

USS Laffey Association

Announcements

Click or tap on blue text to open a link, e.g., Tap [here](#)

Upcoming Association Events

2024 Fall Reunion in Mt Pleasant, SC – Sunday 22 September – Wednesday 25 September 2024

2024 Fall WorkParty – Friday 18 October 2024 – Saturday 26 October 2024

Memorial Service Monday 23 September 2024 Aboard USS Laffey The Memorial Service for USS Laffey Association members who have passed away in the last year will be held on Monday 23 September 2024 aboard USS Laffey. USS Laffey Association President Mike Honsinger will conduct the service. This service honors all USS Laffey crew members and USS Laffey Association members who have passed away.



Rod Morgan Passing. Rod passed away on February 15, 2024. Rod served aboard USS Laffey DD724 as a Fire Control Technician FT2 from 12/55 to 7/58. Rod proudly served in the United States Navy and the Navy Reserves from 1954-1986 achieving the rank of Fire

Control Technician Senior Chief Petty Officer. Rod frequently attended USS Laffey Association WorkParties maintaining the USS Laffey DD724 at the Naval Maritime Museum in Mt Pleasant, SC.

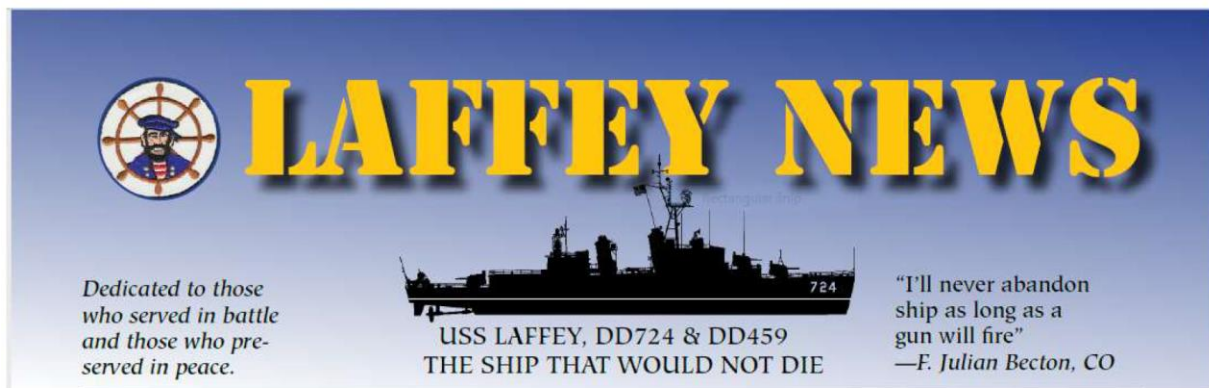
See YouTube Korean War Era USS Laffey Assoc Members

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LNv7HMOv2iA>

See Korean War Era Laffey Assoc Members at April 2019 Work Party

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

February 2024 Laffey News



February 2024

USS Laffey Association www.laffey.org



See www.laffey.org/LaffeyNews.pdf and or tap on “Laffey News” at the bottom of the USS Laffey Home Page www.laffey.org

See President's Message from Mike Honsinger President@Laffey.org 281-923-4969. Many thanks to Pam Barylski Laffey Association Newsletter Editor (newsletter@laffey.org).

80th Anniversary of D-Day June 6, 2024



Patriots Point commemorates the 80th anniversary of the USS Laffey's participation in Operation Neptune, the Naval phase of the D-Day invasion.

History Comes Alive on the Laffey at Patriots Point

To commemorate the 80th anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy, Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum welcomed visitors aboard the USS Laffey DD-724 to learn about the role our destroyer played in this historic event. Living history re-enactors were present throughout the USS Laffey sharing the part the ship played at Normandy. US Navy destroyer veterans were also be present

throughout the ship to discuss the role of destroyers in naval defense.

