

# USS MC CAFFERY DD/DDE-860 SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION SUMMER 2019 N/L



Hello shipmates, spouse's and friends of the McCaffery. As noted in the previous news letter, I have relieved Rich Kuroski as the editor of this newsletter. I will try to issue the NL with information that is interesting but keep it in a format related to past and present Tin Can articles. If you have information or articles that could be shared with fellow shipmates, do not hesitate to forward it to me. James Bell MM 2 60-63.

## President's Message:

Hello McCaffery Shipmates,

I hope you are all well and enjoying the warmer weather. From time to time I think back to our last reunion and the fun and fellowship that we all enjoyed. The McCaffery was a fine ship, and the friendships that we made while serving aboard her are wonderful – and get more meaningful as the years go by.

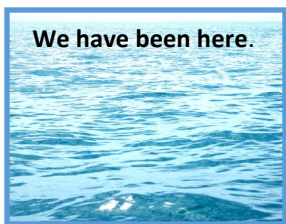


As we voted at our business meeting at the last reunion, our next reunion will be with the Tin Can Sailors Association in San Antonio Texas in the Fall of 2020. That should be enjoyable and interesting. Optional tours will most likely include a visit to The Alamo, and a trip to the Nimitz WWII Museum, about an hour north of San Antonio.

In the "Tough Work But Somebody's Gotta Do It" category, several brave stalwart loyal members of The McCaffery Shipmates Association are planning to attend the Tin Can Sailors reunion this Fall in Jacksonville FL to check out how they run reunions, so they will be able to tell our members about a TCS-run reunion. These brave intrepid risk-taking adventurers include Ron Trippet, Art Shaffer, perhaps George Cromie and your's truly. We will report back to the membership with our observations and opinions. One of the optional tours will be to Naval Station Mayport, McCaffery's former home port. Should be interesting to see how NS Mayport has changed.

In the meantime, stay healthy, and enjoy some of the Navy books recommended elsewhere in this N/L.

Smooth Sailing, Doug Hackett President, USS McCaffery Shipmates Association



Sept 22-26 2019	Tin Can Sailors National Reunion, DoubleTree by Hilton, Jacksonville, FL Open to McCaffery alumni.  For info. <a href="http://www.destroyers.org/events/events.htm">www.destroyers.org/events/events.htm</a>
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## POD

March 14, 1947, anchored out at San Diego, CA:

"Already two men have been placed in the Tia Juana jail by the Mexican police. This always involves plenty of discomfort, filth, degradation and very considerable trouble for our officers to obtain releases. In addition, men are automatically AWOL and must be brought to mast. The Mexican police absolutely will not be persuaded when you are apprehended. DO NOT TAKE CHANCES ON BEING ARRESTED OR QUESTIONED FOR ANY REPEAT ANY REASON WHEN IN MEXICO." F.W. Pennoyer, LCDR, XO. **Info from Don Turk.**

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<https://www.va.gov/> and

[https://  
www.benefits.va.gov/compensation](https://www.benefits.va.gov/compensation)

If you are a Veteran in crisis or concerned about one, connect with our caring, qualified responders for confidential help. Many of them are Veterans themselves.

[Call 800-273-8255 and press 1](tel:800-273-8255)

[Text 838255 Start a confidential chat](#)

[Call TTY if you have hearing loss 800-799-4889](tel:800-799-4889)

Get more resources at [VeteransCrisisLine.net](http://VeteransCrisisLine.net).

What did the sailor say to the other when they had a problem?

We are in the same boat.

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Listed below are the shipmates that have contributed to the publication of the newsletter. Your continued support is needed and greatly appreciated.

Name	Year	Rank/Rate
Tulley, Joseph	55-56	RM 3
Lennon, George	71-72	LTJG
Steiner Patrick R.	61-64	ET2

**Please help !!!**

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**Ships Store:** USS McCAFFERY MERCHANDISE : Ron Trippett has the following McCaffery merchandise for sale in the ships store:

Blue Polo Shirts s-m-l-xl \$20.00, xxl \$24.00, xxxl \$26.00 , white T's at \$8.50 with pic , blue T's with Tin Can Pic on back \$20.00 (limited supply) , Pic's can be found on TCS web and Mac web.

