

2013 ANNUAL REUNION TO BE HELD IN NEW ORLEANS!

LAFFEY NEWS

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



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

January-February-March

www.laffey.org

2013

“I’LL NEVER ABANDON SHIP AS LONG AS A GUN WILL FIRE” - CDR F. JULIAN BECTON

President’s Message March, 2013

Hi Shipmates,

This has really been a tough couple of months. We were at the ship at the beginning of February for a mini work party. Four of us, John Hudak, Dave Harhager, John Miller and I, went to Patriots Point to get some small jobs done before our large work party in April. As it turned out, we didn’t get too much accomplished. Miller and Harhager pulled up the old carpet in the CPO Lounge only to find holes in the deck. Hudak went to work and welded patches over the rusted out deck.

John came up with an idea on how we could get potable water supplied to the ship that would feed one urinal, one wash basin and the coffee pot. I went up to Bob Howard’s office and talked with Bob about the problems of not having an operational head. He gave me the OK to get the plumbing hooked up. While waiting to hear from someone with a septic tank truck to give us some idea what they would need for us to make the hook up we ran out of time to get started.

Since returning home we’ve gotten in touch with a company that will come to meet with us at the ship while we are there for our next work party. Hopefully they can advise us with recommendations on what can be done.

In the mean time, our friend Jeff Jacobs, who is a member of the Board of Directors of the Patriots Point Foundation, called to tell me that the

Foundation is going to donate the tank and a few hundred dollars in Lowe’s gift cards for us to get the pipe and fittings. Jeff has been working his butt off helping us to get the ship back in shape. We hope to have the water hooked up and the drain piping installed and in operation during our next work party.

I have to apologize to the work party guys for not being able to give you a date for the next work party. As of this date, March 6, we still don’t have any berthing spaces onboard the carrier open as they are all taken by the Boy Scouts. We can’t complain because the Scout Program is one of Patriots Point’s main sources of income. They have as many as 700 scouts staying overnight and the spring is the busiest time of the year for their scouting program. I am in constant communication with the persons involved in the scheduling of the campers who stay on the Yorktown. I will notify everyone when we finally get a date for our work party.

We realize that we have been sleeping and eating on our ship for 30 years since she was brought to Patriots Point but while she was gone for 3 years she lost her “Grandfather Right” for us to use our ship the way we always did. As a result, the new fire regulations now define the Laffey as a BUILDING???. We now have to comply with rules made for hotels.

We can no longer cook in the CPO galley unless a COMMERCIAL fire suppression system is put in at the grill. (Which is electric and only about 3’ x 3’) I don’t see (personally) why we can’t just have a fire

extinguisher hanging right next to the grill (just in case). We also can't sleep aboard unless we get a sprinkler system put in. Of course this is cost prohibitive.

The good news..... We can have our meals there if we don't use the grill. During the mini work party we had cereal, toast and bacon, egg and cheese sandwiches (cooked in the microwave). The sandwiches were Hudak's recipe and were very delicious. For lunch we had horse c...oops.....cold cut sandwiches. So it can be done but we sure miss the eggs, bacon, potatoes and sausage that we used to have on the grill. We would cause all kinds of problems with the Patriots Point employees because as they came to work they could smell our bacon cooking.....now we aren't allowed to cause work stoppages....ha ha!

Jill Michel called tonight and informed that she is reserving 35 rooms in New Orleans for the 2013 reunion. The dates are Sept. 8th to the 11th, 2013. She will have a more detailed explanatory article later in this newsletter. It looks as if the turnout will be sparse this year in New Orleans. As of this writing we only have 21 rooms filled. We are obligated to fill 85% of the rooms that we block off. Please let Jill know ASAP if you will be attending the reunion. Remember, if you wait too late you may not get a room...and you'll be missing a wonderful travel destination!!!

