

2013 REUNION REGISTRATION – SEE DETAILS INSIDE

# LAFFEY NEWS

THE USS LAFFEY DD-724 – THE SHIP THAT WOULD NOT DIE



Dedicated to those who served in Battle...and those that Preserved in Peace

July-August-September

[www.laffey.org](http://www.laffey.org)

2013

## I'LL NEVER ABANDON SHIP AS LONG AS A GUN WILL FIRE: CO F. JULIAN BECTON

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE AUGUST, 2013

It's almost REUNION TIME: Start packing!  
Jill has informed me that we have 68 paid attendees and we're expecting some more.

There will be plenty to do while we are in New Orleans....and it is not too late to get signed up! There are still rooms left at the hotel with our special rate too.

As of this writing we have sold \$4,100.00 in chances for the USS Laffey ship's model. Without a doubt, we have the best shipmates in our association! We will have the drawing for the model at the reunion in New Orleans. Good luck to everyone that bought chances.

I was reminded this week how close we really are with each of our shipmates. We were informed that Dave Harhager has been diagnosed with Stage Four Lung Cancer.

Dave and I are closer than brothers. We dated two girls from the same college. We went AWOL to see these two girls too. We ended up with 40 hours extra duty in the bilges for that one! We were in each of our weddings. His kids and my kids think we are each their uncles.

When Dave called with the news I was speechless. Yes - I was speechless! We all know that these things always happen to others - Well, it is unfortunately happening to us.

We ask all members of our association to put Dave and his wife Judy on their prayer list. As of this writing, Dave has a series of medical tests needed to determine what can be done. The cancer is in the top of his right lung. Hopefully the medical profession can take care of it. We want Dave to get better because we need to have him coming to future work parties!! I love you ... you hard headed German.

Speaking of work parties, our next one is scheduled for October 19-26, 2013. If you are planning to attend, please let me know. We will be staying on the Yorktown but now we will have the use of a urinal and water to wash our hands before we eat!!!! How about these modern conveniences, eh?

Well now, OK, it's time to end this message because I have to start packing for the reunion. It takes us a while!!

See you in New Orleans!

Sonny Walker 410-515-3223  
[Soncher724@verizon.net](mailto:Soncher724@verizon.net)

### QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

No person was ever honored for what he received.  
Honor has been the reward for what he gave.

**President Calvin Coolidge**

## NEWS FROM PATRIOTS POINT - JUNE 7, 2013

This week, Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum welcomed its nine millionth paid visitor since the museum's inception in 1976. The museum surprised the lucky visitor, David Matney from Bristol, Tennessee, with a prize pack valued at nearly \$2,500. David visited Patriots Point with his wife, Stephanie and their three daughters.



The Matney family is pictured with (from left) Patriots Point Executive Director Mac Burdette, Patriots Point Development Authority Board Member Susan Marlowe and former Governor James B. Edwards (far right), who served as Governor of the State of South Carolina when the museum opened.

“This is an exciting day for all of us at Patriots Point,” said Patriots Point Executive Director Mac Burdette. “We sincerely appreciate the support and patronage of our local and out of town visitors and we were thrilled to recognize Mr. Matney as our nine millionth visitor.”

“When we got our start almost forty years ago, we were the first aircraft carrier museum in the nation. Since that time, we have welcomed millions of students, generations of families, and countless veterans. Our museum's nine million visitors have contributed significantly to our region's economy since 1976,” he continued, estimating that over the past 37 years that Patriots Point has had an economic impact on the region and state of over \$700 million. “We take as much pride in welcoming visitors today as we did the day we opened – on January 3, 1976.”



Thanks to the generous support of community partners, Patriots Point presented Mr. Matney with a prize package valued at nearly \$2,500. He will enjoy a private three-course dinner for two aboard the USS Yorktown (donated by Corporate Events and Catered Affairs), a Charleston Harbor tour for four (donated by Spirit-Line Cruises), a carriage tour for four (donated by Palmetto Carriage Works), and a two-night stay for a family of four plus dinner and breakfast (donated by Bennett Hospitality). Mr. Matney also received a voucher for a Carnival Cruise for two people, a helicopter ride at Patriots Point with PeeDee Helicopter, an experience in the Patriots Point Flight Simulator courtesy of Flight Avionics, Inc., merchandise from the Patriots Point Ship's Store gift shop, and a one year Membership for free future visits to Patriots Point.