At 2pm on 6 June in the USS Laffey theater, guest speaker and PPDA Board Member, James Smith, shared about his grandfather, Lt. Paul Smith who served on board the Laffey at Normandy and Okinawa. He was followed by guest speaker, and Patriots Point Volunteer of the Year, Bill Cassasa at approximately 2:20pm to discuss the role of a destroyer in naval warfare and share information about weapons operations.



History of the Laffey at Normandy

The USS Laffey DD-724 was part of Operation Neptune, the naval phase of the D-Day invasion. Under command of Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsey of the UK's Royal Navy, the fleet was responsible for the sweeping of mines and marking channels. They also provided transportation of troops and equipment to the beaches, landing the troops and supporting them with gunfire and reinforcement, and resupply by sea. In transit, the force was screened by the destroyers

USS Jeffers, Obrien, Glennon, Barton, Laffey, Meredith, the French corvettes Aconit and Renoncule, plus 3 trawlers, 7 Patrol Crafts, 7 Submarine Chasers and 7 Motor Launch vessels.

The USS Laffey provided support to the Utah Beach landing site. Twenty-four hours after the first wave had landed, 66,000 US troops had crossed the beaches and within 7 days the number had grown to 250,000.

Historic USS Laffey Artifacts Sent to France for D-Day 80th Anniversary Events

Patriot's Point, the USS Yorktown Foundation, and the Commemorative Air Force joined forces Sunday 12 May sent parts from the historic USS Laffey to France for the 80th anniversary of D-Day. See

<https://www.patriotspoint.org/news-and-events/>



They sent a piece of the ship's hull, a valve control wheel, and a damage control plug to Normandy.



“As we commemorate the 80th Anniversary of the Invasion of Normandy, we pay tribute to the unwavering bravery of those who served during World War II,” said USS Yorktown Foundation Chairman Chauncey Clark. “The USS Yorktown Foundation is immensely proud to join hands with Patriots Point and the Commemorative Air Force in events like these, which serve as important reminders of the sacrifices made and the valor displayed by our heroes. Through our collective efforts, we ensure that the legacy of those who served lives on, inspiring and educating future generations about the importance of courage, honor, and service to our country.”

Contact **Meredith Kablick**, Director of Collections and Curatorial Affairs if you have any artifact donations e.g.

physical items, cruise books, photos, etc
meredith.kablick@patriotspoint.org 843-881-5985

For the USS Laffey Chronological Narrative Report of D-Day Operations Utah Beach June 3 - June 17, 1944 see
<https://www.laffey.org/Laffey%20Action%20Reports/invasion-of-france-utah-beach-1944.html>

LAFFEY April 2024 Memorial Service and Spring WorkParty (Fri 12 Apr - Sat 20 Apr) Photos

At this year's Memorial Service on 16 April 2024, Patriots Point Executive Director Allison Hunt and Laffey Association President Mike Honsinger spoke. We honored the 31 men who died on 16 April 1945. Multiple TV crews recorded the service for the Charleston evening news.



Mike Honsinger and Ken McCullough on Fantail Memorial Service 16 April 2024

At the WorkParty many maintenance tasks were completed to keep USS Laffey safe and in excellent condition for all visitors. Many water leaks were repaired. Progress was made in the After Fireroom.

At the beginning of each work day at 8AM, as we were finishing up breakfast, we had a short briefing to lay out the plan for the day. At the end of the day, at 5PM-ish, we had "hotwash" debrief- reviewing what was done that day and letting Mike and Jim know what we need to do the following day.



Bruce Lampe, Mike Honsinger, Bugler Cindy Brewer VFW State Honor Guard, Jim Bossard, Jill Vorgity, Mark Jacob in Chiefs Quarters

Please see the memorial service and WorkParty and photos www.laffey.org/Events/2024SpringWorkParty.pdf .

John Hudak Video in the After Fire Room



See <https://youtu.be/0qhY59Cr1ws> John Hudak BT Boiler Technician in USS Laffey DD 724 Boiler Room/Fire Room at the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum 16 April 2024.

