



LAFFEY NEWS

*Dedicated to those
who served in battle
and those who pre-
served in peace.*



USS LAFFEY, DD724 & DD459
THE SHIP THAT WOULD NOT DIE

*"I'll never abandon
ship as long as a
gun will fire"
—F. Julian Becton, CO*

February 2025

USS Laffey Association www.laffey.org

President's Message



I will begin by apologizing for not having a newsletter out to all of you back in June, as I had intended.

The delay is solely on me. The good news is that this newsletter is packed with a year's worth of information. A lot has been going on, so before you begin to read this newsletter, please grab a cup of Joe or your favorite adult beverage. We have had four very productive workparties since I last reported to you. We have another coming up (4-13 Apr) that dovetails into our reunion (14-17 Apr), then another workparty in the October timeframe. I am very happy to report that our Association Officers continue to work together very diligently towards the common goal of keeping our Association, and our ship, going for many years into the future.

Treasurer George Kessler is always thorough and timely with his watching over our finances,

providing quarterly and annual financial reports that should make you very comfortable with your Association's expenditures and savings. Our VP, Jim Bossard, and Director Mike Pereira, make sure the paint keeps rolling out on our girl at each workparty, after lots of grinding, scraping and prepping by our very dedicated workers. Director John Hudak, having taken the lead, years ago, on adding the Aft Engine Room (a 10-year project) to the tourist route, is getting close to seeing the Aft Fire Room (going on 12 years in the making) opening to the public. Chairman Dave Bossard keeps the ball moving down the field with his oversight of all things Laffey. Director Sonny Walker, having been the President for many years, continues to be a wealth of information, and is often called upon to give us direction. We appreciate Director Bob Wampler's contributions to the Board, and welcome our new Director and Legal Officer, James Smith, to the Board.

Jill Vorgity, our Secretary, helps me out with all kinds of written and phone communication support, and is our trailboss on getting hats, as well as Workparty T-shirts and sweatshirts made. Our new Web Designer, Cindy Lee, has done a knockout job on our new website! She has kept Richard's former website content intact in the background, so if you want to find something in the old layout, you can still do that. However, if you are interested in content, events and news from 2024 and 2025, then you will have to view those in the newly formatted website. Cindy is supported by three Assistant Web Designers, Richard Felsing, Jeff Jacobs, and Mary Herbst. These folks provide Cindy with content ideas, pictures, news, historical info, and research. Hopefully you will find our website's layout easy to use and the content informative. We have spent a lot of time working out the bugs, but if you see a hiccup somewhere, or think of more information that would be useful, please do let the

web team know. Joyce Hanau, our Membership Chair, stays busy keeping up with 400+ members' contact data, workparty attendance, membership fees, along with a number of other administrative tasks for us. Jill Michel has done a wonderful job with setting up and executing our reunions, giving each attendee many memorable experiences. I know we all appreciate Mike Coleman's outstanding photos at our reunions and will cherish those photos for years. Pam Barylski publishes a professional level newsletter that is really enjoyed by a lot of folks! Bill Pullar recently joined us as Chaplain and did a fine job during our memorial on the fantail last Spring. Supporting all of them are you folks that send in checks and show up at the workparties- without all of your support and involvement since 1975, our ship would be a very different place, or, perhaps, not here at all. America is very fortunate to have such a large number of folks dedicated to the USS Laffey!

You may recall that in September of 2023 we connected our Aft Fire Room and Aft Engine Room so that, after viewing the Engine Room, tourists will now be able to walk forward, through the Aft Fire Room, tour it, then proceed up to the Inside Passageway. Putting our Aft Fire Room on display is an important step, as it will allow the public to see the entire story of how the ship was propelled and energized. At each workparty since that pivotal step, we have been improving the lighting,

painting (with help from Patriots Point crews), replacing missing parts, and adding barriers to keep the public safe. We have come a long way but still have a little ways to go before it will be "done".