Here is a glimpse into Patriots Point's proud history:

- 1981 - USS Clamagore and, later, USS Laffey arrive at Patriots Point
- 1982 – Awarded the Governor's Cup (Tourism)
- 1986 – Hosts the Mary Rose (Henry VIII's warship) Traveling Exhibit and Gala.
- 1992 - Hosts replicas of the Columbus Ships
- 1993 - Vietnam Support Base opens
- 1993 – Hosts Medal of Honor Convention and opens the first Medal of Honor Museum
- 2007 - Medal of Honor Museum opens aboard the USS Yorktown
- 2010 - Hosts Medal of Honor recipients for annual convention
- 2011 - Observes sesquicentennial of Civil War
- 2012 - Celebrates 500,000th overnight camper
- 2013 - Patriots Point recognizes 9,000,000th visitor

## THIS IS HOW IT WILL BE – MORE NEWS FROM PATRIOTS POINT

Sent: Tuesday, July 9, 2013 1:14 PM

Subject: FW: Aft Gun Mount Project Outline

Sonny (President of the Laffey Association ). Hope you are well and still full of spit and vinegar. I am sending you the text and script for the Five Inch Gun Mount interactive exhibit on the Laffey. We are using the Tin Can Sailors Grant to design and construct the exhibit. Staff and our consultant have worked very hard to produce this unique exhibit. It will be a winner. We hope to launch the new interactive exhibit in early September. We will invite you and other members of the association along with members of the Tin Can Sailors Association to be present. Let me know what you think. Hope you will be as excited as we are.  
Mac

R. Mac Burdette  
Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

### USS Laffey Aft Gun Mount Project Outline

1. Guests enter the gun mount.
2. There is a still image with text on the flat screen monitor.
  - This image (TBD based on images available) such as:
    - Men inside the mount
    - An exterior shot of the mount.
    - The Laffey at sea showing the guns firing
  - The text would state:
    - You are now in the Aft 5" gun mount which was destroyed by a kamikaze attack on April 16, 1945. Press the button below to begin the adventure.
3. Once the button is pushed, the lights dim to 50% and the video presentation begins.
  - **Narrative:** "You are now inside the Aft 5" 38 caliber gun mount of the USS Laffey. This caliber gun is considered to be one of the best navel guns of WWII."
  - *Video: Images of 5" guns on various Naval Vessels and shots of them firing.*
  - **Narrative:** "You are one of the 14 highly trained young men whose battle station is inside the tight

quarters of this gun system"

- *Video: Graphic of men's positions inside the mount.*
- **Narrative: The Mount Captain heads this crew consisting of: A Trainer, A Sight Setter, A Pointer, A Sight Checker, A Fuse Setter, 2 Projectile and Rammer Men, 2 Powder Men, 2 Hot Case Men and 2 Shell Guard Men....All working together in perfect unison to fire these guns which are capable of firing up to 22 55lb rounds per minute – per barrel up to 18,000 yards and as high as 37,000 feet."**
- *Video: Additional footage of the guns firing off different ships.*
- *Video: Footage of the Laffey under power in the ocean.*
- **Narrative: "It is 08:27 the morning of April 16, 1945, and the Laffey is on screening patrol off the northern coast of Okinawa when 50 Japanese planes are spotted approaching from the south."**
- *Video: Footage of many Japanese planes in the air.*
- *Sound FX: Prop planes flying – distant*
- **Narrative: "Your heart pounds when you hear the call knowing this is not a drill."**
- *Sound FX: Alarm and General Quarters Announcement*
- *Video: Footage of men running to general quarters and moving into positions inside the mount.*
- **Mount Captain: "Match pointers. Switch to automatic. Handling room fill the hoists with able common and full service charge. Standby"**
- **Narrative: "At 08:30, 4 of the planes break formation making a kamikaze run. You quickly join in with the other main guns to aggressively defend the Laffey."**
- **Man's voice: "Enemy spotted sir!"**
- **Mount Captain: "Load and ready to fire"**
- **Man's voice: "Loaded and Ready Sir"**
- **Mount Captain: "Commence Firing"**
- *Video: Footage of planes flying in while being shot at, burning in air, crashing*

