

LST534 Newsletter

January/February/March 2000

Volume 111, Issue 1

Happy New Year

As we have all celebrated the passing of the millennium, I take this opportunity to wish each of you a very happy New Year and beyond.

This time of year is perfect for reflecting on the past year and setting goals for the year to come. But being the turn of the century, I reflected back on the last few years and how all of you came into my life.

I went back to 1944 and 1945 and re-lived what my father went through in World War II, and how that experience shaped his life. It is because of you, his shipmates, that I was given this opportunity. This family we have reunited has given so much to my family and me. You all gave so freely and trusted me so genuinely. It warms my heart as you sat in front of that camera, sometimes stoic, sometimes matter-of-fact. You allowed your vulnerabilities to surface and trusted me with those emotions. Thank you for that trust.

And what about all you have done for each other. I beam with pride when I hear from you that you are corresponding and calling one another. Reaching out is how this all began and we will carry this through for years to come through your children and grandchildren.

Then I thought about my Dad, without whom this would never have happened. I do know he would have been proud of me, proud of Mom, proud of Cindy, and also very proud of the LST534 family. What was thrown together 55 years ago, lives on into the next century. For that he would be proud.

Not a day goes by that I don't think of you, my LST534 family. I thank you again for your immense contribution to the success of reuniting this family and telling its story.

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Award Winning

Congratulations are in order for the documentary, "*Onto Rugged Shores: Voyage of LST534*".

It won a bronze award in the documentary category at the Flagstaff, Arizona Worldfest International Film Festival.

I have entered the video in about six different festivals. I'll keep you posted on the outcome. But please realize what an honor it is to win "anything" your first time out. You are all to be commended.

CONGRATULATIONS!!!!

In Memory

Garfield E. Walker came into our LST534 family only recently. He contacted us after the documentary aired. It is with great sadness I tell you that Mr. Walker passed away on November 18, 1999, at the age of 73.

On December 23, 1945, Garfield married Yvonne L. Schroeder in Mishawaka, Indiana. Together they built Garfield Walker Photography Studio.

Mr. Walker is survived by his wife, a daughter, Barbara J. Winger, a granddaughter, plus three brothers and one sister.

We will miss having Garfield as part of the family, but will continue to have Yvonne and family involved.

Birthdays

January 4

Edgar Overstake, SM2c
2170 Americas Blvd. South #49
Clearwater, FL 34623

January 14

Frank Frame, S1c
P.O. Box 1017
Jal, NM 88252

February 3

William Dox, S2c(Y)
443 South Main Street
P.O. Box 756,
Massena, NY 13662

February 16

Louis Stockdale, Lt.(jg)
407 Taft Street South
Humboldt, IA 50548-2250

March 14

Salvatore Lagono, S2c
101 High Street
P.O. Box 144
Portland, CT 06480-1656

March 16

Robert J. Foy, SF3c
719 Hiawatha Drive
Elkhart, IN 46517-1829

March 26

Willie Gunn, Y2c
105 Bull Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401

April 1

Angelo Cumella, S1c (SK)
11 Freeport Circle
Toms River, NJ 08757

April 14

Alex Fielder, Lt (sg)
5950 Ambassador Drive
Fairfield, OH 45014

Newsletter News

The LST534 Newsletter will be published four times a year beginning in the Year 2000.



Get Well Wishes

Let's all make a special effort to send a get well card to our shipmates who are not feeling their best.

Don Sabin, S1c
92 University Ave.
Providence, RI 02910

Alfred Ellis, F1c
28910 Ann Arbor Trail
Westland, MI 48185-1829

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LST391...Coming Home

Congress Addresses the LST391 Ship Memorial

By Cdr Melcher

One year ago, a man named, Congressman Hall of Texas, boldly took the bull by the horns and introduced the LST391 Ship Memorial bill (HR-4519) into legislation for the LST veterans. When the Senate failed to act upon HR-4519 in late 1998, he with the assistance of Congressman McGovern of Massachusetts, in January 1999, reintroduced the LST Ship Memorial bill as HR-146.

For the next five months, these two Congressmen (and their staffs), armed with letters you wrote, worked silently convincing their colleagues of the importance of passing the LST391 Ship Memorial Bill.

With the help of Mr. Jolly, our friend the "Commodore", Congressman Spence, and a long list of too many others to mention in this small space, HR-146 and an altered language version of HR-146 have been incorporated into three additional pieces of major legislation. One on the Senate side, and two more on the House side.

In less than three weeks, our Congress has approved and passed all three of these major pieces of legislation. The LST Bill, or a version of the LST Bill was included in each one of these major pieces of legislation. S-1059 was passed in the Senate. HR-1401 and HR-973 were both passed in the House. Because S-1059 and HR-1401 are both very similar in nature, they will be sent to "Conference" and blended into one Bill.

Appointments to "Conference" committee have not yet been announced. It is strongly recommended (by those on the hill) that every WW II, and LST veteran make an effort to find out who has been appointed to the "Conference" committee, and to inform them of your desires for them NOT to remove the LST Ship Memorial language during their combining of S-1059 and HR-1401.

HR-973 was also passed by the House just yesterday. Congressman McGovern stood before his colleagues in the House and informed them that: The LST Veterans had worked very hard and very long for their LST Memorial Ship and, that they were most deserving of it. The House voiced NOT one objection to the LST391 Ship Memorial section of Bill. HR-973 will now be sent to the Senate for their approval, and then to the President for his signing into law.

Our appreciation for their contributions and efforts in getting the LST Bill where it's at today go to:

The "Lone Texas Ranger" Congressman Hall with his attitude of, "We are going to get that LST Ship".

Our "1999 Paul Revere" Congressman McGovern for his determination to "Get the message out".

The hard work (and sweet talk) of "Mrs. P", "Cindy", "Linda", "Pete".

Ron Pobuda and Linda Alvers for the timely TV airing of "Onto Rugged Shores" (a documentary on the LST534).

The many LST Veterans who took the time and effort to write letters and hound your representatives.

And to the many, many others on the hill that helped in their own professional (political) way.

Thank you all very much!!!

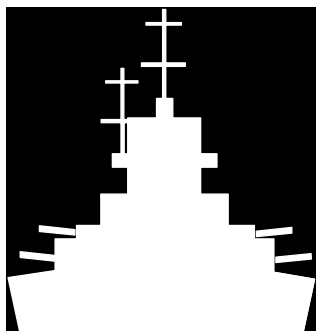
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LST534

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Just For Fun

Just for Fun
Is a column
meaning just
that – FUN.

Jim Sarres has
graciously
volunteered to
keep this
column going.

We all know
how Judge
Sarres can keep
us laughing!

Thanks Jim.

Jokes By Jim

Following in his footsteps:

On the way to preschool, a doctor had left his stethoscope on the car seat, and his four year old son began playing with it.

Be still, my heart, thought the doctor, my son wants to follow in my footsteps!!

Then the child spoke into the instrument: “Welcome to McDonald’s. May I take your order?”

Nautical Terms

In memory of James Richard Drew who contributed to this column until his passing.

Bill Dox, contributor

“It isn’t really nautical because it was in boot camp that I heard it and never heard it again in the Navy.

The work or phrase was “clothes stop”. In boot camp you had to do your own laundry and hang it outside the barracks on a clothes line. A “clothes stop” was a piece of string a few inches long with metal ends so it wouldn’t unravel. You made loops and tied them to the corner of your sheets, shorts and socks instead of clothes pins. I couldn’t find the word or words in Webster’s Dictionary. I’m sure all boot camp’s must have used them – talk about trivia.

Thanks, Bill – great story.