Our Winter 2024 Workparty found us having to spend several man-days doing some repairs on our living quarters aboard ship. We had a sink drain line dripping onto a bunk, four leaking fresh water supply lines for toilets, and arrived to find a foot of water in the base of the food cabinet, which had ruined \$200 worth of induction countertop burners. We tracked down that leak source, then sealed it, along with several others around the ship that were allowing rainwater from the deck to pass inside. We fabricated brackets, then secured several large metal storage boxes up on the Signal Shack Bridge to keep tourists from getting hurt. We replaced the wooden trim on the Bridge Wings and did a major clean out of Engineering Officer / Communications Officer / XO staterooms, to include removing loose floor tiles and rotting floor debris. We repaired multiple electrical fuse panels, outlets, switches and light fixtures, particularly in our Chiefs Quarters.

In the Spring of 2024, we washed down the entire main deck, then did some major painting on the exterior bulkhead areas near the Bridge and Gun Mount 52. Putting on the final

coat of paint is always preceded by a lot of scraping, grinding, wire brushing, metal repair, sanding, then priming. We identified 18 rainwater leaks to the interior, tracked down their sources, sealed water entry points and referred two major damage areas to the PP Shipfitters shop. Each of these repairs took PP crews several days to repair. Tracking down water leaks can take two of our men an entire afternoon to decipher. For example, a long-standing steady drip from the Wardroom ceiling, which had done a lot of damage over the years, was backtracked to a leaking window frame on the Bridge. It turned out to be a pretty big job to remove that window, replace the glass (which had become severely crazed over the years), repair the window frame and the bulkhead frame, then mount the window back into place. But, in the end, the repair passed the water hose test and the Wardroom has been dry since then! In our Chiefs Quarters berthing areas, we replaced many of the 120-volt supply lines with a newer, safer spec of cable. We also installed multiple outlets adjacent to the berthing racks so that guys can easily charge their phones overnight. Old outlets and switches were replaced. In the former berthing compartments surrounding Gun Mount 53, just forward of our tool rooms, we repaired multiple lighting fixtures and switches. These former berthing compartments are now bulk storage for our stock of metal bars, pipe, wood, grating, screening, sheet metal, steel plating, hose, netting, rope,

chain, doors and old ship equipment. Instead of being dark and dingy, these areas are now brightly lit and well organized, having spent many hours gathering loose supplies from all over the ship. This allows our workers to easily find what they need to make repairs to the ship. Lighting in the IC Plot room and the Barbershop was repaired and improved. Many light fixtures were converted from incandescent bulbs to LED capability, which sounds simple enough, but when you are working on 1943 electrical wiring, it turns out that it can take a man several hours to rebuild one light fixture to make it useable, safer, and LED capable so that the bulbs won't have to be changed as often. This is an on-going project that will continue until the entire ship has been converted to LEDs, by the Laffey Association, over the next several years. In the Theater and Okinawa History room we polished the large brass plaque with 32 names from 16Apr45, and cleaned all the poles and walls in both rooms. We did a thorough cleaning on the Gun Mount 52 Damage Control Locker and ran a networking cable from the Theater to the Chiefs Quarters to provide a second Wi-Fi access point, giving us Wi-Fi in the Crews Mess.

In the Fall of 2024, we arrived at our Workparty to find that the Patriots Point Curatorial Staff had made up a very nice display case for our Association, then mounted it in the Crews Mess.

The focus of the display case, and nearby signage (also provided by PP) tells our Workparty story. Their purpose is to recruit new volunteers to join our Association and our Workparties. The signs have a QR code that tourists can scan that will instantly take them to our website, thanks to the Wifi coverage that we and PP added during the Spring Workparty. Our crew cleaned, repaired, painted, then installed multiple Aft Fire Room gauges, control linkages, handles, and levers. We vacuumed many rooms, including the Inside Passageway, Wardroom, and Crews Mess. In Sickbay we removed a lot of peeling paint and ceiling lagging, then cleaned all visible surfaces in the room. The Barbershop was cleaned top to bottom, then we enclosed some loose wiring and converted the lights to LED. In the berthing area, on display under the Crews Mess, we scraped paint, cleaned, then repainted many surfaces. We cleaned all seats in the Theater, installed a firehose, and fixed the latch on the gangway gate. Our electricians installed multiple lighting fixtures in the Fire Room, replaced a number of blown fuses, refurbished several complete fuse boxes, transitioned multiple bulb fixtures to LED, and replaced all the red lenses on all Combat Information Center lights. We replaced and sealed another leaking glass window panel on the Bridge and repaired the exterior canvas cover for the Fire Room intake on the Aft Stack. We sealed up some more deck and bulkhead rain water leaks and even