- into the water.
- *Sound FX: Planes flying in fast, guns firing.*
- **Narrative: “Another kamikaze makes a run and is shot down just as it strafes the port beam.”**
- *Video: Plane crashing in the water*
- *Sound FX: Plane diving in close, guns firing*
- **Mount Captain: “Action men Action!”**
- **Pointer: “Mark!”**
- **Trainer: “Target!”**
- **Mount Captain: “Fire when ready!”**
- **Narrative: “Seconds later, you hear the Laffey’s main gun battery firing on an approaching plane making a bombing run; you and the other men brace as you hear the bomb screaming in as the pilot was able to get through the gun fire to make the release.”**
- *Video: Chaotic scenes of a bomb dropping and exploding.*
- *Video: (Maybe scenes of the men inside the mount bracing for impact.)*
- *Sound FX: Plane diving in, bomb whistling as it falls, explosion, guns firing*
- **Mount Captain: “Hold on men, brace for impact!”**
- **Narrative: “The intensity of the gun fire is deafening as orders are called out to fire at another Japanese Val approaching from the port side, only to be followed by another which successfully crashes on deck with an explosion that shakes this mount like a tin can.**
- *Video: More planes flying in and explosions with fire.*
- *Sound FX: Guns firing, planes flying close, explosions*
- **Pointer: “Bearing 060, range 3000 yards and closing sir!”**
- **Mount Captain: “Load!”**
- **Narrative: “With no time to recover, new firing orders are yelled out as another Val is spotted making an approach from the stern. Full of adrenaline, you and the other 13 men work together to furiously fire at the fast approaching Val but it keeps coming until suddenly.....”**

- **Video:**
  - *Men in the mount working fast, loading and firing the guns.*
  - *Footage of a Japanese plane directly approaching with tracers flying by*
  - *Plane impact with explosion*
  - *Video Scrambles/Shakes for explosion*
- **Sound FX:**
  - **Mount Captain: “Action Men! One coming in fast”**
  - **Pointer: “Left a lot! More! Mark!”**
  - **Trainer: “Target!”**
  - **Mount Captain: “Commence Firing! Let’em have it!”**
  - *Guns being loaded and unloaded*
  - *Guns firing in the mount*
  - *Plane approaching fast and loud*
  - *Plane crashing with explosion.*
- **Lighting: Lights flashing then go dark upon explosion.**

After the explosion and black out (only lasts about 3 seconds), the lights dim back to about 50% and the video comes back up.

- *Video: Fade in with images of the aftermath of the plane attack on the mount. Followed by scenes of the Laffey after the attack showing the destruction.*
- *Music: Somber and reverent*
- **Narrative: “The next thing you know, you are being pulled through heavy smoke away from the intense flames. You are one of the fortunate ones as the kamikaze plane disintegrated on impact, ripping open the side of this gun mount with a major explosion from the bomb it was carrying which in turn ignited the adjacent powder magazine starting a major fire. 6 of your buddies who were only feet away from you are killed.**

For 80 minutes that morning, 22 kamikaze planes attacked the USS Laffey. The men of this brave ship fought off most; but in the end she was hit by 6 kamikazes and 4 bombs – yet still

she remained afloat earning her the nickname, ***The Ship that would not die***"