Another task that needs to be taken care of is a tree planting at Patriots Point with a plaque honoring the 32 crewmembers that were killed at Okinawa aboard the Laffey on 16 April 1945. We have obtained permission from Patriots Point to plant a tree and erect the plaque. We are in the process of getting this done. I have been told that to plant a Live Oak sapling in the summer will not work. The best planting time is in the fall. The heat in the summer is too stressful on a young plant. Stay tuned for more info on this project.

Please bear with us as we try to get these matters taken care of. It seems that everything we try to do these days has so many strings attached that it takes twice the time as it used to.

Please keep our ill shipmates in your prayers.

Sonny Walker
President

KEEP THESE IMPORTANT DAYS OPEN

The **2013 reunion** dates have been established and they are....**September 8-11, 2013**. We are visiting New Orleans this year and it is just one fabulous destination! Once you've set aside these dates, it's time to do some planning, some saving and, of course, some time to wash all of your dirty clothes from the 2012 reunion! The official reunion registration form and the anticipated itinerary will be published in the next edition of the Laffey News.

NOW HEAR THIS.....NOW HEAR THIS!

The big three holidays of 2012 - 2013 have passed, we've had sufficient time to get rested, and it's now time to do some paperwork!

For those with internet capabilities and those who pay for their membership to the USS Laffey DD-724 Association on an annual basis, please go to our website (www.laffey.org) and scroll down to the membership roster portion of the website, look for your name, check your address and phone number to verify that we have accurate information for your listing, and, if something has changed and we merely need to make corrections, please contact our Membership Chairman, Fred Nardei via e-mail at faafred@yahoo.com and inform him of changes that need to be made.

For those who do not have internet capabilities, please **contact Fred Nardei via phone at (317)-402-7235 (cell phone)** to verify your current status as a dues paying member and to verify your current membership information.

Thank you for helping out with "housekeeping" aspects of our membership roster accuracy.

QUOTE OF THE QUARTER

There is alchemy in sorrow. It can be transmuted into wisdom, which, if it does not bring joy, can yet bring happiness. **Pearl Buck**

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A CHANGIN"

Announced in the May 21, 2012 edition of Navy News by the Chief of Naval Personnel public affairs:

WASHINGTON -- NAVADMIN 164/12, released May 18, announced the chief of naval operations'

(CNO) approval of a number of changes to uniforms and uniform wear policy.

"These uniform changes are the direct result of Sailor and leadership feedback," said Rear Adm. Tony Kurta, director, Military Personnel Plans and Policy. "Updating Navy uniforms is part of outfitting the 21st Century Sailor, ensuring our Sailors have practical uniforms they want and that represent our proud naval heritage while reflecting advances in clothing technology and design."

An improved design of the male E1-E6 Service Dress Blue (SDB) Uniform, incorporating a side zipper on the jumper and a hidden center zipper on the trousers, is approved. The uniform is scheduled to begin distribution in October 2015, at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, and Fleet availability is expected by October 2018. Specific details regarding fleet availability will be announced in a future NAVADMIN.

The E1-E6 men's and women's Service Dress White (SDW) jumper approved design improvements include incorporating a side zipper, front and rear yoke, Navy blue piping on the flap, and sleeve cuffs with Navy blue piping and button fasteners. Introduction of the new E1-E6 SDW will begin October 2015, at Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes. Fleet roll out will begin by October 2018. Specific details regarding Fleet availability will be announced in a future NAVADMIN.

The contemporary design for Service Dress Khaki (SDK) is approved for optional wear. Detailed guidance on the occasion for wear and Fleet availability will be announced in a future NAVADMIN.

EDITOR'S COMMENT: With these new side jumper zippers it seems to me that the new lads will never have the "joyful" experience of attempting to "pull on" their jumpers after a slight increase in weight and size!! The reality of this: Yes, I know....The cleaners/laundry were at fault back then!!

ANOTHER COMMENT: I'm not certain if the above uniform changes are still proceeding as planned. I've seen nothing recently on this matter and the 2013 military budget situation might delay the implementation of these intentions.

