



USS McCAFFERY DD/DDE 860 SHIPMATES NEWSLETTER FALL 2013

Nick Donatiello Editor

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello McCaffery Shipmates,

It is less than a year until our next reunion in Groton CT. I am very much looking forward to our reunion, and hope that all of you can be there. There are many worthwhile and interesting events planned as well as our traditional banquet. Watch for details in future issues of the Newsletter.

Several stalwart McCaffery shipmates have been contacting other former crewmembers so they too can be in our Association. This has been successful and we have some new members coming on board and on our mailing list. Well done to Joe Bosco, Lee Hendrickson and Bob Biegen.

The USS McCaffery Shipmates Association is a volunteer organization, and we don't charge dues or fees. However, to keep the ball rolling, we ask that once in a while, shipmates kick in a voluntary contribution to Nick to keep the Newsletter going.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,
Doug Hackett

MAC MEMORIES LEE HENDRICKSON BM 3 71-73

I don't know how many know this, but I was "The Last Man off the McCaffery" when they towed her out of Mayport Harbor. Yes, it was a very sad day, and I remember feeling like I had just lost my best friend. There was no sound, as all the fan motors were shut down, no engine sounds, no radar rotating, nothing. It was truly a dead ship. We were about halfway out of the breakwater when a Navy Harbor tug came alongside and if I recall correctly there were three of us and I'll be damned if I can recall who the others were, but I was the last one off. (continued on page 2)

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The tug stayed on station for a short while as we all watched sad and teary eyed as she then cleared the breakwater and made her way North. She was riding high in the water as she had been drained of all fuel and water and the four 5"/38 guns had been removed.

Still, she still looked good and was ready to take on the world. There were 10 of us that were assigned to the decommissioning crew. Our duties were limited to signing people from other ships onboard for the purpose of removing parts from the MAC for their respective ships. Quarterdeck watches were stood in dungarees.

There was only electrical power to the lights for the ship and for flushing toilets, that was it. It was sad to watch her being slowly stripped away. But then, she lived on, giving life to other ships of the line. As long as she is remembered she will never die. I wish they would christen another McCaffery. I wonder how many would show up for the ceremony!

TAPS

Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of our departed shipmates. If you know of a shipmate that is hospitalized or deceased, please notify Doug Hackett he can respond on behalf of the association in an appropriate manner. The following list is those we have been notified had passed away. We publish the names when we receive them and verify their passing,

Joe Bosko, Lee Hendrickson, and Bob Biegen have been doing a wonderful job of finding lost shipmates and because of their fine job you will notice that both our Taps section and Welcome Aboard section will be larger than usual.

Douville, Donald	SN	47-49	Recca, Joseph A.	FN	65-67
Forkey, George R.	BMSN	53-54	Schoen, Carroll	BT3	59-61
Hardee, Clyvurne c,	EM1	62-65	Silva, Martin	MM3	
Harvel, Howard	EN1	70	Tapper, Charles	F1C	46-47
Huff, Harry E.	BMSN	49-52	Thomkins, Vernon W.	GM3	49-53
Huffman, Delmar A.	RC1	60-63	Unke, Donald	SA	51
Kerns, Harry Jack	Unknown		Willix, Richard J.	FN	60
Napier Howard	FT3	51-54			

WELCOME ABOARD

Bache, Warren J.	SN	73	Savage, Aubrey Phil	ETN2	71-72
Delich, George	??	53-54	Thacker, Gary Mack	BT3	68-72
Frew, Bill	YN3	68-70	Todhunter Davis	FTU3	58-60
Hodges, Edward L.	MR2	69-73	Vroom, James E.	LT	67-69
Hodges, Edward L.	MR2	69-73	Whaples, Paul	RM3	68-79
Santmyer, Kenneth	Ray	COX			46-49

PRELIMINARY REUNION PLANS

Jim Bell Reunion Chairman

I have a preliminary event schedule laid out. Ron Trippett and I were supposed to attend a Con fab event for reunion planners but it was cancelled twice here in New London, rescheduled for April. I have proceeded on with the planning. Airline to Providence RI or Hartford Ct if flying, (Groton / Mystic 50 miles from each with rental car)

Preliminary Hotel- the Hilton in Mystic Ct (Very nice location and convenient) Arrive Monday Sept 15, Evening meet and greet in the Hospitality room, Navy Bean soup and pizza, beer and wine. Hospitality room opens each morning for coffee and snacks (Duncan)

Tuesday, Sept 16. Bus trip to Battleship Cove in Fall River Mass, Tour of several offerings including the USS Kennedy, A memorial service for lost shipmates etc. Buffet lunch in the wardroom on USS Massachusetts. Dinner on own after return. Hospitality room open.

Wednesday, Sept 17. Bus tour of Groton Heights Monument, Scene of a battle in 1781 in which traitor Benedict Arnold led the British attack of Groton and New London across the Thames River. Then on to the Honor Wall of Lost Submarines for a short presentation from Sub Vets, then a tour of the USS Nautilus and Museum. Followed by a Buffet luncheon at the hotel or an area restaurant. Dinner on own, hospitality room open.

Thursday, Sept 18. Day on own, Recommend Mystic Aquarium, Mystic Seaport, Two great Casino's within 15 miles, and shopping in the Mystic shops. Crew meeting then Evening Banquet. We are making a request for raffle donations, carvings, paintings etc. Where they are to be sent will appear in the next newsletter and on the web site.

Friday, Sept 19 Check out

As soon as the schedule is finalized it will appear on the McCaffery web site along with a sign up sheet so that you can make your plans before the next newsletter.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Contributions for the newsletter should be sent to Nick Donatiello. Make checks payable to USS McCaffery. It is because of your generous contributions that allow us to keep publishing the newsletter. With the increase in the cost of postage, we are now paying \$60.00 more per newsletter than we did when I took over.

Cochran	Melvin A	GMC	53-55	Lavallee	Paul A	IC3	61-64
Adgent	Robert B	LT	62-63	Mills *	Leslie A.	MM3	45-46
Astarita	Ralph S	FPS3	51	Oar	Ross C	SN	58-60
Cernara	John M	RM2	65-67	Putnam*	David L.	ENS	45
Deacon	Ken	MM3	45-46	Rogers Jr	William H	DK3	62-63
Donatiello	Nicholas E	YN2	57-59	Serie	Robert W	RD3	66-68
Foster	Torry N	LTJG	57-58	Thweatt Jr	Frank M	LT	65-66
Hackett	Douglas M	LTJG	61-63	Tison	Bobby W	MM2	50-54
Kartasiewicz	Michael	SN	60	Turk	J Donald	YN2	69-71
Keup	Richard L	QM1	53-56	Twilley	James	MM3	52-56

* Plank owner.

USS McCaffery merchandise - Ron Trippett has the following McCaffery merchandise for sale:

Blue shirts \$20.00 XXL - \$24.00 XXXL \$26.00. **White shirts (women's)** \$22.00. **Caps** \$15.00.

Jackets \$35.00. **License Plate Holders** \$8.00. **Belt Buckles** \$12.50. **Coffee cups** & 7.50.

T-Shirts (Memorial plaques imprint) \$6.50. **XXL** \$8.00. **Ships patches Drive Them Into The Sea and Hedge Hog** \$5.50 each or two for \$10.00. **Window decals of Memorial Plaque** sm. \$2.00.

Lg. \$3.00. Color \$4.00. Ron's address and email address are both on page 2.

September 2013
USS McCaffery Association Newsletter
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ADDRESS CHANGE: If you should move, or get a new email address, please notify Joe Bosko (mbosko3839@verison.net) and Ralph Despathy (desi860@ct.metrocast.net) and you could save a lot of work for the newsletter staff.

EMAIL DELIVERY OF NEWSLETTER If you would like the newsletter sent by email, notify Nick Donatiello, by email, NDonatiello@donatiello.net .

ITEMS OF INTEREST. Harold Faulkner received a note from Karin Putnam, daughter of **David Putham 92 (ENS 45)** to let us know that he is still going strong. We delared David as being our oldest shipmate in 2010. He enjoys getting the newsletter to see what is going on with the McCaffery. (We need more items of interest sent to the editor.)

RECOMMENDED READING. Doug Hackett recommends books by J.D. Hornfischer about DD's during WWII. **Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors** is a story of gallant curage by DD & DE sailors during the Battle off Samar in Oct. 1944. The second is **Neptune's Inferno**, a booke about USN/IJN sea battles around Guadalcanal in WWII with significant DD involvement.