repaired another toilet water supply line. Finally, we added another networking cable from the Theater to the Chiefs Quarters, this time to provide a hardwire landline phone to our lounge. If you would like to chat with some of the guys during a workparty, feel free to give us a call in the evenings at 843-881-5974.

Despite getting a quarter inch of freezing rain, then five inches of snow, on day five of our Winter 2025 Workparty, and having several guys go home early, we still accomplished a lot! Our main focus was the Aft Fireroom where we repaired 7 light fixtures, fabricated, then installed a metal gate, installed additional handrails, spent hours filing burrs off of handrail welding spots to prevent hand injuries, then installed 150 feet of safety netting along the handrails. John Hudak, with the energy of a man one quarter his age, tore out 40 square feet of rotted sheet metal "breaching" in an air duct connecting the stack to the blower room, resulting in the need to clean up buckets full of debris. We spent some time restoring and replacing Fire Room equipment gauges and repaired numerous light fixtures there. In passageways, the gun plotting room, and the Chiefs Quarters, we converted several light fixtures to LED. Ken McCullough began the task of marking all the tools and equipment owned by the Laffey Association with fluorescent green to prevent tools from being misplaced. He got a good start

on this task, but it will keep him busy for the next several workparties. We ran another networking cable to provide a second hardwired landline phone to the Chiefs Quarters and repaired gangway netting. In the Crews Mess we installed a wall bracket and TV to display a continuous-running Laffey Association recruiting slideshow, along with two additional recruiting signs with QR codes, to supplement our display case and its signs.

A year ago, I began posting single-day work “opportunities” on VolunteerMatch.org (<https://www.volunteermatch.org/search/opp3843713.jsp>) and have been lucky enough to land several new volunteers. On the first day of the 2025 Winter Workparty two 18/20-year-olds volunteered for a full day of work (12 hours on the ship), then they came back a week later with six additional young adults, again for a full day. These young men and

women are part of the Federal Government’s AmeriCorps program. They relocated lots of scrap metal and equipment hardware from the Fire Room to the Gun Mount 53 bulk storage area. In the Fire Room they secured heavy shore power cables to the ceiling, vacuumed gallons of paint chips, then cleaned up equipment and trash. In 40 degrees, but with a sunny sky, they scrub brushed and washed all of Gun Mount 53, the base of the Aft Stack, the hanger forward bulkhead, plus bulkheads down both sides of the weather deck, to remove graffiti (created by young fingers wiping off paint oxidation) and black yuck. In the Captain’s Sea Cabin they removed lots of trash, paint supplies, and junk, then vacuumed and cleaned, improving its appearance tremendously. They removed junk, trash, and numerous old equipment items from the Gun Director Barbet, then vacuumed and cleaned it. In the Signal Shack, they replaced dozens of

corroded bolts. They removed crusty ice and snow, frozen to the weather decks on all levels, to expedite the return of tourist traffic to the Laffey, subsequent to the snowstorm. Next, they applied bug pesticide throughout entire Chiefs Quarters and repositioned all excess mooring lines in an organized, attractive fashion.

As long as the above lists are, there are hundreds of other things that were also accomplished, too numerous to list here. Our workparties are attended by dozens of our members with a wide spectrum of experience, interests, and capabilities. It is very satisfying to watch all of them come together, getting along in tight spaces for a week, working hard, and for long hours, to make our ship shine. You should be very proud of them!

