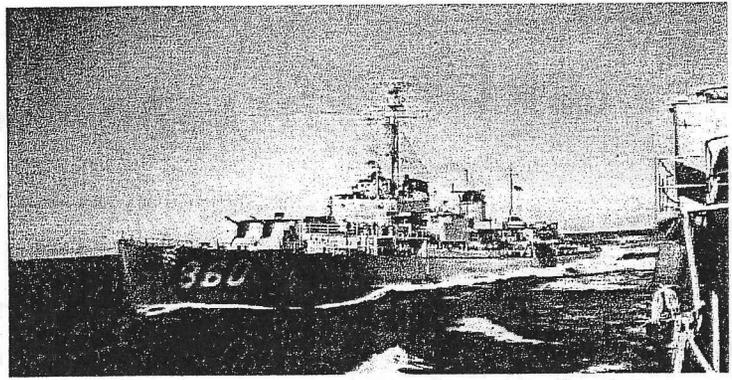


McCaffery Newsletter

SPRING 2009



Refueling at Sea

"Former" Editor: Gordon Leiser - 417 Adirondack Ave., Spotswood, N.J. 08884 (732) 251-1457



"A Tribute to a Sailor" By June Leiser & Gail Leiser-Griswold

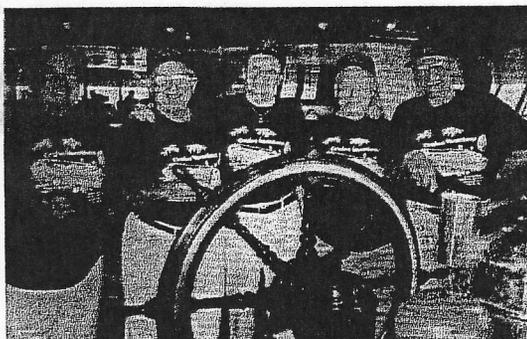
It's a new year and this Mighty Mac newsletter comes a little later than expected...and with a few new "editors" helping out. So if this edition sounds a little different than usual, you'll understand why. Usually, this newsletter is written and edited by my dad, Gordon Leiser. He lost his long battle to lung cancer on March 4, 2009. He started to write this edition of the newsletter, but unfortunately, his health didn't permit

him to finish it. So, as a tribute to Gordon, my mother June and I (with the help of the McCaffery staff) will be finishing his last edition before the newsletter is handed off to another great shipmate.

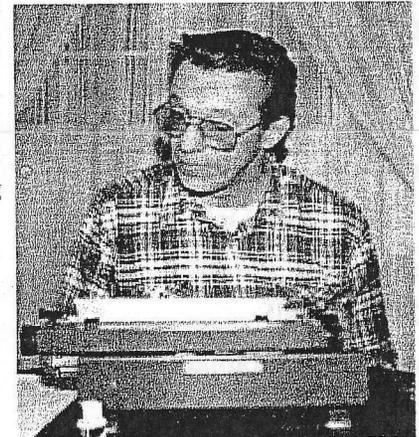
But how did the newsletters all begin? Back in 1982 Gordon had back surgery and spent a great deal of time recovering in bed. He passed his time reading American Legion magazine and saw several announcements regarding various ship's reunions, but never one for the USS McCaffery. So, Gordon dug up his old cruise book and started searching for former shipmates. That was a tough task back in the 80s, considering there wasn't an Internet. He searched for shipmates using resources like the library, phone books, etc.

So, during that time while he was recovering, he decided to organize the first reunion. The first call he made was to an old shipmate named Anthony Urbano, at 6AM in the morning and woke him up out of bed. They joked about that phone call all the time. Together, they organized a committee from New Jersey, which met at the American Legion in Gordon's hometown of Spotswood, NJ and so it all began. As a result, the first USS McCaffery reunion was in 1984 in Portsmouth, RI. Gordon has organized, been a strong supporter and a great help for all of our reunions since.

Gordon worked closely with several shipmates along the years to ensure the success of the newsletters, as well as the reunions.



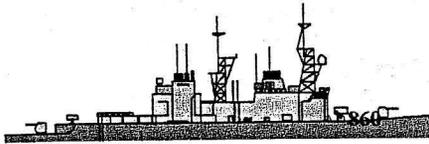
Reed Crowell Leiser Faulkner Maslak



Gordon at his typewriter back in the early 80s, typing the first edition of the Mighty Mac newsletter.

To the left is a picture of Gordon and most of the McCaffery staff during the 8th McCaffery Reunion. So, you might know Gordon from seeing him at the reunions, or you might feel like you know him after reading all of his newsletters.

