



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

James Bell Editor /352-513-3333

## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

---

---

### USS McCAFFERY ASSOCIATION

**President** Douglas Hackett

7825 Heatherton Lane

Potomac, MD 20854

301.299.5203

[Doughackett7825@earthlink.net](mailto:Doughackett7825@earthlink.net)

**Treasurer** Ron Trippett

36 South Main Street

Topsfield, MA 01983

978.887.6315

[rontrippett@comcast.net](mailto:rontrippett@comcast.net)

**Newsletter Editor** Rich Kuroski

6020 Bunkerhill

Pittsburgh, pa 15206

412.361.3147

[rlski@verizon.net](mailto:rlski@verizon.net)

**Web Master** Jerry Rose

176 Black Mtn. Drive

Toccoa, GA 30577

706.886.8217

[Jerewrose@gmail.com](mailto:Jerewrose@gmail.com)

**Historian** Don Turk

10320 S W 17<sup>th</sup> Place

Gainesville, FL 32607

352.332.4555

[dturkx2@bellsouth.net](mailto:dturkx2@bellsouth.net)

**Emeritus Members of the McCaffery Staff.**

**Bill Maslak**

235 Overlook Drive

Verona, PA 15147 412.826.5781

[ussdd860@verizon.net](mailto:ussdd860@verizon.net)

---

---

From the President:

With great pleasure I can tell you that our reunion at Charleston in October was outstanding. We had 48 shipmates in attendance, with as many spouses and guests. We stayed at the Crowne Plaza in North Charleston and were very pleased with our accommodations. The tour on Friday was to Patriots Point, where we enjoyed a narrated tour of the WWII aircraft carrier USS Yorktown and visited the destroyer Laffey. The Laffey survived several kamikaze and bomb hits in the battle for Okinawa. It brought back some good memories to walk the deck of a tin can again, although I don't remember the ladders being that steep. We had lunch on the Yorktown and then went by boat for a tour of Fort Sumpter, again enjoying an excellent narrated tour. Saturday, we had a bus tour of old town Charleston, and an excellent evening dinner cruise in Charleston harbor. Sunday, we had an all hands business meeting in the morning and our banquet in the evening. Many thanks to Ron Trippett and Diana, and George Cromie and Patti for their outstanding work in making our reunion so successful and enjoyable.

We were pleased and honored that as in years past, the McCaffery family was well represented at our reunion.

Elsewhere in this N/L are the minutes from the business meeting. McCaffery Shipmates Association officers were re-elected by acclamation for another two-year term. I will have been president for 10 years at the end of this term, and I think that is long enough and someone else can have a turn (something to think about). regarding our next reunion: Facing reality, our membership is declining. Since our last reunion in 2016, 139 shipmates have passed away. Sadly this trend will continue as we age and become more frail. Rather than disband the Association, or cease having reunions, it was agreed that we will hence-forth have our reunions coordinated with the Tin Can Sailor Association. With our declining and aging membership, we will not have the critical mass to negotiate with hotels for reduced rates and tours, to say nothing of the work involved in the site selections and setting up a reunion. The TCS will do the hard work for us, while we can enjoy a private meeting room. I think this is the best way to keep our Association going, and I hope that each of you will join the TCS & participate. They do a great job representing destroyer sailors, and their newsletter is a great read. I hope you will continue to post photos on our web site. And, as historian Don Turk mentioned, if you no longer have use for cruise books or other McCaffery memorabilia, we can donate such things to the US Navy Historical Center. So, it was an outstanding reunion, and BZ to Ron, Diana, George, Patti, and Susan for all they did.

Best wishes...

**Doug Hackett**

**Meeting of the USS McCaffery Shipmates Association  
October 28, 2018  
Crowne Plaza Hotel, North Charleston, South Carolina**

The meeting was called to order by Association President Doug Hackett at 9:05 a.m. EDT

**President's Report:**

President Hackett reported 48 members were in attendance with an almost equal number of spouses and guests.

- Special guests were introduced including: Jean Crowell, widow of Ed Crowell, one of the driving forces in the formation of the association. Eugene and Jean Sweat; Eugene being the oldest shipmate in attendance, having served onboard McCaffery in 1046-1947.
- Recognized for their support in making this a successful reunion: Diana LaMontange, Patti Cromie, and Susan Little.
- Tom Ellis who traveled the greatest distance to the reunion – from Hawaii.
- First member to sign up – Charles Liles.
- And for his service as Vice President and newsletter editor, Rich Kuroski.

