



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*

October, November, December 2022

USS Laffey Association www.laffey.org

President's Message



Our Fall Workparty was very productive, and we had a pretty good turnout. The workparty actually spanned 10 days during which we had between 7 and 20 workers in place each day. The specifics are too numerous to list here, so I will just hit the highlights. Our fabricators/welders built walkways and stairways in the After Fire Room. The ship's arch welder (a particularly valuable and useful model) was moved from the maindeck passageway down to a shop for repair. It will be a huge help once John Hudak gets her repaired. The Damage Control electrical junction box was removed from midships in order to reconfigure the stairway leading to After Fire Room. A number of lightbulbs were replaced throughout the ship and some fixtures were transitioned to LED bulbs. Both these tasks are much more manpower intensive than they sound since cabling is brittle and light fixtures have corrosion and age issues to be dealt

with. The Laffey has many holes (large enough to put your hand through) where the base of the bulkhead meets the main deck. Several of these holes were patched, which involves grinding away rusty steel to find good metal, then welding on a steel patch, then priming and painting the area. On much of the 51 and 53 gun mounts our crews removed rust, prepped, primed, then painted the "roofs" (keep in mind that your former Air Force President is still learning proper Navy terms), sides, barrels and even the "724" numbers. The Aft Berthing Compartment was cleaned up and we have begun the task of turning this area into a clean, well organized storage area for metal stock, hoses, wood, chain, etc. We completed the task of turning the room next to the Boiler Technician ("BT") Shop into a well-lit, clean, organized storage area for cords, lights, ladders and other bulky tools that had Ken's tool room filled to the brim. Now Ken has a little elbow room to repair and issue tools. A couple of our guys installed a historic BT shop sign that lists the names of

crewmembers assigned to the BT shop many moons ago. Many of the drains on the exterior decks, used only to clear rainwater today, have seen a lot of deterioration over the years when they also cleared seawater. Many of these drains have been repaired, expanded, and improved during recent workparties so that they dump water entirely overboard, keeping that water from finding its way into the ship. We braced deck grating on the bridge so that it no longer makes a loud clang as people walk across it. We will continue this effort throughout the ship on other walkways. Not to be discouraged by a couple of rainy days, we thoroughly cleaned, repaired and improved many of the exhibit rooms, including the Ship Store, Post Office, Laundry, Fire Control, Electronics Technician, both Captain's Cabins, Chart Room, Radio Room, CIC, Bridge, and the Wardroom. We did a major cleanup and provided power to the Auxiliary Radio Room (starboard side, midship, main deck level) to be used as a welding and fitting shop. The

Chiefs Quarters (where our workparty crews live, eat and sleep) were cleaned top to bottom. The lounge/dining area of the Chiefs Quarters got

a thorough facelift- rearranging storage, equipment and wall memorabilia.

Mike Honsinger

Upcoming Association Events

2023 Winter Mini WorkParty – Sat-Sat, Jan 28/Feb 4.

2023 Spring WorkParty – Sat-Sat, April 1-8

2023 Reunion in Atlantic City, NJ – Sun, Sept 10 (Arrival reception) – Wed, Sept 13 (Final Dinner), Sept 14 Departure.

2023 Fall WorkParty – Sat-Sat, Oct 21-28

Current News

New Membership Cards

Our new Membership Chairperson, Joyce Hanau, is busy preparing new membership cards for those with annual memberships. You should see them soon in your mailbox!

Eliminating Snail Mail Improves the Laffey!

In our mission to maintain the physical and historical legacy of the Laffey, we strive to utilize all donations to their maximum. We all know prices are going up and that includes our newsletter expenses. In recent years it has been costing us more to mail paper newsletters than it costs to feed a 30 man work party for a week! For those who pay for an annual membership, one third of your fee is spent on your newsletter if you choose to receive a hardcopy. So, we are asking members to provide their email address, so we may keep you up to date about Laffey news at no cost to the Association. A recent postcard campaign resulted in many folks switching to email- Thank You to those who did. Please keep your email address current by sending your info to membership@laffey.org, or call or text Joyce Hanau, Membership Chairperson, at 347-439-2452.

