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Patriots Point To Host Events On June 6 to Commemorate 80th Anniversary of D-Day Invasion of WWII

*"Destroyer Day" will feature programs about USS Laffey's support of D-Day,
Life aboard a Navy destroyer*

MOUNT PLEASANT, S.C. – On Thursday, June 6, Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum will welcome visitors aboard the historic USS Laffey DD-724 to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion of World War II and the Laffey crew's role in the mission.

Special programming will be offered throughout the day starting at 10 am and is included in the normal price of admission. Living history re-enactors will perform from 10 am to 2 pm, and US Navy destroyer veterans will be stationed throughout the ship to talk to visitors about life on the USS Laffey and the role of destroyers in naval defense.

At 2 pm in the USS Laffey's theater, guest speaker and Patriots Point Development Authority Board Member James Smith will share stories about his grandfather, Lt. Paul Smith, who served aboard the Laffey at Normandy and Okinawa. He will be followed by two more guest speakers that will discuss naval warfare and share information about weapons operations. Local food trucks will offer food sales throughout the day.

In addition to the programming aboard the USS Laffey on June 6, [artifacts from the historic ship](#) will be flown over the official international ceremony in Normandy, France. Patriots Point and the Yorktown Foundation partnered with the Commemorative Air Force to pack the items into



PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL & MARITIME MUSEUM

a World War II C-47 on May 12. They'll be featured in events across Europe in the days leading up to June 6, and then fly over the ceremony on the anniversary of the invasion. The Laffey is one of only five warships remaining that supported the invasion of the beach at Normandy.

The USS Laffey DD-724 was part of Operation Neptune, the naval phase of the D-Day invasion. Under the command of Admiral Sir Bertram Ramsey of the UK's Royal Navy, the fleet was responsible for the sweeping of mines and marking channels. They also provided transportation of troops and equipment to the beaches, landing the troops and supporting them with gunfire and reinforcement, and resupply by sea. In transit, the force was screened by the destroyers *USS Jeffers*, *Obrien*, *Glennon*, *Barton*, *Laffey*, *Meredith*, the French corvettes *Aconit* and *Renoncule*, plus three trawlers, seven Patrol Crafts, seven Submarine Chasers, and seven Motor Launch vessels.

The USS Laffey provided support to the Utah Beach landing site. Twenty-four hours after the first wave had landed, 66,000 US troops had crossed the beaches, and within seven days, the number had grown to 250,000.

Visit www.patriotspoint.org for more information about D-Day programming and to purchase admission in advance.

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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 www.patriotspoint.org for more details or find us on [LinkedIn](#), [Instagram](#), and [Facebook](#).

About the USS Yorktown Foundation

The USS Yorktown Foundation is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization dedicated to raising funds to provide scholarships for educational programs at Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, as well as supporting new exhibits, symposiums, and special programs. The Foundation's mission is "to cultivate a unique learning environment that connects generations by celebrating America's history and its heroes, inspiring freedom, patriotism, leadership and service." For more information, please visit www.USSYorktownFoundation.org or call 843.881.5925.

