

USS Laffey Association

Announcements

Click or tap on blue text to open a link, e.g., Tap [here](#)

Upcoming Association Events

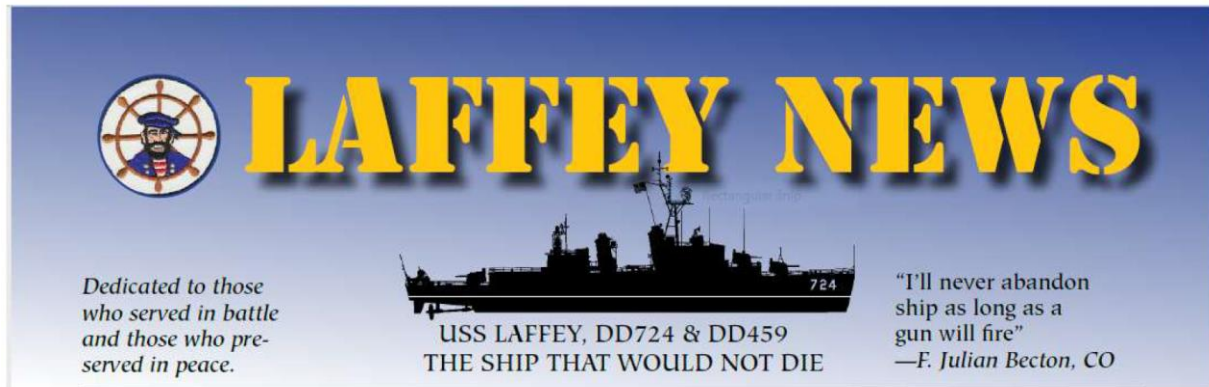
2024 Spring Work Party – Friday, April 12, 2024 – Saturday April 20, 2024.

2024 80th Anniversary Celebration – The USS Laffey was commissioned on February 8, 1944. In celebration of this, there will be an event during the Spring Work Party, which also falls on the anniversary of the April 16, 1945 battle. The Memorial Service will be held Tuesday 16 April 2024 aboard the ship.

2024 Fall Reunion in Mt Pleasant, SC – September 22-25

2024 Fall Work Party – Dates to be determined

February 2024 Laffey News



February 2024

USS Laffey Association www.laffey.org



See www.laffey.org/LaffeyNews.pdf and or tap on "Laffey News" at the bottom of the USS Laffey Home Page www.laffey.org
See President's Message from Mike Honsinger President@Laffey.org 281-923-4969. Many thanks to Pam Barylski Laffey Association Newsletter Editor (newsletter@laffey.org).

2024 USS Laffey Association Reunion September 22-25



Comfort Inn & Suites, Patriots Point, Mt Pleasant, SC

The Fall 2024 Reunion will be Sunday, September 22 to Wednesday, September 25, 2024, departing on Thursday morning, September 26th. The reunion will be hosted at the COMFORT INN & SUITES PATRIOTS POINT, 196 Patriots Point Rd, Mt Pleasant, SC 29464. The cost for the event will be \$200 per person in addition to the hotel.

Please make your reservations online using the following link:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/IZ37R8>

This link will take you to our group specific page to make the reservation. If you would like to extend your stay on either end

of the reunion, you may use the link to get the same pricing. Note that the default dates are from Thursday, September 19 – Thursday, September 26. You will need to adjust the dates to the length of time that you plan to attend. In addition, if you require a handicap room, the link will allow you to do this. Any other room modification requests will need to be done by calling the hotel directly at the number below. Hotel reservations should be made as soon as possible before 2 August 2024.

If you have any questions or issues with the link, please call the hotel 843-856-8817. When making the reservation, reference the USS Laffey 2024 Reunion for our special pricing. This is the ONLY number that will work for questions and reservations.

A Board of Directors meeting, followed by the annual general membership meeting, will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.

For Reunion information or questions contact Jill Michel reunions@laffey.org (609) 870-0600 telephone (513) 738-4484.