- *Video: Scroll images and the names of the men that died in the mount. IF AVAILABLE*
- *Video: Scenes of sailors being buried at sea.*
- *Music: Remains reverent*
- **Narrative: "On April 16<sup>th</sup>, 1945, 26 men along with the 6 young men inside this mount died during the attack; 71 additional men were wounded. These men sacrificed while bravely fighting off what is now one of the most fierce kamikaze attacks in naval history. They were someone's husband, son, brother, grandson, even father: and on this day they gave all for their friends, their ship and their country. We now honor them by providing you a small look into what they experienced that historic day."**
- *Video: Ends with an image of the USS Laffey after being towed to port and showing the surviving men on board.*
- **Narrative: "We hope you enjoy the rest of your tour aboard the USS Laffey."**
- *Video: Fade to black.*
- *Lighting: Returns to 100%*
- *Music ends*
- *Video then returns to the opening image.*

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** This should be a major attraction/exhibit for visitors to enjoy!! We can hardly wait until we have an opportunity to enjoy it!!

**PATRIOTS POINT HAS BEEN AWARDED \$10,000 FOR PRESERVATION AND UPGRADES TO THE USS LAFFEY**

Posted by asmith on April 17, 2013 – 9:17 am

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum has been awarded a \$10,000 grant from the Tin Can Sailors, Inc. for preservation and upgrades to the *USS Laffey* (DD-724).



Funding will be used to climate control the Exhibit Hall and Theater in order to create an environment that can safely exhibit additional artifacts, extend the life expectancy of equipment in the theater and make these areas more comfortable for guests. In addition, funding will be used to upgrade the museum experience in the *USS Laffey's* aft gun turret by adding interactive elements – ultimately bringing her to life and enhancing the public's understanding of destroyers and the lives of those who served aboard them.

The interactive elements that will be added to the *Laffey* will focus on a day in the ship's history – April 16, 1945 – when the destroyer was attacked by 22 Japanese bombers and kamikaze (suicide) aircraft within a span of 80 minutes. The aft gun turret was directly hit by two Japanese planes, killing six enlisted men. In total, 31 men were killed and 71 injured of the 336-man crew during this attack.

"Destroyers – also known as 'Tin Cans' – played an integral role during World War II," said Patriots Point Executive Director Mac Burdette. "No combat ship was more versatile or as fast; and they were used for a number of missions, including surface action against enemy ships and shore bombardments, anti-submarine warfare, and radar picket duty – like the *Laffey's* assignment on the day she was attacked. Thanks to the generosity of the Tin Can Sailors, Inc., we will be able to tell this story in a way that is authentic, engaging, and meaningful for future generations."

The plan for the redesigned gun turret experience aboard the *USS Laffey* is as follows:



### The USS Laffey, pictured in 1945, following the Japanese attacks

Guests would enter the turret and find a video monitor mounted between the two guns. Lights will fade and the video will begin, telling a little about the *USS Laffey* and the gun mount where they are currently standing. The video would then transform into a reenactment of the battle that took place in April 1945; including sounds of the Japanese aircraft attacking the ship, bombs exploding and the *Laffey's* guns firing back. This experience would intensify as the floor vibrates with each explosion and the lights flicker. The climactic moment of the video would be the sound of a Japanese aircraft diving into the turret and a massive explosion. At this point, everything would go silent and the video would resume, showing images of the turret after the attack, setting a somber and reverent tone for the men who lost their lives in the turret that day.

Work on the aforementioned upgrades is already underway and is estimated to be completed in the near future. During this time, the *USS Laffey* will remain open to the public.

**EDITORS COMMENT:** THE USS LAFFEY DD724 ASSOCIATION WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND OUR SINCERE THANKS TO THE TIN CAN SAILORS FOR THEIR CONTINUING GENEROSITY. WELL DONE LADS!