John served aboard USS Laffey 1959-1962 homeported in Norfolk, VA. John describes the operation of the USS Laffey 600 psi boilers: cold iron watch, lighting off a boiler, going to full steam power, blowing tubes, etc. John is the principle advocate and technician to open the USS Laffey After Boiler Room to the public at the Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum. John describes himself as just a "snipe" doing his job.

John is on the USS Laffey Association Board of Directors. See <https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/Hudak.pdf>



USS Laffey Ship Store Display From Chip

Honsinger: Patriots Point and we are attempting to further outfit the ship's store with vintage (1950-60) items that would have been for sale when Laffey was at sea. Incidentally, the store was in a different, smaller location at that time, on the inboard passageway in the vicinity of opposite sick bay. Now visitors can see these items through the window in the door. We have plenty of cigarette cartons, for example, and we would particularly like to obtain a cigar box, some paper match books, stationery or writing tablet (for letters), empty box of envelopes (not "modern" peel and seal), a vintage shaving mug or whatever we used at the time (we have a brush), soap wrappers, hair tonic bottles, sunglasses, etc. Items might look older than they would have in the 50s, but if they are reasonably clean that is good enough for 2023.

Bottles and boxes may be empty. Please bring them to the ship when you come.

If you can provide any of these things or can suggest a source for obtaining them, please contact Chip Honsinger at honsinger57@comcast.net or 540-463-3145. If you will be in the upcoming WorkParty please bring any objects with you.

The Laffey Ship Store was small, manned by a storekeeper with not much more than standing room. The customer stands outside the windowed door and talks over the counter in the door after seeing items displayed on two or three shelves behind the storekeeper, each shelf 3-4 feet long. The Ship Store and the Post Office were very popular and important for everyone aboard ship. When open crew members were usually waiting in a line for their turn.

Thanks Meredith Kablick Director of Collections and Curatorial Affairs Museum Services, Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum for the current Ship Store photos below:





2024 USS Laffey Association Reunion September 22-25



Comfort Inn & Suites, Patriots Point, Mt Pleasant, SC

The Fall 2024 Reunion will be Sunday, September 22 to Wednesday, September 25, 2024, departing on Thursday morning, September 26th. The reunion will be hosted at the COMFORT INN & SUITES PATRIOTS POINT, 196 Patriots Point Rd, Mt Pleasant, SC 29464. The cost for the event will be \$200 per person in addition to the hotel.

Please make your reservations online using the following. Copy and paste this link into your internet browser:

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/IZ37R8>

This link will take you to our group specific page to make the reservation. If you would like to extend your stay on either end of the reunion, you may use the link to get the same pricing. Note that the default dates are from Thursday, September 19 – Thursday, September 26. You will need to adjust the dates to the length of time that you plan to attend. In addition, if you require a handicap room, the link will allow you to do this. Any other room modification requests will need to be done by calling the hotel directly at the number below. Hotel reservations should be made as soon as possible before 2 August 2024.

If you have any questions or issues with the link, please call the hotel 843-856-8817. When making the reservation, reference the USS Laffey 2024 Reunion for our special pricing. This is the ONLY number that will work for questions and reservations.

A Board of Directors meeting, followed by the annual general membership meeting, will be held on Wednesday, September 25, 2024.



For Reunion information or questions contact Jill Michel reunions@laffey.org (609) 870-0600 telephone (513) 738-4484.

2024 USS LAFFEY ASSOCIATION REUNION REGISTRATION

Printable Form:

<https://www.laffey.org/LaffeyAssoc/ReunionRegistration.pdf>

Cost: \$200 per person (regardless of activities attended)

Send reunion registration form and payment (check payable to USS Laffey Association) to George Kessler, 9686 Baughman Road, Harrison, OH 45030 [telephone \(513\) 738-4484 before 7 September 2024](tel:5137384484). You may also pay using PayPal. Click on the PayPal icon on the USS Laffey home page www.laffey.org. Be sure to include your name and the words "2024 Reunion".

