

2015 ORLANDO REUNION ITINERARY CHANGES – DETAILS INSIDE



U.S.S. LAFFEY DD724 & DD459



LAFFEY NEWS



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

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

July-August-September

www.laffey.org

2015

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE AUGUST – 2015

We are in the middle of a hot summer. You folks up in the northeast, at least you don’t have to shovel anything!!

It has finally come to pass; we are now allowed to sleep on the Laffey! After 6 years, it has now been approved by the good folks at Patriots Point to allow us to move back aboard for our work parties. We cannot use our grill that we installed 10 years ago due to the new fire regulations. The reason for this is because the ship was away from Patriots Point too long and we lost our grandfather rights. We now fall under commercial laws and regulations. As Destroyer Sailors we are used to changes. We must adjust our attitudes, menus and diet to obey the rules. I guarantee that we will still get the work completed and have a good time doing it!

Speaking of work parties, John Hudak, Dave Harhager, Don Watson and Joe Luque just completed a mini work party where they made the final adjustments and preparations for the fall work party to stay onboard the ship. They hooked up the heads and fresh water system. They hooked up the washer and dryer so we will be able to wash our work clothes, sheets and blankets while we are there. We need to thank these guys for doing a great job working in that Charleston Summer Heat! Our fall work party has been set for October 10-17. Ari says this is probably his last work party. He has been saying that for 10 years. It is embarrassing when he comes in and outworks all of the guys younger than him. We are all looking forward to seeing Ari again. As of this writing, we have 18 guys. We have room for two more. Let me know if you are interested.

We are really getting excited about the upcoming reunion, September 27-30, 2015 in Orlando. I am sure that Jill Michel has a good time set up for everyone. Hurry and get your reservations and get your check off to Jill.

Our Ship Model Raffle is going well. We have met our expenses and have over \$1,000.00 for the work party fund so far. If you haven't sent in your stubs please do so ASAP. There will also be tickets for sale at the reunion.

We have been receiving a lot of donations along with the raffle checks. What a great group of Laffey sailors we have to be proud of. One of these donations came from **Ms. Greta Conger, widow of Capt. H.G. Conger sent us a donation check in the amount of \$5,000.00.** When I opened that envelope and read the check I was speechless. Yes.... **ME..... SPEECHLESS!** This was such a gracious move on the Conger family's part. I am sure Captain Conger is really proud. Thank you so much Ms. Conger.

We lost some more friends in the last month. Lon Caulk, USMC, the "Resident Jarhead" at our work parties passed away June 7th, 3 days ahead of his friend and great artist, Mel Gerhold QM3. Lon was a good friend of our old shipmate Bill Lloyd and came to our work parties. We needed a marine to keep the brass shined!

Mel Gerhold moved to Wyoming from Baltimore, MD and became a famous western oil painter. His paintings are displayed in a western museum in Wyoming. I have one of his prints. He just loved it out there in the wide open spaces. Mel passed away 8 months after his wife Doris.

We also lost a WWII Plank Owner, Herbert Oyer, BM. We are losing our WWII guys one after the other now. Please remember them in your prayers.

We are looking forward to the reunion and the work party. There is nothing better than hanging out with our shipmates and their boys. I am so glad that we have another generation coming to the work parties, as we oldsters are beginning to run out of gas too! It started out where we from the 60's were the kids. Now we 60's sailors are approaching the age that the WWII guys were when we started attending the work parties: Just seeing the ship looking good and listening to the comments of the visitors makes it all worth it!

Enjoy the rest of summer and we'll see you in Orlando.

Sonny Walker - President

RECENT DONATIONS

In Memory of RM3 Harlan Cox:

Charlotte Cox, Surviving Spouse \$25.00

Editor's Comment: Please see Charlotte's personal note below.