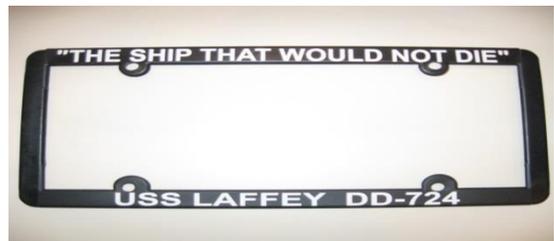
### SAD INFORMATION TO ANNOUNCE

**Sent:** Monday, July 1, 2013 8:35 PM  
**Subject:** Tom Klett

Hi Guys - Wanted to let you know that tragedy has struck Tom Klett again. His youngest son 45 year old Tim died last Friday from a heart attack. He was diagnosed with juvenile diabetes years ago and has had ongoing health problems as a result. Visitation was held last night and the funeral was this morning. Keep him and his family in your prayers. George Kessler, Treasurer, USS Laffey Association

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** It has been stated that the worst loss one can experience is the loss of a child: The second worst loss on the grief scale is the loss of one's spouse. Unfortunately, Tom has experienced both in a very short time span – within two years. Our hearts go out to Tom and we send him our sincere condolences over his losses: Our prayers are with you, Tom.

### FROM SEA TO SHINING SEA HAVE OTHERS NOTICE YOUR FRAME!!



Let's make certain that you (**procrastinators and the many new members**) do your part in making everyone know that the Laffey lives! Install these plate frames around your auto tags and be noticed!! Remember, \$1.00 of each frame price goes to help fund the Junior Laffey Sailor Program.

The price for each custom frame is \$10.00 with shipping and handling included. Decide how many frames you might want, write a check made out to the USS Laffey DD-724 Association and send it to:

Bob Wampler, Editor Laffey News  
USS Laffey DD-724 Association  
100 Landing Lane  
Bluffton, SC 29909-6060

We'll do the rest: Your car, truck, golf cart, boat etc. will be proud of your decision to purchase their very own plate frame!! Be noticed-It's a nice feeling!!

**USS LAFFEY DD-724 ASSOCIATION  
OFFICERS AND STAFF**

**Current Officers**

Edgar "Sonny" Walker..... President  
(soncher724@verizon.net)  
Bob Wampler..... Vice President  
(rdwjcw@hargray.com)  
George Kessler..... Treasurer  
(gfkessler09@yahoo.com)  
Hillary Wagner.....Secretary  
Fred Nardie.....Membership Chairman  
(faafred@yahoo.com)

**Board of Directors**

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John Langevin  
Francis LaSala  
Jim Spriggs  
John Hudak

**Website Manager**

A. J. Tarquino

**Newsletter Staff**

Bob Wampler.... Editor and Circulation Manager

**FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN**

Please be reminded that the Board of Directors of the USS Laffey Association voted to have all dues payable on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January of each year. This will help to eliminate the confusion surrounding when to send your membership dues. For those who have not yet paid their 2013 annual dues, please remit \$25.00 to Mr. Fred Nardei, Membership Chairman: **His address is as follows: Mr. Fred Nardei, USS Laffey DD-724 Association Membership Chairman, 13565 SE 93<sup>rd</sup> Court Road, Summerfield, FL 34491.**

**TAPS LIST**

George W. Little SN  
Served aboard 1945-47  
Passed away 6/20/11

CDR Harry Melvin Rogers  
Commanding Officer  
Served aboard 1963-65  
Passed away May 18, 2013



**Captain Harry M. Rogers – Rest in Peace**

Captain Harry Melville Rogers, "Mel," died at ten minutes after five, on the morning of May 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013. A devoted husband, beloved father, dedicated Naval officer, farmer, volunteer in his church and respected member of his community, Mel left this world a better place

Born on April 24<sup>th</sup>, 1922 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Harry and Matilda Rogers, Mel spent most of his adolescent years growing up in Indianapolis, Indiana. As a young man in high school he was inventive and inquisitive, building gas powered go carts to drive around the streets of his neighborhood with his high school buddies. That academic inquisitiveness led him to Purdue University where after two years he transferred to the US Naval Academy, graduating with the Class of 1946. Always searching for knowledge, Mel continued his academic career at GW University earning a Master's Degree in Administration and Systems Management in 1970.