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Number and name of persons attending _____

Email: _____

Cell Phone: _____

What years did you serve on the USS Laffey? _____

What was your rank/rate? _____

—
What day do you expect to arrive? _____

Will you have a car at the hotel during your stay _____

Emergency contact name and number (not traveling with you)

Special Needs / Food Allergies? _____

For Reunion information or questions contact Jill Michel
reunions@laffey.org telephone (609) 870-0600.

2024 Winter WorkParty Jan 30 – Feb 3



The 2024 Winter WorkParty was highly successful with projects completed in many areas of the ship. Many thanks to all who participated: Art Whigham, Bob Sideika, Frank Day, Frank Shorter, James Garner, Kevin Jones, Ken McCullough, Marc Jacob, Mary Herbst, Richard Felsing, Steve Bade, Mike Honsinger. Photos below in

<https://www.laffey.org/Events/2024WinterWorkParty.pdf> .

2023 Fall WorkParty Saturday the 21st of October. We had a specific list of projects that we needed help on, which involve scraping/painting in a big way, electrical, light metal work, welding/fabricating, organizing/cleaning, administrative paperwork, and supply-run errands. So, regardless of your skill

set or strength, we do have many meaningful ways for everyone to contribute. Males over 18 may stay on board the Laffey. If you would like details on the tremendous discount we get at the Comfort Inn, please contact Mike Honsinger. Meals for all workers are paid for by the Association. Call or email Mike (President@Laffey.org) with any questions or suggestions that you have. For photos see www.laffey.org/Events/2023FallWorkParty.pdf



Bill Leggett, Steve Sowers, Ken McCullough, Chip and Mary Honsinger, Mary Herbst, Mike Pereira & son Mike



Back Row: Mike Pereira, Jim Bossard, Chip and Mike Honsinger.
Front Row: Mary Honsinger, Admiral Jim Flatley, Mary Herbst

Attending USS Laffey WorkParty

From Association President Mike Honsinger:

Typically, we have three WorkParties aboard ship each year: Fall, Winter, and Spring. All WorkParty crewmembers must be USS Laffey Association members and be at least 18 years of age. Bunks, hearty meals, parking, and access to Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum are all provided free of charge. There are 28 male-only bunks on the Laffey. We spend a good deal of time repairing corroded areas with new metal and paint. In addition, we fix electrical and plumbing issues, as well as improve and maintain the museum displays aboard the ship. WorkParties provide a meaningful experience preserving

history, are a great opportunity to see the many ship compartments which are typically closed to the public and provide an opportunity to meet visitors to the ship. Often multiple Association family members attend together to create a working vacation.

If you have an interest in helping us out during the upcoming Fall WorkParty (19-28 Oct), please email Mike by late September at President@Laffey.org . Jim and I have collected an extensive list of projects that we would all like to see addressed in the coming years. For each project, it is my goal to do our best to anticipate the manpower, tools, supplies, permits and financing required so that when our crews show up, we can put everyone to work and keep you busy while you give of your time, energy, and finances to join us. If you can attend a WorkParty, please do your best to commit to specific dates when you will be aboard to eat, sleep and work, then email those commitments to me at least a week prior to the WorkParty. Thank you for all the work so many of you have put in over the years to preserve the USS Laffey for America's citizens.

Contact Mike Honsinger President@Laffey.org 281-923-4969 for information.

2023 Reunion September 10 - 13th in Atlantic City, NJ

Many thanks to all attendees at the reunion. Special thanks to the Reunion Coordinator Jill Michel, Photographer Mike Coleman, and others working on the reunion. In addition to many fun activities Association Past President Sonny Walker led the Memorial Service honoring shipmates who have recently passed. Association President Mike Honsinger conducted the Association Annual Meeting presenting plans for the WorkParties and planned ship visits.



