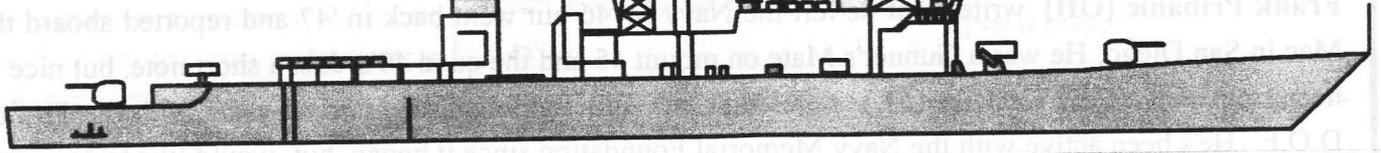


# McCaffery Newsletter



417 Adirondack Ave., Spotswood, New Jersey 08884 (732) 251-1457 - Gleiser860@aol.com

AUGUST 1999



## Greetings Shipmates!

Well, summer is here, and I hope everyone is relaxing and enjoying their free time and well earned vacations. Summer was a little early this year in N.J. when we hit the 100 degree mark in June. One of the weathermen said, it was the reverse effect of "El Nino".....called, "La Nina". To me, it just meant getting a suntan a lot earlier!

I would like to thank all those who wrote to me and sent articles for the newsletter. It's a big help, and makes my job a lot easier.

In regards to our Reunion.....Ed Crowell (FL) has negotiated with Royal Caribbean to accomodate our group for our Y2K reunion "cruise"! All information regarding the cruise, can be found on page #7. Please read it carefully. One question that was not addressed, was plane fare. The tour agent, will be working with the airlines to get us special rates. The rest is up you! Let me remind you, that this letter is going out to over 650 former Mac shipmates, so get your reservations in ASAP. Every reunion has been a wonderful experience for all of us.....so let's keep it up!



## COLD WAR MEDAL IN THE WORKS

An article recently published in the Air Force Times, states the Pentagon has begun issuing certificates of recognition to Cold War veterans. The Senate has renewed its efforts to give them medals. Sen. Phil Gramm R-Texas, said "Cold War veterans, deserve to be recognized for their success and honored for their valor". An amendment would authorize the Joint Chiefs of Staff, to design a medal and award it to all who served honorably, from Aug 14, 1945, to Nov. 9, 1989. Anyone who served in the Armed Forces, National Guard or reserves - or as a civilian employee of the U.S. Government are eligible. A copy of your DD214 is required. Request can be submitted by mail or fax. The mailing address: Cold War Recognition, 4035 Ridge Top Road, Suite 400, Fairfax, VA 22030. The fax number is (703) 275-6279. A telephone help line, to answer questions has been established. The number is (703) 275-6279. A Web page includes, a sample application letter and answers to application questions.

The address is: [www.coldwar.army.mil](http://www.coldwar.army.mil)

## PRESERVE YOUR MEMORIES

Each one of us, are a part of history and most of us have collected letters, pictures, mementos etc. that we cherish. Most of our off springs won't. What a waste it would be, if your history was thrown out and carted off to the garbage dump. Before it's too late, please let your loved ones know, that you'd like to have your Naval memorabilia donated to a veteran's organization.

Of course, if your children are interested, then they should definitely have it. This way, it will always be there when they talk about grandpa or great-great, grandpa.

Time has a way of dimming memories, but your collected items, will keep them alive!

## Left is Right...

If the right side of the brain controls the left side of the body, as researchers tell us, then left handers are the only people in their right minds....



Many of you have written to me, and here's some news I'd like to share with you.....

