and was there when we started to refurbish the after engine room. He loved working with Hudak and Bob Hill making the new handrails. His knees gave out and he couldn't work any longer and couldn't be there for the grand opening in 2004. John said he was always sorry that Woodeye couldn't make the trip to see the end result of his labors.

Tom Sprowl Sonny Walker Remembrance We will miss our favorite Bubblehead, our contact man at Patriots Point. Tom was always helpful to us as we conducted our work parties. Tom came down with MS and succumbed in July. We miss Tom if for no other reason than to make fun of him as we always did...to his face. He was a good sport.

Bobby Jowers April 26, 2006 Passed away in Cedar Grove, TN. Served in "N" Division and was on board 1/51 - 2/54. Mr. Jowers passed away Wednesday age 73 at his home in Cedar Grove. Mr. Jowers was born July 8, 1932 in Lexington to the late Elbert and Opal Bartholomew Jowers. He was a U. S. Navy Veteran of the Korean Conflict, serving aboard the U. S. S. Laffey from 1951-54. Mr. Jowers became a Christian in 1957, and was a member of Bellevue Baptist Church in Memphis. He was a former employee of Threadgill Lumber Company in Lexington, and retired from Goodyear in Memphis after 30 years of service. Mr. Jowers was preceded in death by his grandparents, Will and Daisy Jowers and Jim and Lillie Bartholomew. Survivors include his son, Bobby Michael Jowers of Cedar Grove, two daughters, Anna Marie Jowers Cary of Yuma and Linda Kay Robertson of Jackson, his sister, Mrs. Marie (Bennie) Stanfill of Lexington, five grandchildren, Jason Jowers of Paducah, KY, Amanda Jowers of Bruceton, TN, Charlotte Cary Powers of Cedar Grove, Dustin Robertson of Somerville, and Drew Robertson of Memphis, and five great grandchildren.

Richard Whitten Livingston Obituary Richard Whitten Livingston SUMMERVILLE - Richard "Dick" Whitten Livingston passed away at home December 19, 2018. Born July 14, 1942 in New York, NY, to Alfred and Catherine Livingston, who preceded him in death. He is survived by his loving family; his partner, Dorothy Newsome, his children Emily (Dave) Livingston Ford, James (Jeannine) Livingston, and his two siblings Bill (Carolyn) Livingston and Janet (Bob) Livingston O'Neil. Dick is also survived by seven grandchildren, Justin and Edith Ford, Garrett, Sarah, Dean and Tristen Livingston. Also surviving is a step-son John (Erica) Bertorelli and his children McKenzie and Kaiden. Dick was a Vietnam veteran, serving in the Navy for ten years upon graduating from the University of Virginia in 1964. After moving to South Carolina from New York in 2008, Dick was an active volunteer on the USS Yorktown at Patriots Point. Dick was an avid reader and life student of history of all kinds. Dick and Dorothy also enjoyed traveling the world. Dick never considered anyone he met to be a stranger, and he will be sorely missed by his family, neighbors, and friends.
www.legacy.com/obituaries/ Charleston

Bert Remsen (1925 - 1999) From Wikipedia https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bert_Remsen "Seaman 1/c Herbert B. Remsen was a crew member on the destroyer USS Laffey during the Battle of Okinawa in World War II. On April 16, 1945, the USS Laffey was attacked by 22 Japanese kamikaze planes during an 80-minute period. Remsen suffered burns during the battle but was able to return to duty and survive what the US Navy called, "one of the great sea epics of war"."



Obituary In a gallery of supporting performances that ranged from tough members of the military through mild family men to a transvestite named Helen, perhaps best remembered will be Bert Remsen's portrayal of the genial and extrovert bank-robber T-Dub, always in a state of gleeful zest for life in Robert Altman's *Thieves Like Us*. Altman frequently used Remsen in his films and helped him re-establish an acting career after an accident on a television sound-stage in 1964 left him needing crutches or a walking stick for the rest of his life.

Born in Glen Cove, New York, in 1925, Remsen served in the US Navy during the Second World War and earned a Purple Heart for heroism displayed in the action on Okinawa. Returning to studies after the war, he received a drama degree at Ithaca College in New York and studied acting with Sandy Meisner at the Neighborhood Playhouse.

He made his screen debut as a lieutenant in Lewis Milestone's powerful story of a true incident in the Korean War, *Pork Chop Hill* (1959), and was enjoying an active career on stage, television and film when in August 1964 an 84ft crane toppled on a television stage where Remsen was filming an episode of the comedy series *No Time for Sergeants*.

Struck by part of the crane, Remsen suffered a broken back and multiple fractures to his left leg. Months of surgery and repeated periods in hospital followed, during which he decided to alter his career and become a casting director. The hit series *The FBI* was cast by him, along with several others, but Carl Reiner and other friends kept finding roles for an actor on crutches. He was casting Brewster McCloud (1970) for Altman when the director realised that Remsen himself would be perfect for the role of a psychotic cop, at which point he decided to return to acting full-time.

Remsen was in many television movies, and had regular roles in several series - he was the editor of a small-town newspaper in *Gibbsville* (1976), played "Dandy" Dandridge in the 1987 season of *Dallas*, and Sonny Skylar in *Melrose Place*.

Married for 40 years to Barbara Dodd and the father of two children, Remsen, having sustained his career despite frequent pain and the need of walking aids, was a generous supporter of causes for the physically handicapped and in 1985 was awarded the "Billie Award" at the Abilities Exposition in Los Angeles. Died San Fernando Valley, California 22 April 1999.



