



LAFFEY NEWS

Dedicated to those who served in battle and those who pre-served 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*

July, August, September 2021

USS Laffey Association www.laffey.org

President's Message



Chris Kirhagis

Hello ladies & gentlemen!

As the summer is winding down, I hope that everyone had what I consider an abbreviated vacation. Whereas we all had to live through some type of mandate. It seems like no matter where I visited this summer, the quality and quantity of service has severely deteriorated.

It makes me wonder how many variants we are going to experience in the next few years, and the reason behind them. But I'll leave that up to the readers imagination or interpretation.

The good news is that even though we are getting older, our obituary announcements are limited to only one person this quarter. Mrs. Jean Smith, 103 ½

years old. Wife of Paul Smith who I believe may have been a plank owner and one of the founding fathers of this association. One of Jean's son, James, was a state representative in South Carolina. I will elaborate further at the reunion about Jean's interaction with membership chairperson Kathy Pereira and myself. I must say it is a "cute" story.

We are still going forward with the fantail project for the April work party. Interim director Mike Hastings grabbed the bull by the horns and going full speed in getting major repairs done to the fantail prior to our arrival. I have been getting steady updates as well as photos as to the progress. I am still in contact with Sherwin-Williams in hopes in obtaining materials gratis that is required to complete the project.

There have been numerous newcomers that have a family member who served on the Laffey that are making inquiries about coming to work parties.

If anyone intends to attend any of the work parties, Vice President Mike Pereira or myself need to know no less than one month prior to. There is a lot of planning

that goes into a work party, and as of now, I don't recall ever having to turn anyone away.

We have also been getting a substantial number of donators to our cause. The donations do not have to be in monetary form, but can be in material donations, i.e. Power and hand tools, connections to rental companies etc.

As most of you know the 2021 Laffey reunion will be held in Gettysburg, and our reunion coordinator Leigh-Ann Zerden will advise us what the reunion entails. We will be having a memorial service at the amphitheater located on west confederate way from 0930 - 1000 hrs. October 4th.

I wish each and every one of you a safe, healthy upcoming holidays.

See ya at the reunion ☺

Respectfully,

Chris Kirhagis, President
USS Laffey Association
president@laffey.org
410-633-9936

Upcoming Association Events

3 – 7 October 2021 USS Laffey Association Reunion in Gettysburg PA October. Contact Leigh Ann Zerden Reunions Coordinator (reunions@laffey.org) if you have any questions.

6 - 13 November Fall 2021 Workparty – If you plan to attend, contact President Chris Kirhagis president@laffey.org 410-633-9936 or Vice President vicepresident@laffey.org Mike Pereira 401-787-3014.

11 November Veterans Day 2021. As a federal holiday Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum typically provides free admission for veterans. Typically, special exhibits and a large number of visitors aboard Laffey.

21 November 2021 Anniversary of the USS Laffey DD-724 Launching 21 November 1943. See <https://www.laffey.org/HomePage/DD724WWII.html>.

Patriot Day – May We Never Forget!

On September 11th Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum hosted a Remembrance Ceremony for the more than 3,000 victims killed during the terrorist attacks on the United States 14 years ago. At 8:46, the time of the first aircraft hitting the North Tower of the World Trade Center, a color guard of Mount Pleasant firemen and contingent of Moultrie Middle School 8th graders processed down the pier at Patriots Point to begin our remembrance ceremony. The pier was lined by 80 young, naval officers at attention from the Naval Weapon's Station and Nuclear Power school

commands. Many, many guests visited the USS Laffey on this solemn day. May we all remember and honor those who lost their lives on that horrific day.



New Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum



Director is Rorie Cartier.

Previously he was the director of the National Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas where the Laffey Plaque is

hung. Rorie bring prior experience with military-focused museums to the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum.

Laffey Fantail Repairs

Extensive Laffey fantail repairs are in progress. Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum workers have removed 2 reels on each side of the hatch leading to After Berthing, the large VDS (Variable Depth Sonar) reel, 2 large mooring bollards and a large air vent. These repairs improve the water tight integrity and provide more open space on the fantail for events and ceremonies.



Patriots Point Free Admission for Former Laffey Crew Members. Former crew members of the USS Yorktown, Laffey, and Clamagore and their immediate family members are entitled to free admission to the museum. Immediate family refers to a person's parents, siblings, spouse, child by blood, adoption or marriage, grandparents and grandchildren. Former crew members of our vessels and their immediate family members do not

need to belong to any specific organization to qualify for free admission.

USS Laffey Plaque Hung at the Museum of the Pacific War The plaque was donated and hung in the Museum of the Pacific <http://pacificwarmuseum.org/> in Fredericksburg, Texas. Many thanks to USS Laffey Association members Ken Workley who suggested the plaque and to Charles Meyer who visited the museum and assisted with the plaque. Mike Heiman, who was at our April work party from Alaska, and is also the developer of the USS Laffey board game, has relatives near Fredericksburg, TX and visited the Pacific War Museum, found the Laffey plaque, and took a photo of it.

