



# USS McCaffery NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2010

## **NAVY MEMORIAL & REUNION EDITION**

**Editor: Nicholas Donatiello Sr. 30 Centerboard Drive Bayville, NJ 08721 732-269-7583 [NDonatiello@donatiello.net](mailto:NDonatiello@donatiello.net)**

### **USS McCAFFERY MEMORIAL PLAQUE DEDICATION CEREMONY**

Approximately 50 McCaffery shipmates, family and friends, and 7 members of the McCaffery family attended a ceremony on 24 April 2010 at the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, DC dedicating a memorial plaque in honor of the USS McCaffery, the officers and men who served with honor and fidelity on her, and LtCol Joseph P. McCaffery, USMC, after whom the ship is named.

The plaque was designed jointly by a design committee of McCaffery shipmates and the plaque designer at the US Navy Memorial. The plaque was funded by 211 donations from McCaffery veterans, family, and friends. Each person who contributed is a "Plank Owner" for the plaque, which is permanently displayed on the Commemorative Wall of Honor at the US Navy Memorial.

The dedication ceremony began with the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. An overview of the plaque and its significance was followed by a summary history of the USS McCaffery from 1945 to 1973, highlighting her service in the Korean War, Vietnam War and the Cuban Missile Crisis. A description of the USS McCaffery Shipmates Association was followed by a presentation on the McCaffery Newsletter. Information on the upcoming September McCaffery Reunion in Salem was also presented. A special plaque honoring Gordon Leiser as USS McCaffery Association "Plank Owner #1" was presented to June Leiser and her daughter Gail. Mr. Joseph M. McCaffery, nephew of LtCol Joseph P. McCaffery, spoke regarding the long term association of the McCaffery family with the USS McCaffery. The ceremony in the auditorium concluded with the ringing of "8 Bells" in honor of McCaffery shipmates who have passed on, followed by Taps.

The formal unveiling of the USS McCaffery Memorial Plaque took place in the US Navy Memorial Hall of Honor and was a joint effort by a member of the McCaffery Association and the youngest direct descendent of LtCol McCaffery, 7 year old Ewan McCaffery, appropriately attired in a Navy jumper and white hat.

After the unveiling, all hands gathered for a reception in the President's Room at the US Navy Memorial with cake, coffee and conversation, and to sign the guest book, with a McCaffery patch on the cover, which was then presented to the McCaffery family.

The ceremony was enjoyed by all present. We recommend that you visit the US Navy Memorial and view the plaque next time you are in Washington, DC. (Doug Hackett)

### **FROM BILL MASLAK**

I have contacted a provider of McCaffery shirts, hats etc and he can also provide light weight flannel-lined windbreakers. (probably just the right weight for the reunion) The ship name and silhouette is embroidered on the left breast in gold. I would like to know how many members would be interested in purchasing the jacket. I don't know the price at this time but in the past it was about \$26. Please email me at [ussdd860@verizon.net](mailto:ussdd860@verizon.net) or by phone 412-704-0388.

## **USS McCaffery Reunion Schedule and explanation of Registration Form**

**Day one** is on Monday, Sept 20<sup>th</sup> which will be arrival date and enjoying each other in the hospitality room starting at 3:00 PM to 11:59PM.

**Day Two** (Tuesday Sept 21<sup>st</sup> 7:45AM – 5:00 PM) Starts with a pre-hours tour of the USS Constitution docked in the Historic Charlestown Navy Yard. The USS Cassin Young DD-793 is also available for touring. There will be no other tourists on board during our Constitution tour.

**PRIOR TO OUR TOUR GORDON LEISER'S FLAG WILL BE FLOWN FROM THE MAST OF THE CONSTITUTION AND DOCUMENTED.**

The Witch City of Salem is our second destination of the day with free admission to the Salem Witch Museum.

Lunch on your own at the many restaurants on Pickering Wharf then visit the Custom House, Derby Wharf, and The House of Seven Gables or just stroll Historic Salem.

**Hospitality Room – 6:00 AM – 11:59 PM**

**Day Three** (Wednesday Sept 22<sup>nd</sup> 9:00 AM – 6:00 PM). We will tour Gloucester, America's Oldest Seaport. Upon arrival we will have a memorial service for our departed shipmates at the Gloucester Fisherman's Memorial and includes printed programs, a wreath laying ceremony and Taps. We will enjoy exploring with lunch on your own (You may not want to have a big lunch). The afternoon offers options including a cruise of Gloucester Harbor, a distillery tour where you can even bottle, label and cap your own bottle. Other options are available and will be explained by the professional tour guides. We will top off the day with a Lobster Bake. The meal includes choice of Lobster or NY Steak with barbecue chicken, clam chowder, fresh baked corn bread, corn on the cob, red bliss potatoes and homemade strawberry shortcake.

**Hospitality Room 7 AM – 11:59 PM**

**Day Four** (Thursday Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>) 9:00 AM Shipmates Meeting in the Hospitality Room. Currently looking at a tour of Salem on the Salem Trolley. No need to sign up now and, if feasible for us to do, the information will be at the Hospitality Room during check in. Check out web site at [www.SalemTrolley.com](http://www.SalemTrolley.com). **IMPORTANT 9/1/10 is the cut off date for the tours.**

**Hospitality Room – 7:00 AM to 6:00 PM**

**Reunion Banquet – 6:00 PM to 11:00 PM**

**Instead of a Reunion Booklet** we will have a person from Price Perfect Photos taking pictures of our four day reunion which will be put into a slide presentation on a CD with background music. We will still have the couple's pictures at 4:30 PM on the day of the banquet in which you may purchase a 5 x 7 photo for \$6.00 or two for \$10.00. There will also be a group photo available. You will find yourself looking at the CD and sharing it with family members more than the previous booklet.

For those driving the hotel is on I 95 (Also known as 128 in this area) exit 42. Those arriving at Logan Airport, a shuttle bus known as Logan Express is available for \$20.00 round trip. You may take either the WOBURN BUS or PEABODY BUS. Upon arriving at the depot a call to the hotel will result in their hospitality van to pick you up. If they cannot do it right away take a cab in which the hotel will pay for. You will find the LOGAN EXPRESS pickup directly outside the baggage pick up area. Time from airport to depot is 25-30 min.

If you wish to donate an item for the RAFFLE TABLE drop it off when you check in at the hospitality room.

If you have not registered at the hotel, the cost is \$89.00 per night plus tax (\$8.63). Again the telephone numbers are (888) 627-7205 or (781) 245-9300 and ask for the USS MCCAFFERY ROOM BLOCK. You may also register on line at [www.Sheraton.com/Wakefield](http://www.Sheraton.com/Wakefield). While on their web site check out what they have to offer for recreation and relaxation.

**LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING EVERYONE AT THE REUNION.**