

# LST534 Newsletter

October/November/December 2003

Volume 6 , Issue 4

## Dallas Reunion A Big Success

We all gathered in Dallas, Texas for the US LST Association's Annual Convention. One by one, shipmates found their way to the LST534 hospitality room. We must thank Linda Gunjak for arranging the room for us. It was Thursday, August 28th, 2003.

### Attending this year:

- ◆ Marian Alvers and daughter Linda
- ◆ Oscar & Hellen Cress and daughter Beth
- ◆ Andy & Rose Cumella
- ◆ Frank & Evelyn Frame
- ◆ Larry and Opal Gray
- ◆ Willie & Marty Gunn
- ◆ Norris Long
- ◆ Luther Lyles
- ◆ Johnny Medeiros
- ◆ Jim & Sandy Miller
- ◆ Sammie & Marjorie Porter
- ◆ Duncan & Carole Robey
- ◆ Albert Straka and daughter Monica
- ◆ Dan & Barbara Toole
- ◆ Matthew Wachsmann

Sammie Porter and his wife Marjorie joined our reunion group this year and are we ever glad. They pitched right in with whatever we were doing. Welcome Aboard Sammie and Marjorie!!

As usual, Thursday evening was set aside for decorating the room. We have to hand it to Andy, Frank & Evelyn, Johnny and Oscar. As I'm running around doing little necessary errands, they unpacked and decorated the room. By the time the pizza was delivered, we were finished.

Friday morning we opened our reunion, with a prayer by Larry Gray and the lighting of our continuous burning candle in memory of my Dad and all other shipmates that have gone to Heaven. Johnny Medeiros lit the candle this year.

We proceeded with the business meeting.

Willie Gunn was elected our first official LST 534 Scuttlebutt liaison. Any and all information or pictures you think might be appropriate for publication in the Scuttlebutt, send to Willie. His address is:

105 Bull Street  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

Friday afternoon was free time. But at 6pm we started our usual Friday evening game

night. This is one of my most favorite parts of the reunion each year. There is guaranteed fun and laughter and this year was no exception.

Andy insisted on a talent show—Rose sang, Oscar recited one of his poems, Monica sung a song. Frank modeled flashing American flag earrings—well, you get the picture. In the end, the present was given to Andy for coming up with the idea. The present was a passion pen and we all had fun trying to make it bubble. The rest is left to your imagination.

Oscar Cress' daughter Beth called Bingo with the not so capable help of Rick Jagers. Rick's Dad was on another LST, but him and his Mom and Dad join us every year. LST Bingo is one of our all time favorites and having Beth and Rick call the game was amusing.

Later, a group of us went up to the restaurant on top of the hotel to see Mars. There was a group playing, a young man singing and an empty dance floor. Don't you know that was an open invitation for Rose Cumella. I'm imagining that

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band is still talking about that night.

When I laid my head on my pillow that night to go to sleep, I wondered what Sammie and Marjorie were thinking!

Saturday late morning, a group of us went to a local shopping area for souvenirs. We went into a store called Pistols and Petticoats. We all dressed up in old fashioned clothes and had our picture taken. Can you find everyone in the photo on pg 3?

We met on Saturday at 3pm in the suite for our group picture. Then we boarded a bus for a fun night on the town. We did a tour of Dallas highlights which included the Texas Book Depository where President Kennedy was killed. We went to a Texas Barbeque and then the Mesquite rodeo, a rodeo on the professional circuit. Some of my Dallas office co-workers joined us at the rodeo and co-mingled with the shipmates. Many of you met my business partner, Jim Holt. Matthew taped the whole day including the accident at the rodeo. I'm pleased to report the cowboy had only slight injuries to his shoulder. It was the first time many of us had seen a professional rodeo. We were also joined by Captain Bob Jornlin and his wife Lois. Captain Jornlin proudly brought the LST325 home in January, 2001. The LST325 recently completed a 72 day river trip up the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers.

