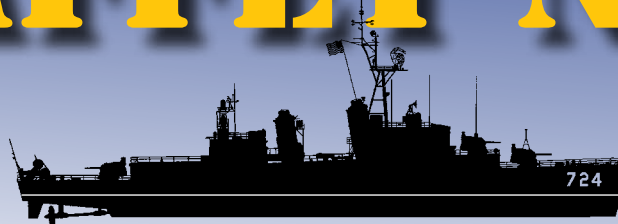




LAFFEY NEWS

Dedicated to those who served in battle and those who preserved in peace.



USS LAFFEY, DD724 & DD459
THE SHIP THAT WOULD NOT DIE

*"I'll never abandon ship as long as a gun will fire"
—F. Julian Becton, CO*

October, November, December 2017

USS Laffey Association • www.Laffey.org

Ελπίζω ότι ο καθένας είχε μια χαρούμενη ημέρα των Ευχαριστιών, και ότι οι διακοπές σας για Χριστούγεννα ήταν Καλά και φωτεινά. Ελπίζω επίσης ότι έχετε ένα υγιές και ευημερούμενο νέο έτος

("I hope that everyone had a joyful Thanksgiving, and that your Christmas holidays were merry and bright. I also hope that you have a healthy and prosperous New Year.")

President's Letter

These past few month have been very busy for the association, with all of the planning, which included the reunion, as well as a pretty successful work party, considering that it was not our main one.



Chris Kirhagis

The reunion, although relatively small, with only forty eight attendees, was a success. I have to take my hat off to Jill Michel for another great planning job. Although Memphis is a small city it sure has a lot of history with music, culinary culture, and more. We all visited the Elvis Presley Museum as well as his mansion. Most of us were intrigued by Elvis' lifestyle. As a matter of fact, our past president Sonny Walker commented on the crushed velvet couch on display in the mansion. You will have to ask Sonny yourself what his comment was...



Sonny and Chris present George Kessler a plaque honoring him for his many years as association treasurer

Our next tour was called the MOJO bus tour. Our narrator on the bus handed out small noise-making trinkets to accompany him while he played his guitar. He also plays a couple of gigs a week in several of the local bars on famous Beale Street. He was very knowledgeable about where famous performers, such as BB King, Elvis, and many oth-

ers lived and performed. There was nothing better than to return to the hospitality room each day and unwind with your choice of beverage as well as hors d'oeuvres, sandwiches, and sweets.

There was plenty of time for all to do some sightseeing. Bernice and I had such a good time around town that we stayed an

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additional three nights. If you ever get to Memphis, you must visit the Civil Rights Museum, Motown Museum, and the Rock and Roll Museum.

To finish off our reunion, we had a great banquet on Wednesday evening. I've been trying to tell everyone for quite some time that Elvis was still among us. And, to our surprise, he showed up at the banquet and performed for us. Elvis was even wooing all of the females there and gave his sweaty scarf to the ones he personally sang to. Elvis was even able to get a couple of the men and ladies up front to do some dancing. Sonny Walker presented a plaque to our Treasurer George Kessler in appreciation and recognition for a job well done during his tenure in that position. It was my turn to present Sonny with a plaque for all of

the hard work as well as unselfish dedication that he showed during his thirteen year tenure as president of this fine association. I purposely had Sonny read his own plaque to show everyone that he has a soft heart, and wanted to see him choke up, but he proved me wrong this time. Please be assured that Sonny is a softy! He was also presented with a Navy ring which displayed his rate as an RM. Inscribed on the inside of the ring were Sonny's initials as well as years served in the Navy. I'm sure Sonny will cherish this token of appreciation for some time. We also celebrated Bob Logsdon's 100th birthday on September first with a nicely decorated cake and birthday wishes. Bob received a letter of recognition from Secretary of Defense Mattis for reaching such a distinguished age as well as

serving in the Navy in three wars over his thirty-two years of service to our country. A Congressman from Corona California who is very involved with the Rotary Club was instrumental in having a U.S. flag flown over the National Capitol in D.C. in recognition of Bob's 100th birthday and for his service to our country. The flag was delivered to Bob by the middle of September. What a lot of you do not realize is that Bob had finished driving his motor home 3,400 miles just before the reunion. Most of us would be thrilled just to have our driver's license in our late seventies.