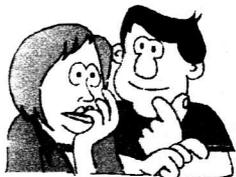
**Frank Pribanic (OH)** writes that he left the Navy in '46 but went back in '47 and reported aboard the Mac in San Diego. He was a Gunner's Mate on mount 45 and the quad 40's. Just a short note, but nice to hear from him. **Carl Colbert (FL)** states that he's still fighting fires after 27 years with the Florida D.O.F. He's been active with the Navy Memorial Foundation since it began, but would like to see some of the McCaffery crew in it. Check it out at: [www.LoneSailor.com](http://www.LoneSailor.com). **George Pasnak (NY)** wanted to make sure that the donation he sent for the n/l got to the right person.....well, it did George....and thanks! **Chas. Cochran (VA)** sent in his new address for our mailing list.....I love the name....."Poor House Rd"! **John Bixby (CA)** sent information regarding cruises. Thanks for the info. I sent it to Ed Crowell for his consideration. He also mentioned, that he got together with John Blair for the first time in 50 years. They met at a Naval Convention in San Diego that Bixby chaired. **Tom & Linda DeHart (OH)** spent the month of January in the Port of Malaga, Spain. They toured Granada, Seville, Gibraltar, Ronda and Cordoba. They met new people from Cal, N.Y. Fla, Maine, Tenn, Ohio and even some former sailors. They spotted a Destroyer (USS Nicholas) and went aboard for a tour. I wonder how the crew liked his "sea stories"! **Charles Weed (AL)** still working at Fort Rucker, Alabama training helicopter pilots. Hopes to retire soon. He still keeps in touch with Bob Tomchack and Rich Price. **Rich Mueller** formerly of NJ now has a new address.....Lakeland, Fla. **Richard Ammon & wife Sheila** had two new additions to their family. They now have (7) grandchildren and (1) great granddaughter. Rich is now fully retired and really enjoying it! **Jerry Kuhr (NY)** recuperating after a very serious bout with Myasthenia gravis. He's back home and on the road to recovery. And just to let you know....someone was thinking about you....**Anthony Treza (WA)** sent a letter saying that he and Jerry served together on the "Mac" from '56-'58. He even recalls going to Jerry and Goldie's wedding in Brooklyn. **John May (IL)** was a snowbird in Florida for the winter. Can't blame you John, a lot of guys who went to boot camp at Great Lakes, remember those brutal winters. In answer to the question in your letter....that was Ed White who was aboard in 53-54. **Sylvester Bruza (FL)** and his wife had a double celebration, they had a new grandson and great-grandson just three months apart. Congratulations! He's looking forward to seeing his old buddies at the next reunion. **Dick Coultres (MI)** looking forward to next year, so he can renew some old friendships. He spent over 8 years on the Mac as a IC Electrician. Due to poor health in the past, he hasn't been able to attend any reunions, so this next one should be very special for him. **Ken Johnson (FL)** remembers riding to Main with Ken Hawkes back in the 50's. He also recalls, Tex Fulks, who was supposed to marry his hometown sweetheart, but it never happened because cigars (which he loved) were against her religion. He also mentioned an incident where Don McGlensey, "damn near got him killed," welding galvanized pipe....but that's another story..... **Ed Crowell (FL)** and his wife Jean, traveled to Ireland this past spring. He also, attended his grandson's graduation in Michigan. While motoring back home, Ed had the misfortune to hit a deer, causing \$2,000 damage to his vehicle. I'm glad to report that they're both back in Florida....safe and sound! On a final note.....I would like to extend our sympathy to **Tex Fulks (TX)** on the loss of his step-father. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.....