2024 USS LAFFEY ASSOCIATION REUNION REGISTRATION

Printable Form:

<https://www.laffey.org/LaffeyAssoc/ReunionRegistration.pdf>

Cost: \$200 per person (regardless of activities attended)

Send reunion registration form and payment (check payable to USS Laffey Association) to George Kessler, 9686 Baughman Road, Harrison, OH 45030 [telephone \(513\) 738-4484 before 7 September 2024](tel:5137384484). You may also pay using

PayPal. Click on the PayPal icon on the USS Laffey home page www.laffey.org. Be sure to include your name and the words "2024 Reunion".

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Number and name of persons attending _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

What years did you serve on the USS Laffey? _____

What was your rank/rate? _____

What day do you expect to arrive? _____

Will you have a car at the hotel during your stay _____

Emergency contact name and number (not traveling with you)

Special Needs / Food Allergies? _____

For Reunion information or questions contact Jill Michel
reunions@laffey.org telephone (609) 870-0600.

2024 Winter Work Party Jan 30 – Feb 3



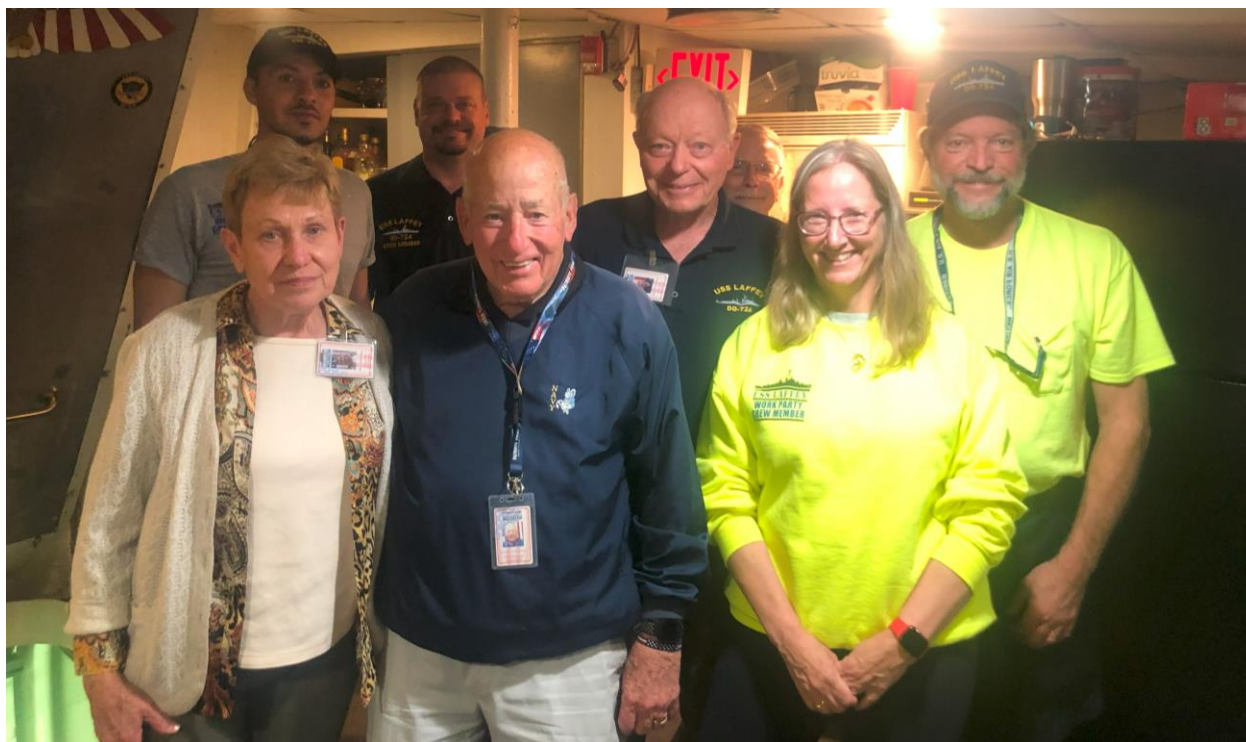
The 2024 Winter Work Party was highly successful with projects completed in many areas of the ship. Many thanks to all who participated: Art Whigham, Bob Sideika, Frank Day, Frank Shorter, James Garner, Kevin Jones, Ken McCullough, Marc Jacob, Mary Herbst, Richard Felsinger, Steve Bade, Mike Honsinger. Photos below in <https://www.laffey.org/Events/2024WinterWorkParty.pdf> .