- Mike Honsinger

Upcoming Association Events

Spring Workparty

Friday, April 4 – Sunday, April 13, 2025

2025 Reunion – Patriots Point, South Carolina

Monday, April 14 – Thursday, April 17, 2025

Since our Spring Workparty will butt right up to our Reunion, and because we have received news that quite a few folks intend to provide a hand during the workparty, we are providing an extended opportunity for our members to work on our ship. Friday 4 Apr will be the first night that our workers will be able to sleep on the Laffey. Work opportunities are available beginning Saturday morning, the 5th. There is a large Charleston-area event happening on the 5th, the Cooper River Run- big crowds, heavy traffic. As a result, all hotels, including our favorite Comfort Inn & Suites, will have very pricey rates on the 4th. If you intend to stay in a hotel, we recommend not arriving in Mt. Pleasant until late in the day on the 5th. The big bridge connecting Charleston to Mt. Pleasant will be closed all morning for the running event. Workparty opportunities will run for nine days, through Sunday, April 13. Monday,

April 14, could be a workparty clean-up day. The most productive workparty days will potentially be Monday the 7th through Friday the 11th, since weekdays are when tourist attendance is lower and Patriots Point will allow us “burn permits” to weld and grind. With such a long workparty, perhaps we will find a couple of opportunities for workers to enjoy some recreation- maybe a pool night at the VFW or a game of golf (there are four sets of golf clubs aboard ship)? Our Reunion will kick off on the evening of Monday, 14 April and will run through the morning of Thursday 17 April. There will be several Patriots Point 16 April/ 80th Anniversary activities aboard our ship on the 15th and 16th. Contact Jill Michel for more information: reunions@laffey.org

80th Anniversary Kamikaze Attack in WWII (Memorial Service aboard USS Laffey)

Wednesday, April 16, 2025

Fall Workparty

Late October, dates to be determined

Winter Workparty

Late January/Early February 2026

2026 Reunion

Currently anticipated to be in Mt. Pleasant, to include April 16, but definitive dates and location will be determined at our general membership meeting in April 2025.

Spring 2026 Workparty

Late March/Early April, depending on Reunion date and location

2025 Reunion

In remembrance of the day that earned the USS Laffey DD724 the nickname "The Ship that Would Not Die", 80 years ago on April 16, 1945 off Okinawa, Patriots Point Maritime Museum is having a Memorial Service & unveiling some new exhibitions. In order to coincide with this, we will be holding our 2025 Reunion, April 14th through 16th, 2025 at Patriots Point. Monday, April 14, Registration will be in the Patriots Room at Comfort Inn & Suites, Mount Pleasant, SC from 2pm to 7pm. Food will be provided. We are not planning tours around Charleston, most of our reunion will be held between the Comfort Inn, or Patriots Point.

Registration Fee is FREE. If you are planning on attending, you MUST make sure to contact us so we have an accurate count for the caterers, with a Cut-Off date of March 25th, 2025. Please only sign up if you will be there or make sure to notify us if you need to cancel. Please provide the name(s) of the people that will be attending along with the years that you/they served. Register for the reunion here...

<https://laffey.org/wordpress/index.php/2024/11/23/2025-reunion/>

Please make your room reservation online through this booking link,

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/OS89Y3> . The cost of the rooms range from \$129-\$159, depending on the type of room you request. They are also giving us great rates before and after the specific dates of the reunion.

Contact Jill Michel for more information: reunions@laffey.org / 1 (609) 870-0600

Current News

Tin Can Sailors DesRon

You may recall that in January 2023 I visited Tin Can Sailors DesRon 3 (TinCanSailorsOfGooseCreek.org) for their monthly meeting in Goose Creek, just outside of Charleston, and walked away with a large donation for our Association. We we received two more large donations from DesRon 3 in September of 2023 and 2024. Their members have also donated a good deal of time working on the Laffey. If you are a member of TCS, but not a “local” DesRon, you may consider joining DesRon 3, as has Mike Honsinger.

Join us at a Work Party – Women can now stay aboard the Yorktown!

Typically, we have three work parties aboard ship each year: Fall, Winter, and Spring. They kick off on a Friday and end the following Saturday, eight days later. All workparty crewmembers must be USS Laffey Association members and be at least 18 years of age. There are currently 14 male-only bunks on the Laffey. However, we now have accommodations for women to stay aboard the Yorktown during our workparties. But, we do have to have a minimum of two women willing to commit, in advance, for the same set of dates. Bunks, linens, towels, hearty meals, laundry facilities, parking and access to Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum are all provided free of charge at workparties. If you fly or train in, we will pick you up. 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 also provide an opportunity to meet visitors to the ship. Often multiple Association family members attend together to create a working vacation.