A beautiful picture of the Laffey in Venice, in 1969



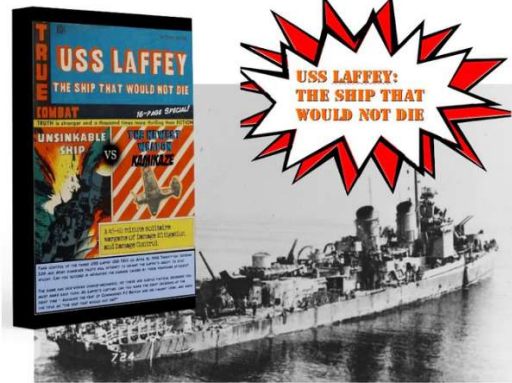
Many of us would say that Venice was the best liberty port we visited on the 1969 med cruise. We moored at San Mark's Plaza by the Cathedral. No liberty boats needed. Shipmates on the ship in 1969 (incomplete list): Albright, Aust, Barylski, Chamberlin, Colusi, Cornwell, Cossey, Cowen, DeJong, Fairchild, Felsing, Filbrun, Gauthier, Hayes, Hubbard, Keith, Malloy, McCullough, McDonough, McEwen, McKinney, Mercer, Menoski, Miller, Nelligan, Piper, Rohloff, Sceurman, Tarquino, Tolle, Townsend, Villero, and others. See the USS Laffey 1969 Cruise Book <https://www.laffey.org/Cruises/1969%20Med%20Cruise/1969medcruisecoverpage.htm>.

Some Additional Pictures from the November 2020 Mini Work Party:



USS Laffey: The Ship That Would Not Die Board Game is a solo game of damage control as you desperately scramble to survive the most determined Kamikaze attacks of World War II. You will re-enact the harrowing 80 minutes of terror and mayhem the crew of the Laffey went through as they fought off 22 Japanese planes. The Japanese aircraft you face in the game are the same four

types (Val, Judy, Kate, and Oscar) in the same order of attack.



Click on <https://www.kickstarter.com/projects/usslaffey/uss-laffey-the-ship-that-would-not-die-game> . To order, click on “Back this project” to view the order info.

Contact Catastrophe Games Grand Rapids, MI Tim Denham catastrophegames.net for additional info.

Annual Dues Reminder from Membership Chairperson Kathy Pereira. 2021 Annual Dues were due 1/1/2021. Mail your check made out to the USS Laffey Association to: Kathy Pereira (Membership Chairman) 92 Elmdale Avenue, Warwick, RI 02889. Annual members renew every January at \$25/year. Lifetime Membership, which is a one-time payment, is as follows: 55 years old and younger \$375; 56 - 60 \$250; 61 - 64 \$225; and 65 years and older \$125. If you are unsure as to your status or need to update our records if you have moved or changed your phone number or Email address, contact Kathy Pereira at 401-481-1954. or email membership@laffey.org. 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”.

Donations Update from Treasurer George Kessler. All donations are greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to make a donation, should make the check payable to the USS Laffey Association and mail to
 George Kessler
 9686 Baughman Rd
 Harrison, Ohio 45030

You may also make a donation on PayPal. On the Laffey homepage www.laffey.org, tap on the PayPal icon at the bottom of the page. Enter the donation amount and comments, e.g. In Memory of.....

Work Party Donations:

Carol Lowe -----\$ 25.00
John Binseel ---- \$ 25.00
James Oddo -----\$ 75.00
Jerome Weber ----\$500.00

In Memory of James Hatch:

Janet Hatch -----\$200.00

General Donations:

Jill Michel -----\$200.00
Terry Fairfield -----\$100.00
Neal Sawick-----\$ 25.00
W L Smith -----\$ 25.00
Paul Anderson ----\$ 25.00
Carolyn Toleman --\$ 25.00
Ed Pochatek ----\$ 50.00
Doug Ward -----\$ 25.00
James Hogan ----\$ 75.00
Russ Villerot -----\$ 25.00
Laura McKagan --\$ 25.00
George McCusker-\$ 25.00
Paul Bangs-----\$ 75.00
Harold Borton ----\$200.00

James Hart -----\$100.00
Charles Cook ----\$ 50.00
Robert Burnett ----\$ 75.00
Cooper Lockett ----\$25.00
Beverly Lloyd -----\$ 25.00
Larry Sleurs -----\$ 75.00

Paper Laffey News US Postal Service

(USPS). Currently we are publishing the Laffey News on the website www.laffey.org. Tap on Laffey News at the bottom of the page. We are also emailing the Laffey News pdf file to all members with an email address, and USPS mailing paper copies to all who have requested the paper Laffey News. Please contact the Membership Chairperson Kathy Pereira 401-481-1954 membership@laffey.org to be **added to the USPS mail list** if you would like.

USS Laffey Website www.laffey.org Send inputs to Richard Felsing webmaster@laffey.org 843-367-2208.

Laffey News Send inputs or comments to Pam Barylski Newsletter Editor newsletter@laffey.org

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USS Laffey in Malta – June 1969