THE USS RONALD REAGAN (CVN76)

Seeing it next to the Arizona Memorial (upper left) really puts its size into perspective ...
ENORMOUS!



When the Bridge pipes 'Man the Rail' there is a lot of rail to man on this monster: shoulder to shoulder, around 4.5 acres. Her displacement is about 100,000 tons with a full complement.

Some Important details:

Top speed exceeds 30 knots, powered by two nuclear reactors that can operate for more than 20 years without refueling

1. Expected to operate in the fleet for about 50 years!
2. Carries over 80 combat aircraft.
3. Three arresting cables can stop a 28-ton aircraft going 150 miles per hour in less than 400 feet

Size

1. She towers 20 stories above the waterline.
2. 1092 feet long; is nearly as long as the Empire State Building is tall!
3. Flight deck covers 4.5 acres
4. There are 4 bronze propellers, each 21 feet across, weighing 66,200 pounds.
5. The USS Ronald Reagan has 2 rudders, each 29 by 22 feet and weighing 50 tons.
6. The USS Reagan has 4 high speed aircraft elevators, each over 4,000 square feet.

Capacity

1. She is home to about 6,000 Navy personnel.

2. She carries enough food and supplies to operate for 90 days.
3. 18,150 meals served daily.
4. Distillation plants provide 400,000 gallons of fresh water from sea water daily, enough for 2,000 homes.
5. Nearly 30,000 light fixtures and 1,325 miles of cable and wiring 1,400 telephones.
6. 14,000 pillowcases and 28,000 sheets.

NOW HERE'S THE QUESTION:

Do you think the USS Ronald Reagan's ship's company could even see the Laffey if we pulled alongside??!!

I also wonder how many cooks are involved in the preparation of 18,150 meals each day??!!

SPEAKING OF FOOD...

Better Chow, Cooked from Scratch: Navy Food Management Team in Action

Story by Candice Villarreal, NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center San Diego Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NNS) -- When NAVSUP Fleet Logistics Center (FLC) San Diego's Navy Food Management Team (NFMT) crossed the brow to depart USS Stockdale (DDG 106) Jan. 13, they knew the crew would be eating well.

NAVSUP FLC San Diego's NFMT visited the guided-missile destroyer for a four-day period to conduct a routine assessment for the ship's food service divisions.

The assessment - or "assist visit" - covered areas like sanitation practices, inventory procedures, record keeping and inspection. Unlike most shipboard assessments, however, there was an added incentive for the crew at the end: better meals, cooked from scratch.

"What we do is conduct our assessments, and then based on the results, we conduct specialized training in the areas we think could benefit them, but we always place a special emphasis on scratch cooking," said Chief Warrant Officer Andrew Pickins, the team's lead analyst.

Scratch cooking is a hands-on cooking style that uses fresh ingredients and recipes to create home-made meals that are individually crafted from start to finish. Due to the operational tempo and manpower restrictions in the Navy's galleys, daily

menus often alternate between heat-and-serve dishes and freshly prepared selections.

"We look at the standard course menus with the culinary specialists and teach them how they can spice them up," said Pickins. "We focus on teaching them to cook from scratch as much as possible, and we'd like to see 50 percent of all meals prepared that way."

The team's goal is to enhance the skills of culinary specialists to provide better food service throughout the Navy's general messes. The NFMT is comprised of Sailors in culinary rates at pay grades at or above E-7 which, according to Pickins, ensures the trainers not only boast finely-tuned culinary skills, but also have the firsthand experience of running their own food service operations at sea and ashore.

Aboard Stockdale, NFMT trainers scanned the day's pre-planned menu of chicken chalupas, beef tacos, beef stir-fry and egg foo young and taught the Sailors to make each dish from scratch, rather than using heat-and-serve alternatives. The end result: wholesome, hearty meals, freshly crafted, and seasoned to perfection.