Jackets \$35.00, xxl , \$38.00 Caps \$17.50 , Belt Buckles \$12.50, Lic Plate Holders \$8.00 , Patches \$5.50 each/two for \$10.00 "Drive Them Into The Sea" & "Hedgehogs" . USS McCaffery Shoulder Patches \$2.50.

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### **Bill Maslak,s The History of the McCaffery - 1950 {Copied from the McCaffery Website)**

On 1 January, McCaffery was moored at Davisville, Rhode Island. On 3 January, she got underway for the Bermuda operating area. Various ops continued.

On 29 March the ship's log shows an entry that the publication, JANE'S FIGHTINGSHIPS, announced that McCaffery was reclassified as a DDE.

On 10 July, as part of DESDIV 21, McCaffery got underway for the Mediterranean in company with the USS Midway (CVB-41). On 1 August, the Task Group steamed through the Red Sea, arriving at Colombo, Ceylon on 7 August. Continued steaming east in the Indian Ocean passing through the Singapore Strait on 13 August. It was felt that a Communist invasion of Formosa was imminent. Ships in task force were: USS Worchester (CL-144); USS Fred T. Berry (DDE-858); USS Norris (DDE-859); AND USS Keppler (DDE-765). Aug-Nov McCaffery participated in multiple operations supporting the Korean effort, plane guarding etc.

On 4 December, while steaming in the Sea of Japan, several Seamen were injured while fueling from USS Cacapon (AO-2). S.M. Koontz, SN; D.P. McGroth, TMSN; and C.L. Pilling, TMSN, had manned the after fuel hose when a wave washed over the deck, carrying away a large fender which hit the men and threw them against the bulkhead. The crewmen received contusions and/or lacerations to various parts of their bodies. On 5 December, one MK-9 depth charge was lost overboard in 350 fathoms of water when a steel retaining strip was carried away in heavy seas.

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**Question:** If you were on board during Hurricane Donna in Newport RI, (1960) it would be interesting to hear your story for future N/L. Remember breaking free from the Mike buoy ? I recall the McCaffery receiving some damage to the Bow when the mooring chain separated from the Mike buoy .  
Jim Bell

## Navy/Destroyer Reading

Over the past several years, many interesting books on the Navy and Destroyers have been published. Most are available through public libraries.

**Here are some recommendations.:** The most highly recommended is Hornfischer's **Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors**, the story of the heroic action by 6 DDs and DEs in the Battle of Leyte Gulf in WWII when they attacked Japanese battleships that were threatening the US Philippine invasion force.

There are two excellent accounts of the **Battle of Midway**, one by Walter Lord, the other by Craig Symonds. There are three classic accounts of the **Battle of the Atlantic against German U-boats in WWII**. They are *The Good Shepherd* by C.S. Forester, *The Cruel Sea* by N. Monserrat, and *HMS Ulysses* by A. Maclean. Enjoy. Doug Hackett.

For some interesting viewing, check out **US Navy Destroyers off Vietnam**. You Tube

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USS McCaffery was one of the GEARING - class destroyers and the first ship in the Navy to bear the name.

### General Characteristics:

**Awarded:** 1943 **Keel laid:** October 1, 1944 **Launched:** April 12, 1945

**Commissioned:** July 26, 1945 **Decommissioned:** September 30, 1973

**Builder:** Bethlehem Steel, San Pedro, Calif. **FRAM II Conversion Shipyard:** New York Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn, NY

**FRAM II Conversion Period:** 1961 - November 1961

**Propulsion system:** four boilers, General Electric geared turbines; 60,000 SHP **Propellers:** two **Speed:** 34 knots

**Length:** 391 feet (119.2 meters) **Beam:** 41 feet (12.5 meters) **Draft:** 18.7 feet (5.7 meters) **Displacement:** approx. 3,400 tons full load

**Aircraft after FRAM II:** two DASH drones **Armament after FRAM II:** two 5-inch/38 caliber twin mounts, Mk-32 ASW torpedo tubes (two triple mounts), one Hedgehog Mk-15

**Crew after FRAM II:** 14 officers, 260 enlisted



Memorial -14Th Reunion, Salem Mass. 2010

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Moving or changing e mail service ?  
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