In Memory Of Dorothy Walker:

Tom Klett \$ 25.00
 Bill & Joyce Schulte \$ 50.00
 Hilary Wagner \$ 75.00

In Memory of Lon Caulk:

Bruce Caulk \$200.00

In Memory of Mel Gerhold:

Bruce Caulk \$200.00

In Memory of Lillian and Joan Michel:

Jill Michel \$200.00

In Memory of Bob Koenig and Bob Esposito:

Leigh Malloy \$ 75.00

WORK PARTY DONATIONS

Frank Angotti \$ 25.00
 Catherine Arold \$ 25.00
 Harold Borton \$150.00
 Jean Brown \$ 25.00
 Jim Bossard \$ 20.00
 Robert Burnett \$ 25.00
 Greta Conger \$5,000.00
 Lee Ford \$ 75.00
 Anna Hall \$ 25.00
 James Hart \$100.00
 Robert C. Johnson \$225.00
 Richard Klein \$ 25.00
 Richard Livingston \$ 75.00
 Oliver Long, SOG2, June-55/October-58 \$100.00
 Bob Lucey \$100.00
 Ed "Pooch" Pochatek \$100.00
 Edith Rogers \$ 75.00
 Sharon Setmire \$ 20.00
 Bob Tolle \$ 75.00
 William Townsend \$ 75.00
 Doug Ward \$ 25.00
 Joel Youngquist \$250.00

SPECIAL DONATIONS ACKNOWLEDGED

Catholic War Veterans – St. Michael Post #1562:
(For Museum) \$500.00

Patriots Point Naval Maritime Museum Foundation:
\$8,000.00

DONATION DEDICATED TO THE ASSOCIATION

Oliver Long, SOG2, June-55/October-58 \$75.00

SPECIAL DONATION ACKNOWLEDGED

I just received a donation (June 11, 2015) from member Chic Sale to cover the price we paid for the new mattresses in the Work Party Sleeping Quarters.

He donated \$896.00!!!! (He also asked for 35 more raffle tickets for a total of 40 chances).

I am sending out the thank you letter.

Sonny

TAPS LIST

John William Padgett, GMC

Served Aboard Laffey 1966-1968
Passed Away February 13, 2015

Doris Gerhold

Wife of Mel Gerhold
Passed Away October 21, 2014

Lon Caulk, USMC

Long standing "Laffey
Resident Jarhead"
Passed Away June 7, 2015

Mel Gerhold, QM3

Served Aboard Laffey 1946-1947
Passed Away June 10, 2015

Earl Madison, EM2

Served aboard Laffey: 1963-1967
Passed Away on April 8, 2015

Herbert (Herb) Oyer, BM

Served Aboard Laffey 1944-1945
Passed Away on June 20, 2015

Editor's Comment: Please take a moment in silence to pray for and reflect upon those members and honorary members who have passed away recently. May they all "Rest in Peace".

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM CHARLOTTE COX

Ahoy shipmates! (Speaking for my dear departed husband, Harlan Cox, RM3 69-73):

Harlan did so love the Laffey. He told me before his passing: "Don't forget the Laffey".

Our Son and his fiancée went down to see "Dad's Ship" back in May. He wanted to show "her off" to his fiancée: He said "she" (The Ship!) looked great! He was very proud of "her"!!

Though...his visit was bitter-sweet, (His Dad was with him the last time he was there). The visit brought back many memories. However, they enjoyed their visit.

He said you fella's do a wonderful job with the upkeep on the "old girl"! We just wanted to thank you for all your hard work.

God bless you all!

Sincerely,

Charlotte Cox, Wife of the late Harlan Cox

A PERSONAL NOTE FROM OLIVER LONG

Dear Sonny:

June 15, 2015

I'm donating \$100.00 to the USS Laffey Work Party Fund, \$25 for 5 Raffle Tickets, and \$75.00 to the Association.

I served on our ship from June 1955 to October 1958. I boarded her after completing Sonar School in Key West as a Sonar Electronic Tech and Operator. I took over the Sonar crew in mid-1956:

Many trips to the Mediterranean and 3 trips through the Suez Canal.

Last year my Daughter and Son-in-law took me to Charleston for 4 days of which we spent 1-1/2 days at Patriots Point. It was the first time in 56 years I got to see my Ship and with much pride I got to show my Daughter and Son-in-law my home for 3+ years. The ship looked beautiful. However, I was disappointed that I could not show them my sleeping compartment. When I was there in 1958, the Sonar Shack and my sleeping quarters were below the Mess Hall. The hatch was open and you could see below but one could not go down.