2023 Fall Work Party Saturday the 21st of October. We had a specific list of projects that we needed help on, which involve scraping/painting in a big way, electrical, light metal work, welding/fabricating, organizing/cleaning, administrative paperwork, and supply-run errands. So, regardless of your skill set or strength, we do have many meaningful ways for everyone to contribute. Males over 18 may stay on board the Laffey. If you would like details on the tremendous discount we

get at the Comfort Inn, please contact Mike Honsinger. Meals for all workers are paid for by the Association. Call or email Mike (President@Laffey.org) with any questions or suggestions that you have. For photos see www.laffey.org/Events/2023FallWorkParty.pdf



Bill Leggett, Steve Sowers, Ken McCullough, Chip and Mary Honsinger, Mary Herbst, Mike Pereira & son Mike



Back Row: Mike Pereira, Jim Bossard, Chip and Mike Honsinger.
Front Row: Mary Honsinger, Admiral Jim Flatley, Mary Herbst

Attending USS Laffey Work Party

From Association President Mike Honsinger:

Typically, we have three work parties aboard ship each year: Fall, Winter, and Spring. All work party crewmembers must be USS Laffey Association members and be at least 18 years of age. Bunks, hearty meals, parking, and access to Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum are all provided free of charge. There are 28 male-only bunks on the Laffey. We spend a good deal of time repairing corroded areas with new metal and paint. In addition, we fix electrical and plumbing issues, as well as improve and maintain the museum displays aboard the ship. Work parties provide a meaningful experience preserving

history, are a great opportunity to see the many ship compartments which are typically closed to the public and provide an opportunity to meet visitors to the ship. Often multiple Association family members attend together to create a working vacation.

If you have an interest in helping us out during the upcoming Fall Work Party (19-28 Oct), please email Mike by late September at President@Laffey.org . Jim and I have collected an extensive list of projects that we would all like to see addressed in the coming years. For each project, it is my goal to do our best to anticipate the manpower, tools, supplies, permits and financing required so that when our crews show up, we can put everyone to work and keep you busy while you give of your time, energy, and finances to join us. If you can attend a work party, please do your best to commit to specific dates when you will be aboard to eat, sleep and work, then email those commitments to me at least a week prior to the work party. Thank you for all the work so many of you have put in over the years to preserve the USS Laffey for America's citizens.

Contact Mike Honsinger President@Laffey.org 281-923-4969 for information.

2023 Reunion September 10 - 13th in Atlantic City, NJ

Many thanks to all attendees at the reunion. Special thanks to the Reunion Coordinator Jill Michel, Photographer Mike Coleman, and others working on the reunion. In addition to many fun activities Association Past President Sonny Walker led the Memorial Service honoring shipmates who have recently passed. Association President Mike Honsinger conducted the Association Annual Meeting presenting plans for the work parties and planned ship visits.



2023 Reunion USS Laffey Association Attendees



Laffey Crew Members at 2023 Reunion

To view reunion photos from Mike Coleman, tap on:

<https://www.laffey.org/Events/2023ReunionPhotos.pdf> .

To view reunion portraits from Mike Coleman, tap on:

<https://www.laffey.org/Events/2023ReunionPortraits.pdf>



Welcome Mary Herbst to Website Team

Mary joins us to assist the website team with Richard Felsinger and Jeff Jacobs. She shares our goal to publicize association events and honor men and women of the USS Laffey. Mary was very helpful for the USS Mansfield Association Reunion visit and the 2023 Fall Work Party. Welcome aboard Mary. Contact Mary at

webmaster@laffey.org .