Update Your Contact Information

We would like to begin adding cell phone numbers to our membership database, particularly if you will be attending any of our workparties. Since we only publish an abbreviated copy of our database on our

website, phone numbers cannot be viewed there (<https://www.laffey.org/LaffeyAssoc/LaffeyAssocMembersWeb.pdf>). In late January we be emailing all members a PDF copy of our complete membership database. The email will provide instructions about specific items that we would like you to verify and update. This PDF will also serve as a directory for each member. To provide corrections at any time, please contact Joyce Hanau at membership@laffey.org or 347-439-2452.

Updated Free Admission to Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum for Former Laffey Crew Members and USS Laffey Association members.

Free admission is granted to the following individuals for Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, per a standing Patriots Point policy letter:

1. USS Laffey Association members and former USS Laffey Crewmembers and their "Immediate Family", which are defined as a person's parents, siblings, spouse, child by blood, adoption or marriage, grandparents and grandchildren.
2. Those with a Historic Naval Ship Association or Tin Can Sailors Association membership are entitled to one free admission ticket.

Ideally, those listed above would present their membership card, however, this policy is guided by the honor system, so if you have forgotten your card, simply explain your eligibility and ask for the free admission. If you are a former USS Laffey crewmember, please contact the Patriots Point Director of Visitor Services, Gina Zahran, at gina.zahran@patriotspoint.org or 843-971-5044 so that she can provide a special welcome, to include some photos and a short filmed interview.

Upon arrival at Patriots Point, please park in the largest parking lot where all the tourists park, which means you will have to pay a small fee to park your car. No free parking is provided in this lot. If the purpose of your trip is to attend a Laffey workparty,

you may continue to park in the employees/bus parking lot as you have in the past. This parking lot can be extremely full, particularly during the current major construction that is going on at Patriots Point so we need to limit our use of it to just during workparties. Also, the employees/bus parking lot will be changing location and configuration during the ongoing Patriots Points construction.

After parking, proceed to the covered pavilion on the river side of the gift shop. Under the pavilion there is a ticket window on the exterior wall of the gift shop. At that window, present your membership card and ask for the appropriate number of tickets. You will receive tickets that say "complimentary", rather than showing a ticket price. As you approach the pier, there is a turnstile adjacent to the "Photogenics" photo booth. At the turnstile, a "Photogenics" rep will take your ticket. Complying with this procedure allows Patriots Point to gain an accurate head count on the number of daily attendees, which is a good thing for all of us. If you choose to have a photo taken by the Photogenics rep after they take your ticket, you will be pleased to know that part of your photo fee goes back to the museum. Keep your ticket with you for the entire day- with it you can leave Patriots Point and return the same day, using the same ticket again. If you have any hiccups in the process, feel free to call Gina Zahran at 843-971-5044 for assistance.

If you have Veterans in your party, that do not fall within the above policy, they can receive a Veterans discounted ticket.

Exception Footnote: Laffey workparty members who possess a Patriots Point security badge have the ability to escort others aboard the Laffey by simply entering via the security gate, but, we ask that, to the extent that is convenient, please do comply with the following procedures when bringing guests aboard.

2022 Reunion



Photo links: 2022 Reunion Photos

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/VUSWceArrKZfZYxVA>



2022 Reunion Memorial Service

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/BdSpdStbCN4bkR1h9>

2022 Reunion Portraits

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/yCJhpKbZoHP4EJGT6>

2022 Fall Work Party

Many thanks to all who worked so hard to maintain USS Laffey as the Premiere US Navy Museum Ship.



L to R, Nick D'Archangelo, Sonny Walker, John Hudak, Jim Bossard, Bill Kunmann, Rachel Kendrick, Mike Honsinger. See