I express my thanks to all of you who have kept her alive!

Sincerely, Oliver Long, SOG2

EDITOR'S COMMENT: The entire membership is thankful for those who participate in our Work Party Efforts: Our thanks to all of you, participants and donors, who keep the Laffey as the best looking ship at Patriots Point...Well Done!!

SOME SAD NEWS FROM SONNY

I received the following message from Michel Oyer: My Dad, Herbert Oyer, Laffey Plank Owner, passed away on June 20, 2015. He was at home in Carlisle, MA with his son (me) and my wife Janet. He is survived by me and my wife and he has two Granddaughters, Cheryl and Candice, and three great grandchildren, Finn (5), Myles, (2) and Emerson (1).

He was so proud of having served on the Laffey and talked about it often. He always enjoyed receiving the Laffey News and thanks for including him in all the emails.

Warmest regards, Michael Oyer

President's Comment:

Herbert will be honored at our memorial service in Orlando at the reunion. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family.

Sonny Walker – President

LATE JUNE MESSAGE FROM MIKE COLEMAN TO SONNY – MEMBER IN SICKBAY

Thought you should know Jack Strand had major surgery. They had to remove the lower lobe of his lung. I spoke to Jack this morning. He was moved from ICU to a private room. He's in good spirits considering he has three tubes extending from his chest. He should be released in 7-10 days and will need therapy. His daughter, Jennifer Strand, sent the following message to my wife on Facebook last night:

Hi Aggie, Dad is in the hospital in ICU. Dad was scheduled for surgery as there were spots on his lungs assumed to be cancer. Pet scan showed cancer. They were going to remove the lower lobe of his lung and test it. This was going to be performed mechanically... Almost like laparoscopic. They were unable to as he has major pleurisy. It's as if his lungs were wrapped in leather and attached to his chest cavity. It was bad. This is due to chronic exposure to pneumonia. Because of this the surgery was much more invasive. They had to cut his side into his back. They did remove the lower lobe of the lung. This contained calcified type tumors. Looked like mesothelioma however it tested negative on the quick pathology report. So as of right now he may not have cancer. We will know for sure towards the end of the week. Surgery went much longer then expected. He is doing good though. He does have two jokes in his lungs that need to heal. This is giving him a run for his money. He is easily winded: Passed out first time trying to walk. But he is really pushing hard and doing great. The air escaping through the holes in the lungs is getting under his skin causing him to be extremely swollen. He is in good spirits for sure... I think the meds are making him feel good. He does have his phone with him. We are hoping for maybe him getting out of ICU tomorrow. He will be in there for 7-10 days. Jack is in for a long recovery. But we need all the prayers we can get for speedy recovery, no pain and no CANCER!!!

Let's keep Jack in our prayers, Mikey

NEW MILITARY VETERAN'S CARD

Jul 08, 2015 | by Bryant Jordan - (Military.com)

Congress has approved the creation of a veterans' identification card, making it easier for veterans to prove military service without having to produce a military service record or some other valuable document.

The House had already passed the bill in June and sent it on to the Senate. The Senate also passed the legislation, but a minor clerical amendment required a second House vote, which it took late Tuesday afternoon.

"Today is a good day for our nation's veterans," said bill sponsor Rep. Vern Buchanan, R-Florida. "This bill is a prime example of what we can accomplish when we put partisanship aside and the needs of the country first."

Both House votes and the Senate vote were unanimous. The bill now heads to the White House where President Obama is expected to sign it.

Buchanan currently serves on the House Ways and Means Committee, but previously served on the House Veterans Affairs Committee.

Currently, individuals needing to prove military status routinely have to provide a DD-214, a Certificate of Release or Discharge from Active Duty, to prove their status, said Vietnam-era veteran Donald Di Nunzio of Florida.