### A True Story

In 1952, Patrick McKenna was aboard the USS Duncan DD-874. " We were tied up in a nest in Sasebo, Japan loading supplies. The crew as usual went on the beach, but we were not allowed overnight liberty, since Japan was still occupied. We were tied up next to the USS Brinkley Bass DD-887. Also in the nest, was the USS Stickel and the USS Isabel. The next morning, as all four destroyers were to leave port for Korea, we were all blown away by a stunt that some crew members had pulled. It appeared that someone, probably with a snoot ful of Nippon beer, got a water taxi to tie up to the stern of the USS Brinkley Bass. It was determined, that someone had a can of haze grey paint and some brushes, and proceeded to paint over the letter " B" on both the first and last name of the ship. When she got underway the next morning, she steamed out proudly bearing the name..." USS Rinkley Ass". The crew of the Bass, was blamed for this and received restrictions on their next visit. I'm not sure who was responsible for this, but I have my suspicions. I know, it wasn't any of the crew from the Bass! Can you just imagine the looks on the faces of the skipper and the Division Commander? They must have been livid!!".

**Bill Maslak served on the Duncan (47-48) and received this story from Pat McKenna.**



People do not stop doing things because they get older. They get older because they stop doing things.....

### Important Notice!!!!

This past April, I received a letter from the law firm of Thornton, Early & Naumes LLP, at 100 Summer St., 30th Floor, Boston, MA 02110. This firm has started a class-action suit on behalf of all Mac personnel who were exposed to asbestos. This very devastating disease can show up many years later. We were all exposed to it at one time or another, so if you think you may have asbestosis, or know of someone who has, contact the law firm listed above.

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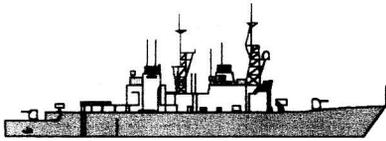
### Measuring Up.....

A group of Ensigns were given the assignment of getting the height of a flagpole. So they go out to the flagpole with ladders and tape measures. They're falling off the ladders, dropping the tape measures and the whole thing is a mess. Finally, a Chief comes along and sees what they're trying to do. He walks over, pulls the flagpole out of the ground, lays it flat, measures it, gives the measurements to one of the Ensigns and walks away. After the Chief was gone, one Ensign turned to the other and laughed, "isn't that just like a Chief? We're looking for the height, and he gives us the length".

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### Up All Sails!!!!

Never underestimate the ingenuity of the Old Destroyer Navy. While on air-sea rescue station, east of Wake Island, during fleet exercises in June 1940, TUCKER DD-374, stretched her fuel supply by rigging sails. Her home-made foresail and mainsail moved her at an estimated 3.4 knots, letting her maintain steerageway, as she "loitered" on station for several days.



## Tales of the Mighty Mac

Bill Maslak writes: "the McCaffery was involved in a secret mission in March of 1946 She escorted a tramp steamer, SS CHECK KNOT, in smuggling Leo D. Sturgeon, US Consul General, into Dairen Manchuria to establish a consulate. At the time, Soviet Communists and Chinese bandits controlled the port and territory. The Mac crew was not privy to the mission, but read about it in the Stars and Stripes (China Edition) when they returned to Shanghai 20 March 1946. Except for the skipper, Cdr B.B.Cheatham, it is not known who else knew about it before hand. Some folks don't believe this, but we have documentation to prove it, as well as acknowledgements by Mac sailors who were there....."

### A little Trivia!

One sailor served two hitches aboard the McCaffery on two different occasions. From 1953-1955 as GM3 and again in 1970 as a GM1. Does anyone know who he is?? (I'll give you a hint.....he's from Tennessee)!

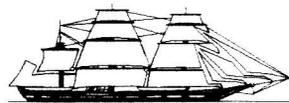
**Harry O. Nichols** - now deceased, served the longest hitch aboard the McCaffery - 1949-1959 from FN to MM1. Any challengers?

answer to trivia: Farris Whitehead of Maryville, TN

Tales con't.....

**Don DeSham** wrote: "one of the adventures I had, took place in late 1946 or early 1947. We were tied up in Hong Kong and part of our crew was on liberty. We received a message, that a typhoon was headed our way, and we were told to get out to sea ASAP. We prepared to get underway, and tried to get as many of our crew aboard, and took off as fast as we could. We were tossing so bad, that we did three 90 degree rolls one night. Chiefs, that had been in the Navy for 20 years and never got sea sick, got sick that night! The mess cooks, couldn't prepare any food, so we lived on sandwiches. You couldn't keep trays on the tables, for they would just slide off.