Sunday morning we continued tradition with Matthew hosting

his second annual crepes breakfast. And a good time was had by all. Beth Cress took orders, cut up tomatoes and ate last. Specialties included mushrooms, green peppers, apples, and peanut butter. The peanut butter was a special request of Sandy Miller. This year I couldn't find Matthew's chef's hat, but you know what, it didn't matter. That was the best breakfast I've had in a long time. Thanks, Matthew!

Next year, Matthew is going to print a menu that we fill out on Saturday morning! Should we invite Gourmet magazine?? Stay tuned!

Our guest speaker this year was Captain Jornlin. He graciously spent his sought after time discussing the journey of the LST325 and the hopes for the ship's future. LST534 shipmates asked questions and really seemed to enjoy his first hand account. Thanks goes to Captain Jornlin.

A large group of us then went to lunch in search of a steakhouse for Andy Cumella. We rode the trolley to Market Street and enjoyed a steak with Andy.

We returned to the suite for dismantling and pack up. It went like clockwork. Everyone took on some necessary role and all of a sudden, we were finished. I want to take this opportunity to say thanks to each and every one of you for all the help in decorating, tearing down, packing up, taping and labeling. Working together the way we

do reminds me of how and why we won the war. You guys are great. And I don't want to forget Beth Cress, who absolutely must come next year. Thanks Beth.

And a big thanks to Rick Jagers. Rick is a big help to Matthew and me. He's part of our family and we are grateful.

Sunday evening was the USLST Association's Banquet and Memorial Service.

Our candle was placed on one of the tables by Helen Cress. Andy and Rose provided their absolutely delicious tomatoes and mozzarella and even donned Linda Gunjak with a dish. Matthew was videotaping all of us.

As customary, we gathered all shipmates, families and friends, for our closing ceremony. We took pictures, held hands, said a prayer and extinguished our candle.

We now anxiously await our next reunion. It will be in July, in Philadelphia. Sign up early and get ready. Philadelphia will be one of our best reunions. Mark your calendars!

## **JULY 2004**

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	<u>17</u>
<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>21</u>	<u>22</u>	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

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## **BIRTHDAYS:**

### **October 1**

Robert Ware  
2602 Darwood Ct.  
Mobile, AL 36605

### **October 2**

Emmett Cull  
PO Box 1885  
Portolla, CA 96122

### **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

### **November 8**

Fred Maddix  
7798 Forest Circle  
Glen St. Mary, FL 32040

### **November 11**

Albert Straka  
643 Foothill Road  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

### **November 20**

Calvin Hesse  
5045 Highway 956  
Weiner, AR 72479

### **November 27**

George Popham  
6575 Juniper Drive  
Missoula, MT 59802

### **December 5**

Norris Long  
101 Northeast 58th Street  
Oak Island, NC 28465

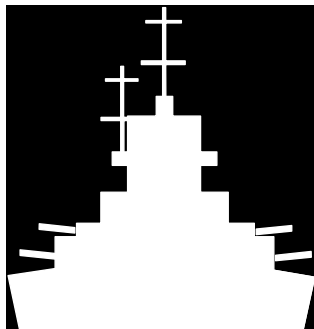
### **December 20**

Wayne Jens  
1220 Weld Azalea Point  
Seneca, SC 29678

### **December 25**

William Ayers  
221 Westwood Avenue  
Jackson, TN 38301

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



LST534

## LST534 Newsletter

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

Jim Sarres  
has  
graciously  
volunteered  
to keep it  
going.

We all know  
how Judge  
Sarres can  
keep us  
laughing!

Thanks Jim.

# Just for Fun

### Reasons to smile:

My mind not only wanders, it sometimes leaves completely.

The best way to forget all your troubles is to wear tight shoes.

The nice part about living in a small town: When you don't know what you're doing, someone else always does.

Just when I was getting used to yesterday, along came today.

Sometimes I think I understand everything, then I regain consciousness.

### Nautical Terms:

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

**Aye, Aye Sir!:** Response in the affirmative when men addressed by officer.

**Attention on Deck!:** Senior Petty Officer shouts this out when officer enters, esp. the C.O. or other senior officer

**Carry On!:** When officer leaves meeting with enlisted men, this order means to continue with duties.

#### Editor and Comments:

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