"I have been asked many times to prove that I am a vet but carrying around my DD-214 form is difficult and impractical," he said. "My DD-214 form is a large 8.5 x 11 carbon copy, delicate, old and quite brittle and thin. Having a permanent veteran ID card would be a much simpler way of proudly proving my veteran status."

A number of states, and even counties, will issue veterans ID cards. Among the states that do so are Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Texas, North Carolina, Virginia and Michigan, which retailers and restaurants will accept when offering veterans' discounts, according to The American Legion.

The bill text references these kinds of benefits to veterans, but also notes its usefulness in proving veteran status "without having to carry and use official Department of Defense form DD-214 discharge papers."

Retired service members have long been issued IDs. The Veterans Affairs Department issues IDs to veterans who are enrolled in VA health care.

The veteran ID card had support from a number of veterans' organizations, including AMVETS, Vietnam Veterans of America and Concerned Veterans of America.

But the Veterans of Foreign Wars believes demand for the new card is unnecessary and will only burden an already backlogged VA bureaucracy, which is the agency designated to issue the cards.

VFW national spokesman Joe Davis said there will now be a new demand on the VA to process and issue the cards to millions of veterans who do not require or need VA care. That means time and manpower devoted to verifying honorable discharges.

"The states have the authority to indicate veteran [status] on driver's licenses and voter IDs," Davis said. "It would have been far simpler to have left the responsibility with them."

WORDS TO PONDER

"Never tell the truth to those unworthy of it."

Mark Twain

USS LAFFEY DD-724 ASSOCIATION OFFICERS AND STAFF

Current Officers

Edgar "Sonny" Walker..... President
(soncher724@verizon.net)
Chris Kirhagis.....Vice President
(MASH752@aol.com)
George Kessler..... Treasurer
(gfkessler09@yahoo.com)
Hilary Wagner.....Secretary
Mike Pereira.....Membership Chairman
(antiredsox@yahoo.com)

Board of Directors

Ari Phoutrides
Bob Langevin
John Langevin
Francis LaSala
John Hudak
Bob Wampler

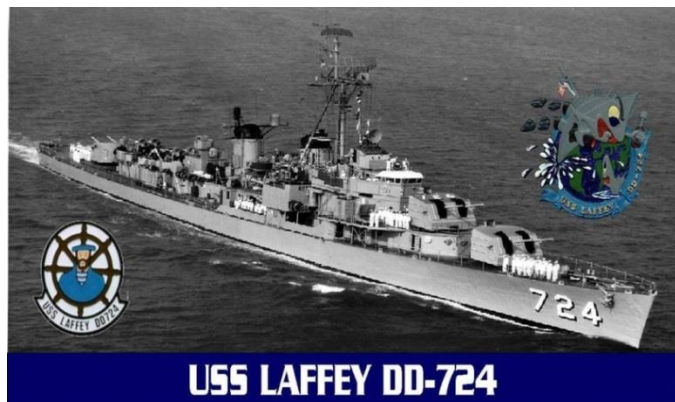
Website Manager

A.J. Tarquino

(atarquino@columbus.rr.com)

Laffey News Quarterly Newsletter

Bob Wampler, Editor and Circulation Manager
(rdwjcw@hargray.com)



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 your mailed-in order.

DID YOU KNOW THIS?

July 1, 2015

Dear Sonny:

When we were in the Portsmouth Navy Yard (Virginia) being **FRAMed**, the CNO/SECNAV sent out an ALNAV (Message) telling all ships to get rid of the old Disney-type plaques and stack markers.

We were to adopt a more classical type emblem. I think this stemmed from the British and British Commonwealth ships having emblems more along the lines of a formal coat-of-arms.

Captain Sawick agreed that I should put out a notice in “the plan of the day” calling for suggestions for a new plaque/stack design. We waited and waited but received no suggestion inputs. Finally, I went to Captain Sawick and recommended that for our plaque we feature a Civil War sailor (Laffey) in front of an old sailing ship type, large helm.

With Captain Sawick’s agreement we approached the Portsmouth Naval Yard about designing one for us. They did the design now featured on the attached photographs. It looked really neat so we used a little “cumshaw” to get them to make up a few for us, as there was no budget for such in the overhaul. The yard made up a few as you see on the enclosed photos. We immediately used one on the quarterdeck, suspended on knot-work between two complete replicas of 5” rounds.