**Special recognition:**

President Hackett presented reunion organizer Ron Trippett with a McCaffery plaque recognizing his hard work in making the reunion a success, and also recognizing the work done by George Cromie in helping him, as well as Diana LaMontange, Patti Cromie, and Susan Little for their support.

**Election of Officers:**

It was moved and seconded that the current officers be re-elected to serve another two-year term. The motion passed without opposition.

The officers are:

- President – Doug Hackett
- Vice President – Rich Kuroski
- Treasurer – Ron Trippett
- Historian – Don Turk
- Membership – Lee Hendrickson and Ralph Despathy

**Next Association Reunion:**

In light of the dwindling number of crewmembers attending the reunions, President Hackett outlined options for the next association reunion, including:

1. That someone volunteer to take the lead/responsibility for the next reunion;
2. The McCaffery Association meet in conjunction with the Tin Can Sailor Association.

Pres. Hackett noted that other ship associations join in with the TCS Association this way. The individual ship association members would be charged an administrative fee similar to what we charge, which provides for registration and three meal functions. Ship association members may participate in as many of the TCS events as they wish on the same/similar basis as they would with the McCaffery Association's tours/events.

Discussion/ Q & A followed:

- Would we have our own meeting room? Answer - Yes
- Would all McCaffery members have to pay a fee to TCS? Answer - No
- Would we meet every year (as TCS does), or every two years? Answer – We could do as we please, but our experience is that our members prefer every other year.
- Would the McCaffery newsletter continue? Answer - Yes
- Will TCS promote the McCaffery reunion? Answer – Yes. President Hackett noted that 12 destroyer associations were listed in the Winter TCS newsletter as meeting in conjunction with the next TCS reunion.
- Average age of the TCS members? Answer - Unknown
- What month(s) does TCS hold its reunions? Answer – September/October
- Would there be a fee for the McCaffery Association to join with the TCS meeting? Answer - No
- Would registration be via current McCaffery Association or via TCS? Answer – Same as now, via McCaffery Association.

Following the discussion, President Hackett moved that we continue the USS McCaffery Association and meet in conjunction with the Tin Can Sailor Association. The motion was seconded, and passed. Note: the TCS reunion in two years (2020) will be in San Antonio, Texas.

#### **Newsletter:**

Due to health issues, Rich Kuroski is stepping down as newsletter editor following the next issue of the newsletter. James Bell (jb4813446@gmail.com) has agreed to take over the newsletter. Nick Donatiello will assist with the mailing aspects.

#### **McCaffery History:**

Historian Don Turk reminded members that we are posting crewmember photos to the Association website ([www.USSDD860.com](http://www.USSDD860.com)), and welcomes crewmember's active duty photos. Also, if a member has a cruise book they have no use for, we will donate it to the U.S. Navy Library collection.

#### **Reading of names of shipmates who have crossed the bar:**

The names of McCaffery crewmembers who are known to have passed since the Association's last reunion was read. It was noted that since the 2016 reunion, 139 shipmates have passed away. The names of the 139 shipmates were read, followed by eight bells, signifying that their watch has ended.

**The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 a.m. EDT**

**Recorded and submitted by Don Turk**

#### **Note from the Editor:**

As you know, this will be my last newsletter. It has been my great pleasure, and while I have enjoyed the opportunity to bring you the latest news and updates, the time has come to pass the baton.

I wish you all the best always!

Bon Voyage,  
Rich Kuroski



USS Yorktown



Inside Fort Sumpter

## CONTRIBUTORS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Listed below are the names of the shipmates who have contributed to the newsletter. The list is not complete because several contributions were given at the reunion, and the contributor's names were not recorded. If your name is missing, we apologize but still appreciate your heartfelt contribution.

Last Name	First Name	Years	Rank/Rate
Briggs	James T.	46-47	YN3
Buell	Byron W.	61-62	LTJG
Collette	Larry	69-71	LTJG
Condon	Robert D.	50-51	RD1
Despathy	Ralph R.	58-61	SFP2
Ellis	Timothy M.	65-67	RMSN
Goodrich	Joseph L.	62-65	MM3
Horn	Richard T.	62-63	CS3
Overstreet	Edwin D.	72-73	ENS
Rowsey	John D.	53-54	ET3
Scull	Jack D.	61-63	LCDR
Traggiai	Robert B.	68-70	SH3
Trezza	Anthony J.	56-58	SK3