No matter how well you knew him, there's one thing for sure about Gordon...his love of the USS McCaffery. Calm seas & smooth sailing, Gordon!



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Myrtle Beach Reunion Recap



Submitted by June Leiser

Our 12th reunion, in North Myrtle Beach, S.C., was a huge success. Many thanks to our hosts Wayne Farris and Phil

Krumpter for planning a great reunion. There were approximately 220 people from 33 states plus, one US possession, represented at the reunion. Quite a turnout wouldn't you say!

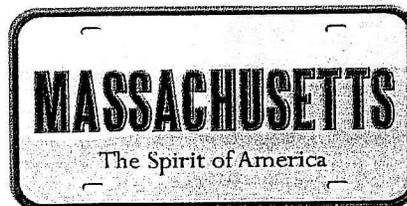
Many shipmates enjoyed the events that were planned, which included, a tour of the USS North Carolina in Wilmington, N.C. followed by an evening at the Carolina Opry Show. Myrtle Beach is known for its great entertainment. LeGrande Cirque was a magnificent production, with performers from many countries. It was breathtaking, to say the least.

The reunion, concluded on Saturday evening with our traditional banquet. This year we were honored to have eight members of the McCaffery family join us. Thanks again, to all who helped to make this another memorable reunion!!!

Massachusetts in 2010!

Our 13th reunion will be held in Massachusetts in the Fall of 2010. Ron Trippett is our new Reunion Chairman and we're excited to have him onboard. Plans are underway to organize another great reunion in the town of Salem. Ron has been checking out various hotels and local places of interest to make the 13th reunion one to remember.

Stay tuned for more detailed information in the next newsletter on the 2010 Reunion.

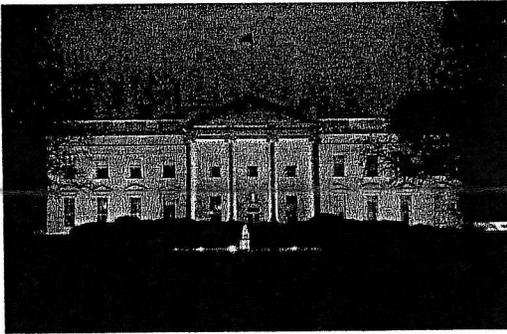


USS McCaffery Commemorative Plaque

Submitted by Doug Hackett

At the USS McCaffery Association business meeting on Saturday morning at the reunion in Myrtle Beach, it was approved that we commission a USS McCaffery Commemorative Plaque to be displayed on the Commemorative Wall at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington DC. Here are the details.

The US Navy Memorial honors all Navy, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine personnel who have served at sea in defense of our country. The Memorial is located on Pennsylvania Avenue in Washington DC between the White House and the Capitol, across the street from the National Archives.



There is an above ground plaza depicting the oceans of the world, with fountains containing water from the Seven Seas, and the famous statue of the Lone Sailor. Below ground is a theater, the Commemorative Wall containing over 450 plaques honoring ships (such as the Arizona, Midway, and Forrestal), cruisers such as Juneau and Marblehead, destroyers such as the Sumner, and many submarines and aircraft squadrons.

Additionally, there are many plaques honoring individuals such as the Sullivan Brothers, and Capt McGonagle, CMOH holder and CO of Liberty when it was attacked by Israeli forces in 1967. The Navy Memorial also contains an excellent Ship's Store and

a Navy Log, listing over 600,000 persons who have served in the US Navy. The US Navy Memorial is a very impressive place to visit, and well worth the effort when you are in DC.

The USS McCaffery Commemorative plaque will be anodized aluminum, 7 inches wide by 3 3/4 inches high. It will contain a photo of the McCaffery underway; ship designation: DD/DDE 860; dates in commission: 1945 - 1973; ship's motto - Drive Them Into The Sea; significant service: Korea, Cuban Missile Crisis, Vietnam; sponsored by: USS McCaffery Veteran's Association.

The plaque will be designed by the plaque designer at the Navy Memorial and photos of it sent to the members of the Plaque Committee for approval (Doug Hackett (chair), Nick Donatiello, Bob Fisher, Regis Kingera, Jim Mugnolo, and Tony Urbano).

After the design is approved, the plaque will be created. At some time in the future, probably a year or two from now, a special commemorative plaque dedication ceremony will be held in the theater at the US Navy Memorial. The McCaffery will be honored at that time and the plaque will be installed on the Wall.

The dedication ceremony will be scheduled approximately one or two years from now to allow time for creation and funding of the plaque. All hands will be invited to the dedication ceremony. The date for the ceremony will be published in the Newsletter once the date is finalized.