2023 Reunion USS Laffey Association Attendees



Laffey Crew Members at 2023 Reunion

To view reunion photos from Mike Coleman, tap on:

<https://www.laffey.org/Events/2023ReunionPhotos.pdf> .

To view reunion portraits from Mike Coleman, tap on:

<https://www.laffey.org/Events/2023ReunionPortraits.pdf>



Welcome Mary Herbst to Website Team

Mary joins us to assist the website team with Richard Felsing and Jeff Jacobs. She shares our goal to publicize association events and honor men and women of the USS Laffey. Mary was very helpful for the USS Mansfield Association Reunion visit and the 2023 Fall WorkParty. Welcome aboard Mary. Contact Mary at

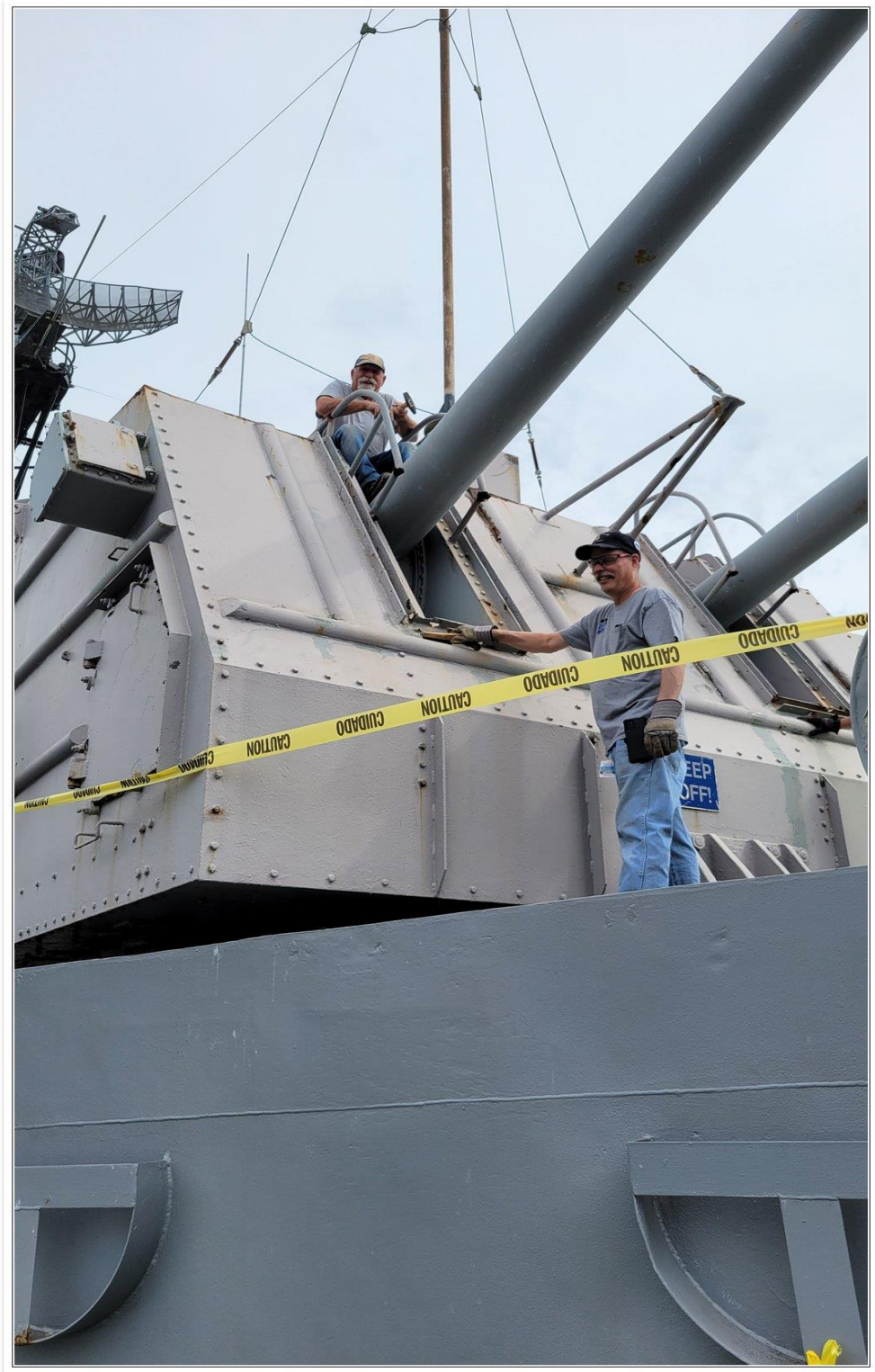
webmaster@laffey.org .