Captain Thomas Randolph Cotten, Jr. died on March 12, 2009 in Virginia Beach, Virginia. He was born in Charleston, S.C. in 1927 as the eldest child of Thomas R. Cotten, Sr. and Mary O'Brien Cotten. He leaves a wife of 54 years - Martha Lanier Reeves Cotten, two sons - Thomas Randolph Cotten, III and wife Sharon of Winston Salem, NC and Peter Tabb Cotten of Mount Pleasant, two sisters - Mary Ann Nelson and Martha Johnson both of Charleston and six grandchildren - Thomas Randolph Cotten IV and Lindsay Myers Cotten of Winston Salem - Strock Reeves Cotten and Matthew Sully Cotten of Bremerton, WA. - Chancelor Sox Cotten and Huntington Nandalyn Cotten of Lexington, S.C. He was predeceased by a brother, Joseph Walter Cotten. Captain Cotten graduated from St. Andrews High School and attended Clemson University. He graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1952 and was assigned as Gunnery Officer on the USS *Shannon*.

He spent two years on the USS *Los Angeles* before becoming Flag Secretary for Cruiser Division Five. Following that tour he joined the faculty of the U.S. Naval Academy and later became Commanding Officer of the USS *Nespelen*, USS *Earle B. Hall*, USS *Kirwin* and USS *Laffey*. He served in Vietnam and later joined the faculty of

the U.S. Naval War College in Newport, R.I. Captain Cotten was awarded The Legion of Merit, a Bronze Star, World War II Victory Ribbon, Vietnam Service Medal, and Combat Action Ribbon. He retired from the U.S. Navy in 1978 and worked for Delex Systems in Washington D.C. and Norden Systems in Virginia Beach. A memorial service will be held on Saturday March 14, 2009 in Virginia Beach followed by burial at sea. Memorials may be made to the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation - 291 Wood Road, Beach Hall, Annapolis. Md. 21402.



Karl Elsworth Bussert Seaman 1st Class (8 Oct 1924 - 2 Mar 1982) See Lancaster Eagle Gazette June 2, 1945 provided by his grandson Mark Kersey of San Diego, California. S1c Bussert was on the USS Laffey Commissioning Crew. See <http://www.laffey.org/commcrewmusterroll1.htm> . Per <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39573755> Karl E Bussert Social Security Death Index Full Name: Karl E Bussert, Birth Date: 8 Oct 1924, Death Date: 2 Mar 1982, Social Security Card Issued: Unknown Code (VA), Social Security Number: ***-**-6838. See <https://www.fold3.com/record/72502929-karl-e-bussert> . Per <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/39573755> Karl Elsworth Bussert BIRTH 8 Oct 1924 DEATH 2 Mar 1982 (aged 57) BURIAL Dutch Hollow Cemetery Amanda, Fairfield County, Ohio

Wounded Seaman Returns; Survived Jap Suicide Attack

Seaman 1st Class Karl E. Bussert, 20, USN, who is visiting his mother, Mrs. Mabel Bussert, 517 King-st., and other relatives on a 26-day leave, was an anti-aircraft gunner wounded in the neck and on the head by shrapnel last April 16 when six Japanese suicide planes and two enemy bombs struck the plucky U. S. destroyer Laffey, another great ship that refused to be sunk in the Pacific war.

Sea. Bussert, who has been in the Navy nearly three years, arrived in Lancaster Memorial Day for his leave. He enlisted June 7, 1942, following his graduation from Amanda High School where he was senior class president.

The Fairfield-co sailor has served on the Laffey 16 months, and when it was to be brought back recently to the U. S. for repairs Sea. Bussert successfully talked his way into returning to the States aboard his ship. He had been receiving treatment for wounds in an Army hospital on Saipan two weeks prior to starting his trip home.

Sea. Bussert

The Navy made public May 25 the dramatic saga of the Laffey's two hours of agony which will stand out among the sea epics of the war along with other great episodes such as that of the aircraft carrier USS Franklin.

The battle of the Laffey off Okinawa with the Jap suicide planes and dive bombers April 16 is unquestionably the most savage and spectacular action in which an American destroyer has participated in the entire war.

In two hours the 2200-ton destroyer was hit by these six suicide planes and two bombs; other bombs came close enough to increase the damage.

Continued Two Hours

Sea. Bussert said the enemy action started about 8 a. m. April 16 and continued for two hours with great force, tapering off toward noon.

The Fairfield-co sailor said that after the third Japanese suicide plane hit the ship, ammunition in his anti-aircraft gun emplacement caught fire, and the crew had to help repair parties fix the emplacement. He was wounded when the second of the two enemy bombs from Jap Vals (enemy dive bombers) crashed into the Laffey.

When the last fire was out on the Laffey it was found that there were 31 of her officers and men listed as killed and missing in action. Sea. Bussert was among 60 others who were wounded.

Sailors died strapped to their gun seats on the Laffey, according to official Navy versions. These gunners fired until they were swallowed up in the searing flames of exploding Japanese suicide planes and bombs.

Rudder Jammed

The ship's rudder was jammed to the left by a bomb, and the vessel sped dizzily in a circle during the raging battle.

However, through skilful maneuvering by the Laffey's skipper, Cmdr. Frederick J. Becton, Hot Spring, Ark., who uttered the words, now famous to all, "I'll never abandon this ship as long as a gun will fire," and the engineers' judging of the speed needed by the sound and intention.