USS McCaffery Commemorative Plaque (Continued)

Funding: The total cost for the Plaque is \$3,000, with \$500 paid up front for the design phase. The USS McCaffery Commemorative Plaque belongs to and honors all who have served on the McCaffery. It has been approved that a minimum donations of \$10 or \$20 per shipmate be requested from all hands so that everyone can be a "plank owner" and "own" part of the plaque. If you can, donations of higher amounts are most welcome. Please send your tax deductible donation check to **Bill Maslak**, whose address is in this Newsletter. Make it payable to **USS McCaffery Association**, and specify Commemorative Plaque in the lower left hand corner.

Also, after the plaque is produced, if you choose to do so, you may purchase a replica of the McCaffery plaque mounted on a hardwood backing for \$150. It can hang on a wall or placed on a desk. The Navy Memorial advertises that it makes a great souvenir, and is a fund-raiser for them.

To learn more about the US Navy Memorial and view commemorative plaques currently displayed, go to: www.navy memorial.org; click on: Commemorative wall; click on the banner: view on-line Memorial Commemorative Wall; click on a name to view the plaque.

We feel that this plaque is worthwhile and an outstanding way to honor our ship and those who served on her. Please send your tax deductible donations as soon as you can. In the event that donations received for the McCaffery Commemorative Plaque exceed the cost of the plaque, it has been proposed that a modest donation be made to the US Navy Memorial at the dedication ceremony, and that any other excess funds go into the McCaffery general fund. Progress updates will be included in future editions of the Newsletter.

If you have any questions, email members of the Plaque Design Committee.

US Navy Memorial Navy Log

Submitted by Doug Hackett

In addition to the Commemorative Wall of ships at the US Navy Memorial, the Navy Memorial has a free on-line Navy Log listing of over 600,000 persons who have served our country at sea in the Navy, Coast Guard, and Merchant Marine. The Navy Log contains biographic information including name, birth date, place of birth, rank/rate, ships served in, and awards.

At present there are approximately 1250 members of the USS McCaffery Association, but only 56 of us are listed in the Navy Log at the US Navy Memorial.

Inclusion in the Navy Log is free, and you may also include a photo.

We urge you to sign up so that future generations can look at your entry in the Navy Log and see what great-grandpappy did in the Navy.

To view McCaffery personnel listed in the Navy Log, go to www.navy memorial.org; on the home page right side, click on: Navy Log; click on: search for a service profile; third category down, click on search by duty station; enter: McCaffery.

To sign up and enter your own profile, click on: create your own personal profile, and fill in the blanks. As you do this, note the interesting Navy Log profile of Ernest Borgnine, a WWII gunner's

mate.



Welcome Aboard!

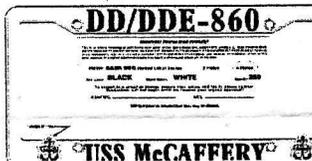


This column lists the names of newly found shipmates who served on the "Mac"! Thanks to the efforts of our Historian, Bill Maslak, our roster keeps growing. The following, is a list of new shipmates, who have just joined us.....**Welcome Aboard Mates!**

ANDERSON, WARREN A FN 52-54
BARBER, WILLIAM W FTGSA 71
COOK, FRANLIN W RD2 67-70
DEGUZMAN, ADOLFO T PNC 70-72
DELACH, JON A SN 72 -73
DOAN, DENNIS G GMG3 68-72
EASLEY, JOHN M RD3 66-68
HENSLER, HAROLD E MM2 45-46

HUMPHREY, CHARLES J FN 66-67
KERSEY, WAYNE E ETN2 66-67
MERS, CHARLES B RMC 71-73
SLOTTKO, WILLIAM R FN 57-58
TAYLOR, JOHN M SN 66-69
THOMAS, JERRY L OS1 71-73
VOIGHT, RICHARD W RM2 54-57
WEEKS, BOBBY L MM2 68-69

License Plate Holders



High quality black license plate holders are available for \$6.00. Price includes postage. In raised white letters across the top is: DD/DDE-860 and across the bottom is "USS McCAFFERY" flanked by anchors. (See picture above).

MAC PATCHES

Embroidered patches are still available and there are two to choose from:

"**Drive them into the Sea**" (Bougainville), and the "**Sea Horse Riding a Hedgehog**" with a Shamrock background. They are high quality in brilliant colors. The cost is **\$5.50 each** or **\$10.00** for both. Price includes mailing. Please send checks payable to: **Bill Maslak, 859 Hamill Road, Verona, PA 15147.**

Reunion Books

If you would like to order a reunion book from our last reunion in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. please contact Ed Crowell. The cost is \$20 and checks may be sent to:

Ed Crowell

132 Royal Palm Drive

Leesburg, FL 34748.