Only a short three weeks transpired from the reunion to our fall work party. We had approximately sixteen attendees who accomplished a lot in just one week.

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Bob Logsdon with his 100th birthday cake



Kip Campbell reading a letter to Bob Logsdon from SECNAV



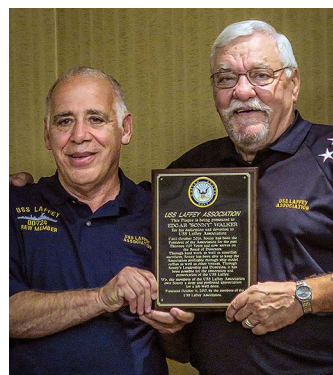
Bob Logsdon photographing at Graceland.



Bob Logsdon with wife Donnis



Bob meets Elvis



President Chris Kirhagis honors Past President Sonny Walker



Sonny, Bob Logsdon, and Chris

I must apologize to the attendees, but the notepad that I had everyone jot down what they did was mistakenly left in the Chiefs' Quarters, so I will try my best to remember. Ritchie had prepared the surfaces of the deck around the washer and dryer, some holes in the bow deck and badly deteriorating deck around Mount 52. After this prep, plates of steel were welded to the deck. Ken McCullough and his grandson Nick prepared and painted the theater deck. Talk about Nick, only eighteen years old, but he fit in very well with us old salts. I think we have him hooked to return again and again. Nick also helped paint the hangar bay door along with Jim Bossard and Kapusta's grandson. Nick also assisted along with Kapusta in assisting our VP in preparing very good meals. Joe Luque

worked on the shower as well as other jobs. Homer Doster worked in the tool room and you would have thought the tools belonged to him the way he distributed them. Ken and Nick removed the weathered plaque from the port side of Mount 53, and Ken volunteered to make sure it gets to the finisher in Florida. Not only did our VP Mike Pereira cook, he also painted Mount 53 as well as the bow and spot painted areas on the fantail. Yours truly was still walking around trying to look important like Sonny did, and still not accomplish anything. I was able to get two coats of red paint on the CO2 bottles in the engine room as well as after diesel, where the deck was also painted. Don Watson as usual shows up, does whatever is asked of him and concentrated on the bow surface as well

as other painting that needed to be done. Speaking of paint, it arrived from International Paint in Norfolk, VA. About seven five gallon cans as well as required mixtures. These paints are very expensive and very durable. Our VP was able to get this paint delivered on Monday—cost of paint as well as shipping, was gratis, free, nothing, a steal, notta, etc. How Mikey does this is a wonder to me, as this is not the first time, nor the second time, but Mikey has been able to get this paint for our ship *three* times for free. We owe a lot of thanks to International Paint and Mikey for this critical material. Richard Felsing pumped out the foc's'le from a leak we had topside, and performed a lot of other chores asked of him. In addition, Richard was able to perform Laffey administrative tasks with Sonny. I should not forget that Mikey and I did all the grocery shopping as well as shopping for tools and parts. We had a special visit from Waitman Kapaldo III, his wife and two children. His grandfather with the same name served aboard the Laffey as a SH3 during WWII. Mr. Kapal-

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The King with Jill Michel



Elvis sings with Kip Campbell



Elvis with John Becton, nephew of Admiral Becton



Old folks hanging out in Hospitality Room

do is still among us, is 98 years old, and resides in Illinois. His battle station was Mount 53, and he was burned during the famous battle but survived. Ari Phourides was given Wait's contact information and was glad that there were still shipmates around we did not know about. Wait used to sell cigarettes to the guys he liked, including Ari, at a low price. Ari in turn sold the cigarettes to guys he did not care for at a higher price. Waitman III is an Army helicopter pilot, and served in the Middle East, and is presently en route to Germa-

ny. We presented a Laffey cap to the great grandson as well as a copy of the book "The Ship That Would Not Die" to see his grandfather's name in print. I should not forget Mary Bossard for, if it had not been for her, none of our sheets and pillow cases would have been washed. She is just a spectacular woman with a lot of love in her extended family (Laffey sailors). Unbeknown to Dave Bossard, I presented Dave with an ID card and a lanyard belonging to his son Jimmy, telling him I found it and to tell Jimmy to secure his personal items when aboard. Dave told me "Tell him yourself, he's an adult". I advised