We have shirts and sweatshirts, which are fluorescent green and have wording to clearly identify you as a workparty member. They will be given and sold to workparty crewmembers in accordance with this policy: If you do not have four serviceable workparty T-shirts, we will issue you one free at each workparty, until you do have four serviceable T-shirts. During any workparty you may purchase unlimited additional T-shirts for \$10 each, or sweatshirts for \$20 each. We also sell Laffey and “724” baseball caps for \$10. The Comfort Inn & Suites Patriots Point provides deeply discounted rates to our members, not only during workparties, but also year round. For those

who serve at our workparties, your Patriots Point security badge not only allows you free access to Patriots Point year-round, but also gives you free access to nearly 50 tourist activities in the greater Charleston area. The “Reciprocity List” showing these 50 places is posted on our website.

If you have an interest in helping us out during the upcoming workparties, please email Mike at President@Laffey.org, preferably at least a week in advance. 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 our goal to do our best to anticipate the manpower, tools, supplies, permits and financing required so that when our crews show up, everyone can get to work right away, then keep busy while you give of your time, energy, and finances to join us. If you can attend a work party, please do your best to commit to specific dates when you will be aboard to eat, sleep and work, then email those commitments to Mike ideally 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!

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

Here are some photos from some of our recent workparties, the reunion and memorial service.

2024 January Work Party

	
Kevin Jones in Fireroom	Steve Bade in Fireroom
	
Steve Bade & Marc Jacob refurbishing berthing fuse panel	Ken McCullough fixing a tool in the tool room

2024 Fall Work Party



Kevin Jones and Steve Bade on Fantail



Carol Felsing Rogers (visitor) and Valerie Honsinger in Galley Serving Line



Mike Pereira, Richard Felsing, Steve Bade and Jim Bossard in Chiefs Quarters

2025 Winter Work Party



Lorrie Tuck below decks and Marc Jacobs repairing gangway quarter deck



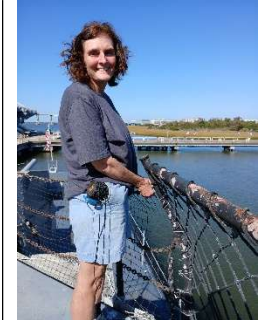
Steve "Ernie" Doyle



Bob Sideikas & Steve "Ernie" Doyle in the Aft Fire Room



Mike Honsinger, Ken McCullough, and Steve Bade waiting to return to our ship once the pier has been cleared of five inches of snow! (look between Ken and Steve's shoulders to see the snow in the marsh)



Valerie Honsinger repairing netting on the helo deck



Marc Jacobs repairing netting on the gangway

2024 Reunion and Memorial Service





Taps for Fallen Shipmates



www.laffey.org/Taps.pdf

Or go to www.laffey.org and select "Taps"

Charles Meyer, Medical Officer

Passed away peacefully on December 26, 2024, surrounded by his family. Charlie was the last medical officer on the ship when she was decommissioned. He was also a fixture at the workparties for many years until his health began to fail.



<https://www.thomaspoteet.com/obituaries/charles-meyer-jr-md-sfo>

Fred Raleigh, Radarman

Fred Raleigh passed away Dec 1, 2024. Fred proudly served in the United States Navy as a Radarman, first on the USS Hunt (DD-674) from 1957 to 1959 and then on the USS Laffey (DD-724) from 1960 to 1961. His military service instilled in him a sense of duty and pride that he carried throughout his life. His commitment to his shipmates was carried on in later years, through his participation in their yearly reunions, where, as a volunteer, he would contribute to the ongoing repairs and upkeep of the USS Laffey as a historic site, and he and his fellow servicemen would reminisce about their shared experiences.



<https://www.legacy.com/us/obituaries/name/frederick-raleigh-obituary?id=56916263>

Philip Winston

Passed away October 2, 2024.