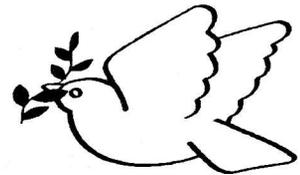
After several days of this storm, it finally ended, and we returned to Hong Kong to pick up the rest of the crew that we left behind. They were in their white uniforms and had to report on a Oil Tanker that did not leave Hong Kong before the storm. Needless to say, they weren't able to ever wear those whites again....they were so dirty and black. I have always told everyone that I wouldn't do it again for a million dollars, but I wouldn't take a million dollars for the experience I had!



**I think the world is sadly mistaken when it supposes that battles are won by this or that kind of vessel. The best gun and the best vessel, should certainly be chosen, but the victory three times out of four, depends upon those who fight them.**

"Rear Admiral David G. Farragut"

(4)



A parting Poem entitled:

### "DASH"

I read of a man who stood to speak at the funeral of a friend.

He referred to the dates on his tombstone from the beginning to the end.

He noted that first came the date of his birth, and spoke of the following date with tears.

But he said, what mattered most of all, was the "dash" between those years.

For that dash represents all the time, that he spent alive on earth.

And now only those who loved him, know what that little line is worth.

For it matter not, how much we owe, the cars, the house, the cash.

What matters is, how we live and love, and how we spend our "dash".

So think about this long and hard, are there things you'd like to change?

For you never know how much time is left, you could be at "dash mid-range".

If we could just slow down enough, to consider what's true and real,

and always try to understand the way other people feel.

And be less quick to anger and show appreciation more, and love the people in our lives, like we've never loved before.

If we treat each other with respect and more often wear a smile.

Remembering, that this special dash, might only last a little while.

So when your eulogy's being read, your life's actions to rehash.

Would you be proud of the things they say, about how you spent your "dash".

(provided by: Ed Breidenbach -TCS Assoc of NJ)



## Dateline.... "Branson, Missouri"!

This past April, my wife and I, were invited to join some of the McCaffrey crew and their wives in Branson, MO.. There were 12 couples altogether, which included; **R.Barrett, W.Farris, W.Dillingham, K.Hawkes, T.Fulks, R.Goodwin, P.Pankake, J.Frech, R.Davis, J.Kerns,** and **C.Kelley**. Everyone had a great time and there was so much to do! Branson is known as the music center of the Ozarks, with many celebrity theaters to choose from. We saw some of the best shows, and enjoyed the southern hospitality. Of course, the women enjoyed it even more, because there were many outlets for shopping. There was no set program, and everyone did what they wanted to. We even had a surprise visit from someone who I hadn't seen in almost fifty years.....**Lyle (the Preacher) Burchette!** He's been running the USS Arcadia reunions for quite a few years, and said he would run one for the Mac. It's something to think about. Below are a few pictures I took while at Branson. Enjoy!



"The Platters" with Ken & Gordon



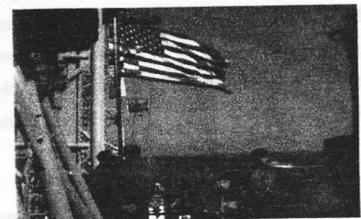
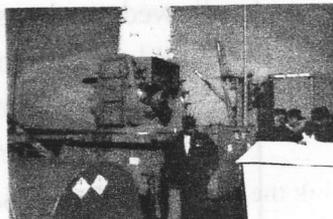
"Polynesian Princess"  
Barrett, Leiser & Farris



Fulks, Goodwin, Pankake, Frech  
Hawkes & Leiser

## Fleet Week '99 hosted by U.S. NAVY

The Navy, in conjunction with "Fleet Week", invited 128 former TinCan Sailors from New Jersey to spend the day on the USS DOYLE FFG-39. Captain James Stewart and Admiral Joseph Hare gave us full run of the ship, so we could get to see the modern day Navy in action. It took many of us back to our late teens - early twenties, and that was evident just by the looks on everyones face. It was quite an honor to man the rails as we passed the USS INTREPID. The following are some pictures from our "day out at sea"....