"Stockdale received us very well," said Pickins. "The Sailors were very receptive to the training we provided and I think they enjoyed the meals they created. When we train them one day and we return to see them applying those skills the next day, we consider that a success."

The Navy Food Management Team conducts assist visits for commands across the west coast every 18 months to provide CS-types with both refresher and advanced training.

"We're providing Sailors with a skill, and in the end it makes a big difference throughout the fleet," said Pickins. "Taking something out of a box and heating it up is not a skill, and that's not the kind of cooking that will make them competitive when they get out of the Navy and go into the private sector."

When culinary specialists take scratch cooking skills and put them to work, everybody benefits and morale improves. The cooks take more pride in what they do and Sailors on the mess decks get to enjoy some really good food."

While at-sea staples like hot dogs and chicken nuggets will never disappear completely, the

training offered by NFMT professionals ensures that Sailors answering the call of duty are offered more selections that bring them a little taste of home.

HM-M-M-M-M-M-M – Do we have any culinary specialists available to help feed our hungry attendees during any work party? Sadly, and unfortunately, we can no longer prepare meals onboard the ship!! Scrub that request for our own (Laffey) culinary specialists!!

Korean War veteran, 82, granted

Dying wish to walk deck of old ship

Published March 03, 2013
Associated Press



Gerald Bowman, 82, boards the USS Laffey in Mount Pleasant, S.C. ([AP](#))

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. – Korean War veteran Gerald Bowman gamely walked up the gangplank to board the ship he had not seen in almost six decades. The 82-year-old is suffering from congestive heart failure with only about a year to live and his dying wish was to walk the decks of the USS Laffey on which he served four years, including three tours off Korea.

Wearing a USS Laffey hat, he led reporters through the ship at the Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum on Charleston Harbor Friday, stopping by his old bunk and then into the engine room where as a machinist mate he worked, sometimes in sweltering temperatures of more than 120 degrees.

He choked up and paused when asked how it felt to be back.

"I just wanted to come back and see actually what happened to me in my early 20s," the Elkins, Ark., man said. "I think the bottom line was the four years changed me. I was a different person when I left."

His Navy experiences included a 28-day stretch when, from off the Korean coast, the Laffey poured shells at targets on the mainland.

He described how the ship would roll from side to side when the guns were fired and how he would go out with a couple other sailors in small wooden boats to clear mines. It had to be done at night, with no lights and no weapons except for knives. The metal from the guns might have exploded the floating mines, he said.

"I asked him why he volunteered to do something so dangerous. He said it was because he was 20 years old," his daughter Kim Bowman Billings said.

Father and daughter were watching television coverage of the Laffey being brought back to the museum just over a year ago after undergoing \$9 million in repairs.

"It just came on and he said that's my ship. He said how he wished he could walk her one more time and he could even show me the bunk where he slept," Billings said.

Bowman said he didn't know what had become of the ship until he saw the TV coverage.

The Laffey got its nickname "The Ship That Would not Die" in World War II when it was attacked in 1945 off Japan. It suffered 103 casualties when hit by four bombs and five kamikaze planes. The vessel was mothballed after the war but reactivated for Korea.

Bowman's trip was arranged after Billings contacted the Dream Foundation, a California-based organization granting wishes for adults and their families facing life-threatening illnesses. Hardees also help arrange the trip.

"This is my gift to him," Billings said. "I think it's the most wonderful thing in the world."

POSSIBLE CHANGES TO RETIREMENT

A sweeping new plan to overhaul the Pentagon's retirement system would give some benefits to all troops and phase out the 20-year cliff vesting system that has defined military careers for generations, the Military Times newspapers reported.

The plan calls for a corporate-style benefits program that would contribute money to troops' retirement savings account rather than the promise of a future monthly pension, according to a new proposal from an influential Pentagon advisory board.

The move would save the Pentagon money -- at a time when it's being asked to cut \$400 billion -- and benefit troops who leave with less than 20 years of service.