New Quarterdeck Awning

Thanks, Chief Leonard Singleton for photos.



2023 Spring WorkParty Thanks and Well Done to all participants of the WorkParty including: Hank Ashton, Tom Aust, Jim Berg & Joe Reyes, Gary Barylski, Jim Bossard & Rachael Kendrick, Steve "Ernie" Doyle & Harry Stoner, Richard Felsing, Bill Fitzsimmons, Mike Honsinger, John Hudak, Peter Liller, Joe Luque & David Cook, Marcus Maresca, Mike Pereira, Max Saus, Frank Shorter, Jill Vorgity & husband Bruce Lampe, Donny Watson

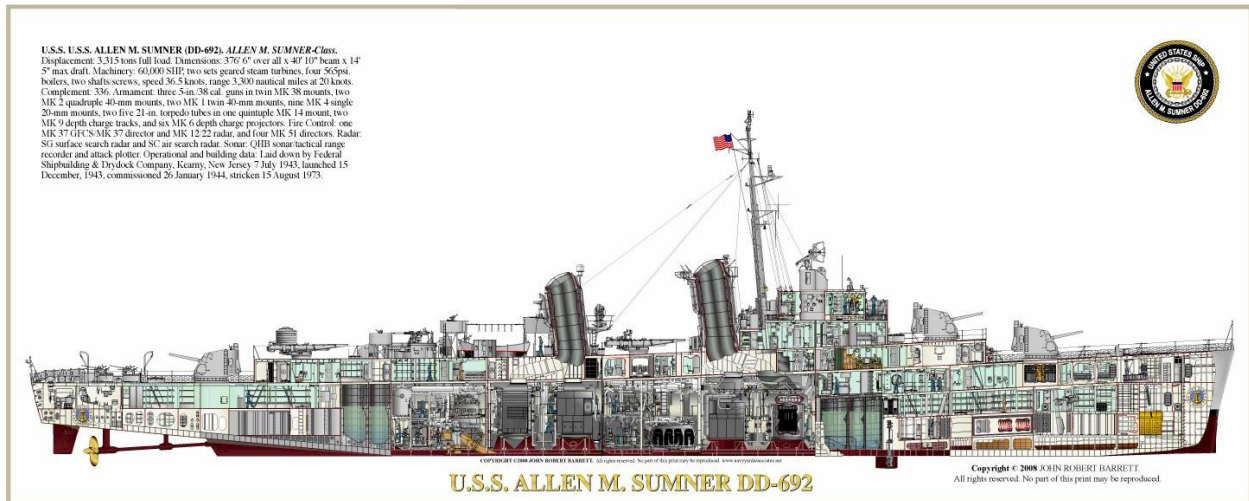


Tom Aust and son-in-law Jim Berg prepping Gun Mount 52

For photos see

<https://www.laffey.org/Events/2023SpringWorkParty.pdf>

USS Laffey Information Links from Mike Honsinger



www.navsource.org/archives/05/interior.htm

Shipyard plans www.dd-692.com/shipyard.htm

<https://russpickett.com/history/laffey.htm>

<https://www.history.navy.mil/research/histories/ship-histories/danfs/I/laffey-ii.html>

<https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/8199404/bartlett-laffey>

