

LST534 Newsletter

July/August/September 2006

Volume 9, Issue 3

Re-Design of LST534 Website

The LST534 family is very fortunate these days. Many of you know that our website was originally created and maintained by Captain Olson's daughter, Darleen Meade. Darleen was instrumental in gathering data about her father and honoring him on the site. She took all pictures I sent, scanned them and posted them. I was very appreciative of her work and dedication to the website. With so many other things to do, I had no time to worry about the site—and I did not have to as Darleen did it all.

After Darleen's death last year, the LST534 website practically stood still. I tried to at least get the updated newsletters posted but very little was done.

Now, I'm happy to tell you that the website is getting a makeover. My sister, Cindy Alvers Arlantico, and her husband, Reggie Arlantico, are taking over the LST534 site. This is so exciting! It has energized me to go through

each page on the current site and critique it. Some things are not 100% accurate and mostly items just need to be moved or updated. But Reggie is doing a whole new design. We are putting pictures that we have of the shipmates under their name on the "log." The reunion pages are being updated with more pictures from each of our reunions. The news section will be populated with more and more news items. And, the links page will be very interactive with new links added all the time. This is where you guys come in. If you have any news to share or any military or history links to notify us of, please get in touch with Reggie. His email address is arlantico@earthlink.net. Or you can call him on his cell phone at 562-708-8846.

And stay tuned. Our target date for going online with the re-design is September 1, 2006! Please visit and send in your comments. All suggestions are welcome.

NEWS:



Impact of LST325 in Evansville and LST Week

The outcome of Evansville being the home of LST325 has changed the city in ways I'm sure they never imagined. Tourism is at an all time high. Military reunions of all branches of the Armed Forces are choosing Evansville, Indiana as their reunion city.

Merilee Fowler, Executive Director of the Evansville Convention and Visitors Center credits the draw of the LST325 as the reason for the increase in visitors to Evansville. Congratulations to the River City, Evansville, Indiana!!

And the city does go all out for the ship and the visitors. They are planning LST Week from September 5th through the 9th. All kinds of events are planned and a good time will be had by all. Log onto www.LSTshipmemorial.org for ongoing updates about LST Week!

Any of the LST534 crew who

are planning to visit Evansville during LST Week, please call me and let me know. I will be in town for a few days only.

LST Reunion

The US LST Association is having their annual convention and reunion in Nashville, TN from August 31 to September 5, 2006. Information can be obtained from Linda Gunjak at 800-228-5870.

VetFriends.com

VetFriends.com is a truly incredible website. If you can log onto the internet, it is worth a visit. The people behind this site are adding new features all the time. It is for the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marine Corps, and Coast Guard.

Their latest venture is for education for veterans. They are proud to announce their new affiliate—

colleageanduniversity.net, which is a premier destination for adults to enhance their education and careers through distance learning. It is one of the fastest growing online marketplaces for lifelong learning, partnered with thousands of colleges and universities, online colleges, individual class providers, and hundreds of online media companies, all to help you advance your careers. They have:

Education Financing
Graduate & Post-Grad Degrees
Corporate Training
Professional Certificates
Continuing Education Classes
Test Preparation
And MORE

VetFriends.com is committed to supporting our military and this is another step in proving so. Our veterans need to come home and get back in the work force. Or for those already back home, can gain new knowledge, change careers or gear up for a new challenge.

If you are interested, or know someone who might benefit from this program, log onto www.VetFriends.com/education.

The Bronze Star Medal From VetFriends.com

The Bronze Star Medal is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the US Armed Forces, after December 6, 1941, distinguishes him/herself by heroic or meritorious achievement or service, not in aerial flight, while engaged in: an action against an enemy of the United States; military operations involving conflict with an opposing foreign force; while serving with friendly foreign forces engage in armed conflict against an opposing armed force.

President Roosevelt authorized the Bronze Star Medal by Executive Order 9419 dated February 4, 1944, retroactive to December 7, 1941. The reverse side of the medal reads "Heroic or Meritorious Achievement" with the recipients' name engraved.

Get Well Wishes

Rose Cumella is recovering at home from triple bypass surgery. She had her operation the week

after Memorial Day. She said her rehabilitation is slow, but steady. We need to send Rose our get well wishes. You can call Rose at 732-818-1161 or send her get well cards at 11 Freeport Court, Toms River, NJ 08757.

In Memoriam

Bernelle Ellis, beloved wife of shipmate Alfred Ellis died on July 15, 2006 from complications of a fall she took on July 4th. Alfred was a fireman on board LST 534 and preceded Bernelle in death. I remember how beautiful Bernelle's skin was. Her face was angelic.



