

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Patriots Point to Host “Live Like a Sailor” Day and Memorial Ceremony Honoring USS Laffey**

*Museum to offer two days of special events dedicated to honoring the legacy of “The Ship That Would Not Die”*

**MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C.** – On April 15 and 16, Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum will host two days of special programming to honor the legacy of the USS *Laffey* (DD-724), famously known as “The Ship That Would Not Die.” Visitors will have a rare opportunity to experience life aboard the historic vessel through immersive living history demonstrations, engaging presentations, and a moving memorial ceremony.

### **Day 1: “Live Like a Sailor” Day | Tuesday, April 15**

Patriots Point will unveil a new exhibit aboard the *Laffey* that highlights the ship’s harrowing experience during the Battle of Okinawa in World War II—an attack that earned the destroyer its enduring nickname. The exhibit will feature artifacts from the attack and provide insights into the ship’s resilience.

Visitors will also step into the shoes of the sailors who served aboard the *Laffey* during her more than 30 years of active duty. Former crew members will share stories and personal reflections, while historical interpreters demonstrate daily routines and duties that defined life at sea.

To further engage visitors—especially younger guests and warship enthusiasts—the museum will host a LEGO challenge. Guests are invited to bring their own *Laffey* LEGO replicas to compete for the title of best design. Patriots Point has also partnered with master builder Sam Singewald, who will showcase his large-scale LEGO model of the *USS Laffey*. Competition details are available at [www.patriotspoint.org/events/live-aboard-laffey](http://www.patriotspoint.org/events/live-aboard-laffey).

### **Day 2: Memorial Ceremony & Special Presentations | Wednesday, April 16**

April 16, 2025, marks the 80th anniversary of the infamous kamikaze attack on the *USS Laffey* during the Battle of Okinawa. Thirty-two crew members lost their lives in the assault, which involved 22 Japanese aircraft. The ship was struck by seven bomb-laden kamikaze planes and four direct bomb hits.



# PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL & MARITIME MUSEUM

Despite the overwhelming odds, the *Laffey*'s crew fought back heroically—shooting down 11 enemy planes and preventing the destroyer from being sunk. Their bravery secured the *Laffey*'s place in history as “The Ship That Would Not Die.”

“Patriots Point is honored to be the home of the highly decorated and storied National Historic Landmark USS *Laffey*. For the 80<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Okinawa attack, we invite everyone to join us for two days of immersive history and honoring the heroic actions of the ship and her crew”.

A memorial ceremony will be held at 10:00 a.m. on the fantail of the *Laffey*, followed at 1:00 p.m. by a presentation from Dr. Kyle Sinisi, History Professor at The Citadel. His talk will explore the strategic importance of the Pacific Theater and the Battle of Okinawa.

In the afternoon, guided tours will be offered of the areas on the ship that were damaged during the attack, providing visitors with a powerful and up-close look at the damage and the crew's incredible efforts to save their ship.

At 2:00 PM, Lt. Col. James Smith, Patriots Point Development Authority Board member and grandson of USS *Laffey* Okinawa veteran, will give a presentation on the kamikaze attacks endured by the *Laffey*. Signage marking the impact sites will accompany his discussion throughout the ship.

## Admission Details

All events on April 15 and 16 are included with general admission to Patriots Point. Guests who plan to attend both days may purchase a special two-day pass, available online at [www.patriotspoint.org](http://www.patriotspoint.org) or in person at the museum's ticketing office.

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## About Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum

*Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, on the Charleston Harbor, is the #1 attraction in Mount Pleasant, S.C., and is home to a fleet of National Historic Landmark ships, and the only Vietnam Support Base Camp in the U.S. Patriots Point is also headquarters to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society and the agency's official Medal of Honor Museum. Visit [s](#) for more details or find us on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).*

## About the USS Yorktown Foundation

*The USS Yorktown Foundation, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, serves as the designated fundraising organization for Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum. The Foundation funds educational scholarships, preserves military history, and supports informative exhibits throughout the museum. Through these efforts, the Foundation aims to promote America's traditions of service, leadership, duty, and sacrifice to inspire future generations.*