Dave to tell his own son, when Jimmy popped up around the corner, stood face to face with his father. It was perfect, Dave had his head down and when he looked up, Jimmy was standing there. The look on Dave's face was priceless, Jimmy was not supposed to be there, and has not seen his dad in over a year. The incident was heartwarming for those in attendance.

We finished our work party off with the usual dinner at the VFW Post 10624 on Stuart Engals Boulevard. Friday night was fish night, and it was enjoyed by all.

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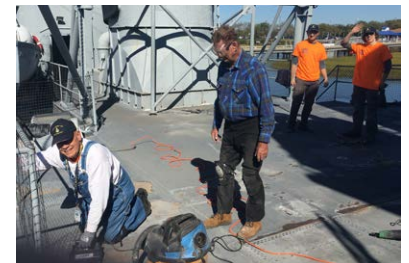
Ken McCullough with grandson Nick



Dave and Mary Bossard with VP Mike sneaking up astern



All Hands ready for flounder dinner at the VFW



Donny telling JD Bossard "You missed a spot, and we don't want the VP yelling at us. He is nuts about prep and painting."



Civilian visitors



Homer Doster apparently teaching Mary Bossard some Navy stuff



Mike P. trying to figure out what that pole was for... Don Watson will explain



Mary, Sonny and Jay Cornwall



A visitor with Chris and Richard



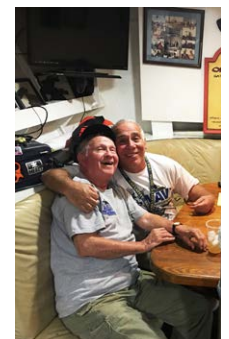
Richie McKinney WORKING?????



Jeff Jacobs provided dessert at the VFW



Homer hired an enforcer if someone doesn't bring their tools back



Chris and his buddy Homer.

We were glad to see Jeff Jacobs and his wife as well as Richard Felsing and his wife, along with Tillinghaus and his friend.

I am happy to announce that we have sold more than half of the 250 challenge coins I ordered, As far as the hull raffle is going, only about twenty have been sold. With the cost of the plaque and mounting we may just break even. There is still time to purchase a raffle ticket as drawing will not be until April 2018 work party.

We are having a mini-work party from January 27 to February 3, 2018. So if anyone is interested please let me know ASAP. As of now we have approximately ten members who plan to attend. In the future I hope to get away from the name "mini-work party" by dropping the mini, in hopes that we have more volunteers. But that will be yet to be seen.

Our April work party will be April 14 to 21, 2018, so whoever plans to attend please let our Vice President Mike Pereira, Sonny Walker, our past President, or me know ASAP. Sad to say I will not be attending that work party as I will be in Thailand for two weeks with Bernice. Something I just observed on the calendar during the April 2018 work party is that your taxes are due on that Tuesday (Tax Day). I hope nobody uses that excuse to not attend :):)

If I have omitted any topic, or failed to mention any names, please accept my apology as it was not intentional.

—Chris

Many thanks to Michael Coleman and others for sending photos!

Vice President's Note

I would like to thank all who attended our fall work party. You all did a great job. Again, we accomplished more than was expected. It is amazing how much gets done in less than a week. Also I would like to thank the younger people who came, and tell you that you did a great job. It was nice to see how they took interest in our ship and worked very hard to keep her looking good. I would also like to thank International Paint for their

generous donation. Once again, International Paint has been so great to work with, with their thousands of dollars of paint donations. We can not thank them enough. They always step up to the plate when needed.