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/G5c75mQYKLnhuyis8>

2022 USS Laffey Reunion loved seeing the model and speaking with Sam.

Patriots Point Distinguished Volunteer for 2022 is SHC Leonard Singleton

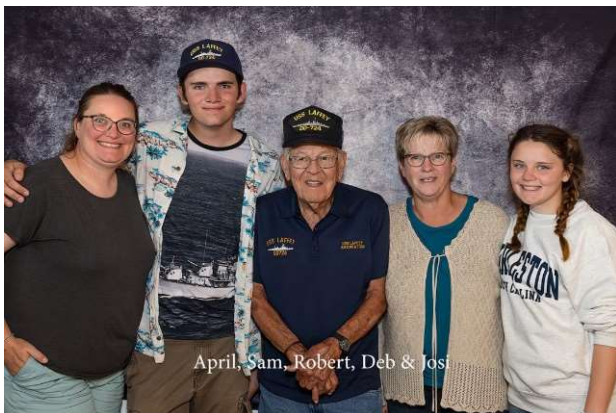


Well done to Leonard Singleton SHC (Ship Serviceman Chief). He has been a Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum Volunteer since September 2016. He has conducted hundreds of tours aboard the USS Laffey DD 724 telling the Laffey story of courage, bravery, and sacrifice. We honor Chief Singleton's service and contribution to the US Navy and USS Laffey. See

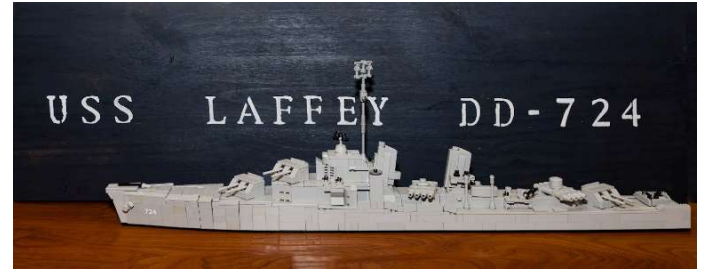
<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/Singleton.pdf>

Robert Klimesh (USS Laffey '52-'55) and Family Visit USS Laffey

In October 2022 Robert age 87 attended the USS Laffey Reunion with 15 Family Members at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum Mt Pleasant, SC. Robert was an EM2 (Electrician Mate 2nd Class) in R (Repair) Division



His grandson Sam Singewald developed a great admiration for the ship, the crewmembers, and the USS Laffey Association. He constructed a very realistic ship model in Legos. Members at the



See www.laffey.org/Shipmates/Klimesh.pdf and www.laffey.org/Shipmates/Singewald.pdf. See <https://photos.app.goo.gl/VUSWceArrKzfZYxVA>

Summerville SC Police Canine Unit Visits USS Laffey



Thanks Chief Leonard Singleton for escorting this group on the USS Laffey.

91 year old ASC Don Robert visits USS Laffey



Steve Dowlan (husband of Terry Roberts) Terry Roberts (daughter of Don Roberts), ASC Don Roberts, Don Roberts Jr (son of Don Roberts)

Steve Dowlan, Terry Roberts, Richard Felsing, Chief Don Robert; Chief Leonard Singleton and Bill assisted, Don Roberts, Jr, Bill Cassasa

ASC (Aviation Support Equipment Technician Chief) Donald Roberts served on USS Laffey 1962-1964 in the first DASH (Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopter). In 1962-63 Laffey got the Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization (FRAM) update with the DASH and variable depth sonar. These were state of the art modern ASW Anti Submarine Warfare systems. Beginning in 1963, USS Laffey won the Battle Efficiency "E" three years in a row, a feat rarely seen in the "Can Do" destroyer force.



On 13 December 91 year old Chief Donald Roberts visited USS Laffey at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum with his family. Upon arrival, Chief Roberts proceeded to the ship on his red mobile scooter. Chief Roberts said "I'm going up the DASH hanger where I used to work". His family was apprehensive about the ladder. With determination he slowly climbed the ladder to the 01 level and entered the DASH Hanger. Chief Roberts spoke of the operation and maintenance of newly installed DASH system with Mark 44 torpedoes. We could all feel Chief Robert's excitement and pride of the DASH and his ship USS Laffey.

Chief Roberts and his family had wanted this visit for many years. They kept saying "Thank you, thank you. We are so grateful for everyone's assistance for this visit. This trip to the Laffey is immensely meaningful to us."