On Christmas Day in 1950, Mel married his lovely wife, Edith Celley, going on to have 62 years together. Edith and Mel raised four children: Mandy, who married Gordon, had two sons and lives in England; Barbara, who lives in Waldorf, Maryland; Harry, Jr. (Skip) who married Lucia who have a daughter and live in California; and Martha, who married Dave and raised four girls in Northern Virginia. Mel and Edith have seven grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Mel's Naval career spanned 30 years including serving aboard and commanding many naval

vessels all over the world. After retirement from the Navy in 1973, Mel and Edith moved to their Maryland farm, Maycroft, where Mel began a second career as a farmer, raising sheep and cattle with enthusiasm and willingness to take on new challenges, such as planting a tree farm. Mel became an important part of the fabric of St. Mary's county quickly, becoming a good neighbor and friend to many.

Mel enjoyed life to the fullest. He loved traveling, going to parties, caring for his family pets, and sitting on the porch with Edith enjoying the view. He will be greatly missed by all.

### **Greenert: Navy's Budget Woes Could Worsen in 2014 (From military.com article)**

July 19, 2013

Military.com by Matthew Cox

The U.S. Navy's chief of operations said Thursday he's hoping to eliminate the unknowns of sequestration cuts on his service by 2015.

Navy budget officials are now working on a long-term spending plan for fiscal 2015 to fiscal 2019 that include the mandatory spending cuts of sequestration. The move represents a significant shift since the Pentagon's defense spending plans for fiscal years 2013 and 2014 include none of the drastic spending cuts each service began absorbing this spring.

"Things will stabilize first in probably 2015," Chief of Naval Operations Adm. Jonathan Greenert told an audience at a July 18 National Naval Officers Association meeting. "It will be awful – 15 through 19 – the cuts will be huge, but we'll be able to say that is what it looks like ... instead of doing this by year. That will help us understand what we can and can't do."

Sequestration went into effect March 1 despite months of warnings by the service chiefs that cutting \$500 billion in defense spending over the next decade will slash training budgets, delay modernization, and severely hamper the U.S. military's ability to project forces around the globe.

The Pentagon has begun furloughing thousands of its civilian workers, which has hindered critical operations such as ship building efforts and depot maintenance, military officials have said.

"This has been a tough year for everybody," Greenert said.

One way the Navy has dealt with the cuts in the second half of fiscal 2013 has been to scour each budget line, searching for money that can be sacrificed, Greenert said, pointing to the DDG51 as an example.

Navy officials found money for "books, for drawings, for training equipment" – as much as 15 percent of each ship's budget – and said "pay the sequestration bill out of that and build the ship," Greenert said.

"We did that for many, many budget lines, and that is money that was put in years before because when you build a ship you execute that over several years ... so we paid today's bill with money that was put in years before."

That money is gone now, so "it's going to be very, very hard not to lose a ship or two, several aircraft and stuff like that in 2014," Greenert said, explaining that the Navy's current fleet of 286 ships "will likely dip down into the 270s over the next few years."

The services have also cut back on the number of conferences and symposiums personnel can attend to save money, but Greenert cautioned against canceling every fleet week and air show over the next few years.

### **THE LCS PROGRAM FALTERING (FROM MILITARY.COM)**

Jul 23, 2013

Military.com by Matthew Cox

The government's watchdog agency says Congress should freeze money for building new Littoral Combat Ships until the Navy can prove the program has righted itself.

The Government Accountability Office attacked the Navy's LCS effort, criticizing the service's premier modernization effort as being an over-budget, behind-schedule program and a platform that hasn't proven it can do the missions it was designed to perform, according to a draft copy of a report scheduled to be released Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

"The current LCS program is not the program envisioned over a decade ago," according to the report. "Initial cost estimates have been significantly exceeded; the Navy has not been able to field the ship or its planned capabilities much more rapidly than prior programs, as planned; and the Navy will not be able to demonstrate that the LCS can meet the threshold capabilities defined in

