

USS Laffey Association Work Parties and Reunion

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Upcoming Association Events

2025 Winter WorkParty Friday 17 January 2025 - Saturday 25 January 2025.

2025 Spring WorkParty – Friday, 4 April through Monday, 14 April 2025.

2025 Reunion in Mt Pleasant, SC – Monday Evening 14 April – Thursday Morning 17 April 2025.

16 April 2025 80TH Anniversary Kamikaze Attack in WWII. Memorial Service aboard USS Laffey.

2025 Fall WorkParty - Dates to be announced.



LAFFEY Winter Workparty [Fri 17 Jan 2025 - Sat 25 Jan 2025] from Mike Honsinger

In January we will have our Winter Workparty from 17-25 Jan. If you want to

arrive on Thursday the 16th of Jan, you can probably stay aboard that night also, but please be sure to ask me about that when you confirm your participation via email.

We now have the ability for women to stay aboard the USS Yorktown aircraft carrier, a 5 minute walk from our Laffey Chiefs Quarters. Having women stay on the Yorktown will require some specific planning and commitment- call me if you think you might be interested.

We have a specific list of projects that we will be working on in January, which are primarily in the aft fire room: cleaning, painting, light metal work (grinding filing), and welding/fabricating (John, Harry & Ernie will be there). We are continuing to work towards getting the aft fire room open to the public in the foreseeable future. We are getting close! As always, we also have less vigorous work for those who would like to contribute in these ways: meal prep/cleanup, supply-run errands and administrative paperwork. 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. 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.

When you email me (President@Laffey.org) to confirm that you plan to join us in January, I will add you to the "Frequent Worker" email distribution list. If you plan to attend in the future and would like to be added to the "Frequent Worker"

email distribution list now (you will receive multiple emails during the weeks leading up to a Workparty, rather than just a single email), please let me know. The "Frequent Workers" emails will include our current attendance count for the upcoming Workparty, indicating your ability to attend. This attendance count is very helpful for meal and bunk space planning as it lists what dates you will be onboard to work and shows whether you will be staying on the Laffey, the Yorktown, in a RV at Patriots Point, or in a hotel.

Folks... the future of our Association and our work contributions to the Laffey are in your hands! We really need for each of you to take an active role in recruiting new workparty participants. We are down to a pretty small and finite group of our original crewmembers that are still able to attend workparties. If every member of our Association could recruit just one son, daughter, or grandchild of a crewmember to come join us, we could continue our work into the future. If relatives are not available, think about Veterans you know or patriotic friends who would like to give back and ask them to contact me via phone or email.

Please send these links to friends:

<https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp3843713.jsp>

<https://laffey.org/wordpress/index.php/work-party/>

Our Spring WorkParty will run Friday 4 April through Monday, 14 April. Our reunion will run Monday, 14 April to Thursday 17 April. More details to follow.

Regards,

Mike Honsinger
President, USS Laffey Association
<https://www.laffey.org>
President@Laffey.org
MikeHonsinger@SBCGlobal.net
281-923-4969



USS Laffey Ship Store Display From Chip

Honsinger: Patriots Point and we are attempting to further outfit the ship's store with vintage (1950-60) items that would have been for sale when Laffey was at sea. Incidentally, the store was in a different, smaller location at that time, on the inboard passageway in the vicinity of opposite sick bay. Now visitors can see these items through the window in the door. We have plenty of cigarette cartons, for example, and we would particularly like to obtain a cigar box, some paper match books, stationery or writing tablet (for letters), empty box of envelopes (not "modern" peel and seal), a vintage shaving mug or whatever we used at the time (we have a brush), soap wrappers, hair tonic bottles, sunglasses, etc. Items might look older than they would have in the 50s,

but if they are reasonably clean that is good enough for 2023. Bottles and boxes may be empty. Please bring them to the ship when you come.

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 in the upcoming workparty please bring any objects with you.

USS Laffey Association Reunion 2025 Free



From Reunion Coordinator Jill Michel: We will be holding our 2025 Reunion, April 14th through 17th, 2025. Monday, April 14, Registration will be in the Patriots Room at Comfort Inn & Suites, Mount Pleasant, SC from 2pm to 7pm. Food will be provided. We are not planning tours around Charleston, most of our reunion will be held

between the Comfort Inn or Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum.

We plan to have a 50-50 Raffle and a Chinese Auction. Bring an auction item with you. There will be a hospitality suite, a luncheon, and a final reunion dinner. There will be the annual USS Laffey Association meeting. There will be a Memorial Service aboard the ship in remembrance of the day that earned the USS Laffey DD724 the nickname "The Ship that Would Not Die", 80 years ago on April 16, 1945 off Okinawa. Patriots Point Maritime Museum is unveiling some new exhibitions.



Comfort Inn & Suites, Patriots Point, 196 Patriots Point Rd, Mt Pleasant, SC 29464

Please make your room reservation online through this booking link,

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/OS89Y3> .

The cost of the rooms range from \$129-\$159, depending on the type of room you request. They are also giving us great rates before and after the specific dates of the reunion.

Registration Fee is FREE. If you are planning on attending, you MUST make sure to contact us so we have an accurate count for the caterers, with a Cut-Off date of March 25th, 2025.

Please only sign up if you will be there or make sure to notify us if you need to cancel. Please provide the name(s) of the people that will be attending along with the years that you/they served. You may register on the USS Laffey website

www.laffey.org. Tap on Our Association – Tap on Reunion – Tap on 2025 Reunion.

You may send the reunion information in registration form below to Jill Michel by email, text or phone call.
Jill.michel@comcast.net or (609) 870-0600.

2025 USS LAFFEY ASSOCIATION REUNION REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Cost: Free

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
Jill.michel@comcast.net (609) 870-0600 telephone.

Attending USS Laffey Work Party

From Association President Mike Honsinger: Typically we have 3 work parties aboard ship each year, Fall, Winter, and Spring. All work party members must be USS Laffey Association members. Work party members must be 18 years old or over.

Bunks, meals, parking and access to Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum are provided free of charge. There are 28 bunks on the Laffey. Berthing for ladies is not available on the Laffey. All meals are served.

We do steel repairs/additions and painting primarily, as well as electrical and plumbing work, in addition to maintaining the museum displays aboard the ship. The work party is a great time to see many ship compartments which are typically closed to the public. The work party provides a meaningful experience preserving history and meeting visitors to the ship. Sometimes multiple family members attend. Contact Mike Honsinger President@Laffey.org 281-923-4969 for information.

Join us at a 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.

Mike Honsinger
President, USS Laffey Association
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