# U.S.S. McCaffery DD-860

## REUNION & HISTORY INFORMATION

WEB SITE: [www.angelfire.com/pe/usdd860](http://www.angelfire.com/pe/usdd860)

To register for newsletter:

Harold Faulkner  
10211 Vinemont St.  
Dallas, TX 75218  
(214) 321-0494  
email: [haroldef@flash.net](mailto:haroldef@flash.net)

For history or to add name to Web site:

Bill Maslak  
859 Hamill Rd.  
Verona, PA 15147  
(412) 795-6709  
email: [usdd860@usaor.net](mailto:usdd860@usaor.net)

Reunion Information:

Ed Crowell  
132 Royal Palm Dr.  
Leesburg, FL 34748  
(352) 728-6930  
email: [ECro530477@cs.com](mailto:ECro530477@cs.com)

### TAPS.....

The following is a complete list of our deceased shipmates, including the years they served aboard. (as requested)

Adamowicz, Larry	51-55	Marshall, Richard	----
Beason, Fred	-----	McBride, Richard	----
Bielitz, Wilferd	51-55	McDowell, Ellis	49-50
Blake, John	-----	Melgaard, John	----
Boor, Dwight	59	Merkle, Donald	50-54
Bourdeau, Sylvio	51-53	Moore, Edwin	54
Capeilini, Ed	46-47	Nagler, Gordon	47-48
Clark, James	45-46	Nichols, Harry	51
Cope, Tom	62-63	Okane, Paul	----
Damiata, Victor	51-55	Olszewski, Bernard	53-57
Degeeter, Fred	45-46	Patrick, George	----
Dispirito, Henry	50	Paulni Norman	----
Engel, James	61	Petty, Armand	52-55
Foote, George	50-52	Pipkins, Carl	----
Franceour, Ray	63-68	Pitts, Ray	----
Freitag, Fred	49-51	Poudrier, George	50
Fues, Harold	-----	Rand, Joel	52
Fyock, Frank	46-48	Reinnert, Terry	----
Gancarski, Joseph	70	Ridgeway, Joseph	52-54
Garrett, Chester	55	Ridgeway, Richard	54
Gass, Warren	----	Robinson, Robbie	----
Gaudette, Archie	65	Rogers, John	----
Gillaspie, Herman	----	Sarver, Ben	47-48
Green, Guy	----	Schramm, Roger	53-57
Grief, John	50	Shearrow, Kenneth	----
Hancock, Eugene	56	Shirmer, William	45-48
Harrington, Kent	48-49	Skjoldager, Jack	47
Hewell, Ray	----	Skjoldager, James	47
Jones, Elvin	----	Slade, Dewey	59
Keener, Lloyd	----	Smith, Robert	70-71
King, Ed	----	Stutzman, Warren	45
Kirtley, Jon	----	Sundermier, Herb	----
Klein, George	51-54	Thompson, James	51-53
Lanoway, Eugene	49-52	Turck, Alyn	----
Loomas, Robert	45-46	Vickers, Hirshel	54
Maglioni, Rinaldo	-----	Wert, Albert	52
Maione, John	60	White, Ed	----
Mansberry, Lloyd	-----	Wilcox, Leroy	----
Marotta, Alfred	-----	Willson, Frank	45-46

### BURIAL AT SEA

To get a loved buried at sea requires a fair amount of paperwork. Among other things, family members must provide copies of the death certificate and the serviceman/woman discharge certificate.

Six Navy ports have liaison who handle burial at sea requests. They are Norfolk, Va.; Newport, R.I.; Mayport, FL; San Diego, CA; Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, WA; and Pearl Harbor, Hawaii.

The Navy finds it easier to handle cremated remains, which are also less costly to transport to the six ports of embarkation.

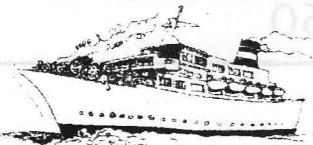
Burial at sea takes place only in water deeper than 600 ft, and no closer than three miles from the coast.

In most cases, the remains are cremated first and the ashes are poured reverently into the sea.

Unlike other Military Honors, family members are not allowed to witness burial at sea.

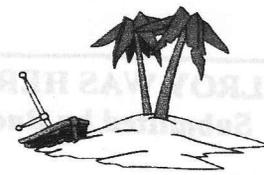
Eligible are personnel who die on active duty in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, Army and Air Force; and veterans who were granted honorable discharges when they left the service. Immediate family members of all those people, are also eligible.

For more information, call: (800) 876-1131 and ask for ext. 645, 644 or 629



# " Y2K Reunion "

## McCaffery Cruise-May 15-19,



Shipmates,

At our last reunion, we voted to have the next reunion aboard a "Cruise Ship". From the results of our survey inquiry, the majority of you voted for a 4 day cruise out of Miami, FL. We have selected the Royal Caribbean ship, "The Sovereign of the Seas". Our ports of call, will be: Nassau, Coco Island, and Key West. We will leave Miami, in mid-afternoon on the 15th of May 2000, and return on the morning of the 19th. We have placed 40 outside staterooms on hold. All of these are above the main deck and will be in one general location. These rooms are in the average price range. The cost of this type room, is \$535 plus, port tax of \$89.75 which brings the total cost to **\$624.75 per person**. For your general knowledge, the cost of a room per person will go down approximately \$25, if you choose a lower deck or take an inside cabin. Now, we need your commitment ASAP, so if you plan to go with us, we ask that you send a \$50.00 per person deposit by the **5th of Sept 1999**. We will then ask that you send another \$50 per person by the **5th of Nov**, and a \$100. per person by the **10th of January 2000**. The final payment and balance on your account, will be due on the **10th of March 2000**. If for some unforeseen reason, you have to cancel, all monies will be returned to you.

As soon as we receive your initial down payment, the tour agent will send you a brochure. This way, you can choose your cabin and send it back with your second payment on or before Nov 5th.

Facts about our tour agent --- I have known this lady for over 25 years and have done business with her for my wife and I, plus many large groups that I have been associated with, and she has always been efficient and professional in every respect. I priced this event out with three different agencies, and as always, hers was the best price. When you send in your deposit, make check payable to:

**VACATIONS TRIPS'N TOURS**

**140 12th STREET**

**ATLANTIC BEACH, FL 32233**

Any questions at this point, call me (Ed Crowell) at: (352) 728-6930. Once you get your brochure and make a deposit, you can call "Cathy" at 1-800-262-1598 or (904) 246-6827

DETACH FORM BELOW AND MAIL WITH YOUR DEPOSIT TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS

**USS McCAFFERY REUNION - May 15-19 2000**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ Check, money order or credit card enclosed. - Sovereign of the Seas 5/15/00

Request cabin for \_\_\_\_\_ people. List names and ages: address & phone number.

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name & tel no. of person to contact in

Emergency \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Condition \_\_\_\_\_ Good?? Handicapped??

Special Occasion \_\_\_\_\_ (anniversary, birthday, etc.)

NOTE: If paying by credit card, you must complete the information below

CARD HOLDERS NAME (PLEASE PRINT) \_\_\_\_\_

CREDIT CARD NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_ EXP. DATE \_\_\_\_\_

I give permission to charge my credit card in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

as payment of cruise for \_\_\_\_\_ passenger's (name/names)

CARD HOLDER'S SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_ Todays date: \_\_\_\_\_