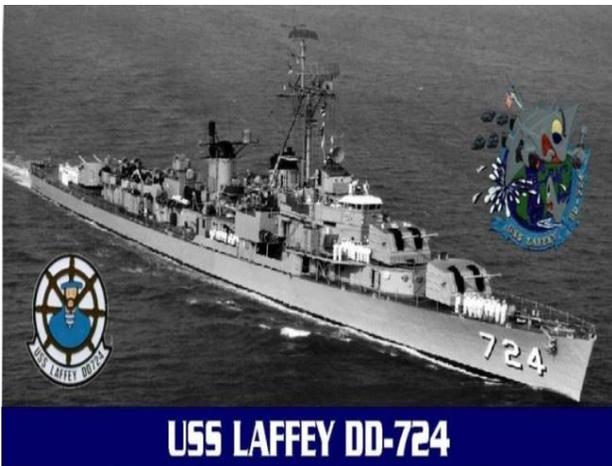
its requirements documentation with mission modules integrated with the seaframes until 2019."

The LCS class consists of two variants. The first of the mono-hulled USS Freedom variants was delivered in September 2008, and the first aluminum trimaran-hulled USS Independence variant was delivered in December 2009.

Each of the ships is designed to be fitted with special mission modules for surface warfare, mine countermeasures and anti-submarine warfare depending on the threats at hand.

**EDITOR'S COMMENT:** You might recall that we had an article in the Laffey News several years ago detailing this new program/ship after I had seen the USS Independence at the Mayport, FL (Near Jacksonville, FL) U.S. Naval Base (Cruisers and Destroyers). At the time, we had never seen this vessel design that had such a small crew.

### USS LAFFEY AUTO PLATE AVAILABLE



One of our members has created an auto license plate suitable for mounting on vehicles not having a front plate state tag requirement. They can also be installed on golf carts. The cost of each plate is \$23 with shipping and handling included. Normal delivery is within 3 weeks.

The USS Laffey Association is not directly involved with the ordering or shipment of these great looking plates. Instead, your orders and payment checks should be directed to the following:

Mr. Bob Karas  
452 Wilmington Circle

Oviedo, FL 32765-6186

**Include your phone number and address with the mailed-in order.**



**Bartlett Laffey, Medal of Honor Recipient – The Civil War - For his heroic actions at the battle of Yazoo City, MS on March 5<sup>th</sup>, 1864**

### NEW LAFFEY WEAR OFFERING

#### STYLE 4750 - The Express Jacket



100% Oxford nylon outer shell

- Coated for wind and water resistance
- 7oz diamond quilt lining
- Raglan Sleeves
- Fleece lined collar with inside storm flap
- Outer right chest zipper pocket, front zippered pockets and inside chest pockets
- Open bottom hem, side seam zippers to accommodate accessories
- Velcro cuff closures

Dave Bossard, owner of "The Locker Room" and member of the USS Laffey DD-724 Association has recently announced the availability of the above shown apparel item designed for Laffey sailors,

their spouses, and children/grandchildren and beyond!

**Give Dave a call at cell # 610-698-4653, or fax him at # 610-488-5012 to discuss pricing details, sizing, and any up charges that might apply to your selection.**

### **2013 REUNION IN NEW ORLEANS**

Our 2013 Reunion will be held in New Orleans from September 8<sup>th</sup> to September 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost for scheduled activities is \$150 per person. Please refer to page 11 of this newsletter for the registration form.

Several changes to note: Monday night we will have an evening of "the taste of Nawlins"!! This is a casual dress event....avoid dark clothing!

On Wednesday evening the Mardi Gras Party is also a casual dress event. Beads will be provided and we will not have to catch them!!

We have extended the cut-off date for registration to August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to accommodate the requests of several members. If you have procrastinated about attending, please give Jill Michel a call (see registration form) and then send in your completed registration form.

### **SOME SUGGESTIONS FOR YOUR VISIT**

New Orleans has really great food to offer: Fried pickles and gator bites at Huck Finns, Char-grilled Oysters at Royal House or Po-Boys, Gumbo and Prawns at a number of other restaurants. Do you crave something sweet? Stop by Café Du Monde and experience some beignets from the shop that created them. Pralines of all types are to be found at just about all of the candy shops.