The yearly contributions might amount to about 16.5 percent of a member's annual pay and would be deposited into a mandatory version of the Thrift Savings Plan, the military's existing 401(k)-style account that now does not include government matching contributions, according to the Times.

Proponents said the plan would allow more flexibility for service members, who could decide how they want to invest their retirement savings, and for the military, which would be allowed to offer higher contributions to troops who deploy frequently or take hardship assignments.

Editors Comment: The military has been taking a disproportionate level of budgetary cuts which are being identified as reductions in annual budgetary expenditures by the Federal Government. With "Sequestration" (A reduction of the increase in the budget) we have an additional consideration of the ramifications of the above Military Times article.

A NOTE ABOUT "OLE NINE-NINETY-NINE"

All Hands,

I just spoke with Richie (Rich McKinney) on the phone. He had a procedure done on his heart today: It is called an "Ablation". They go in through the groin and burn the nerves or whatever causes electric impulses. This will stop his IRREGULAR heart beat. He is resting in the hospital tonight and will go home tomorrow.

Happy New Year, Sonny 12-26-12

ANOTHER RECENT ILLNESS TO REPORT

ALL HANDS:

We received a phone call from Margaret Casaday-Cloer today (January 18th). She told me that she had a stroke in December. For those who don't know Margaret, her husband was Calvin Cloer. He was killed at Okinawa in Mount 53.

She still has some numbness in her left side but there is no slurring of speech or anything. So, please say a prayer for her speedy recovery during 2013.

Also, please keep our other ill shipmates in your prayers.

Thanks, Sonny

Editor's Comment: Margaret only recently became aware of our association and the presence of the USS Laffey DD-724 at Patriots Point. She became an official member of the association last year, attended the 2012 Reunion in Charleston with her daughter and grandsons, and "enlisted" both of them into the ranks of the Junior Laffey Sailors: Well done on that Margaret!

NOTICE OF MEMBER'S PASSING

ALL HANDS:

Another sad message to report:

I was just told (January 29th) about the passing of Stan Ketron GM3. Stan served aboard 2/44-12/45 and he was a survivor of the Okinawa Battle.

Stan traded GQ stations with George Falotico who didn't like being inside MT51: He wanted to be outside on a 20MM. During the battle, George was killed instantly with a direct hit while Stan, being inside MT51 survived.

Stan hadn't been well for 3 years. We will miss Stan: He was a great guy!

Sonny

WORK PARTY MESSAGE (MARCH 7, 2013)

ALL HANDS:

How many would be interested in a work party starting Saturday April 13th and ending Friday 19th? Mac Burdette has asked if we could be there to celebrate the 70th birthday of the Yorktown on the 13th.

He asked how many hotel rooms we would need.....I told him that we can't pay for the hotel rooms. If they pay for the hotel for Saturday night, how many of you would come to the work party. We would then move aboard the carrier for the rest of the week.

Let me know ASAP.
Sonny

USS LAFFEY DD-724 ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND STAFF

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(rdwjcw@hargray.com)

Editor's Comment: One of our members, "Chip" Vernon Honsinger, contacted me with a request that we include the email addresses of those association officers who are actively involved with the daily affairs of the USS Laffey DD-724 Association. Please note that with this edition we have done so with the OFFICERS AND STAFF LIST. This was a very good suggestion and we have incorporated Chip's suggestion into this edition of the Laffey News.

YES INDEED – I'M STILL PUSHING THESE PLATE FRAMES....AND WITH JUSTIFICATION!



We have a lot of new members in the association and it's up to all of you to help promote interest in the ship and the fact that the USS Laffey DD-724 remains still alive and "a kicken"!

For those longtime members who have yet to install these frames on your vehicles.....What in the dickens are you waiting for? Get up from your Lazy Boy lounge and send in your order....and you know I'll be saying "Why Bless Your Little Heart"!