Bernelle is survived by her two boys, grandchildren, sisters and a brother. Her son, Craig, actually escorted Alfred and Bernelle to our 1998 reunion in Chicago. The last three years of her life, Bernelle lived with her other son, Kenton, his wife, Michelle, and their two kids, Kayla and Carsen. Other grandchildren include Megan, Jenna, and Brice.

We will all miss Bernelle Ellis.

The Veterans History Project

The mission of the Veterans History Project is to collect and archive the personal recollections of U.S. wartime veterans to honor their service and share their stories with current and future generations. The Project also collects stories from homefront civilians who worked in support of our Armed Forces.

The United States Congress created the Veterans History Project (VHP) as part of the American Folklife Center at the Library of Congress. The authorizing legislation, sponsored by Representatives Ron Kind, Amo Houghton, and Steny Hoyer and Senators Max Cleland and Chuck Hagel, received unanimous support and was signed into law by President William Jefferson Clinton on October 27, 2000.

The primary focus is on first-hand accounts of Veterans from the following 20th Century wars:

- * World War I
- * World War II
- * Korean War
- * Vietnam War
- * Persian Gulf War
- * Afghanistan and Iraq conflicts (2001-present)

In addition, those U.S. citizen civilians who were actively involved in supporting war efforts (such as war industry workers, USO workers, flight instructors, medical volunteers, etc.) are also invited to share their valuable stories.

It is important that we all take part in this impressive project. How, you ask?

For those of you with internet access, go to www.loc.gov/vets. There you can learn all about the project and ways to help.

If you do not have access to the internet, you can submit your stories by following these guidelines:

What They Want

Video:

- * digital video *VHS video
- * Hi-8/8mm *DVD

Audio:

- * audio cassette *CD
- * do not use microcassettes

Please use the highest quality equipment you can!

Documents

Photos

Other Items:

- * narratives/memoirs
- * letters
- * diaries/journals
- * military papers
- * maps
- * photos

Electronic documents:

- * Please submit both electronic and paper copies of documents
- * Use .txt, .rtf, .gif, .jpg formats when possible

Please Do Not Send:

- * medals
- * canteens
- * uniforms/helmets
- * dog tags
- * weapons/military equipment
- * flags

Mailing Address:

Veterans History Project
Library of Congress
101 Independence Ave., SE
Washington, DC 20540-4615

U.S. Postal Service mail is subject to security screening procedures which may damage your submission.

Send recorded interviews and collection materials through

commercial services such as Fed Ex, UPS, or DHL, or deliver them in person if you live nearby.

Holidays

JULY

4 Independence Day

SEPTEMBER

4 Labor Day



BIRTHDAYS:

August 11

Larry Gray
101 Forrest Hill Drive
Taylors, SC 29687

August 12

Robert Goldsmith
95 Shepherd Drive
Wakefield, RI 02879

August 16

Luther Lyles
2407 Reynolds Road
Wauchula, FL 33873

August 23

Sammie Porter
5813 Seminole Ct.
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

October 4

Leo Wilson
5 Malvern Road
Norwood, MA 02062

October 27

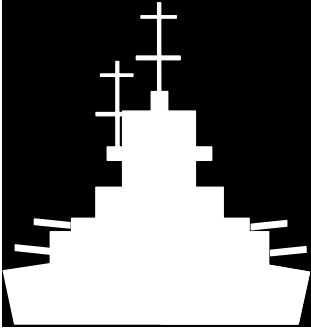
Johnny Medeiros
c/o Sheila Sexton
1505 NE 55th Street
Ocala, FL 34479

October 31

Oscar Cress
9841 41st Street, North
Pinellas Park, FL 33782



LST534 Newsletter
250 West 49th Street
Suite 401
New York, New York 10019



LST534

LST534 Newsletter

Just for Fun

Just for Fun is a column meaning just that – FUN!

Nautical Terms:

*In memory of James Richard Drew who
contributed to this column until his passing.
Contributed by Willie Gunn.*

What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches?

A nervous wreck

Hit the Deck: Command given to get out of bed and
get ready for the day.

What's the difference between roast beef and pea
soup?

Anyone can roast beef.

Turn to: Start jobs for the day

Dog the Hatches: Turn heavy metal latches on
doors to secure them in closing.

Where do you find a dog with no legs?

Right where you left him.

**Editor and Comments:
Linda Alvers
250 W. 49th Street, Suite 401
New York, NY 10019
1.800.237.1224**