There is plenty to do and see: Stroll through Jackson Square and see St. Louis Cathedral, Cabildo, or Presbytere museums. See what bugs you at the Insectarium or see the penguins and sting rays at the Aquarium that also has an IMAX with a selection of wildlife movies.

**The one place that we should all want to see is the WWII Museum that recently doubled its size...Take a short ride on the trolley to get there.** You can start with the IMAX showing of

"Beyond all Boundaries" and then weave your way through the war. A second day is available for \$5.

The Riverwalk has a great view, shops, and is only a couple of blocks away and there is another mall even closer. Take a trolley ride to the Garden District where you can stroll through the historic neighborhoods.

Transportation options include buses, trolleys, ferry, paddlewheel boats, taxis, and even horse drawn carriages. Obviously, you can easily walk to many attractions from our centrally located hotel.

If you feel lucky, Harrah's Casino is only a block away and Bourbon Street is a few blocks away. Good ole rock n roll is great at The Beach or Famous Door. Karaoke or Cajun is great at the Voodoo Vibe.

Remember also that our hotel recently experienced a \$55 million dollar renovation and the place looks absolutely great! And, it's located just across from the French Quarter.

For those who enjoy a martini with lunch, they are only 25 centsw each (Yes 25 cents) at the Commander's Palace or Café Adelaide (See the January-February-March 2013 newsletter). Fine Dining can be had at Antoines ([www.antoines.com](http://www.antoines.com)) or Broussard's ([www.broussards.com](http://www.broussards.com)). Two other nearby restaurants are Galatories and Brennan's Restaurant.

For the history buff, visit the Louisiana Civil War Museum at 929 Camp Street. It's one of the largest repositories of Confederacy-related artifacts and memorabilia in the United States and it's the oldest continuously operated museum in Louisiana.

So come to the reunion and experience all that New Orleans has to offer....You will not be disappointed!!

### **FOOD FOR THOUGHT**

The legacy of heroes is the memory of a great name and the inheritance of a great example.

**Benjamin Disraeli**

### **A FINAL NEWSLETTER NOTE**

The USS Yorktown turned 70 this past April - **Happy Birthday to this historic ship!!**

# 2013 USS LAFFEY REUNION - NEW ORLEANS, LA - REGISTRATION



**Reunion Dates: Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> - 11<sup>th</sup> 2013 - Cost for activities \$150 per person**  
**NOTE: REGISTRATION SUBMISSION DEADLINE DATE IS AUGUST 18, 2013**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Persons Attending \_\_\_\_\_

E/Mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

What Years did you serve on the USS Laffey: \_\_\_\_\_

What was your rate: \_\_\_\_\_

Will you have a vehicle to park: **Note: In/Out Privileges Are Not Included in the Daily Hotel Parking Rate.** (I need to give the parking garage a rough count) \_\_\_\_\_

What day do you expect to arrive: \_\_\_\_\_

Will this be the First reunion that you are Attending? \_\_\_\_\_

Special Needs and/or Allergies: \_\_\_\_\_

Please let us know **if you will NOT** be attending a specific function during the reunion. We must pay per person: You will not be refunded but the money will remain with the Association instead of paying for something unused.

**Send Reunion Registration and check made out to "USS Laffey Association" to Jill Michel, 26 Quaker Road, Mickleton, NJ 08056-1303**

**Contact: Jill Michel @comcast.net or call 609-870-0600 / 856-423-4263**

**Please feel free to call with any questions or concerns.**

**Please contact the Sheraton New Orleans Hotel (500 Canal Street just across from the French Quarter) directly at 504-525-2500 to reserve your room.** The room rate is \$119 per night (plus taxes). Make sure to mention "USS Laffey - FAJ6A" **There is an additional \$25 per day charge for the parking garage (If needed) but this rate does not include in/out privileges.**

**USS Laffey DD-724 Association**

Bob Wampler

100 Landing Lane

Bluffton, SC 29909-6060