Install these plate frames around your auto tags and be noticed!! Tell everyone the story of "The Ship That Would Die" because it is a story well worth repeating! 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

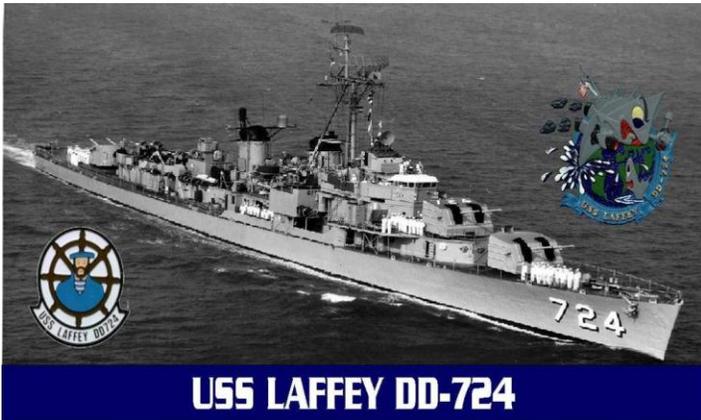
We'll do the rest: And your car, truck, boat, or golf cart will look just "as pretty as Terry Bradshaw after his diet program"! OKAY, OKAY.....Maybe not as pretty as Terry Bradshaw: You might have to get an auto detailing polish and do a little work!

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 1st of January of each year. This will help to eliminate the confusion surrounding when to send your membership dues. For those non-life members 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 93rd Court Road, Summerfield, FL 34491. For membership questions please phone Fred at (317)-402-7235 (cell phone)

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.

TAPS LIST

LCDR Alfred Van Horne
Executive Officer from 1964-66
Passed away November 5, 2012

Frank R. Fox, RD2, Korean War Veteran
Served aboard Laffey 1951-54
Past Secretary of USS Laffey Association
Passed away December 4, 2012

Charles "Chuck" Horton, GMSN
Served aboard Laffey 1960-63
Passed away December 7, 2012
Stanley H Ketron, GM3, Plankowner

Served aboard Laffey 1944-45
Okinawa Battle Survivor
Passed away January 26, 2013

Frank Mayeda, RD3
Served aboard Laffey 1945-46
Onboard Laffey during A-Bomb Test at Bikini Atoll
Passed away February 3, 2013
Was present at 2012 reunion in Charleston

REMEMBERING TIN CAN SAILORS

Hey guys, if you missed this on TV, go to this website and check out the video. It sure brings back memories. It is one of the best I've seen that captures our experiences at sea. Thanks to Jeff Jacobs for putting this on the website.

Sonny

http://eugeneleeslover.com/Sailors_Stories/Remembering_Tin_Can_Sailors.html

The video has a 51 minute running time that is broken into 5 easy segments. Please sign the guest book "while you're visiting".

Pass it around... and don't forget to remind the guys to sign the guest book!

RECENTLY RECEIVED DONATIONS

William Lucius \$ 50.00
In memory of Jack Conger

Dan Essig 111 \$375.00
In memory of Danny Essig

Susan Justice \$ 50.00
In memory of Danny Essig

Dorothea Pressburger \$ 50.00
In memory of Ramon Pressburger

Fred Nardei \$200.00
In memory of daughter Anna Marie Newman

Paul Rogness \$100.00
In memory of LCDR A. Vanhorne

Brian McAuley \$ 50.00
In memory of Charles Horton

Bethel Church \$ 70.00
In memory of Stan Ketron

James Baker	\$ 75.00	
In memory of Stan Ketron		
Rocky Hill Volunteer Ambulance Assoc.	\$200.00	
In memory of Francis Mayeda		
Harold Schwerdtfeger	\$ 50.00	
In memory of Francis Mayeda		
Dave Bossard	\$700.00	The Ship's Store - Donation From Sales
Vern Honsinger	\$100.00	Work Party Fund Donation
Dan Bulicek	\$ 25.00	Work Party Fund Donation
Edwin M Walker	\$ 25.00	Work Party Fund Donation
Robert Logsdon	\$100.00	Work Party Fund Donation
Harry Rogers	\$ 90.00	Work Party Fund Donation

Please know that your donations will be put to good use as we continue to see that the USS Laffey remains the best looking ship at Patriots Point: We sincerely appreciate your generosity in making these donations and, in many cases, we regret that the donations are a result of the loss of a family member, friend, and/or a loved one. May all of the deceased mentioned above rest in peace.