(Please turn to Page Two)

Cpl. Homer Bright Recovering From Serious Wounds

Cpl. Homer H. Bright, 28, son of Homer Bright, Millersport, is improving rapidly now at Fort Custer, Mich., from serious wounds suffered in combat February 9, 1945, in the Philippines near Manila. He was returned to the States for treatment in April.

Cpl. Bright sustained severe head injuries which also caused partial paralysis when he was hit by shrapnel during action while in a fox hole with five other men. Four of the men were killed.

A graduate of Millersport High School in the Class of 1935, the Fairfield countiar was working in Toledo with the Gulf Oil Company when he was inducted into service in June, 1942.

He was sent to Fort Benjamin Harrison, Ind., where he remained for two years in the personnel department. At the end of this time he was transferred to Fort Leonard Wood, Mo., and later to Camp Beale, Calif. He went overseas in October 1944.

Cpl. Bright's wife, Mrs. Geraldine Bright, whom he married in June, 1942 and their infant daughter, Bonnie Arlene, born April 15 of this year, have been living in Toledo.

Over Memorial Day, a group of relatives visited Cpl. Bright at Fort Custer. Among them were his father, Homer Bright and sister, Mrs. Gladys Hill, Millersport, his wife and daughter of Toledo, a brother, Sam Bright, Somerset and a nephew, Cpl. Bob Bright, home on furlough from radar school in Florida.

Two Appointed As Regular Firemen

Safety Director P. B. Markwood announced Saturday the appointments of Lloyd C. King, 805 Franklin-av., and Charles V. Roop, 130 East Chestnut-st., as regular firemen, effective June 1. They will serve 90 days on a probationary basis under civil service.

Both King and Roop, the director said, had been provisional appointees in the fire department for about two years. They were named Friday from a civil service eligibility list certified to the director.

The men passed a examination for the positions, also physical and medical tests, and fill vacancies in the ranks held by the late George Andrews and the late Russell Haines.

BORROWED DRAFT CARD

A 17-year-old Lancaster youth arrested Friday night by police for intoxication was turned over to juvenile authorities because of his age. Police reported the youth told them he borrowed a draft registration card from another youth so that he could purchase drinks here.

Wounded Seaman Returns To Home

CONTINUED FROM PAGE ONE

sity of the gunfire, the Laffey finally reached an area of safety after the battle, then was pulled into a port at Okinawa by tug.

Nursing serious wounds, but still proudly afloat, the Laffey stayed at her post until the last enemy plane seen destroyed by gunfire or American planes.

Anti-aircraft gun crews on the Laffey, including Sea. Bussert's, shot down eight Japanese planes, and probably a ninth. Added to the six suicide crashes that made a score for the Laffey of 14 certain and one probable. These gunners fought off the swarms of enemy planes, firing constantly for several hours, and never abandoning their emplacements.

Taken To Saipan

Bussert was taken on a hospital ship from Okinawa to Saipan, then returned to the States on the gallant Laffey, which is now in port in the U. S. on display and for repairs.

Sea. Bussert had served on another destroyer before going aboard the Laffey. He also took part in naval operations supporting the D-Day invasions of France Iwo Jima, Ormoc Bay, Northern Luzon, P. I., also Mindoro, and Lingayen Gulf.

Busserts wears the Purple Heart, the ETO ribbon also a ribbon as member of Adm. Halsey's Third Fleet, the Philippine Liberation ribbon, Asiatic-Pacific theater ribbon with three battle stars already, and the American Theater ribbon.

After his enlistment at 17 nearly three years ago, Sea. Bussert was trained at Great Lakes, also in California and Washington. He has two older brothers, AMM 2c Paul F. Bussert now at Miami, Fla., and SSML 1c Robert K. Bussert, on duty in the Atlantic. His oldest brother, First Lieut. Charles W. Bussert was killed in action April 11, 1945 near Raven, Germany on the west side of the Rhine. Lt. Bussert was an armored reconnaissance officer. The Bussert family formerly lived on Route 2, Amanda.



Gunners Mate 1/c Frank Lehtonen with wife Florence

1921 – 1945 From Ann Cherry Niece of Frank and Florence Lehtonen "My Aunt Florence Ryan was a Chicago beauty who became penpals with Frank (who was from Baltimore) via a friend of hers who met him on a Chicago streetcar & thought they'd be perfect together. They corresponded, fell in love and married when he next visited Chicago. She was living back with my grandmother and the other siblings in February 1945 when she became sick (she'd had rheumatic fever as a child); she quickly grew worse and

unbelievably died on February 8, 1945 at the age of 24. The family notified the war department, but there was a delay in getting the news of her passing to Frank because he normally wrote her 2-3 times a day and we had a big box of unopened letters he'd mailed in the interim. My aunts remember receiving one letter from him before his death where he said "all the breath had left his body." How difficult it must have been for him to mourn for his beautiful young bride. No place or space for him to grieve in private on a boat in the middle of the Pacific, in the middle of a war. Then Frank is killed just weeks later. The telegram of his death was delivered to the Ryans." Frank was the 20mm Gun Captain on the Laffey fantail. He was killed by a Japanese plane crashing onto the Laffey fantail on 16 April 1945. <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/FrankLehtonen.pdf> See <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56123199/frank-william-lehtonen> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)



Slavomir "Slavy" Vodehnal died June 10, 2004 "Slavy" was born on May 25, 1923 and was an honorary member of our Association. He was part of the fighter director (FIDO) team that we picked up from the USS Cassin Young on April 14 in Kerama Retto. As such, he was considered as part of our crew. He was solely responsible for the publication of "The Indestructible Laffey". Slavomir Vodehnal Obituary CLARKSON - Slavomir J. "Slavy" Vodehnal, 81, of Clarkson, died Thursday, June 10, 2004, at his home.