USS Laffey Ship Store Display



From Jill Vorgity "Good morning, USS Laffey Members: All hands, the Laffey ship's store aboard ship has been open for some time for tourists to view through a window. Patriots Point and your Association are attempting to make it more real by adding more items to display "for sale." We are looking for items authentic to the period of the 1950-60s that would have been carried, items that look new and ready for sale. Copies of labels will serve if they look real from a distance. Boxes and bottles may be empty. Here is a list of the kinds of things needed:

Razors, razor blades, shaving soap, other shaving gear
Soap

Toothbrushes and toothpaste

Hair tonic

Stationery, Bic ballpoint pens, Scripto mechanical pencils

Wheel books (or pocket size bound notebooks)

Sunglasses

Cigarette packages, paper book matches

Anything else that you might have bought at the ship's store.

If you can provide any of these things or can suggest a source for obtaining them, please contact Chip Honsinger at honsinger57@comcast.net or 540-463-3145. If you will be at the upcoming October work party, please bring any objects with you.

Thank you.

Chip Honsinger USS Laffey (1956-59)

Life Member, USS Laffey Association

Jill Vorgity Secretary USS Laffey Association

secretary@laffey.org



From Chip Honsinger: The Laffey Ship Store was small, manned by a storekeeper with not much more than standing room. The customer stands outside the windowed door and talks over the counter in the door after seeing items displayed on two or three shelves behind the storekeeper, each shelf 3-4 feet long. The Ship Store and the

Post Office were very popular and important for everyone aboard ship. When open crew members were usually waiting in a line for their turn.

Thanks Meredith Kablick Director of Collections and Curatorial Affairs Museum Services, Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum for the current Ship Store photos below:



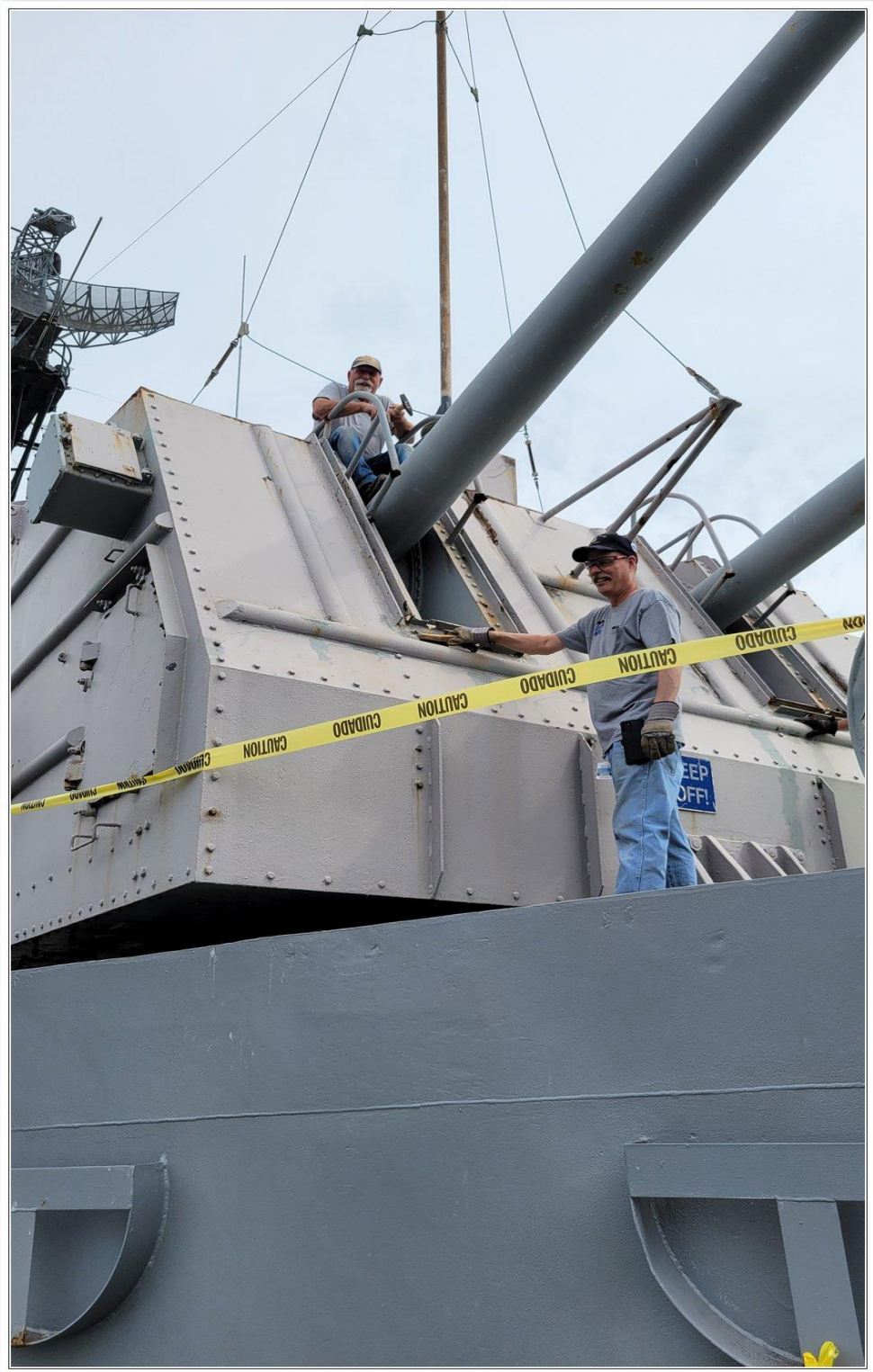


New Quarterdeck Awning

Thanks, Chief Leonard Singleton for photos.



2023 Spring Work Party Thanks and Well Done to all participants of the work party including: Hank Ashton, Tom Aust, Jim Berg & Joe Reyes, Gary Barylski, Jim Bossard & Rachael Kendrick, Steve "Ernie" Doyle & Harry Stoner, Richard Felsinger, Bill Fitzsimmons, Mike Honsinger, John Hudak, Peter Liller, Joe Luque & David Cook, Marcus Maresca, Mike Pereira, Max Saus, Frank Shorter, Jill Vorgity & husband Bruce Lampe, Donny Watson

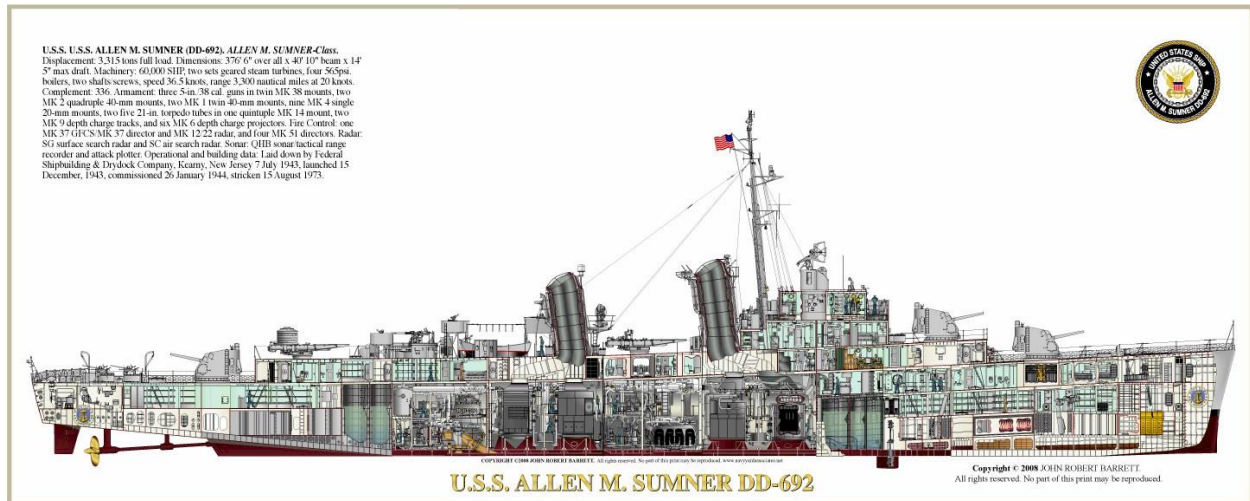


Tom Aust and son-in-law Jim Berg prepping Gun Mount 52

Tap [here](#) for photos

<https://www.laffey.org/Events/2023SpringWorkParty.pdf>

USS Laffey Information Links from Mike Honsinger



www.navsource.org/archives/05/interior.htm

Shipyard plans www.dd-692.com/shipyard.htm

<https://russpickett.com/history/laffey.htm>

<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/I/laffey-ii.html>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8199404/bartlett-laffey>