I do not know where the rest of the very limited yard production went but when I was transferred I was given one of the original castings—and it is a heavy cast medal on wood.

I am guessing some of our members may not know that the original plaque looked like so I am sending these photographs for you to use at the next reunion as you see fit .All photos are on light cardboard except one on regular paper.

Best regards,

Bill Clark, LCDR, USN
October 61 – May 63



A PROMISED VACATION TRIP

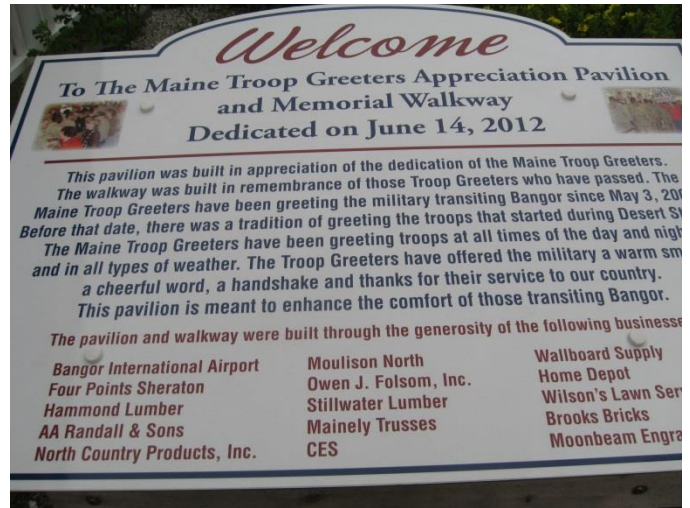
My wife Joan, and I (Bob Wampler) had long ago promised each other that we would someday visit Bangor, ME to somehow give thanks to the city I had experienced back in 1992 as a returning participant of the Gulf War. We were returning to the USA from the Middle East via Bahrain to Rome, then Shannon, (Where they opened the bars for us late at night!), Ireland, then to Bangor, ME and finally the Norfolk Naval Air Station.

The returning flights were commercial leased flights (Tower Airlines). Upon landing at Bangor, the flight attendants announced that we were about to experience something really, really wonderful. The folks in the City of Bangor (in large numbers) were greeting all incoming flights from the war zone. As we entered the terminal (About 5 AM) we heard two high school bands playing patriotic songs and we were greeted by a massive throng of "greeters". One woman thrust a teddy bear into my arms (Flags in paws!) as she thanked us, God blessed us and hugged us. I still have that small teddy bear sitting atop our roll-top desk.

There is a memorial pavilion (shown below) dedicated to the greeters of the Gulf War Vets and a plaque mentioning the intent of their greeter program.



MAINE TROOP GREETERS PAVILLION AND MEMORIAL WALKWAY



The tradition of greeting the troops began with Desert Storm and continues today by the Maine Troop Greeters Program. No matter what the time of day nor what the weather, the troops are given one heck of a welcome home. We met with one of the originators of this greeter program to thank him for his efforts on our behalf. (The other three are now deceased) We met him at the Cole Land Transportation Museum. He was the Son of the founder of Coles Express. We recommend you visit this museum if you ever go to Bangor...It's an AAA GEM!

The other reason we wanted to visit Maine was to see The Laffey's birth place, The Bath Iron Works in (DUH) Bath, Maine. Another AAA GEM is the Maine Maritime Museum in Bath. We toured the museum and then purchased our tour tickets for the Bath Iron Works Tour.