Burial at Clarkson National Cemetery with military honors conducted by the Cornhusker Post 6419 of the Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. Vodehnal was born May 25, 1923, north of Clarkson in Stanton County to Joseph and Anna (MrKoicka) Vodehnal. He graduated from Clarkson High School in 1941. He enlisted in the Navy on Dec. 7, 1942, and was trained as a radar man. He served on several ships, including the USS Laffey, which saw heavy combat and was nearly destroyed. He later helped write and publish a book about the incident. While in the service, he received the Asiatic-Pacific Medal with four battle stars, American Theatre Medal, Victory Medal and Unit Commendation. He was discharged on Dec. 4, 1945. He then returned to Clarkson and worked for Humlicek and Novotny Tailor Shop and Dry Cleaning. After that, he worked at Clarkson Bank until his retirement in 1987. He married Gerry Zidko on Aug. 16, 1965, in Gregory, S.D.

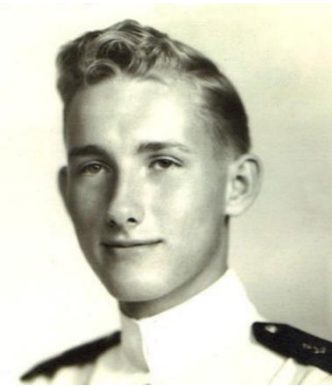
He was a member of Clarkson Commercial Club, VFW, American Legion, Lions Club, Clarkson Community Band, Board of Directors for Clarkson Bank, Memorial Hospital Board in Schuyler, charter member of Clarkson Historical Society, president of Colfax County Veterans Service Organization, Clarkson High School Foundation, a weather correspondent to Channel 7, involved with the U.S. Weather Service, on first committee for Czech Festival and taught Czech language classes at Central Community College-Columbus. Survivors include his wife; and one sister, Vlasta Arledge-Jensen of California. He was preceded in death by his parents and infant brother. <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/9464709/slavormir-joseph-vodehnal>

SC2c Frank Michael Hanzel Jr. BIRTH 18 Nov 1910 Elizabeth, Union County, New Jersey, USA DEATH 22 Apr 1974 (aged 63) BURIAL Long Island National Cemetery East Farmingdale, Suffolk County, New York,

USA Plankowner, Ships Cook, Purple Heart Recipient Scrapbook

<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/FrankMHanzel.pdf>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/2761785/frank-michael-hanzel>



Townsley, James G. Died January, 2004 Lt. (JG) Assistant Gunnery Officer.
Recipient of Silver Star on April 16, 1945.

<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/JamesTownsley.pdf>



Lt(jg) Joseph W. Finch Jr. DD459 BIRTH unknown DEATH 13 Nov 1942 At
Sea MONUMENT Manila American Cemetery and Memorial Manila, Capital
District, National Capital Region, Philippines

<https://findagrave.com/memorial/56779051/joseph-w-finch>

<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/FindingJoeFinch.pdf>

USS Laffey Association member deaths reported in the early Laffey News 1979 - 1984

<http://www.laffey.org/news23.htm> 1984

TAPS . . . FOR EXCREWMAN OF THE LAFFEY

Thomas C. Dates, Fremont, CA. GM3 served on USS Laffey 1950's and '60s Died 1972.

Gordon Demarco YHTSN (Comderson 26) USS Laffey 1950-1952 Deceased Unknown.

Dale Secrist, Oxnard, CA. USS Laffey Feb. 1944-Nov. 1945 SIC Died Feb, 1983

Edwin Cooper, Hancock, MD. SIC USS Laffey Feb. 1944-Nov. 1945 Died May, 1984

Gilbert Pagano, Massapequa, NY. USS Laffey Feb. 1944-Nov. 1945 Died Dec., 1983

Edward O'Kusko, Govenour, NY. served on DD 459 Died Jan., 1984.

For those deceased listed above . . . a thought and a prayer for their memory.

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Edward O'Kusko, Govenour, NY. served on DD 459 Died Jan., 1984.

<http://www.laffey.org/newsletter19.htm> 1984

Thomas H. Hale F 1/c- served on the Laffey 1945-1947 and was aboard Laffey at the Bikini bomb blast; died of cancer on 1/29/83. His wife, Lorraine, would like to hear from any other shipmates who might be suffering from exposure to that bomb blast. The Navy is also sending out questionnaires. I'll have more info on this in my next newsletter.

Gordon Leppard SC 1/c- He stayed in the Navy, retired as a Warrant Officer, formerly from Syracuse, NY; passed away 5/13/81; info from Jim Hudgins.

Clayton A. Gulsvig, Eugene OR- On 9/10/81 leaving his wife and 3 grown children; worked on the railroad a number of years.

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<http://www.laffey.org/newsletter18.htm> 1984

We have been informed belatedly of the passing of the following shipmates:

John Edward Branka, WT3, in 1967, survived by his wife Juanita

Clyde A. Dunson, StM1 in 1980 (no other info)

Ralph W. Martin, RM3, March 1982, survived by his wife Pam

Jack O. Earnest, TML, on April 4, 1982 at VA Hospital, Kansas City, Mo.

Lyman L. Frey, S1/c on June 17, 1982, survived by wife Mary and daughter Pamela

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Lyman L. Frey, S1/c on June 17, 1982, survived by wife Mary and daughter Pamela.