SOME INFORMATION ON NEW ORLEANS

Getting Around New Orleans

Streetcars buses:

Getting around New Orleans by streetcar is a great way to see the city. There are three different lines: St. Charles, Canal Street, and the Riverfront, each of which originates downtown but takes you different parts of the city.

Fares:

Senior Citizens (65 years old and over, with ID)	
Streetcars	\$0.40 one way
Buses	\$0.40 one way

Transfers FREE

One and three day passes also available (\$3 - \$9)

Some things to do and See:

Harrah's New Orleans Casino
8 Canal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
www.HarrahsNewOrleans.com

[The National World War II Museum](http://TheNationalWorldWarIIMuseum)
945 Magazine St., New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 528-1944
www.nationalww2museum.org

Description: A must-see for history lovers and all patriots, it has been designated by the U.S. Congress as the country's official World War II Museum. Powerful images and extraordinary artifacts bring to life the American Spirit, the courage, teamwork and sacrifice of the young men and women who won the war and changed the world. From the 1930s prelude to war, to the Normandy Invasion and the battles of the Pacific Islands, visitors trace America's role in the war and on the Home Front.

The Cabildo

701 Chartres St., Jackson Square, New Orleans, LA 70116
(504) 568-6968, (800) 568-6968
lsm.crt.state.la.us

Neighborhood: [French Quarter](#)

Attraction Type/s: Museum, Historic Site, Historic Building.

Description: The Cabildo is one of the most historically significant buildings in America. Built between 1795 and 1799 to replace a structure that burned in the 1794 fire, the Cabildo served as the seat of government in New Orleans during the Spanish colonial period and is the location where the Louisiana Purchase was signed in 1803.

Louisiana's Civil War Museum

929 Camp St, New Orleans, LA 70130
(504) 523-4522
www.confederatemuseum.com

Description: Louisiana's Civil War Museum is one of the largest repositories of Confederacy-related artifacts and memorabilia in the United States, in addition to being the oldest continuously operating museum in Louisiana. The Louisiana Historical

Association built the museum in 1891, and its exterior sandstone construction and cathedral-like appearance stand out in contrast to its more recent surroundings on the edge of New Orleans' Warehouse Arts District.

For more information on things to do visit New Orleans official tourism website
<http://www.neworleansonline.com/>

Some dining suggestions for free time activities

Commander's Palace

1403 Washington Avenue
New Orleans, LA 70130
at the corner of Coliseum Street in the Garden District
(504) 899-8221
Business Casual

Lunch: 25 cent Martinis

<http://www.commanderspalace.com/>

Editor's comment: The Commander's Palace is a short trolley ride (About 1.6 miles) from the WWII Museum and might be coupled with a visit to the museum.

Cafe Adelaide

300 Poydras Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
(The Commander's Family of Restaurants)

Enjoy 25¢ martinis at lunch!

Who knew a "power lunch" could be so much fun? Limit of three with purchase of entrée ('cause that's enough!!)

Located in the Loews New Orleans Hotel, adjacent to the Arts District, Café Adelaide and The Swizzle Stick Bar

<http://www.cafeadelaide.com/>

Acme Oyster House

724 Iberville Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
French Quarter
Great Fried Oyster Po-boy! A great New Orleans original!!