<https://destroyerhistory.org/sumner-gearingclass/usslaffey/>

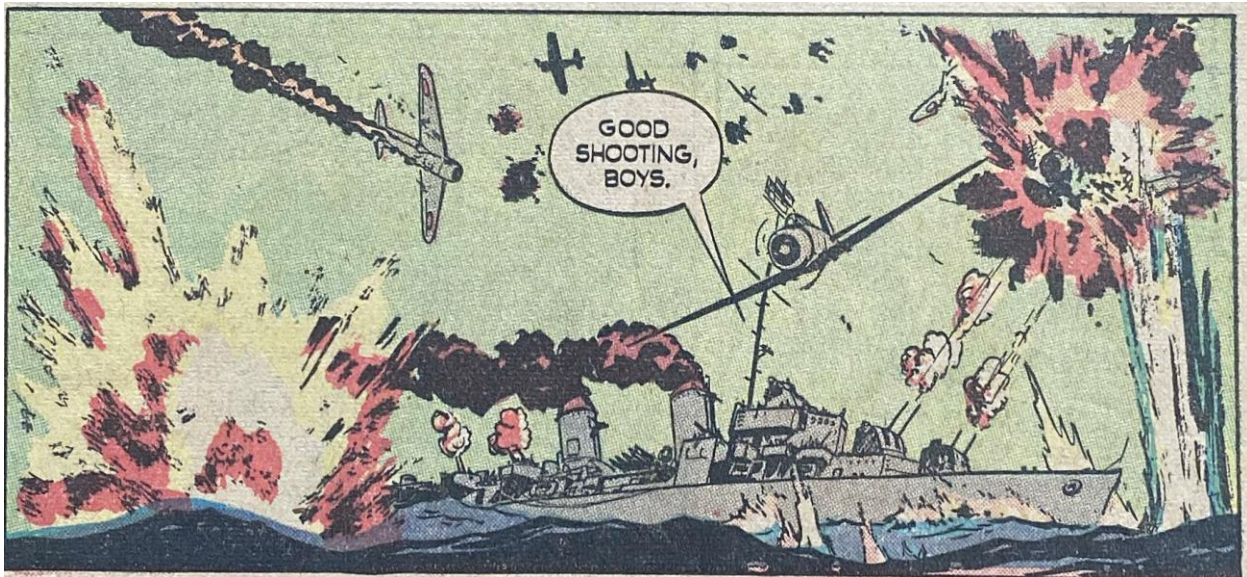
General Dynamics Bath Iron Works

<https://gdbiw.com/who-we-are/ship-list/>

<https://gdbiw.com/contact-us/frequently-asked-questions/>

WWII Battle Illustrations USS Laffey DD459 and USS Laffey DD724 from True Comics - Name to Remember Winter 1945, Vol. 5, No. 46, 48 pages. These illustrations show the battle history of two destroyers named Laffey, e.g. USS Laffey DD459 and USS Laffey DD 724. See

<https://www.laffey.org/Articles/WWIIBattleIllustrations.pdf>



The Indestructible USS Laffey by Slavomir Vodehnal

This is a 97 page 17 X 11" book of USS Laffey DD724 newspaper articles, photos, and illustrations. It one of the most extensive collection of newspaper articles on the USS Laffey 16 April 1945 battle that is available. The book was written by Radarman 1st Class Slavomir Vodehnal. He performed a vital function during the Japanese attack on 16 April 1945 communicating with

fighter planes. See

<https://www.laffey.org/Articles/TheIndestructibleUSSLaffey.pdf>



Dogfights: Japanese Kamikaze Attacks in WWII (S2, E1) | Full Episode | History featuring USS Laffey DD724 available on YouTube. This documentary features the heroic actions of USS Laffey crew members and many interviews with USS Laffey survivors of the 16 April 1945 Attack. See <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7qlyU6wR08>