<http://www.laffey.org/newsletter16.htm> 1983

TAPS

We are sorry to report the loss of two more shipmates. James A. Parolini, Lt.Cdr. USN (ret) at age 66, living at Barrington, RI, passed away the first week in May, possibly while we were aboard the Laffey painting. Ironical!! During his 30-year naval career, he received a Purple Heart and a Silver Star. He served aboard the USS Laffey approximately one year and participated in the "D" Day invasion of Europe. He left his wife, Harriet, 3 sons and 8 daughters. I understand he and Harvey Shaw married sisters and both had large families. Mrs. James H. Hudgens of Louise, Miss., notified me that Jim had passed away on December 28, 1981. He would have enjoyed attending our reunions, but due to ill health was never able to.



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<http://www.laffey.org/news12jun81.htm> 1982

Regretfully I must tell you that we have lost two more of our former shipmates. Reginald Langevin died October 11, 1980. We are thankful he was able to join us at New Orleans and that Bill Muskivitch who lived nearby was able to serve as our representative at the funeral. We sent flowers from all of us in the name of the Laffey Association. Morris Miller died suddenly in his sleep on December 10, 1980. He requested that his ashes be scattered at sea and his wife honored his request. Mary Ellen is now living at 2425 W. Seldon Lane, Phoenix, Ariz. 85021 and her phone number is 602/995/5450. They were living in Sumner, Washington, at the time of his death.

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Morris Miller died suddenly in his sleep on December 10, 1980. He requested that his ashes be scattered at sea and his wife Mary Ellen honored his request. They were living in Sumner, Washington, at the time of his death.

<http://www.laffey.org/newsletter11.htm> 1982

GET WELL -- We now have a very "elite" group in our midst--survivors of open-heart surgery and the list is growing. Doc Darnell had a five by-pass operation last year after the reunion; Joe Edmonds about the same time; Pierce Doyle several years ago; Carl Hardway was in intensive care while we were at New Orleans. (I haven't heard how he is doing. I tried to call several times, but they have an unlisted number.) Joe Cain's wife was ailing last year. I talked to Joe recently and he assured me that she is fine. We were fortunate to have Dave Warner available at the reunion to fill in for Rev. Joe. I guess you could say we are twice blessed. (No pun intended.) Jack Ballenger was having trouble with blood clots in his legs and a bad hip. Al Csiszar had a heart attack after the reunion, and we're glad to hear he is back to work full-time due to lots of TLC from Debbie and his doctor. Reggie Langevin had a heart attack before the reunion, and we were happy that he was well enough to join us at New Orleans. Lee Ring has been hospitalized off and on--haven't heard how he is doing. Tom Youchunas and his wife (San Bernardino) are both ailing. Donald Vorgity (post war) also is back to work after a coronary. We hope everyone is feeling well and on the road to full recovery.

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<http://www.laffey.org/newsletter9mar79.htm> 1979

A bit of sad news -- and I'm sorry to have to tell you about it. I received a call on February 14th from Wayne Haley's daughter informing me that Wayne had died unexpectedly in New York City. He was buried at the National Cemetery, Calverton, NY. I was able to visit the funeral home and meet with his family, but was unable to attend the funeral because of previous commitments at work. I did arrange for flowers in the name of our Association. Mrs. Haley requested that any money we might spend in Wayne's name be placed in our Laffey Enshrinement Fund.

Wayne Haley died in 1979 unexpectedly in New York City. He was buried at the National Cemetery, Calverton, NY. I was able to visit the funeral home and meet with his family, but was unable to attend the funeral because of previous commitments at work. I did arrange for flowers in the name of our Association. Mrs. Haley requested that any money we might spend in Wayne's name be placed in our Laffey Enshrinement Fund.

59 Crew Members died on DD 459 13 November, 1942

List on http://www.laffey.org/information_on_the_dd.htm. Many are buried at the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial. Also known as Fort William McKinley Cemetery.

<https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/1976551/manila-american-cemetery-and-memorial?> To find a specific memorial, goto www.findagrave.com. Enter the service man's full name with the death date of 1942. Actual date of the battle and ship sinking was 13 November 1942.

Service Members on USS Laffey DD724 Who Died April 16, 1945

" White water no longer curls back from our Laffey's high proud bow. There are no men at her throttles or on her bridge, and her guns no longer speak. But she is alive with shades and memories of the brave deeds and the brave Americans who did them. They are still with her and will be always. It is my hope that those who visit her, most especially the young, will come to know and perhaps be inspired by them.

F. Julian Becton, RADM

Most of the Men lost on 16 April 1945 are memorized at the

Honolulu Memorial

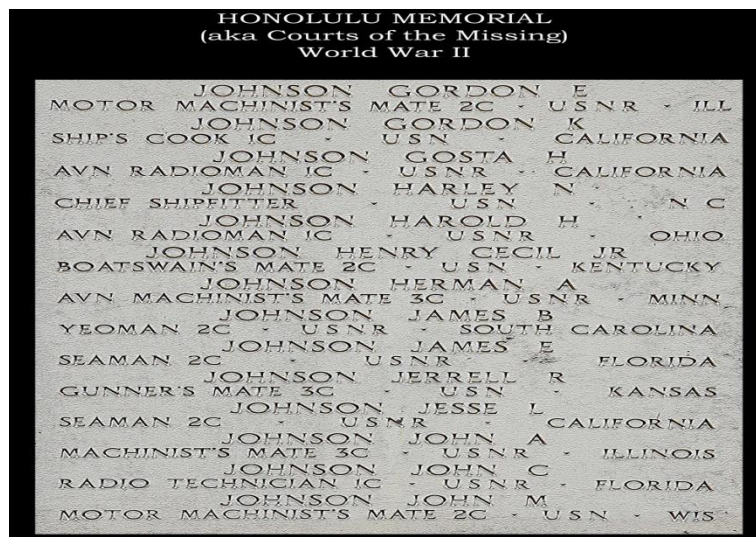
Also known as Courts of the Missing
National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific

LOCATION 2177 Puowaina Drive
Honolulu, Honolulu County, Hawaii, 96813 USA

MEMORIALS 28,818 added (99% photographed)
<https://www.cem.va.gov/cems/nchp/nmcp.asp>



A **cenotaph** is a monument erected in honor of a person or group of people whose remains are elsewhere, especially one commemorating people who died in a war. A cenotaph at Honolulu Memorial



Henry Marshall Benson, Electrician's Mate 3/c

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/112026134/henry-marshall-benson> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

Charles Arthur Broussard, Coxswain <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/130043067/charles-arthur-broussard> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

Edward John Brown, Torpedoman 3/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56116442/edward-john-brown> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

Fred Durell Burgess, Jr., Yeoman 3/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70065654/fred-durell-burgess> (Westview Cemetery)

Calvin Wesley Cloer, Boatswain's Mate 2/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/83064633/calvin-wesley-cloer> (Goleta Cemetery) <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/CalvinCloer.pdf>

Bernard Edwards, Coxswain <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56129432/bernard-edwards> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

George Falotico, Coxswain <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56129915/george-falotico>

James William Fravel, Lt.jg <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/55923293/james-william-fravel> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/G9B4-RR9>

Chester Carlton Flint, Coxswain <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56130344/chester-carlton-flint> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/134070719/chester-carlton-flint>

Conley Eugene Fowler, Fireman 1/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56130600/conley-eugene-fowler> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

Francis Ray Hallas, Fireman 1/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56109652/francis-ray-hallas> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

LaVerne George Hazen, Machinist's Mate 3/c

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56110329/laverne-george-hazen> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) and https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82511174/la_verne-george-hazen

William Ernest Heyes, Seaman 1`/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56110677/william-ernest-heyas> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8440077/william-ernest-heyas>

Madoc Kenyon Irish, Ship Fitter 1/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56111695/madoc-kenyon-irish> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

John Albert Johnson, Machinist's Mate 3/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56112119/john-albert-johnson> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/JohnAlbertJohnson.pdf>

Paul Butler Johnson, Fireman 1/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/102649223/paul-butler-johnson> (Beverly National Cemetery) <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/GMWN-9F7> <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/PaulButlerJohnson.pdf>

Lawrence Francis Kelley, Radioman 3/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56112746/lawrence-francis-kelley> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/15033264/lawrence-francis-kelley>

Joseph Hild Klindworth, Seaman 1/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82654512/joseph-hild-klindworth> (Long Island National Cemetery)

James Marcelle LaPointe, Coxswain <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56122895/james-marcelle-lapointe> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/JamesLaPointe.pdf>

Frank William Lehtonen Jr., Gunner's Mate 1/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56123199/frank-william-lehtonen> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/FrankLehtonen.pdf>

Ronald George Martin, Gunner's Mate 3/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/130341752/ronald-george-martin> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

Joseph Edward Mele, Gunner's Mate 2/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/82594256/joseph-edward-mele> (Long Island National Cemetery)

William Lamar Morris, Coxswain <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/10429910/william-lamar-morris> (Sandy Creek Church Cemetery) <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/MFN6-MZK>

Jack Harris Ondracek, Torpedoman 3/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56118240/jack-harris-ondracek> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

Ralph (Ross) Epworth Peterson, Electrician's Mate 1/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56119037/ross-epworth-peterson> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/KPDK-4WR>

Joseph Rogowski, Coxswain <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/129762669/joseph-rogowski> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LYHH-BBH>

James Trenton Rothgeb, Fireman 1/c <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/9HMQ-FXW> <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56120983/james-trenton-rothgeb> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/61586567/james-trenton-rothgeb> <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/9HMQ>

Jerome Butler Sheets, Lt.jg <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56122149/jerome-butler-sheets> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific) and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/37642480/jerome-butler-sheets>

Robert Clarence Thomsen, Ensign <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70529559/robert-clarence-thomsen> (River View Cemetery) <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/RobertThomsen.pdf>

Earl Eldridge Waters, Pharmacist's Mate 3/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56134829/earl-eldridge-waters> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

Stanley Wismer, Gunner's Mate 2/c <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/49367579/stanley-wismer> (Arlington National Cemetery) <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/G7X8-6CT>

Rosier Bernard Wright, Jr., Electrician's Mate 3/c
<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56136013/rosier-bernard-wright> (National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific)

USS Laffey DD724 WWII Memorials <http://russpickett.com/history/laffey.htm>



USS Laffey DD459 WWII Memorials <http://www.russpickett.com/history/laffeydd459.htm>






The Honored Dead 16 April 1945 <https://www.laffey.org/Honored%20Dead/honor72.htm>





<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/Tributes.pdf>





<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/Awards.pdf>



USS Laffey DD724 WWII Memorials <http://russpickett.com/history/laffey.htm>

James William Fravel, Lt.jg	Awarded Silver Star
<u>Jerome Butler Sheets, Lt.jg</u> Awarded Bronze Star	
<u>Robert Clarence Thomsen, Ensign</u> www.laffey.org/Shipmates/RobertThomsen.pdf Awarded Navy Cross	
Henry Marshall Benson, Electrician's Mate 3/c	
Charles Arthur Broussard, Coxswain	