—Mike Pereira



Own a Piece of The Laffey

The Association will be selling tickets at \$5.00 each to win a piece of the original hull of the Laffey mounted on a plaque. Our VP Mike Pereira owns the one seen here. The Association will be raffling off one approximately 10"x12" piece of hull with rivets which have been sandblasted and powder-coated. I have two unsigned and the rest were auto-

graphed by Ari Phoutrides. Make copies of the ticket and send in \$5.00 for each entry. The drawing will take place at the work party on Monday April 16, 2018



USS LAFFEY HULL PLAQUE RAFFLE TICKET

Own a Piece of the Laffey

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone #: _____

Copy and fill out copies of this ticket if you want to enter multiple times. Cut out ticket and send to:

Chris Kirhagis, 6714 Hudson Street, Baltimore, MD 21224.

Make check out to USS Laffey Association or pay through PayPal through *Laffey.org* site.

All funds will be used to support future work parties.

Challenge Coins

Twenty Laffey Challenge Coins were sold at the April work party. Chris ordered 200 (150 gold and 50 silver) He picked more gold as we do brass in the Navy not silver, but silver coins are available for those who prefer them. Either style is \$20 each plus \$3.00 each coin for shipping.

You can purchase these coins through PayPal and make a notation what they are for. Or send your payment directly to George Kessler who will then inform me to release the coin(s). Proceeds will go to funding future work parties.



Letter from Janet Hatch

From Janet Hatch, wife of James R. Hatch.

James was a Life Member of the Laffey Association and served on the ship from August, 1945 to May, 1946. He was a Radioman and copied the message when the war was over with Japan. He kept the original and gave the captain the photocopy. I have had the original framed.

He and I were at the reunions in the years 2004 and 2005. He was also in the Korean War, stationed in San Diego.

James passed away in June, 2006. I loved him and miss him very much. James was in his glory when he went to the reunions. He was a very dedicated and honored service person.

Sincerely, Janet Hatch

From the Memphis Reunion

Some of the ladies who attended the reunion in Memphis requested that Cherie Walker send them her recipe for the pumpkin cake that was served in the Hospitality Room. In case you didn't attend, you missed a really good cake!

Pumpkin Loaf

Bake at 350° for 47-50 min. (Bundt pan)

Blend dry ingredients together

- 1 ²/₃ cup Flour
- ½ teaspoon Baking Powder
- 1½ cup Sugar
- ¾ teaspoon Salt

- 1 teaspoon Baking soda
- ½ teaspoon Nutmeg
- 1 teaspoon Cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon Cloves

Whisk together wet ingredients

- 2 large eggs
- ½ cup Oil
- 1 Cup Pumpkin
- ½ cup Water

Add dry to wet just til moistened

Add ½ cup raisins and ½ cup walnuts (optional)

Bake in bundt pan. Cool 10 min. Remove from pan

ENJOY

**License plate frames
not currently available.**

The company that made these for us has gone out of business so we are searching for a new supplier. Please let Chris know if you have any suggestions.

ALL HANDS:

We were informed by Kip Campbell that our shipmate SFP3 SAL BELSITO passed away November 20, 2017.

He was a good friend and a good shipmate.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to his family and his shipmates, Kip Campbell and Mike Coleman.

—Sonny Walker



Our shipmate SM3 ROBY KARLIE, passed away on October 12, 2017.

Roby joined the Navy at 16. His grandmother signed for him to join. He came aboard the Laffey in 1962 and left in 1965. His older brother Terry Karlie was a BM and they served together for one year.

Roby joined us for many work parties. He was a really hard worker and a good shipmate. After the Navy, Roby worked in the coal mines in Altoona PA where he retired. We are really sorry to lose him.

—Sonny Walker

We received word from Ray Broll of a passing of FT3 BARTON R. GREENE June 19, 2017.

He was born in St. Louis and was 75 when he died. He was on Laffey for the 1961 Med cruise.

Ray Broll represented the association at Barton’s funeral:

“The presentation of a carved box containing his ‘cremains’ was well done. In addition to the usual floral tributes, above the carved box was a folded U.S. flag and, above that, a USS Laffey hat.”