Memories of USS Laffey Videos from Captain Chip Honsinger

**Commendations and Battle Ribbons
USS Laffey (DD 724)**

Top Row
 Presidential Unit Citation for action off Okinawa, April 16, 1945
 Meritorious Unit Commendation (Jordanian Crisis, 1970)
 Navy "E" Battle Efficiency Award

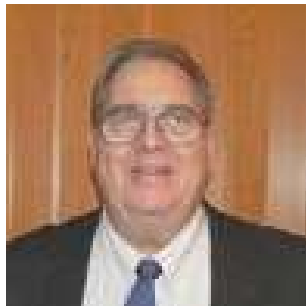


Thanks Chip for sharing your experiences on USS Laffey from 1956-1959. See <https://photos.app.goo.gl/J8MxHbX3EM5S3xSk6> All members are encouraged to send video links of their USS Laffey experiences to webmaster@laffey.org.

Taps for Fallen Shipmates



www.laffey.org/Shipmates/TapsToHonorFallenShipmates.pdf



John Schneider (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).

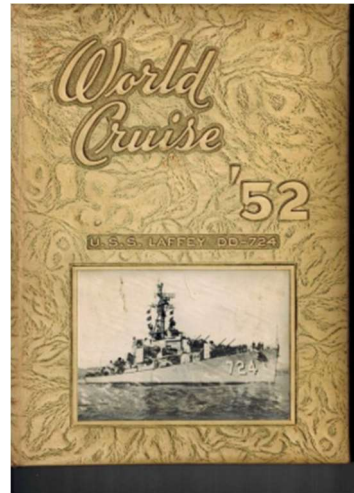
Billy Lee Cunningham (March 24, 1931 – October 10, 2022) of Citrus Heights, California has passed away.



From Gary Cunningham on Facebook USS Laffey, "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 peacefully in his sleep early Monday morning. He was 91 years old.

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" 1952 World Cruise

<https://www.laffey.org/Cruises/1952 World Cruise/52wcfrontcover.htm>

Join us at a Workparty!

If you have an interest in helping us out during the upcoming 28 Jan - 4 Feb November workparty, please email Mike as soon as possible at President@Laffey.org . Please help VP Jim Bossard and me to maximize our productivity during work parties. As cook, I can tell you first-hand that it is very helpful to have an accurate count of mouths to feed at each meal. Jim and I are collecting and documenting the 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 work 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. Whether you are able to serve at work parties or not, please email me with your thoughts on how the Laffey can best be preserved, repaired, expanded or have her experience with the public improved. 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. Please try to 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.

Access to Locked Chiefs Quarters

The combination to the hidden lockbox has been changed so that we can do a reset on the number of folks with access to the Chiefs Quarters outside of workparty timeframes. If you require access to the Chiefs Quarters, please call President Mike (281-923-4969) or VP Jim (484-824-1117) for access to the lockbox.

Annual Dues Reminder from Membership Chairperson Joyce Hanau.

Annual dues need to be paid on the 1st of each year to keep the U.S.S. Laffey Association functioning. Mail your check made out to the USS Laffey Association to: Joyce Hanau 1956 Lincoln Ave, East Meadow, NY 11554. Annual membership is \$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 Joyce Hanau at (347) 439-2452, 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.....

Memorial Donations:

- In Honor of Gary Kozlowski
- Linda Lucas ----- \$ 25.00
- Robin Burgamy ----- \$ 50.00

- In Honor of Nicholas Giordano
- John A. Lee ----- \$100.00
- In Memory of Karl Bussert
- Mark Kersey (grandson) ----- \$500.00
- In Memory of Rose Lasala
- Joyce Hanau ----- \$ 50.00
- In Memory of Kathy Pereira
- Joyce Hanau ----- \$ 50.00
- In Memory of Glenn Setmire
- Sharon Setmire (daughter) ---- \$ 50.00

General Donations:

- Charles Meyer ----- \$100.00
- John Binseel ----- \$ 29.00
- Dominick Demarco ----- \$300.00
- Thomas Kilpatrick ----- \$500.00
- Dawn Laffey ----- \$200.00
- USS Charles S. Sperry DD-697
- Association ----- \$1000.00

Return of Reunion 50-50 winnings:

- Todd Duncan ----- \$248.00

Work Party Donations:

- Vernon Honsinger ----- \$200.00

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

Currently we are publishing the Laffey News on the website www.laffey.org. Tap on Laffey News at the bottom of the page.

USS Laffey DD724 Association
Pamela Barylski, Editor
1476 Remsing Street
Hartland, MI 48353

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