Dogfights: Japanese Kamikaze Attacks in WWII (S2, E1) | Full Episode | History

Taps to Honor Our Fallen Shipmates



Bill & Ginny Sarver

Bill Sarver passed away at 92 two years of age February 25th 2024. Photo from 2006 Reunion. Bill was a Torpedoman's Mate 3rd Class aboard USS Laffey 12/51-5/55. Bill and Ginny lived in Zephyrhills FL. From Ginny Sarver to Sonny Walker "Dear friend, I just wanted to let you know that

Bill and I were married 72 years! How is that for a record. We haven't been able to make the reunions lately but have never forgotten the great times we all shared. God bless all of you for keeping the ship up for all to enjoy!" Tap [here](#)
www.laffey.org/Shipmates/TapsToHonorFallenShipmates.pdf

Key Anniversaries

Laffey's keel was laid down on **28 June 1943** by Bath Iron Works Corp., Bath, Maine

Launched on **21 November 1943**; sponsored by Ms. Beatrice F. Laffey, daughter of Seaman Bartlett Laffey

Commissioned on **8 February 1944**, with Commander Frederick Becton in command.

6 June 1944 D Day Battle of Normandy France

16 April 1945 Kamikaze Attack in WWII. Decommissioned **9 March 1975**

Tap here for WWII Information

www.laffey.org/HomePage/DD724WWII.html

Reminder for Annual dues

Dues need to be paid on the 1st of each year to keep the USS Laffey Association functioning. Mail your check to Joyce Hanau 1956 Lincoln Ave, East Meadow, NY 11554. Telephone 347-439-2452 email membership@laffey.org. Annual members (renews every January 1st regardless of when you join): \$25/year. Life membership (one-time payment): 55 years old and younger \$375; 56 to 60 \$250; 61 to 64 \$225; 65 and older \$125. You may also pay using PayPal. Click on the PayPal icon on the USS

Laffey home page www.laffey.org. Be sure to include your name and the words "Annual Dues." **Membership includes free admission to Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum.** Contact Joyce Hanau Membership Chairperson for instructions to get free guest passes. Joyce may be contacted at membership@laffey.org 347-439-2452.

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum News



Photo from local Navy Vet Joe Palisi

Free Complementary Admission to Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum for Former Laffey Crew Members and USS Laffey Association Members. Former crew members of the USS

Yorktown and Laffey and USS Laffey Association members and their immediate family members are entitled to **free complementary admission to the museum**. Immediate family refers to a person's parents, siblings, spouse, child by blood, adoption or marriage, grandparents, and grandchildren. At the Ticket Window, present your USS Laffey Association membership card and ask for the appropriate number of complementary tickets for your immediate family members. See www.laffey.org/Free.pdf

<https://www.patriotspoint.org/>

<https://patriotspt.org/YouTube>

<https://Facebook.com/PatriotsPoint.org>

Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum TV

www.youtube.com/results?search_query=Patriots+point+tv

Links of Interest

[USS Laffey Association](#) for [Reunion](#) and [WorkParty Photos](#)

Ship Restorations: [Signal Bridge](#)

[Laffey Movie Update](#)

[Featured Association Members](#)

[**Laffey Challenge Collectable Coins**](#)

[**Laffey Board Game**](#)

[**Tributes to WWII Heroes and Awards**](#)

[**History USS Laffey Association and Presidents**](#)

Recent Website Announcements 15 September 2024:

Memorial Service Monday 23 September 2024 Aboard USS Laffey, 80th Anniversary of D-Day June 6, 2024 D-Day Artifacts, Memorial Service and Spring WorkParty Photos, February 2024 Laffey News, 2024 Winter WorkParty Jan 30 – Feb 3, 2023 Reunion Photos, New Awning, Spring 2023 Laffey News Available – 1st Quarter 2023 Spring 2023 WorkParty photos, Reunion Announcement, New Presidents Message, Updated Free Admission to Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum for Former Laffey Crew Members and USS Laffey Association members.

For inputs to the USS Laffey Website www.laffey.org, email photos and text to webmaster@laffey.org .

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