<https://destroyerhistory.org/sumner-gearingclass/usslaffey/>

General Dynamics Bath Iron Works

<https://gdbiw.com/who-we-are/ship-list/>

<https://gdbiw.com/contact-us/frequently-asked-questions/>

Taps to Honor Our Fallen Shipmates



Bill & Ginny Sarver

Bill Sarver passed away at 92 two 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!" Tap [here](#)
www.laffey.org/Shipmates/TapsToHonorFallenShipmates.pdf

Key Anniversaries

Laffey's keel was laid down on **28 June 1943** by Bath Iron Works Corp., Bath, Maine

Launched on **21 November 1943**; sponsored by Ms. Beatrice F. Laffey, daughter of Seaman Bartlett Laffey

Commissioned on **8 February 1944**, with Commander Frederick Becton in command.

6 June 1944 D Day Battle of Normandy France

16 April 1945 Kamikaze Attack in WWII. Decommissioned **9 March 1975**

Tap here for WWII Information

www.laffey.org/HomePage/DD724WWII.html

Reminder for Annual dues

Dues need to be paid on the 1st of each year to keep the USS Laffey Association functioning. Mail your check to Joyce Hanau 1956 Lincoln Ave, East Meadow, NY 11554. Telephone 347-439-2452 email membership@laffey.org. Annual members (renews every January 1st regardless of when you join): \$25/year. Life membership (one-time payment): 55 years old and younger \$375; 56 to 60 \$250; 61 to 64 \$225; 65 and older \$125. You may also pay using PayPal. Click on the PayPal icon on the USS Laffey home page www.laffey.org. Be sure to include your name and the words "Annual Dues." **Membership includes free admission to Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum.** Contact Joyce Hanau Membership Chairperson for instructions to get free guest passes. Joyce may be contacted at membership@laffey.org 347-439-2452.

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum News



Photo from local Navy Vet Joe Palisi

Free Complementary Admission to Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum for Former Laffey Crew Members and USS Laffey Association Members. Former crew members of the USS Yorktown and Laffey and USS Laffey Association members and their immediate family members are entitled to **free complementary admission to the museum.** Immediate family refers to a person's parents, siblings, spouse, child by blood, adoption or marriage, grandparents, and grandchildren. At the Ticket Window, present your USS Laffey Association membership card and ask for the appropriate number of complementary tickets for your immediate family members. See www.laffey.org/Free.pdf

<https://www.patriotspoint.org/>

<https://patriotspt.org/YouTube>

<https://Facebook.com/PatriotsPoint.org>

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum TV

www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Patriots+point+tv

Links of Interest

[USS Laffey Association](#) for [Reunion](#) and [Work party Photos](#)

Ship Restorations: [Signal Bridge](#)

[Laffey Movie Update](#)

[*Featured Association Members*](#)

[*Laffey Challenge Collectable Coins*](#)

[*Laffey Board Game*](#)

[*Tributes to WWII Heroes*](#) and [*Awards*](#)

[*History USS Laffey Association and Presidents*](#)

Recent Website Announcements 16 March 2023 Laffey News
22 October: USS Mansfield reunion visit, October Fall Work
Party Plan 3, 2023 Mini Work party, 2023 Reunion Photos, New
Awning, Spring 2023 Laffey News Available – 1st Quarter 2023
Spring 2023 Work Party photos, Reunion Announcement, New
Presidents Message, Updated Free Admission to Patriots Point
Naval & Maritime Museum for Former Laffey Crew Members
and USS Laffey Association members.

For inputs to the USS Laffey Website www.laffey.org, email
photos and text to webmaster@laffey.org .

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[Past Laffey News](#)

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