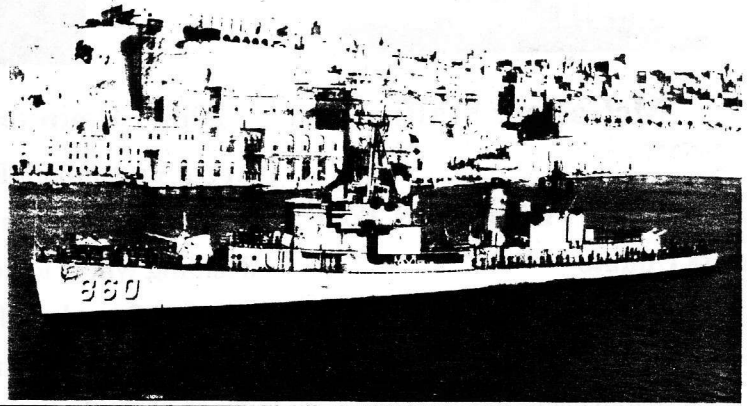


# McCaffery Newsletter

FALL - WINTER  
"2003"



Editor: Gordon Leiser - 417 Adirondack Ave., Spotswood, N.J. 08884 (732) 251-1457 email: GLeiser860@aol.com



"HAPPY NEW YEAR"  
SHIPMATES!

Well, another year has gone by, and it seems like only yesterday, that we were all together for our 9th reunion in Portsmouth, Va. For some, it was their first reunion, and let me just say....."welcome aboard", and we hope to see you at many more. It's great to see how our roster has been constantly growing each year, and we hope this trend will continue, long into the future.

With all that is going on in the world today, it's nice to share happy times, with family and friends. Above all, remember our fighting men, on foreign soils who can't be home with their families. The staff and I, would like to take this opportunity to extend to all of you, our best wishes, for a healthy and Happy New Year.

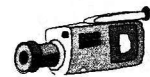
## Portsmouth Reunion

What a place to drop anchor for a reunion! It was a perfect location. This had to be, without a doubt, the best reunion so far! Our hosts, Ed & Jean Crowell, did an outstanding job. Over 200 people from 31 states, plus, Puerto Rico attended. Wow! This in itself, was quite impressive. The accommodations were excellent, and the hotel was located within walking distance to Old Towne Historic district, which had many fine restaurants and shops. The "water taxi" was only a short distance, and for .35 cents (senior fare), it took you across the river to Norfolk. The tours were well planned. I especially enjoyed the tour of the Naval Base. It is the worlds largest, and has 82,000 sailors. We were quite fortunate to get clearance to go aboard the USS Nicholson DD-982, and were given a complete tour of the ship. The highlight of the tour, was when the Capt. met us in the mess hall, and gave us a complete history of the Nicholson.

Cmdr. Harvey, was very cordial and answered many of our questions.

Those who went on the tour to Williamsburg, also had a wonderful time. They got to experience what life was like during Colonial times.

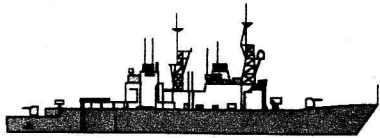
The banquet was held on Sat evening. Prior to the dinner, pictures were taken for a reunion book and video. Everyone enjoyed the food, music & dancing, and a good time was had by all.



## Video of Reunion

A two hour video of our Portsmouth Reunion is still available for \$28. It contains many highlights of our recent reunion. To order, contact:

**Gary Eaton**  
9584 Hiker Hill Rd.  
San Diego, CA 92129



## McCaffery Staff:

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## '2004' Reunion Chairman

At our Portsmouth Reunion, a meeting was held for the purpose of deciding where to hold our next reunion. After a lengthy discussion of various places, the majority voted to hold it in Savannah, Ga.

**Tom Burnett** helped finalize the location, by volunteering to be our next Reunion Chairman. Tom and his lovely wife Paula, live in Titus, AL, and have attended many of our past reunions. Tom recently ran a reunion for the USS McCard, which I understand was quite successful. Tom has the experience, and I feel he will do an excellent job planning this reunion.

Once the Burnett's check out the facilities in Savannah, we will be able to give you more details.

Tom, we appreciate you taking on the task of coordinating our 10th reunion. We're behind you 100%

## McCaffery Hats & Shirts

Shirts are Navy Blue with the ships logo embroidered on left side (golf style).

Prices include shipping.

**Hats - \$12.00**

**Shirts - M-XL \$15.00**

**Shirts - 2X - 3X \$17.00**

To order, send check or money order, to **Gordon Leiser**

## Patches

McCaffery patches are now available. There are two to choose from: "**Drive them into the Sea**" (Bougainville), and the "**SeaHorse Riding a Hedgehog**", with a shamrock background. Both patches are brilliantly colored, and are of excellent quality. The cost is **\$5.50** each, including postage. To order: Send check or money order to: **Bill Maslak.**

## A Difference of Values

**\$30** Cost to make a Medal of Honor, the Nation's highest Military Award, from brass.

**\$30,000** Cost authorized to make the Congressional Gold Medal, given out to civilian celebrities, and foreign dignitaries, like Nelson Mandela.

**\$2,000** Cost to make a new 90 percent gold, 10 percent alloy Medal of Honor, according to US Rep. Joe Baca, (CA) co-sponsor of a bill to make a more valuable Medal of Honor. We should treat a valiant soldier, with at least the same respect we give foreign dignitaries.

The cost and the metal content are not the issue. The issue is, that we must give our most highly honored veterans, a medal more reflective of their bravery.



### From the Desk of Bill Maslak!

There were over 4500 sailors to walk the decks of the McCaffery in her 28 year career. We have located about 1,000 and another 150 who are known to be deceased. If you are in touch with a former shipmate, who does not receive the newsletter, please send his name, address and or telephone number to me so that he can be signed up. If you know of a deceased shipmate, let us know also.

If there is a specific shipmate you would like to locate, I will try to help you find him. Send his name to me and anything you may remember, such as his city/state or last known address.

Most Tin Can Associations charge \$10 or \$15 per year dues and \$20 is not uncommon. The McCaffery Association, does not have yearly dues, but depends upon volunteer donations to fund the newsletter. If you haven't contributed, any amount you care to send, will help keep the newsletters coming. You can send donations to **Gordon Leiser**.

From time to time, members ask questions concerning their service dates, and where medical or service records, medals, or ribbons may be obtained. The telephone number 1-800-827-1000 will put you in touch with a VA Office. Explain what you want, and they will send you the Standard Form 180 to fill out. This starts your request into action. It may take several months to get the information you need. The Feds often move very slowly. You and/or your immediate family, are entitled to any and all records pertaining to your service.

If you would like to spend a day at sea.....John Bell recommends a one day outing aboard a refurbished liberty ship. There are several cruises each year. The cost is: \$125 with a \$75. write-off for your taxes. Food and entertainment are provided. You supply your own seasick pills. John recommends you take a large bottle of water, and a folding chair. There could be 700 passengers, and seats are in short demand. Information can be obtained at: [www.liberty-ship.com](http://www.liberty-ship.com) If you don't have a computer, your local library should be able to help you. For more details, contact John at: [JBell@anteon.com](mailto:JBell@anteon.com)

A VCR tape of various shots at sea and in port, is available for \$10 postage paid. It runs about two hours. This is NOT a Hollywood production, as much of the film was transcribed from very old 8 mm reels shot by members, while on board. It covers the

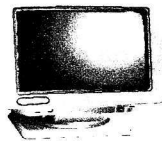
years 1954 - 1973. The cameras (not to mention the amateur shooters), were not as good as equipment today, and some of the film is dark, or somewhat out of focus. Some newer footage of a past reunion is of a much higher quality. This is on board shots of the USS Laffey DD-724, A Sumner Class destroyer in Charleston. Bob Jordan and Emmet Reed, transcribed the reel. Ron Pool shot the Laffey footage. Ron is not a Mac sailor, but a submarine and cruiser sailor. Emmet Reed makes the copies.

A 28 year history of the McCaffery, is available for \$15. The ship can be tracked and placed anywhere in the world, on just about any given day. There are many pictures and other pertinent information concerning the ship.

I have copies of cruise books (not all originals) and will LEND them to anyone wanting to make copies, but please return the originals to me. The years are; 1950-51; 1954; 1962; 1963; 1964; 1965/66; 1967; 1969; 1971; and 1972/73. The copies were provided by members. They are, in order by year, John Nay, Howard Kane, Jerry Bonfiglio, Keith Gillette, Ed Crowell, Jim Esposito, Bob Traggiai, Ken Nebel, and Mike Pohl. If you have a copy of a year(s) not mentioned, would you send a copy to me, and I will make it (them) available to other members.

If you change your email or postal address, it's important that you let us know. It takes a lot of time, work, and expense to locate or re-locate you. Relocating efforts could be used to find new members.

You can send requests and checks for the patches, VCR film, and the history to Bill Maslak - 859 Hamill Rd., Verona, PA 15147-2925

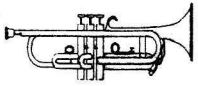


### McCaffery Web Site

Once again here's a reminder that the McCaffery still has it's own Web Site. For those with computers, the address is as follows:

**[WWW.angelfire.com/pe/ussdd860](http://WWW.angelfire.com/pe/ussdd860)**

There are over 400 names of former shipmates on the site, and if you would like to add your name, contact Bill Maslak at ([ussdd860@usaor.net](mailto:ussdd860@usaor.net)) and he will get you posted :



## Taps.....

The following is a list of our most recently departed shipmates:

Bielitz, Wilfred 60-63	Kingsland, Russell 45
Bowen, Burton 60	Kitts, Doran 62-63
Brown, James 46	Kovalchuk, Jacob 60
Bucier, Frank 63	Perrault, George 55-60
Duncan, Wayne 58-61	Terrell, William 68
Goodman, Thomas 61-66	Thompson, James 52-54
Henry, Jack 46-48	Vincent, Calvin 46-47
Jenkins, Joe 47-50	

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.

### Raising of Ship's Turret

This past August, the world's first armored revolving gun turret, was recovered from the sunken wreck of the Civil War ironclad USS Monitor.

Sixteen Officers and crew members died Dec 31, 1862, when the Monitor sank during a storm, landing upside down in 240 feet of water. The wreckage was discovered in 1973, sixteen miles S.E. of Cape Hatteras.

Now, 140 years later, workers using a 500 ton crane, aboard the barge Wotan, were able to lift the 160 ton turret from it's watery grave. The turret, which holds two cannons, was secured on the barge's deck, and will be taken to the Mariners' Museum in Newport News, Va, where a decade long preservation process will begin. The U.S. Navy refers to the Monitor, as its first modern warship. The Monitor's turret was the first of it's kind.

## "Some Reflections"

With the passing of the years, memories fade, but there lingers on, certain recollections that will stay with us always.

**Do** you remember that 0400 watch, and in the semi-darkness, as you slip from your bunk, you give up trying to find a pair of clean socks, and settle for two half dry ones?

**Do** you remember the loneliness of the mid watch, especially from the bridge?

**Do** you remember the incessant pounding of the hull, as she waged a battle with the fury of the North Atlantic?

**Do** you remember the sudden fear that gripped the ship, when the astic picked up the first "Ping"?

**Do** you remember the despair of mail call, and you turn up empty?

**Do** you remember the Homesickness, Seasickness, Loneliness and "Dear Johns"?

**Do** you remember the complete lack of privacy, and the plumbing that was always fouling up?

**Do** you remember the monotony of the chow, especially SOS on Sundays?

**Do** you remember abandon ship drills, life jackets and hoping that you never had to use any of them?

**Do** you remember chipping, painting, splicing and repairing?

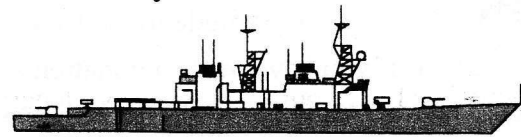
**Do** you remember "Nor Easters" and the struggle to get some hot food?

**Do** you remember the friendly advice of old salts, the camaraderie of your shipmates, knowing full well, they would give their all for you, as you would for them?

**Do** you remember that unspoken prayer in your heart, when you tried desperately, to reassure yourself, that your being there was justified?

Editor note: The above was taken from a former TCS publication.

## Destroyers Celebrate 100 Years

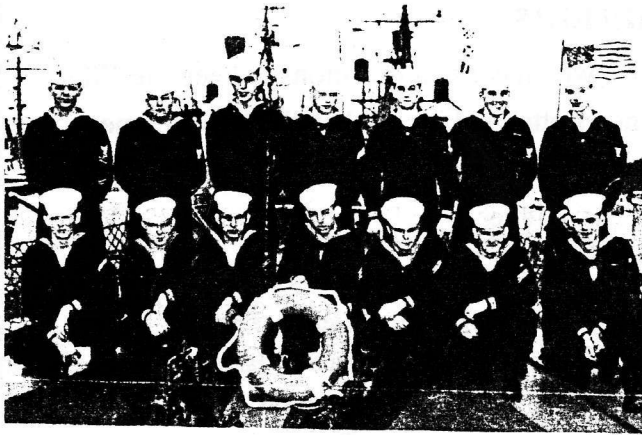


1902 - 2002

This past year, marked the centennial of a U.S. Navy warship type: "The Destroyer". The history of the destroyer, is the story of rugged Sailors and their gallant ships in foaming seas, making haste to go in harm's way. But the story isn't just about these "Greyhounds of the Sea", it's also about the "Tin Can" Sailors who have manned destroyers for a hundred years..... Although the United States was not the first to introduce this ship, it has built them in greater numbers - over 1,000 counting the Guided Missile variants - and has put them to more diversified use than any other country. The first American destroyer, was the USS Bainbridge, which was commissioned on Nov. 24 1902. There were 36 destroyers in the Fleet, and by WWI, there would be many more. To increase the inventory, Congress authorized additional destroyers in 1906, and during subsequent years, leading to WWII.

Organized into flotillas, many destroyers found themselves deployed overseas, conducting "show-the-flag" missions, that has long been part of U.S. Naval operations. Although fast, with speeds up to and over thirty knots, improvements were made to the WWII destroyer fleet, that formed the backbone of the Navy from the late 40's to the 70's. For example, many of the Sumner and Gearing class destroyers under went FRAM refits. More impressive looking is the Arleigh Burke (DDG-51) class with the lead ship commissioned in 1991. It's angled surfaces gives the class the traditional Greyhound look and enhances it's stealthiness. The ruggedness of the design was demonstrated when terrorist attempted to sink the USS Cole in Oct. 2000. New ships of this class are still under construction, and a new destroyer class is being studied, assuring the presence of destroyers on the high seas for decades to come.

At this ship types' centennial, it is appropriate to look back on how destroyers have evolved, along with the people, who served on them. These ships have evoked pride and fond memories for many generations of former bluejackets. This pride and fondness continues and is shared by the men and women serving on today's destroyers.



### The McCaffery "Family"

Ships may claim they're a "family", but the USS McCaffery, can prove it. There are seven sets of brothers who served on the 'Mac', three, who were in one family. They all served on the McCaffery during the 60's. Thanks to Ernest Ballew, for sending in this picture. He made it possible, so we could share it with you. Front row (left to right): R.J. Ballew; A.L. Edwards; W.H. Steele; R.C. Merritts; R.A. Dumont; P.R. Steiner; and R.W. Mummert. Second row: E.M. Ballew; N.E. Edwards; J.W. Steele; J.W. Merritts; A.C. Dumont; J.W. Steiner; and R.D. Mummert. A third brother J.W. Mummert, was on leave. The Edwards, are twin brothers.

### Origins of Naval Phrases

**"Ahoy"** this old traditional greeting for hailing other vessels, was originally a Viking battle cry.

**"Log Book"** in the early days of sailing ships, the ship's records were written on shingles cut from logs. These shingles were hinged and opened like a book. The records was called the "Log Book". Later on, when paper was readily available and bound into books, the record maintained it's name.

**"Holystone"** The last Navy ships with teak decks were the battleships, now since decommissioned. Teak, and other wooden decks, were scrubbed with a piece of sandstone, nicknamed at one time by an anonymous witty sailor as the "holystone". It was so named, because since it's use, it always brought a man to his knees, thus, it must be holy!



## Newsletter Donations

Our gratitude to the following shipmates, who have sent donations to keep the "Mac Newsletter" afloat. If you have made a donation since the last newsletter and it's not listed, please let me know, so we can make the correction. Because we have no dues or membership fee, all donations are truly appreciated and used only for the publication of the McCaffery newsletter.

Adams, John - 71-72	Crennen, Marty - 49-52	Kuroski, Richard - 62-64	Scott, John - 64-67
Adcock, Jerry - 71-73	Despathy, Ralph - 58-61	Lang, Carl - 45-46	Steimle, Ken - 52-55
Ammon, Richard - 72-73	Despres, Edward - 51-55	Larimer, James - 55-59	Steiner, James - 58-62
Benner, Meryl - 62-63	Escobedo, James - 66-67	Lavallee, Paul - 61-64	Sturgeon, Ron - 61-62
Berardi, Mike - 50-53	Frech, John - 51-54	Marks, Herb - 49-52	Tormey, Lawrence - 51-54
Biegen, Robert - 71-73	Freeman, Robert - 55-59	Mehl, Edward - 57-59	Tully, Joseph - 55-56
Blanchette, Mike - 70-73	Hadley, Thomas - 50-52	Miller, Jim (Capt) - 54-56	Turmel, Robert - 52-56
Botsford, William - 66-69	Hasties, Keith - 68-70	Nickell, Jack - 58	Wharton, Charles - 45-46
Brady, Frank (Nephew of Col. McCaffery)	Hastings, James - 45	Posterick, Ray - 50-52	Willett, William - 47-52
Caringal, Aristides - 66-70	Hawkes, Kenneth - 51-54	Rice, Richard - 54-57	Womble, James - 65-66
Catanzaro, Mario - 50-52	Holtzschue, Karl - 59-62	Rohr, Fred - 48-52	Yevincy, James - 46-47
Cracraft, Dean - 50-52	Kephart, Bruce - 59-60	Schaffner, Robert - 66-68	Anonymous.....
	Kallman, Harold - 59-63	Schiavo, Tom - 66	



The following is some news from former shipmates. Due to the lack of correspondence, I have limited news for this edition. Your editor sure could use some help. Got a story or event which other shipmates would enjoy reading about? Let's hear from you.....

**Jim Yevincy (PA)**, underwent open heart surgery, this past November. After having six by-passes, I'm happy to report that Jim is doing very well. **Floyd Smith (CA)** wrote to say, that he was the XO under George Muse in the 50's. He stated, that George became a Rear Admiral, and also became Chief of Staff for Cruisers/Destroyer Force, in the Atlantic Fleet. He said to say "hello", to all the shipmates he served with, and said that at 84, he's still playing golf and enjoying it. **Aristides Caringal (MI)**, wrote and said he went aboard the Mac right out of boot camp, as a steward in the 60's. He eventually became a Corpsman, and continued his education and is presently an ICU nurse, at Oakwood Hospital, in Dearborn, MI He cares for the Cardio-Thoracic/open heart patients. A few of you, might remember him as "Tad" who would give out sandwiches when guys would knock on the pantry door. Oh yes.....he also said, that **Richard Coultres** made the best rolls he ever tasted. **Carl D. Lang (AZ)**, sent in some really nice pictures taken from Shanghai in 1945. He also sent pictures of some crew members, which I will try to put in our next n/l. I may dedicate one page of the n/l, (if I have space), and call it "Down Memory Lane". **Capt James E. Miller (CT)**, was my skipper in 1954, and he sent me a nice letter. He was our guest of honor, at the very first reunion in Portsmouth, R.I. It's been twenty years since I've seen him, so I called him and we had a nice chat. He's 85 years young, and doing well.....**Ed Crowell (FL)**, and his wife Jean, are always involved helping others. They volunteer and work with an Organization called: "Angel Flight". Angel Flight, is a group of pilots, that are on call, with their own planes to transport patients, needing treatment to various locations. Once a month,

(con't on next page)

the Crowells, handle incoming calls on an 800 number, and arrange for people seeking cancer and other forms of treatments to be transported to their destinations. Jean said, there is no charge, but they must be ambulatory. **Max Dishong (OH)**, and his wife Audrey, wrote to say how disappointed they were to miss our reunion. However, they said, they're happy their good friends **Norm McGlaun (TX)**, and his wife Marie, keep in touch with them. It seems Norm spent his first 11 years in the Navy as a frogman in UDT Team 22, in WWII, and then in Team 2 during the Korean War. The Seal Museum in Florida, has Norm's Team's plaque on display.....**Fred Rohr (KS)**, upon returning home, from the Portsmouth Reunion, experienced some medical problems. It turned out he had to have open heart surgery. Fred, we all hope you have a speedy recovery, and are doing much better.....**Nick Donatiello (NJ)**, along with his wife Lyn, attended his 50th High School Class Reunion this past October. Nick served on the committee, and said it was a blast, " seeing old classmates".....**Herb Marks (CO)**, sent a Plan of the Day from the "Mac" dated; Sunday 23 March 1951. It announced the arrival at Newport of the McCaffery returning from Korea. The XO at the time was, R.G.Williams LCDR.....Herb, requested that this be put in our archives.....will do! **Ronald Sturgeon (MI)**, recently wrote, to say thank you for locating him after 40 years. He had no idea we had a newsletter or reunions. He was an SH3 in 1962. He spent 18 months on the Mac, and returned to his old job at General Motors, when he left the ship. Ron is now retired, and enjoying every moment.



## "Old Geezers"

**Old Geezers** hold their caps over their hearts when the National Anthem is played, and sing without embarrassment.

They know the words & believe in them.

**Old Geezers**, remember WWI, the Depression, WWII, Pearl Harbor, Guadalcanal, Normandy and Hitler. They remember the Atomic Age, the Korean War, the Cold War, the Jet Age, & the Moon Landing, not to mention Vietnam.

If you bump into an **Old Geezer** on the sidewalk, he will apologize. If you pass and **Old Geezer** on the street, he will nod or tip his hat to a lady.

**Old Geezers** trust strangers.

**Old Geezers** hold the door for the next person & always, when walking, make certain the lady is on the inside for protection.

**Old Geezers** get embarrassed, if someone curses in front of woman & children & they don't like any filth on TV or in movies.

**Old Geezers** seldom brag, unless it's about their grandchildren. It's the **Old Geezers** who know our great country is protected, not by politicians or police, but by the young men & women in the Military, serving their country.

This country needs **Old Geezers** with their decent values.

We need them now more than ever.....

Thank God, for **Old Geezers!**

## "A Little Navy Humor"



### **New Commander:**

Having just moved into his new office, a pompous, new Commander was sitting at his desk, when a sea man knocked on the door. Conscious of his new position, the Commander quickly picked up the phone, told the seaman to enter, then said into the phone, "Yes, Admiral, I'll be seeing him this afternoon, and I'll pass along your message. In the meantime, thank you for your good wishes, sir". Feeling as though he had sufficiently impressed the young enlisted man, he asked, "What do you want?"

"Nothing important sir," the seaman replied, "just here to hook up your telephone."

### **The Same to You:**

An Admiral & a Captain walking down the street passed a number of sailors, & each time one of them saluted the Officers, the Captain saluted back & said, "The same to you." "Why do you always say that?" the Admiral asked the Capt. "I used to be a seaman, too", said the Capt, "And I know just what they are thinking."