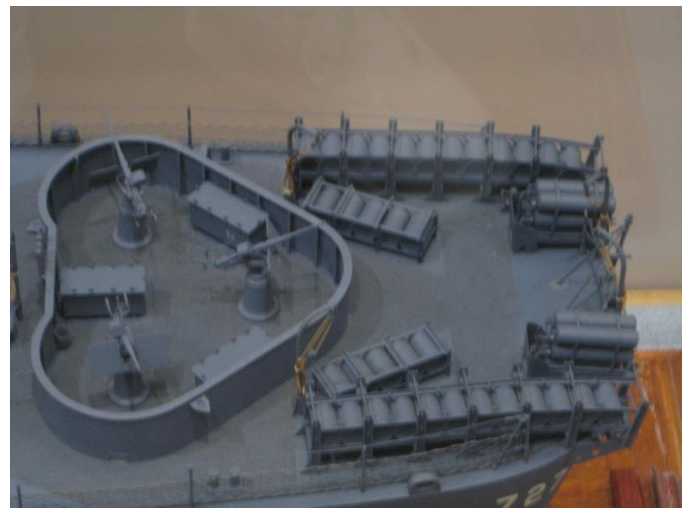
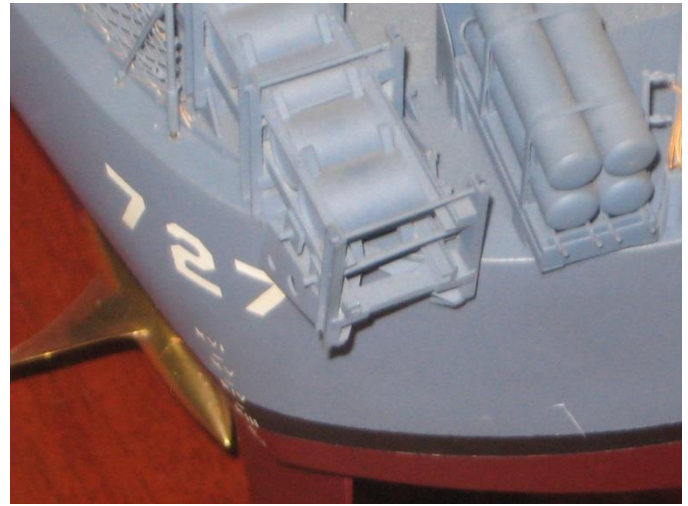


MODERN TOUR BUS!!



JUST LOOK FOR THE TOUR SIGN!!

My personal advice is to save your money (\$30.00 per person) and walk the several blocks yourself. The tour begins one half block from the Maritime Museum and ends there as well. Picture taking of the BIW Facility is forbidden and inside the gate tours ended last year. We were "treated" to several views from a distance of ship construction (An Arleigh Burke Tin Can and a USS Zumwalt Class guided missile destroyer which is loaded with technology and weaponry. Currently, this under construction ship is overdue and won't join the fleet until 2016. That was the tour!! I believe it lasted all of 15-20 minutes!

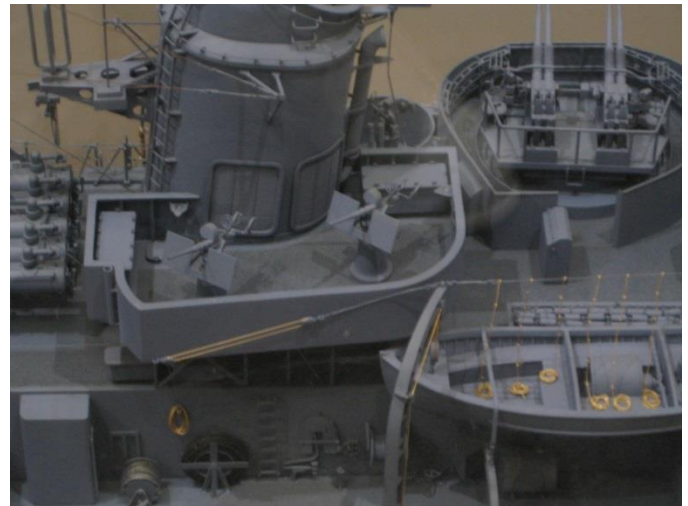


A SPECIAL TREAT AT THE MARITIME MUSEUM

There was so much to see at the Bath Maine Maritime Museum but one exhibit really caught my eye....An exact to scale model of the Allen M. Sumner class destroyer USS De Haven DD-727.

