



# USS MC CAFFERY DD/DDE-860 SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION WINTER 2018 N/L

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## PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

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Hello McCaffery Shipmates,

I hope you are all well, and are surviving the winter. In that I live in MD just outside DC, last summer I was able to enjoy the free concerts by the US Navy Band at the Navy Memorial downtown, as well as visiting the Navy Historical Museum at the Washington Navy Yard. The museum is very interesting and enjoyable. I urge you to visit it some time. Of course at the US Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Avenue in DC, you can view the USS McCaffery Memorial Plaque on the Wall of Honor.

If you enjoy reading, there are some excellent biographies out that deal with WWII and the Navy leaders who brought about victory. Nimitz, Halsey, and Spruance are excellent reads, as are the several books on the Battle of Midway.

But the most important news is that our next reunion is scheduled October 25-29, 2018 in Charleston SC. Ron Trippett and George Cromie have done the planning and prep work for this event, and we send a BZ to them for their efforts. Charleston is a great place for a reunion because of its past as a Navy port, the historical aspects, such as Fort Sumter, and Patriots Point where we can tour the WWII aircraft carrier Yorktown, the WWII destroyer Laffey, a DD that survived several kamikaze attacks during the Battle for Okinawa. We will be staying at the Crowne Plaza Hotel, in North Charleston. Tours will include the Patriot's Point Naval Tour, a Fort Sumter tour, a motor coach tour of historic Charleston, and a Charleston Harbor Dinner Cruise. I look forward to seeing everyone there.

Best wishes,  
Doug Hackett,  
President, USS McCafferyShipmates Association.

## WELCOME ABOARD

We continue to add new shipmates to our association thanks to the efforts of Lee Hendrickson and Bob Biegen. If the shipmate listed below served along with you, and you would like to contact him, let me know. No need to wait until the next reunion to say hello.

Last Name	First Name	Rate	Years
Peterson	Randal (Randy) L	SN	70-72

## A Destroyer Story Worth Reading

After signing my pop, EM2 Bud Cloud (circa Pearl Harbor ) up for hospice care, the consolation prize I'd given him (*for agreeing it was OK to die*) was a trip to "visit the Navy in San Diego ." I emailed my friend and former Marine sergeant, Mrs. Mandy McCammon, who's currently serving as a Navy Public Affairs Officer, [at midnight on 28 May](#). I asked Mandy if she had enough pull on any of the bases in San Diego to get me access for the day so I could give Bud, who served on [USS Dewey \(DD-349\)](#), a windshield tour. The next day she sent me an email from the current [USS Dewey \(DDG 105\)](#)'s XO, [CDR Mikael Rockstad](#), inviting us down to the ship two days later. We linked up with Mandy outside [Naval Base San Diego](#) and carpooled to the pier where we were greeted by [CMDCM Joe Grgetich](#) and a squad-sized group of Sailors. Bud started to cry before the doors of the van opened. He'd been oohing and pointing at the cyclic rate as we approached the pier, but when we slowed down and Mandy said, "They're all here for you, Bud," he was overwhelmed. After we were all out of the van directly in front of the Dewey, shaking hands and exchanging pleasantries, Petty Officer Simon introduced himself and said as the ship's Sailor of the Year he had the honor of pushing Bud's wheelchair for the day. Unbeknownst to us, they'd decided to host Bud *aboard* the Dewey, not *at* the Dewey.

And so they carried him aboard. None of us expected him to go aboard the ship. I'd told him we were going down to the base and would have the chance to meet and greet a few of the Sailors from the new Dewey. He was ecstatic. The day before, he asked every few hours if we were "still going down to visit the boys from the Dewey," and "do they know I was on the Dewey?"

Once aboard, we were greeted by the CO, [CDR Jake Douglas](#), the XO and a reinforced platoon-sized group of Sailors. To say it was overwhelming is an understatement. These men and women waited in line to introduce themselves to Bud. They shook his hand, asked for photos with him, and swapped stories. It was simply amazing. They didn't just talk to him, they listened. Bud's voice was little more than a weak whisper at this point and he'd tell a story and then GMC Eisman or GSCS Why not would repeat it so all of the Sailors on deck could hear. In the midst of the conversations, Petty Officer Flores broke contact with the group.

Bud was telling a story and CMDCM Grgetich was repeating the details when Flores walked back into view holding a huge photo of the original USS Dewey. That moment was priceless. Bud stopped mid-sentence and yelled, "There she is!" They patiently stood there

holding the photo while he told them about her armament, described the way it listed after it was hit, and shared other details about the attacks on Pearl Harbor . Bud finally admitted how tired he was after more than an hour on deck. While they were finishing up goodbyes and taking last minute photographs, GMC Eisman asked if it'd be OK to bring Sailors up to visit Bud in a few months after a Chief's board. I hadn't said it yet because I didn't want it to dampen the spirit of the day, but I quietly explained to GMC Eisman the reason we'd asked for the visit was simple: Bud was dying. I told him they were welcome to come up any time they wanted, but I suspected Bud had about a month left to live. Almost without hesitation, he asked if the crew could provide the burial honors when the time came. I assured him that'd be an honor we'd welcome.

Leaving the ship was possibly more emotional than boarding. They piped him ashore. CMDCM Grgetich leaned in and quietly told me how significant that honor was and who it's usually reserved for as we headed towards the gangplank. Hearing "Electrician's Mate Second Class William Bud Cloud, Pearl Harbor Survivor, departing" announced over the 1MC was surreal. Later that night Bud sat in his recliner, hands full of ship's coins and declared, "I don't care what you do with my power tools; you better promise you'll bury me with these." He died 13 days later. For 12 of those 13 days he talked about the Dewey, her Sailors and his visit to San Diego .

Everyone who came to the house had to hear the story, see the photos, hold the coins, read the plaques. True to his word, GMC Eisman arranged the details for a full honors burial. The ceremony was simple yet magnificent. And a perfect sendoff for an ornery old guy who never, ever stopped being proud to be a Sailor. After the funeral, the Sailors came back to the house for the reception and spent an hour with the family. This may seem like a small detail, but it's another example of them going above and beyond the call of duty, and it meant more to the family than I can explain. There are more photos, and I'm sure I missed a detail, or a name. What I didn't miss and will never forget, is how unbelievable the men and women of the USS Dewey were. They opened their ship and their hearts and quite literally made a dream come true for a dying Sailor. They provided the backdrop for "This is the best day of my life, daughter. I never in my whole life dreamed I'd step foot on the Dewey again or shake the hand of a real life Sailor." Without question, it's the best example of Semper Fidelis I've ever seen.

Overheard at the reunion "I am too damn young to be this old"

## CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Listed below are the shipmates that have contributed to the publication of the newsletter

since the last issue. We appreciate your support. And remember we would like to print your story

<b>Last Name</b>	<b>First Name</b>	<b>Years</b>	<b>Rank/Rate</b>
Kuchera	Roger	59-61	ET2
Moyer	Leland	51-56	BMSN
Jaworowski jr	William	59-62	ET2
Briggs	William	1960	ETN3
Lomas	Gary	51-54	IC3
Kartasiewicz	Michael	1960	SN
Abernathy	Harvey	72-73	SN

## TAPS

**Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of our departed shipmates.** If you know of a shipmate that is hospitalized or deceased notify Doug Hackett so he can respond on behalf of the association. The names are pending my PC being fixed. I can receive but can not send. The list will

contain more detailed info than in the past. We will continue to add shipmates to the list in future N/L's. If we have erred please let us know. \*\* Designates Plank Owner.

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Shipmates Association Winter 2018 N/L  
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**RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED**