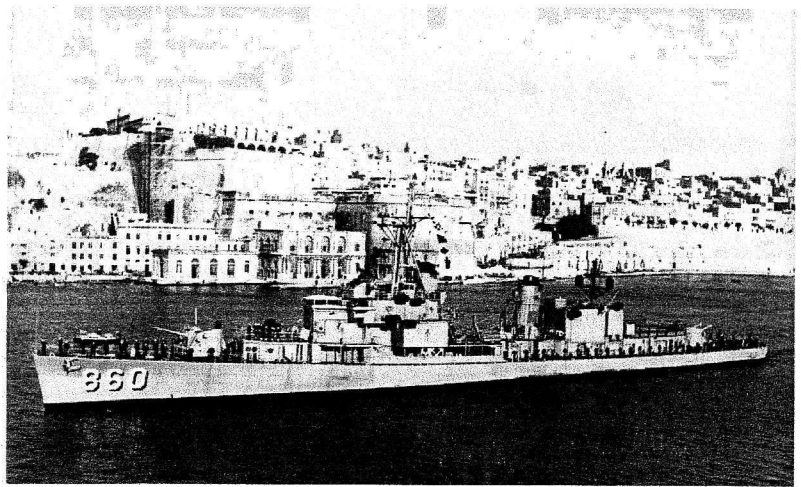


# McCaffery Newsletter

Spring - Summer "2006"  
"Reunion Edition"



USS McCaffery anchored off Malta

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## FINAL COUNTDOWN FOR REUNION "2006"

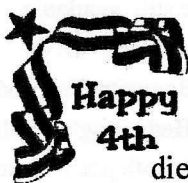


### *Ahoy Shipmates!*

The time is fast approaching for our 11th reunion in Buffalo, N.Y. If you plan to attend, or are just thinking about it, I would suggest you make your reservations **NOW!** Remember, even if you register and you have to cancel, all monies will be refunded. The cut off date is **August 6th**, so you still have time to come aboard and join in on the fun. All of our reunions, since the very first one back in 1984, have been full of good times and great memories. Ask anyone who has attended, and they'll tell you the same thing; "what a ball we had"!!

The following is most important; if you plan on crossing the border into Canada, (with the Roundabout Tour or by your self), **proof of citizenship is required.** Canadian officials, want to see a **birth certificate** or a **passport** (even an outdated one is OK), **plus a picture ID**, such as your drivers license. These items are a **MUST!** We don't know if the Canadians will check, but they are getting stricter, and the word is, that by next year, only passports will be accepted. If you don't have proper ID and are checked, you will be removed from the bus and denied entry into Canada. Tour operators say, they will not be responsible.

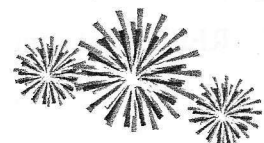
All pertinent information regarding the tours and reservation forms, can be found on Page 6 & 7.

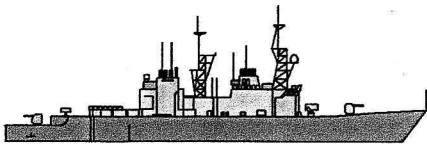


As we celebrate the Fourth Of July, with our fireworks and hot dogs, may we remember what this day is all about. Let us not forget those brave men and women, that fought and died, so that we might have the freedom to speak up, when things are not as they should be...

I don't know about you, but I still get "goose bumps" when I hear the song; "God Bless America", or when I stand and "Pledge Allegiance to the Flag". Enjoy your Holiday!

The McCaffery Staff wishes all of you, a happy and safe summer.....





## Navy Ship Being Built With WTC Steel

With a year to go before it even touches the water, the Navy's Amphibious Assault Ship, USS New York, has already made history twice. It was built with 24 tons of scrap steel from the World Trade Center, and it survived Hurricane Katrina.

"That combination of disasters, gives the ship a unique standing among the 500 workers building it, in a shipyard near New Orleans, says Philip Teel, Vice President of Northrop/Grumman Corp. and head of its ship systems division." Because of 9-11 and Katrina, there is a real bond about this ship. While the partly completed Vessel, escaped "significant wind damage" at the shipyard, many of its workers have continued on the job, despite losing homes and possessions to the category 5 storm last Aug 29th. These are very patriotic people and the fact, that the ship has steel from the Trade Center, is a source of great pride. They view it, as something incredibly special. They're building it for the nation.....

USS New York, scheduled to go into Navy service in 2008, is the fifth in a new state-of-the-art class of war ship - formally called a Landing Platform Dock - designed for various missions, including, special operations against terrorist threats. It will carry a crew of 360 sailors and 700 combat-equipped Marines, to be delivered ashore, by a combination of helicopters and surface assault crafts. Twenty-four tons of scrap steel, from the fallen WTC towers, was collected from salvage yards in New Jersey in 2003 and melted down, in a foundry in Amite, La., to cast the bow stem, the forward section of the USS New York.

The ship was named for the city, the state and victims of September 11, and its motto, "Never Forget", is a popular slogan among New Yorkers..

### McCaffery Staff Ed Crowell - Registration for Reunion

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### Emmet Reed - Video

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### "Mac" Shirts & Hats

Shirts & hats are available in navy blue (golf style), with the ships logo embroidered on the left side. Hats (one size fits all), are also navy blue with the same logo. Prices include shipping:

- Hats - \$12.00
- Shirts - M-XL \$15.00
- Shirts - 2X-3X \$17.00

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

### McCaffery Patches

McCaffery patches are still available. There are two to choose from: "**Drive them into the Sea**" (Bougainville), and "**SeaHorse Riding a Hedgehog**", with a shamrock background. Both patches are brilliantly colored, and are of excellent quality. The cost is \$5.50 each, or \$10.00 for both, which includes postage. To order: Send check or money order to: **Bill Maslak.**



# Welcome Aboard!



This column was launched recently, and its sole purpose is to list the names of recently 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!**

Bright, Kenneth (RM3)	65-67	Miller, David (HMSN)	59-61	Swain, George (PCSN)	62
Coleman, Alphonza ( SH2)	65-68	Patterson, Leo (BM3)	66-69	Wollschlager, S (GMG2)	66-67
Hoskin, Dale (EM3)	59-61	Roche, James (FN)	51-55	Woods, Phillip (FCSN)	52-53

The article "**Cuban Blockade**" that was published in the last newsletter, prompted a response from another shipmate who was there.....

## "And Now, The Rest Of The Story"

It happened on my watch! It has been a while, but my recollections are clear:

TV reception was surprisingly good in the wardroom, where I watched President Kennedy make the speech, announcing the imposition of the "Quarantine".

A very private thought went through my mind: I was not far from my 26th birthday on Oct 30th and I was'nt able to spend any time with my bride, because we just returned from a 6 month Med deployment. I had duty weekend in Mayport, prior to our emergency sortie for Cuba. Now, it appeared we faced a hostile situation, potentially historic in scope, with no end in sight. Conning the McCaffery alongside the freighter, as though we were doing a routine UNREP, while darkened ship, and exercising electronic silence.

Alerting the guys in Sonar, to be particularly alert for submarines, because intelligence reports indicated, the Soviets may consider our actions "hostile". Evidence of panic on the freighter, when we signaled for him to stop, illuminated his top side, and observed the skipper emerge from his cabin, pulling up his trousers, as he hurried to the bridge.

The freighters first response "Peace! Peace! I will stop. My engines are stopped". And the almost simultaneous cry on the bitch box. Bridge - Sonar - the contact has stopped his engines."

And when it was all over, the freighter's reluctance to move in spite of our telling him repeatedly, "You may proceed"

And, thinking to myself, as I wrote my deck log (that cannot be found now), I could be writing about an historical event, my grand-children may read about someday.

What a prophecy that turned out to be. A few years ago, I picked up my granddaughter's history book, and noticed the passage about the Cuban Missile Crisis. There it was, complete with photo of the USS Kennedy (DD-850), the historical narrative giving credit for stopping the first freighter when President Kennedy imposed the Defensive Quarantine of Cuba. "And that is the rest of the story"!.  
**according to: Hollie J. Tiedmann Cmdr USN (Ret)**

Former McCaffery Wardroom Mess Caterer, Wardroom Mess Treasurer, Ship's secretary, Navigator, First Lt., ASW Officer, Weapons Officer, and Ancient Teller of Nautical Fairy Tales.

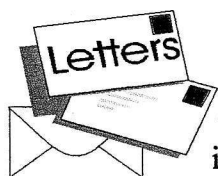


## Newsletter Donations

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. If you haven't made a donation, please consider doing so. As I have mentioned previously, we have no annual dues or membership fees, so all donations are truly appreciated and are used only for the publication of the McCaffery Newsletter.

Achorn, Rich *	45-46	Erdmann, Milo	68-70	Lammey, Bill	60-61	Roses, Paul	52-53
Bayrd, Gary	72	Farrell, Ken	51-54	Lathrop, Don	54-56	Schilling, G.*	45-46
Bohn, Robert	56-60	Hammond, Roy	56-58	Lorino, Joe	68-69	Scott, John	64-67
Boudreaux, Noah	47-50	Hastings, Jim *	45	Martin, Bill	54-56	Sollosy, Mort	56-57
Brugger, Emile	51-56	Hinkley, Robert	60-61	McCaffery, Marc (nephew)		Steimle, Ken	52-55
Cash, B. Leslie	58-61	Holzhausen, Don	69-71	Mehl, Ed	57-59	Thomas, Bill	46-49
Cernava, John	65-67	Huston, Enoch	47-50	Mezzatesta, Tom	60-63	Trippett, Ron	61-63
Colbert, Carl	52-54	Kessinger, Gerald	58-59	Mills, Leslie *	45-46	Whitaker, R. *	45
Despres, Ed	51-55	Kettler, Ken	55-56	Mummert, Bob	61-64	Womble, Jim	65-66
Dionne, Rich	72-73	Klem, William	64-67	Posterick, Ray	50-52	Word, Walter	64-65
Dishong, Audrey		Konecny, Dennis	62	Roche, Jim	51-55	Wright, Dave	54-56

\* denotes Plankowner



## "Mail Bag"

Since our last edition, I'm sorry to say that the mailbag, has been a bit light. Without your input, it's hard to give you much news. I'd really like to include, any news or special events, which you would like to share with former shipmates. How about it.....Let's hear from you.....**Noah Boudreaux (La)**, wrote to say, he has always wanted to make a reunion, but due to health problems, he has been unable to attend. Noah said, "it has been 55 years since he served on the McCaffery, and appreciates reading the newsletters. He stated; "Thanks for the Memories".....**Walt Word (FL)** plans on attending the reunion in Buffalo, providing he doesn't get blown away by a Hurricane. Walt, we hope this year the weather is a bit kinder to your area. Looking forward to seeing you in Sept.....**Gerald Schilling (SD)** thanks for taking the time for dropping a note to us. Glad to hear your winter was milder this year. Maybe. some day, you'll be able to make one of our reunions. I know you would enjoy it.....**Carl Colbert (FL)** has had some serious health problems since retiring. Besides having a heart attack, he lost a kidney and also broke his back. Carl said; "the worst thing, was losing his wife of 50 years". Our condolences to and your family, and may God bless you with better health.....**Donald Lathrop (CT)**, recently returned from Hawaii, where he and his lovely wife Dorothy celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary. Congratulations to you both and may you celebrate many more.....**Ralph Whitaker (CA)**, wrote reminiscing about his time spent in N.J. back in the 60's. He has fond memories of camping in the Pine Barrens with his family on Memorial Day. For those that don't know.....Ralph is one of our "Plankowners"..... **(continued on next page)**

**William Klem (PA)**, retired last year and says, "he spends most of his time on the lake in his old "Lyman". it was built in 1966 for a retired destroyer Captain. Once a sailor, always a sailor. Bill, enjoy your retirement.....

**Joseph Lorino (NY)**, is another recent retiree. Joe, worked for the NYC Dept of Sanitation, and was quite involved working with 9-11. Hope plans work out, so that you and **Bill Bolsford** can attend our reunion in Sept.....

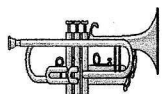
**Jim Hastings (CO)**, and his wife Della, celebrated their 61st Anniversary this past March. Congratulations, what a milestone! Jim mentioned, that he was assigned to the McCaffery crew, just one month after his wedding, back in 1945. He is also one of our "Plankowners" .....

**John Aument (PA)**, plankowner from 45-46, called from the Hollidaysburg, PA Veterans Home to say hello, and wished he could attend the Buffalo reunion. John, sends his best to all his shipmates.....

**Rose Roses (NJ)**, wife of former shipmate **Paul Roses**, wrote to inform us, of his passing. She said, that Paul was extremely proud to serve aboard the McCaffery. In their den, is a huge picture of the McCaffery and it makes her recall the many funny stories, Paul would tell. I'm sure he will be missed.....

**Bob Brown (N.H.)**, and his wife Jeanne, had something special to celebrated this year. It was their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary, which they celebrated at a lovely dinner, with their family this past April. Congratulations to you both.

**B. Leslie Cash (FL)**, always nice to hear from you.....thanks for the kudos on the Newsletters. I hope things work out for your wife's family, so you will be able to make the reunion in Buffalo, this.....Well shipmates, that's all the news I have from this end. Please don't forget to keep writing and let me know what's new on your end. Till then.....Smooth Sailing!



### Taps.....

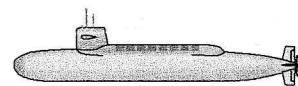
Our thoughts and prayers go out to all the families of our departed shipmates. If you know of a shipmate, who is ill, hospitalized, or recently deceased, please notify us, so that we can respond in an appropriate manner. The following, is a list of shipmates who have passed away during 2005 and 2006.

