

## 80th Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa Attack on the USS Laffey

<https://www.patriotspoint.org/events/80th-anniversary-battle-okinawa-attack-uss-laffey>



**DATE April 16, 2025**

**TIME 10:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**80th Anniversary Announcement** Join us as we honor the courage and sacrifice of the USS Laffey's crew during one of the fiercest attacks in U.S. naval history. On April 16, 1945—80 years ago this year—the Laffey was struck by 22 Japanese aircraft during the Battle of Okinawa. Seven kamikaze planes and four bombs hit the ship, killing 32 crew members. Against overwhelming odds, the crew fought back, shooting down 11 enemy planes and saving their ship. Their actions earned the USS Laffey the nickname: "The Ship That Would Not Die."

Patriots Point is proud to be the permanent home of this highly decorated National Historic Landmark. We invite you to join us April 16, 2025, for a day of remembrance, education, and tribute to the ship and her heroic crew.

### **Schedule of Events**

- 10:00 AM — Memorial Ceremony on the fantail of the USS Laffey

- 1:00 PM — Presentation by Dr. Kyle Sinisi, Professor of History at The Citadel, on the strategic significance of Okinawa and the Pacific Theater
  - 2:00 PM — Presentation by Lt. Col. James Smith, PPDA Board Member and grandson of a USS Laffey veteran, with a guided walk-through of kamikaze impact sites aboard the ship
- Throughout the afternoon, guests can participate in guided tours of the battle-damaged areas and explore new interpretive signage that tells the story of April 16, 1945.

This special event is an opportunity to walk in the footsteps of heroes and pay tribute to their legacy of bravery and resilience.

Whether you're a history enthusiast, a veteran, or a first-time visitor, [Life Aboard the Laffey Day](#) on April 15 and the [80th Anniversary of the Attack on the Laffey at the Battle of Okinawa](#) on April 16 offer powerful opportunities to honor those who served and explore their incredible stories. Guests can [purchase a two-day ticket in advance \(opens in a new window\)](#) to experience the full range of programming across both commemorative events. Single-day admission is also available for those who prefer to attend just one day.

## **Patriots Point to mark 80th anniversary of attack on U.S.S. Laffey**

<https://www.counton2.com/news/local-news/patriots-point-to-mark-80th-anniversary-of-attack-on-u-s-s-laffey/>

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. (WCBD) – Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum will honor fallen sailors from what is now known as ‘The Ship That Would Not Die.’

April 16 marks the 80th anniversary of the attack on the U.S. Laffey during the World War II Battle of Okinawa. For more than 80 minutes, the Laffey was attacked by 22 aircraft, with seven kamikazes and four bombs hitting the ship.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IZI7VXiyPVc>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u9fhi-lzXNE>

<https://www.live5news.com/video/2025/04/16/video-patriots-point-honors-uss-laffeys-legacy-80th-anniversary-infamous-battle-2/>

### Photos from 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at Patriots Point



Richard Felsing with Patriots Point Volunteers Leonard Singleton, Joe Davis, and Toney Knapp on Quarterdeck





Chief Rob Holder, Sam Singewald, Drew Barrett members of the Living Crew in WWII Uniforms





David Bossard Radioman Chief and Earnie Doyle in Radio Central





Sam Singewald by Electrical Switchboard



Richard Felsinger Commander USN (Retired) in Captain's In Port Cabin. See WWII documents, maps, foul weather gear.