If you have any photos, please send them also, so they may be included in the book. Please identify on the back of photo in pencil, who is in the picture.



New "Mighty Mac" Editor Reporting For Duty!

As you know, this is the last newsletter from the desk of Gordon Leiser. All future newsletters will be handed over to Nick Donatiello. Any items for the newsletter should be sent to Nick. His contact information is as follows:

NDonatiello@donatiello.net. Or you can reach him by mail at his home address:



USS Mc Caffery Newsletter
C/O Nicholas Donatiello Sr
30 Centerboard Drive
Bayville, NJ 08721-1512

Here's to many more great newsletters to come!

Taps.....



Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families of our departed shipmates. If you know of a shipmate, who is ill, hospitalized, or recently deceased, please notify us, so that we can respond in an appropriate manner. The following, is a list of shipmates who have passed away since our last newsletter in August 2008.

BERNARDI, MICHAEL W RD3 50-53
BIZZARRI, JAMES L SN 57-59
BLACKBURN, WILLARD (BLACKIE) GMG 52 - 56
CALKINS, JACK K RDSN 45-46*
ENGLISH, HARRY K BTC 70-71
HYDER, EARL R BM1 68-70
LEISER, GORDON E DK3 52-56
MOKELER, JAMES R QMC 65-68
O'NEILL, ANGELO BT3 60
ROMANO, MICHAEL M FN 55-56
TOSHIKIAN, WARREN S SA 48-49

* denotes Plankowner



Newsletter Donations

Since our last newsletter, the following shipmates have sent in donations, so that we can continue to send you the "Mighty Mac" Newsletter. Thanks guys, it really helps. At present, our mailing list is over 1,200 plus, and growing. That adds up to a lot of postage. Thanks again!

Ashforth, Donald	54-56	Decelle, John	57-59	Meverden, Rich	54-58	Stanczyk, Mike	62
Barnes, Donald	52-53	Dionne, Richard	72-73	McCaffery, Joe A.		Stinebiser, Jim	47-48
Betz, Heinz	53-55	Forkey, George	51-54	Ormsby, Duane	67-70	Thompkins, Randy	
Brown, Robt N.	53-57	Foster, Verne	55-58	Overman, Dick	49-50	Tiedemann, Hollie	60-63
Buell, Byron	61-62	Fulks, Tex	50-54	Patella, John	51-52	Tison, Bobby	50-54
Calkins, Jack	45-46	Goddard, Clint	54-55	Rohr, Fred	48-52	Urbano, Anthony	53-55
Cernava, John	65-67	Hensler, Harold	45-46	Salafia, Tony	52-57	Zimmerschied, N	55-57
Creckpaum, Chas.	71-73	Keup, Richard	53-56	Smith, Floyd	54-56	Anonymous (Colorado)	

Attention: All Hands On Deck!

Submitted by Bill Maslak

Some members' email inboxes are full and cannot accept new mail. You may want to check or empty your inbox. Be sure to check the McCaffery site www.usdd860.com for your email address. If your address is not there or is incorrect let **Bill Maslak** know by emailing him at usdd860@verizon.net.



So, if your postal address has or will change, let Bill know so you can continue to receive the newsletter and so it saves us the trouble of trying to relocate you. Bill will be trying to post members' names who send donations for the McCaffery Memorial fund on the McCaffery site. Check the end of the site for updates. If you don't have a computer, your local library will be happy to pull up the site on their computer for you."

You may also want to check your email address in the national TCS site. Some updated information may also be needed there as well. Thanks Shipmates!

Things I've Learned.....

This section of "Things I Learned" will be a little different. These are the things Karen Leiser-Wicks learned from her dad, Gordon Leiser. This was the tribute she paid to him at his memorial service and we hope this section makes you smile, and brings back some of your own fond memories.

- * Always give your best on a job.
- * You can tell a lot about a person by the way they shake your hand.
- * Laughter and grandchildren are the best medicine.
- * Most things can be 'repaired' with black electrical tape
- * It's impossible to be angry listening to Big Band music.
Especially if you're jitterbugging to Glen Miller's "In the Mood" or Woody Herman's "Wood Chopper's Ball"
- * Birthdays should be celebrated for a least a full weekend
- * Listen to what the other person has to say.
- * Take a family vacation every year
- * Always have things to look forward to
- * Make the most of what you have
- * When putting something together, it's optional to read the directions
- * Any lottery scratch off winnings under \$20 should be rolled over into more lottery tickets
- * You never need a special occasion to order the "Ultimate Feast" at Red Lobster
- * Find a partner who will laugh with you, love you, watch the TV shows you like, grow old with you, and when the nest is empty your real adventures will begin.