<p>Edward John Brown, Torpedoman 3/c</p>	 <p>E. J. Brown</p>
<p>Fred Durell Burgess, Jr., Yeoman 3/c</p>	
<p>Calvin Wesley Cloer, Boatswain's Mate 2/c www.laffey.org/Shipmates/CalvinCloer.pdf</p>	
<p>Bernard Edwards, Coxswain</p> <p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>	
<p>George Falotico, Coxswain</p>	<p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>
<p><u>Chester Carlton Flint, Coxswain</u></p>	
<p>Conley Eugene Fowler, Fireman 1/c</p>	<p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>

<p>Francis Ray Hallas, Fireman 1/c</p> <p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>	
<p><u>LaVerne George Hazen, Machinist's Mate 3/c</u></p> <p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>	
<p>William Ernest Heyes, Seaman 1`/c</p>	
<p>Madoc Kenyon Irish, Ship Fitter 1/c</p>	<p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>
<p>John Albert Johnson, Machinist's Mate 3/c</p> <p>www.laffey.org/Shipmates/JohnAlbertJohnson.pdf</p> <p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>	
<p><u>Paul Butler Johnson, Fireman 1/c</u></p> <p>www.laffey.org/Shipmates/PaulButlerJohnson.pdf</p> <p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>	

<p>Lawrence Francis Kelley, Radioman 3/c</p> <p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>	
<p>Joseph Hild Klindworth, Seaman 1/c</p>	
<p><u>James Marcelle LaPointe, Coxswain</u></p> <p>https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/JamesLaPointe.pdf</p> <p>Awarded Silver Star per http://russpickett.com/history/laffey.htm</p>	
<p>Frank William Lehtonen Jr., Gunner's Mate 1/c</p> <p>https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/FrankLehtonen.pdf</p>	
<p>Ronald George Martin, Gunner's Mate 3/c</p>	
<p>Joseph Edward Mele, Gunner's Mate 2/c</p>	
<p>William Lamar Morris, Coxswain</p>	
<p>Jack Harris Ondracek, Torpedoman 3/c</p> <p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>	

<p>Ralph Epworth Peterson, Electrician's Mate 1/c</p> <p>Awarded Bronze Star</p> <p>www.findagrave.com/memorial/56119037/ross-epworth-peterson list first name Ross</p>	
<p>Joseph Rogowski, Coxswain</p>	<p>Awarded Silver Star</p>
<p>James Trenton Rothgeb, Fireman 1/c</p>	<p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>
<p>Earl Eldridge Waters, Pharmacist's Mate 3/c</p>	
<p><u>Stanley Wismer, Gunner's Mate 2/c</u></p> <p>Awarded Bronze Star</p>	
<p>Rosier Bernard Wright, Jr., Electrician's Mate 3/c</p>	

USS Laffey Commanding Officers

Laffey Commanders
DD 459:
Lt. Commander W.E. Hank*
DD 724:
Capt. F. Julian Becton, 1943-45
Cdr. Odale D. Waters, 1945-46
Cdr. Benjamin C. Felghum, 1946-47
D.S. Crame, 1947-48
Henry J. Conger, 1951-53
Charles W. Holovak, 1951
Herschel V. Sellers, 1953-55
Norman E. Chalmers, 1955-56
John A. Mc Tighe, 1956-58
Harry L. Clark, 1958-60
John F. Tagewell, 1960-62
Theodore Sawick, 1962-63
Harry M. Rogers, 1963-65
Norman L. Kaufman, 1965-66
George H. Davis, 1966-68
Thomas R. Cotten, 1968-70
Harry W. Konkel, 1971-72
George R. McKee, 1972-73
* Died 11/13/42; awarded Navy Cross

USS Laffey Commanding Officers

See <http://www.laffey.org/coindex.htm>

DD 459:



Lt. Commander W.E. Hank 1942* <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/56782790/william-e-hank> (Manila American Cemetery and Memorial) and <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/24693685/william-edwin-hank> (Arlington National Cemetery). Received Navy Cross <https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/20489>.

<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/WilliamHank.pdf>

DD 724:



Capt. F. Julian Becton, 1943-45 - RADM Frederick Julian Becton (1908 – 1995) <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/49120311/frederick-julian-becton> (Arlington National Cemetery). Received Navy Cross <https://valor.militarytimes.com/hero/20208> and Silver Star.

<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/AdmiralBecton.pdf>

Cdr. Odale D. Waters, 1945-46 - Adm Odale Dabney Waters, Jr <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/62513542/odale-dabney-waters> (Arlington National Cemetery)

Cdr. Benjamin C. Fulghum, 1946-47 – Seeking information possible Benjamin Cornelius Fulghum (1910-1969) <https://www.familysearch.org/tree/person/details/LHJZ-F49>

Donald Standley Cramer, 1947-48 [Capt Donald Stanley Cramer \(1919-1998\) - Find a Grave Memorial](#) not verified

Henry J. Conger, 1951-53 - CDR Henry Jackson "Jack" Conger (1916 – 2012)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/87397912/henry-jackson-conger> (Arlington National Cemetery).

Awarded the Bronze Star for Korean War Wonsan Harbor engagement.