Brethour, Ross 61-64	McGowen, Loren 46-47
Cirone, Cono 57-60	Meehan, Wallace 51-55
Fietsch, John 63	Melanson, Geo. 58-60
Harding, Tom 59-60	Moore, James* 45-46
Jackson, Dan 60-61	Schlag, Irvin * 45-46
Kerr, Robert 69-70	

\* plank owner

### Retirees

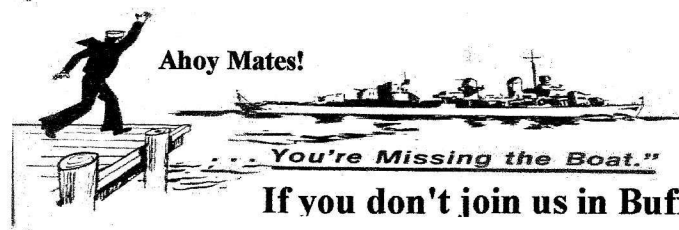
- Q. Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?  
 A. The term comes with a 10% discount.  
 Q. What do retirees call exercise, concentration and work?  
 A. Golf



### Long-Lost World War II Sub Found

The Navy says, a wreck found at the bottom of the Gulf of Thailand appears to be the USS Largeto. The Largeto was on a mission to attack a Japanese Convoy in the last months of WWII, when it disappeared. Navy divers completed a 6 day survey of the wreckage site. They took video of the 311ft sub, for further analysis by Naval Archaeologists. The divers found twin 5" gun mounts on the forward and rear parts of the ship - a feature believed to be unique to the "Lagarto". Eighty-six sailors died when the Largeto sank in May 45. The Japanese Minelayer Hatsutaka, sunk a US Sub in the area, though they never knew what ship was destroyed. The Navy hopes to bring closure to the families who's loved ones served aboard the Lagarto.

## "Last Call" for making Reunion Plans



Reunion "2006"

Sept 13 - 17

**If you don't join us in Buffalo, New York!**

Our 11th reunion will be held in **Buffalo, NY**. Arrangements have been made with the **Holiday Inn -Buffalo/Amherst, located at 1881 Niagara Falls Blvd.** to host our banquet and also, for a special room rate for our group. A block of rooms has been set aside for us. Please call **(716) 691-8181** to make your reservations, and specify the **USS McCaffery Reunion** to get the discounted rate of **\$79.00 plus tax, per night**. Please make your reservations **NOW**, this will guarantee you a room. Non smoking, smoking &, handicapped accessible rooms are available. No charges will be made to your credit card, until check out. All reservations **must** be made by **August 6th, 2006**. It is suggested, that you call the motel from the Airport, then go for your luggage. This will give the motel time to get the van to the airport. Most importantly, if you plan to attend the reunion, please send your **reservation fee of \$15.00 per person to Ed Crowell, as soon as possible**. Registration covers the Hospitality Room, (snacks, refreshments, etc). If for any reason you have to cancel, your money will be refunded. We have scheduled a few tours for Thursday and Friday. No one is obligated to go on these tours, if they so choose. However, I feel it's a great way to see the area and keep the group together. Below is a description of the tours we have planned. **Please note that on Friday, you must choose only one of the tours listed.**

### **Thursday 9/14 Roundabout Niagara - A tour of Niagara Falls, NY and Ontario**

You will head to the US side of the Falls to visit Goat Island and Terrapin Point for a view of the Upper Niagara River Rapids and the American Falls from the brink. Then you are off to Niagara Reservation State Park and the Prospect point Observation Tower, where you will descend into the Niagara Gorge & board the Maid of the Mist, for a n unforgettable cruise to the base of the Horseshoe Falls. Then the group will cross over to the Canadian side (**proof of U.S. Citizenship required**), and then on to the Penthouse Room (atop the Sheraton at the Falls) for a luncheon buffet with a spectacular view of the Falls.

### **Choose one of the following:**

#### **Friday 9/15 - Buffalo & Erie Country Naval and Military Park Tour**

Visit the Buffalo and Erie County Naval & Military Park. Experience Military history as you tour the destroyer USS The Sullivans, Guided Missile Cruiser USS Little Rock, and submarine USS Croaker. Also on display a PT Boat, Army tank, Air Force & Navy jets & Museum exhibits, representing all branches of the Armed Forces. After the tour, you'll enjoy a delicious luncheon buffet at Salvatore's Italian Garden, one of Buffalo's famous restaurants.

#### **Friday 9/15 - Erie Canal and Locks Tour**

Journey to Lockport, NY, for a two hour narrated cruise on the Erie Canal. This relaxing, enjoyable experience will educate your group about the Canals history and lore, while locking up and down the 50ft Niagara Escarpment. Following the cruise, you will enjoy a luncheon buffet at the Canalside Emporium, an 1840 warehouse renovated to provide a casual, yet elegant Canal Town atmosphere.