Donations

(Received since previous News, compiled by Treasurer George Kessler)

Reunion Donation:

Charles Meyer..... \$200.00

General Donations:

- Arnold Goldberger \$225
- Joyce Hanau..... \$25
- Jerry Weber..... \$20
- W.S. Blackstock Jr. \$50
- Acey Terhune \$25
- Lawrence Sleurs..... \$25
- Dave & Mary Bossard..... \$100

Work Party Donations:

- Ken & Arlene McCullough . \$215
- Bernice Pereira \$50

Memorial Donations:

- Patricia Gasparre \$75
in honor of her father Nicholas Giordano
- Randolph Damico \$25
in memory of Jack MacCaskill
- Carol Ploth \$20
in memory of George Ploth

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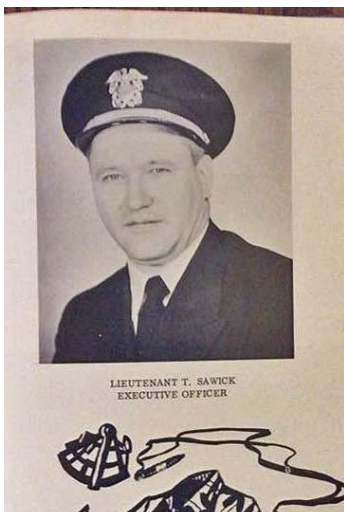
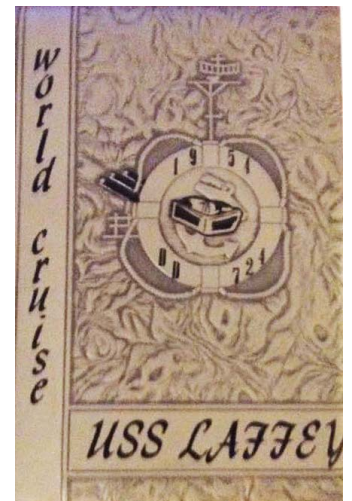
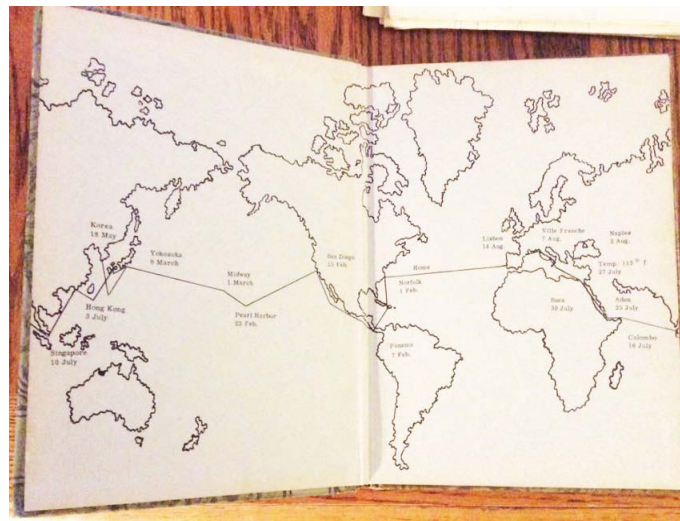
USS Laffey DD724 Association

Craig Keith, Editor

201 N. Fairfax St. #32

Alexandria VA 22314

This is the 1954 world cruise of the USS Laffey. They left Norfolk for Korea and came back through the Suez Canal. My father was the XO. He was a Lieutenant then. Several years later he was a Commander



and was CO of the Laffey in 1962/63. Dad retired in 1969 after 32 years in the Navy. On the last page of the cruise book is a picture of the homecoming after being gone for over half a year. You can see the back of my mother's head. The

question is. Where was I? I was always there when he came home. Running on board ship and being greedy and asking him what he got for me. I was four at the time. Ages and ages ago. When my father died in 2008 and the wake was

being held in Fairfax, one of my father's old shipmates came to me holding that same book. He had more tears in his eyes than I did.

—Neal Sawick