He was the nephew of Admiral Becton. He served in the US Navy aboard the USS Ranger during the Vietnam War.



<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/en-ca/obituaries/san-antonio-tx/philip-winston-jr-12171317>

Bill Sarver, TM3



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!"

Rod Morgan, FT2

Roderick A. "Rod" Morgan, Sr. March 24, 1934 to February 15, 2024 (age 89).

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.



Thomas J. Moskie, DK 3

Passed away February 7, 2024. He served aboard the USS Laffey in 1959-1960.



Margaret K Casaday

Although not a shipmate, we would also like to recognize the loss of Margaret Casaday. She was the wife of Boatswain's Mate Second Class Calvin Cloer who died from burns and other injuries in Mount 53 on April 16, 1945. Margaret visited the USS Laffey about 2010.



Restoration of the Officer's Wardroom Pantry

A restoration of the Officer's Wardroom Pantry (adjacent to the Wardroom - connected by a passthrough window for food and drinks) was completed in August 2023 by Patriots Point local volunteer Bill Casassa. The objective was to restore the pantry to better reflect its earlier, functional appearance. Bill completed several other large

restoration projects, including the signal bridge. He is currently working on restoring the Crew Mess steam serving line.

Below are photos taken by the shipbuilder in 1945 of the Pantry on a Sumner class destroyer. These were taken prior to giving the ship to the Navy, so a lot of the everyday items (plates, cups, glasses, etc...) had not yet been outfitted. Next to each photo is Laffey's current space. There was much to do!



Both the sink/counter and the refrigerator were missing. The space also showed decades of age - flaking paint, rust, serious grunge and "sailor-mods" to the lighting and electrical. There was also a fuse panel missing its cover, which provided numerous opportunities for electrical shock!

The first issues addressed were covering the fuse panel and getting the lighting/power sorted out. Then the new LED lighting was installed.

Next, using a scraper, a grinder/sander and copious amounts of primer and white/gray paint, the bulkheads and other items were refinished.

For the sink/counter, the staff and members of the Laffey crew, here for a February work week, repurposed one from the Yorktown and it was cut to size and installed! They also added a viewport to the door.



Construction Marches on at Patriots Point

Construction of the new resort at Patriots Point is continuing, as it will for another five to ten years. The resort itself will not be owned by the Patriots Point Development Authority (PPDA, the entity that owns the museum complex), but the resort will sit on land leased from the PPDA. All of the land-side Patriots Point displays, buildings, and parking lots, as you see them today, will be moved, torn down, or changed. A large new parking lot has been built over the last year and many acres of woods have been taken down recently. Although parking at the new parking lot, owned by the resort developer, is rather expensive, PPDA will continue to allow our workparty workers to park for free in the employee lot. The pier and the Yorktown will remain as is. There is a chance that the Laffey could move to a new position on the pier, but that decision will not be finalized until the Laffey goes to drydock for a short inspection and minor repair trip, which will not take place until at least early 2026. As a result of this new construction, we had to remove our Memorial Tree last year, since moving it was not feasible. We did salvage the trunk of the tree, for a future woodworking project of some sort. It is stored in our bulk storage area just forward of the tool rooms, as is the bronze sign and the galvanized steel sign stand. Interestingly, I learned a few weeks ago that one of our members picked up an acorn from that Memorial Tree and is now nursing a tiny sapling

from that acorn! So, the tree shall live on, as it turns out!

Cassin Young crew helps out the Laffey

As part of our refurbishing the Aft Fire Room, we are having to replace a number of boiler accessories that have “grown legs” over the years. Last Spring, John Hudak was very fortunate to obtain about 30 items from the USS Orleck (DD 886) in Jacksonville, FL. One item that we needed, which the Orleck did not have extras of, was an air flow indicator, which shows how much air is being blown into the boiler. Mike Honsinger visited the USS Cassin Young (DD 793), in Boston, to see if they could help us. The Cassin Young, owned by the US Park Service, also did not



have an extra air flow indicator, but the “Friends of the Cassin Young” organization has a volunteer, Noah Lewkowicz, who builds

missing parts with a 3D printer. Our thanks go out to Noah, as well as Buzz Smith, for trailbossing the project. This picture shows John Hudak accepting two 3D-printed air flow indicators donated to the Laffey, which were hand delivered by John Howard, from Boston, in January 2025.