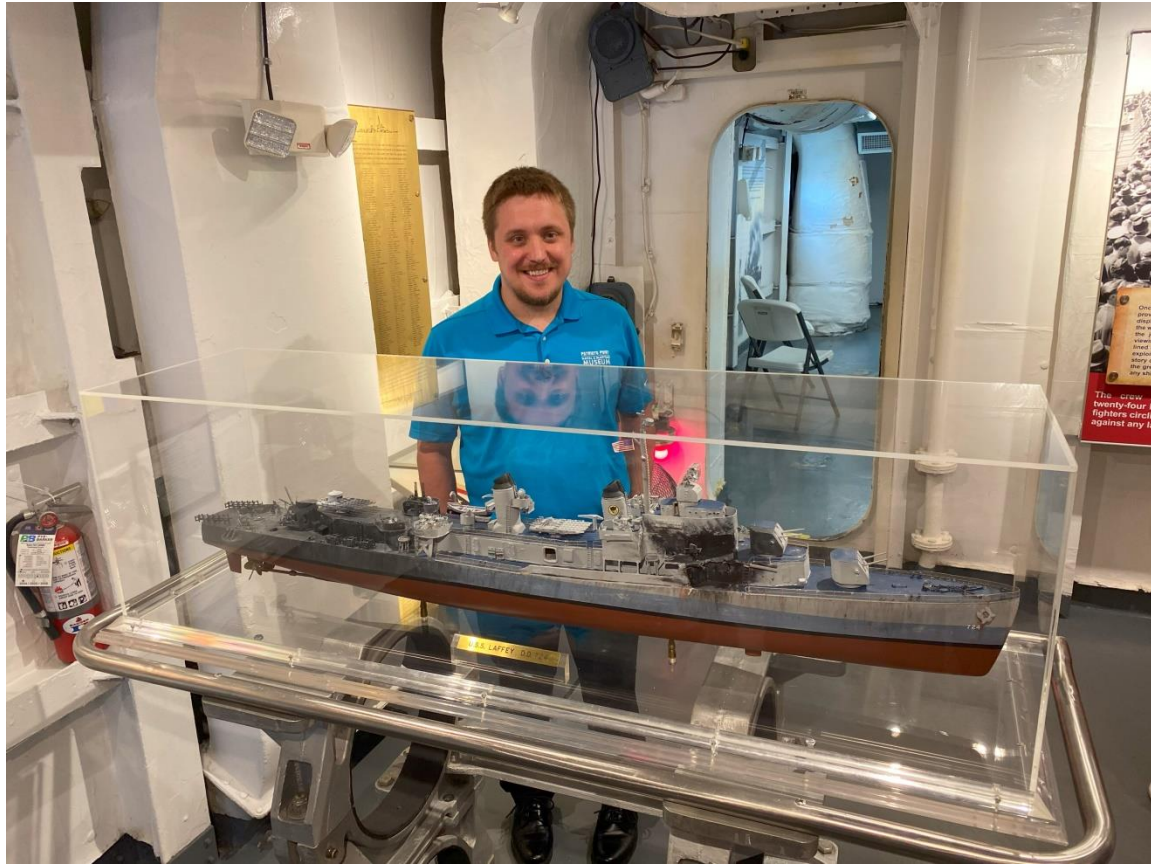


Richard Felsinger with son Jon and grandson Isaac in Captain's In Port Cabin





Lt Col James Smith conducting tour of Laffey



Colby Causey Archivist Collections & Curatorial Affairs Department , Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum showing model of USS Laffey after the April 16, 1945 Okinawa Attack





Marion Miller holding picture of her mother who visited USS Laffey in Seattle, Washington 1945. Her mother recalled seeing "Sailors with sad, vacant eyes". Marion is a USAF veteran and Patriots Point Volunteer.



Richard Felsing and Sam Singewald by Mount 52 with gun mount diagrams





WWII Posters Showing Women Supporting the War Effort



Plaque on Mount 53





Steve Bade, April and Sam Singewald showing Lego Models on USS Yorktown  
<https://www.laffey.org/Shipmates/Singewald.pdf>



Chip Honsinger Captain USN (Retired) Presentation on Fantail

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





Chip Honsinger Presentation on Fantail

Many thanks to all presenters, hosts, and guests at the 80 Anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa Attack on the USS Laffey to pay tribute to the legacy of bravery and resilience of the USS Laffey crew.

Send comments/corrections to [president@laffey.org](mailto:president@laffey.org) and [webmaster@laffey.org](mailto:webmaster@laffey.org).