Like the Laffey, she was the second ship to be named after her namesake. The original De Haven DD-469 was the first Fletcher-class destroyer lost in WWII having been commissioned for only 133 days. She was sunk in action on 01 February 1943.

The model of DD-727 was positioned in a very narrow walkway so it was not possible to get a full length view with my limited capability camera.....



LAFFEY GEAR SUPPLIER'S NOTICE

We will be attending the Reunion. I have no idea where I will set up shop, but will not have as much to offer this year because we will be spending the week before with our Son in Alabama. Then after the Reunion we will be in Sanibel Island for several days and then leave in time to catch the Work Party in Mt Pleasant SC. Not much room for extra baggage.

Visit our website, www.lockerroom4u.com, and review our inventory and make your selections. **The store is always open by phone 610-698-4653 and shipping is included on orders.**

Dave Bossard Owner and Laffey Sailor

COMMENTS ABOUT A LAFFEY VISIT

Dear Sonny,

Wanted to let you know what a wonderful time we had at Patriots Point during our visit there along with four other family members.

Everyone was impressed with how good the Laffey is looking and what a great job the work parties do. We told them how the ship looked the last time we were there and how much has changed. We all watched the video and I must say there were some moist eyes there at the end of it.

Everyone at Patriots Point was so courteous and informative and when they found out that Ed served on the Laffey, you would have thought he was an admiral instead of a CIC sailor. One of my employers, his wife and son went to Patriots Point on their way home from Hilton Head as I had told him what a wonderful experience it would be for their 10 year old son. They were so glad they went and were amazed at the size of the Yorktown compared to the Laffey. But he did say how good the Laffey looked "for her age" and how nice it is that there is the USS Laffey Association to keep the Laffey going for the sake of history and to remember all those who served.

Enclosed is our raffle ticket money and \$100 towards the Work Party Fund. Keep up the good work!

Gerri Pochatek (Wife of Association Member Edward "Pooch" Pochatek)

**Makes you feel good to read these comments!
Bravo Zulu to all Work Party Attendees!! Sonny**

SPECIAL REMEMBRANCE FROM SONNY

Mel W. Gerhold QM3 passed away on June 10, 2015.

Mel was from Baltimore and moved to Buffalo, Wyoming. He thought he was a cowboy but all you had to do was listen to his "Bawlimer" accent and you knew where he was from.

Mel was a fantastic artist. He painted the best western paintings. He told me that it was what he could see out of his front door.

Mel served on the Laffey 1946-47.

He and Lon Caulk were good buddies and they died just a few days apart. They join our old Pal Bill Lloyd in Heaven.

Mel will be honored at our reunion in Orlando.

**THIS JUST IN (Military.com 08-12-15)
(Editor's note: Common sense at last!!)**

WASHINGTON — Lt. Cmdr. Tim White, the Navy officer who fired a sidearm in defense during the attack on Navy Operational Support Center in Chattanooga, Tenn., will not face charges, an official familiar with the investigation told Stars and Stripes on Wednesday.

Last week, the Navy countered reports that White would be charged, which spurred a national backlash. "At this time we can confirm no service member has been charged with an offense," the Navy said in a statement.

It also faced a backlash over why troops at "soft" military targets such as recruiting centers — which are often in easy-to-reach places like shopping malls — were not allowed to carry weapons, and Secretary of Defense Ash Carter directed a review to determine how security at these types of facilities could be improved.

THE 2015 ANNUAL REUNION – ORLANDO, FLORIDA

We will be staying at Ramada Gateway, Kissimmee, Florida. They have hotel/motel rooms. All of the rooms have refrigerators and the Tower (hotel rooms) also has microwaves. The Tower rooms are \$75 (plus tax) a night and the poolside rooms are \$65 (plus tax). A breakfast buffet is included in the room price. The Ramada will be holding a block of rooms for us until August 27th.

The hotel does not have an airport shuttle service but Mears transportation is available at the airport for \$37 round trip. Call Ramada Gateway (800-327-9170) to make your reservations. They are offering the group room rate for the 5 days prior and post of the reunion days.

LATE NEWS.....Here are more options available to make your reunion special.