Charles W. Holovak, 1951 - Charles William Holovak, Sr (1915 – 1990)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/71071704/charles-william-holovak> (Crestview Memorial Park)

Herschel V. Sellers, 1953-55 - Herschel V. "June" Sellers, Jr (1917 – 2011)

https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/70363390/herschel-v_-sellers (Chattanooga National Cemetery)

Norman E. Chalmers, 1955-56 - Capt Norman Edward Chalmers (1917 – 2000)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/14446712/norman-edward-chalmers> (Nimmo United Methodist Church Cemetery)

John A. Mc Tighe, 1956-58 - John A McTighe (1918 – 1985)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/122888237/john-a-mctighe> (Arlington National Cemetery)

Harry L. Clark, Jr, 1958-60 Harry Leo Clark Jr (1922 - Aug 12, 2004)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/34950551/harry-leo-clark> and

<https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/pilotonline/obituary.aspx?n=harry-and-dalorris-clark&pid=110686987>

John P. Tazewell, 1960-62 - Captain John Parks Tazewell (1920 – 2016)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/167198577/john-parks-tazewell>

Theodore Sawick, 1962-63 - CDR Theodore Sawick (1917 – 2008)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/38819033/theodore-sawick> (Arlington National Cemetery)

Harry M. Rogers, 1963-65 - Capt Harry Melville "Mel" Rogers (1922 – 2013)

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/110871372/harry-melville-rogers> (United States Naval Academy Cemetery)

Norman L. Kaufman 1965-66 <https://www.laffey.org/kaufman.htm>

<https://www.laffey.org/Cruises/1965USSLaffeyCruiseBook.pdf>

Commander Norman L. KAUFMAN, USN, a native of New York City, graduated from the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, New York in 1948. Following his graduation he served as a Ship's Officer in the U.S. Army Transport GENERAL EDWIN D. PATRICK until the latter part of 1949.

From January 1950 until June 1951 he was attached to USS LSM 398 of the Atlantic Fleet Amphibious Force. His duties included Operations Officer, First Lieutenant, and Navigator.

After an extensive period of duty under instruction at the Submarine School, New London, Connecticut and the Deep Sea Diving School, Washington, D.C., CDR KAUFMAN reported to the submarine rescue ship USS KITTIWAKE where he served from June 1952 until October 1954 as Rescue and Salvage Officer, Operations Officer, Navigator and completed his tour as Executive Officer. His next tour of duty was with Cruiser-Destroyer Forces Pacific as Operations Officer and Navigator of USS BLUE (DD-744) which terminated in January 1957.

For the next ten months CDR KAUFMAN was a student in the General Line Curriculum at the Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, California. After successfully completing the course, he reported to the U.S. Naval Base, Newport, Rhode Island and served as Officer-in-Charge, Service Craft with collateral duties as Engineer and Repair Officer.

Upon completion of his shore duty tour in January 1960 he was assigned temporary duty with Destroyer Squadron TWENTY-FOUR and served aboard USS McCAFFERY (DD-860) until assignment in May 1960 to USS HALE (DD-642) where he served as Executive Officer and then as Officer-in-Charge after HALE was selected for transfer to the Colombian Navy as part of the Military Assistance Program. In January 1961 HALE was commissioned as the Colombian Naval Destroyer "ANTIQUIA" and CDR KAUFMAN remained aboard as Officer-in-Charge of the U.S. Naval Mobile Training Team. In May 1961 he reported to USS CALCATERRA (DER-390) as Commanding Officer. Upon departing CALCATERRA in October 1962, CDR KAUFMAN reported to the Bureau of Naval Personnel for duty as Head, Mobilization Plans Section, Policy Division. He then attended the Armed Forces Staff College, Norfolk, Virginia from August 1964 to January 1965. CDR KAUFMAN was piped aboard LAFLEY 12 February 1965 as her Commanding Officer.

CDR KAUFMAN and Mrs. KAUFMAN, the former Edith Ceisler of Forest Hills, New York, have three children: Ruth J., Judith M., and David L.

George H Davis 1966 – 68 Capt. George H. Davis, head of the department of naval science at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, Kings Point, L.I., died on Wednesday at North Shore University Hospital in Manhasset, L.I., after a brief illness. He was 49 years old. Capt. Davis, who had been on active duty in the Navy, since 1948, came to the Academy in 1974. He is survived by his wife, Jeanne; a daughter, Sally Kathleen; his mother and two brothers. <https://www.nytimes.com/1976/12/05/archives/george-h-davis.html>

Thomas R. Cotton (1968 – 1970) Captain Thomas Randolph Cotten, Jr (1927 – 2009) <https://www.legacy.com/obituaries/charleston/obituary.aspx?n=thomas-cotten&pid=125094429>

John F. Stader, 1970 – 71 Wife died Elizabeth Shanahan Stader <https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/annapolis-md/elizabeth-stader-10920906> Annapolis Md

Harry Wagner Konkell, 1971 – 1973 (1935-2024) <https://www.pressherald.com/2024/01/14/obituaryharry-wagner-konkel-2/>

George R. McKee, 1972-1973 Retired as Captain Lived in Greenwood, SC wife Patricia Helm McKees <https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/indexjournal/name/patricia-mckee-obituary?id=53635223>

John B. Shewmaker, 1973 – 75 – John B. Shewmaker (1935 – 2019) <https://www.tributearchive.com/obituaries/5018107/John-B-Shewmaker>

Please take a moment in silence to honor the memories these proud USS Laffey crewmembers. A memorial to the love, dedication, patriotism and fellowship of crew, families, and friends.

Send updates and corrections to membership@laffey.org and webmaster@laffey.org

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