Please share your cell number with us as you update your contact information

We have recently begun adding cell phone numbers to our membership database. If you will be attending any of our workparties or reunions, we would like to have an emergency contact number. You can check the accuracy of most of the data we have on file for you by taking a look here:

www.laffey.org click on Our Association - Members - Membership Roster. To provide corrections, verify your home phone or email address on file, or to add your cell phone, please contact Joyce Hanau at membership@laffey.org or 347-439-2452.

Membership Renewal

Annual dues are payable the 1st of each year. If you have not reviewed your annual membership for 2025, please contact our Membership Chairperson, Joyce

Hanau at membership@laffey.org or 347-439-2452 or mail your check to: Joyce Hanau 1956 Lincoln Avenue East Meadow, NY 11554

You may also pay using PayPal. Go to <https://laffey.org/wordpress/index.php/shop/> or go www.laffey.org and click on Donate – Payments in middle of the page. Be sure to include your name and the words “Annual Dues”.

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

Donations from Treasurer George Kessler

We spend about \$1000 per workparty for food, paper goods, and cleaning supplies. That works out to about one man-hour of work on our ship for every \$1.25 spent. Pretty good, eh? We also spend about \$2,000 per year on tools and supplies.

All donations are greatly appreciated. Anyone wishing to make a donation, should make the check payable to the USS Laffey Association and mail to

George Kessler
9686 Baughman Rd
Harrison, Ohio 45030

You may also make a donation on PayPal. Go to <https://laffey.org/wordpress/index.php/shop/> or go www.laffey.org and click on Donate – Payments in middle of the page. Enter the donation amount and comments, e.g. In Memory of.....

Memorial Donations:

In Memory of Robert Dockery
Robert C. Johnson -----\$500.00

General Donations:

Terry Fairchild -----\$ 100.00
Tin Can Sailors of Goose Creek ----\$1000.00
Tin Can Sailors of Goose Creek ----\$ 500.00
John Binseel -----\$ 20.00
Lawrence Sleurs -----\$ 100.00
James Smith -----\$ 250.00
Old Dreamer Press – DBA
Catastrophe Games -----\$ 100.00
Charles Meyer -----\$ 100.00
Mathew Sincevich -----\$ 100.00

Ralph R. Doll Jr. -----\$ 500.00

Work Party Donations:

William Townsend -----\$ 100.00
Vernon Honsinger -----\$ 250.00
James & Karen Winston -----\$ 125.00
William Bivin -----\$ 500.00
USS Graffias AF29 Reunion Group-\$ 200.00
USS Yorktown Foundation -----\$5000.00
Harvey & Karen Peet -----\$ 200.00
Robert C. Johnson -----\$1000.00

Work Party Dinner Reimbursement:

USS Yorktown Foundation -----\$ 500.00

Laffey Website Donation:

Mary Herbst -----\$ 400.00

USS Laffey Website

www.laffey.org



Send inputs to Cindy Lee at webmaster@laffey.org

Newsletter Note

As you know, Pam does a great job keeping us all connected via our newsletter. We have now reduced the number of annual newsletters to only two, rather than quarterly, as we had been doing in the past, one after the Fall Work party and the other after the Spring Work party. In recent years our annual cost to publish and mail hardcopy newsletters has cost us about the same (\$1,000 +/-) as it does to feed an entire work party. Because your officers feel that our money is better spent on work parties, beginning this year, we will only mail hardcopy newsletters to former Laffey crewmembers if they have requested one. All other members of the Association will only receive newsletters via email or our website. Please keep your email address current by sending your info to membership@laffey.org, or call or text Joyce Hanau, Membership Chairperson, at 347-439-2452. Send inputs or comments to Pam Barylski Newsletter Editor newsletter@laffey.org

Currently we are publishing the Laffey News on the website at www.laffey.org/. Click on Newsletter at the top of the page.

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