As you know: The following are included

6 to 10 pm Sunday night - registration with "pickins". (Stuff to nibble on!! – Editor added)

7 to 10pm Monday night- Food and Fun.

9:30am Tuesday morning-Rise and shine at the General Membership Meeting. Then at 3:15pm we will head over to the Military History Museum and have our Memorial Service. When we leave there we will go to Capone's for an "all you can Eat Dinner" with unlimited beverages AND a Cabaret too.

7 pm Wednesday night, everyone come to the Reunion Farewell Dinner at the hotel. Doors open at 6:30pm.

SOME ADD-ONS AVAILABLE:

A. SEA WORLD: (MONDAY) Bus leaves hotel 8:30am and arrives back at hotel 4:30pm. \$ 83 a person

B. CHOCOLATE KINGDOM: If you LOVE chocolate, this is the place for you! You will go on an adventure Tour to see how that bean transforms into that delicious chocolate bar. Then we will go to the "Party Room" where we will have our own

hands-on Chocolate Experience. Now, get that episode of Lucille Ball out of your head, this will be different – I HOPE! **(TUESDAY)** Bus leaves hotel at 11:30am and arrives back at hotel 2:30pm. \$40 a person

C. HOLYLAND EXPERIENCE: As you enter the City Gates you will travel to ancient Jerusalem that is 2000 years old. On your journey, you will be inspired through Biblical stories, music and dance. There are a variety of re-enactments and shows daily. **(WEDNESDAY)** Bus leaves hotel 9:30am and arrives back to hotel at 4:30pm. \$ 60 per person

D. AIRBOAT RIDE / GATORLAND: Take a trip over to Boggy Creek for an airboat ride in the Wilderness of Central Florida Everglades. Then we will drop by Gator Land to check out some of the critters that call this place home. Don't let the name fool you, there are others here too! Lunch Included. **(WEDNESDAY)** Bus leaves hotel 8:45am and arrives back at hotel 4:45pm. \$ 68 a person

Please send in your choice of additional tours with your check (these must be pre-paid). If you have already submitted your registration, just send a note with your choice and your check.

If you are not interested in any of the above items, there is a concierge in the hotel lobby that can set you up with tickets and transportation to other attractions in the area. There is also car rental available at the hotel. Thanks and looking forward to seeing everyone in Florida!





2015 USS LAFFEY REUNION REGISTRATION

ORLANDO, FLORIDA

Reunion Dates: Sept. 27th - 30th 2015

Cost for Activities: \$100 per person

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Number of persons
Attending: _____

E/Mail: _____

Cell Phone: _____

What Years did you serve on the USS
Laffey: _____

What was your
rate: _____

What day do you expect to
arrive: _____

Will this be the First reunion that you are
Attending? _____

T-Shirt Size: _____

Special Needs _____
Allergies: _____

Please send in your choice of additional tours with
your check (these must be pre-paid). If you have

already submitted your registration, just send a
note with your choice and your check.

- A) Sea World: Monday \$83 a person _____
- B) Chocolate Kingdom: Tuesday \$40 a
person _____
- C) Holyland Experience: Wednesday \$60 a
person _____
- D) Boggy's Airboat Ride & Gatorland:
Wednesday \$68 a person _____

DISNEY: Tickets & Transportation can be
arranged through Concierge at the Hotel

**EDITOR'S NOTE: JILL MODIFIED OUR
ITINERARY TO PROVIDE A MAXIMUM OF FREE
TIME ON MONDAY AND WEDNESDAY SO WE
CAN SCHEDULE VISITS TO LOCAL
ATTRACTIONS AND PARKS.**

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
would stay in 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. **NOTE: Cut-off
date for registration is September 11, 2015**

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 Ramada Gateway directly at
800-327-9170 to reserve your room. The motel
daily room rate is \$65 (plus taxes) (No Elevator)
and The Tower room rate is \$75 per night (plus
taxes). Make sure to mention "USS Laffey
Reunion" when booking your reservation

USS Laffey DD-724 Association

Bob Wampler

100 Landing Lane

Bluffton, SC 29909-6060



U.S.S. LAFFEY DD724 & DD459