<http://www.acmeoyster.com/>

Central Grocery

923 Decatur Street
New Orleans, LA 70116
The Creators of the Original Muffuletta Sandwich In New Orleans, the muffuletta is a sandwich that's made on a (big) round, disc-like sesame bread filled with cured meats, marinated olives, and pickled vegetables. Though you *can* buy

muffulettas at any number of places in the city, it all began at **Central Grocery** in the French Quarter, where it came about as a way for Sicilians to combine the separate ingredients of their meal.

Café Du Monde

800 Decatur Street
New Orleans 70116
Open 24 Hours and Home to the very Best Beignets!

<http://cafedumonde.com/>

The Original Cafe Du Monde Coffee Stand was established in 1862 in the New Orleans French Market. The Cafe is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. It closes only on Christmas Day and on the day an occasional Hurricane passes too close to New Orleans. The Original Cafe Du Monde is a traditional coffee shop. Its menu consists of dark roasted Coffee and Chicory, Beignets, White and Chocolate Milk, and fresh squeezed Orange Juice. The coffee is served Black or Au Lait. Au Lait means that it is mixed half and half with hot milk. Beignets are square French -style doughnuts, lavishly covered with powdered sugar.

Galatoires Restaurant

209 Bourbon Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
<http://www.galatoires.com/index.html>

Brennan's Restaurant

417 Royal Street
New Orleans, LA 70130
French Quarter
<http://www.brennansneworleans.com/>

A couple of restaurants for fine dining

For those of you who might be inclined to celebrate an occasion while in New Orleans, we would strongly recommend you consider either Antoine's Restaurant (www.antoines.com) or Broussard's (www.broussards.com) **Editor's comment:** While in New Orleans recently, my wife and I had dinner's at the above two restaurants and experienced excellent dining but they can be "pricey". We also dined at The Commander's Palace, Acme Oyster House, and Central Grocery....Great experiences all! Finally, absolutely do not leave New Orleans without having several beignets at Café Du Monde! **Make sure you attend the 2013 reunion:** You'll have the camaraderie of being with shipmates, you'll be able visit the various museums and, for certain, you'll be able to eat plenty of good food!

Products - USS Laffey Ship Store

Welcome to the USS Laffey Ship Store. Listed below are some of the items we currently have available to sell. We will be listing more items as they become available. If you are interested in an item which is not listed, please send us an e-mail, or give us a call.

- [USS Laffey Crew Member Jacket](#)
- [USS Laffey Ball Cap](#)
- [USS Laffey Tee - Navy](#)
- [USS Laffey Crew Neck Sweatshirt](#)
- [USS Laffey Polo Jerseys](#)
- [USS Laffey Polo by Charles River](#)
- [USS Laffey Crew Member Black Polo Shirt with Stitching](#)
- [USS Laffey Blue Hooded Rain Jacket](#)
- [USS Laffey Fanatic Hooded Sweatshirt](#)
- [USS Laffey Dress Shirt with Embroidery](#)
- [USS Laffey Tee with Ship Photo - White Tee](#)
- [USS Laffey Tee with Ship Photo - Tan Tee](#)
- [USS Laffey Tee with Ship Photo - Ice Gray Tee](#)



EDITOR'S COMMENT: The association is fortunate to have one of its members as the source of supply for "Laffey Gear". Dave Bossard was an RM (Like me) during the early sixties and we were both under the "ruthless control" of none other than our President, Sonny Walker. (He was tough back then....unlike today's teddy bear version!!)

We were in need of a responsible supplier and Dave willingly said he would provide this service for the association. Our relationship began with Dave agreeing to maintain an inventory of clothing and ball caps we provide to our "recruited enlistees" in the Junior Laffey Sailor Program.

He then began to expand his stock of Laffey Gear as shown above. Dave has loaded-up" his SUV for the last two reunions and they were so full of "stuff" that his wife, Mary, could just about get into the vehicle. We want to support Dave: Please contact him at the phone, e-mail, or fax numbers shown above.

USS Laffey DD-724 Association

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