

LST534 Newsletter

October/November/December 2004

Volume 7 , Issue 4

Reunion Recap

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
July 18 to 22, 2004

As expected, Philadelphia turned out to be our best reunion ever. The city is packed with history and we enjoyed learning all about our Founding Fathers. Sunday was arrival day and decoration day. By the time I arrived in Philly with my Mom and family, the LST 534 suite was all decorated. Those shipmates who arrived before me took charge and made our room look great. We graciously thank Linda Gunjak and the US LST Association for our hospitality room. We had lots of visitors from other ships as they had to pass our room to get to the ballroom where many of the USLST Association functions were held.

Monday was a day of fun. We opened our reunion by lighting our candle and saying our prayer. Guess who lit the candle this year?? — My sister, Cindy! Some of you know Cindy from the San Diego reunion. Cindy and her husband, Reggie, along with sons Weston and Diego, were such fun and a big help too. It was especially fun for me and Mom to have Cindy and her family with us this year.

We had our usual business meeting and then watched last year's reunion tape(s). We had fun remembering the last years of our togetherness. Can you believe this was our 6th reunion? Where does time go?

Oh, we also found another shipmate earlier in the year, John Stanley Primmer. Stan and his wife, Beverly, live in Rockford, Washington and thanks to Duncan Robey he was found. Stan and Bev came to Philly for our reunion and it was thrilling to have them.

We broke for lunch and reconvened at 3pm for our group pictures. Then we had dinner in the room followed by game night.

This year, we added a new game—pin the tail on the donkey. It probably wasn't such a good idea—blind folding the player and then spinning them around and around. You can imagine how it turned out. Needless to say, we won't be playing that game next year. But we did play our usual fun games, the oven mitt game and LST Bingo.

Monday night was topped off

with ice cream sundaes.

Tuesday was tour day. We boarded a bus and turned our day over to our tour guide, Marquette. She was very knowledgeable about all of Philadelphia. We saw Independence Hall where the Declaration of Independence was signed, we saw the Liberty Bell, which was smaller than I had imagined it would be.

We learned something really cool there too. You know that crack in the Liberty Bell? Well, one of the LST534 shipmates actually repaired the crack in the Bell. He had a welding company and was well known for the quality of his work. The Liberty Bell was shipped to him and he fixed the crack. Try to guess who this might be (Answer on page 3.)

We got to see the Betsy Ross House and the actual room where she sat when she sewed our flag.

We visited Christ Church where many of our Founding Fathers worshipped. Cindy and Reggie actually sat in the pew of George and Martha Washington—can you imagine?

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You could feel their presence if you closed your eyes!

We had lunch at City Tavern. Here we ate as if we lived 200 years ago. Our wait staff was dressed in period uniforms and we all had a great time passing around shrub, a local drink of the time.

Wednesday morning, we had our traditional crepes prepared by our own shipmate, Chef Matthew Wachsmann. Matthew had a lot of help this year with Reggie and Cindy and Diego. It was good experience for Diego who, at 9, claims he wants to be a chef when he grows up. It was really funny—you could smell the onions, garlic, and tomatoes all the way to the hotel lobby! But we have to give Matthew big hugs for preparing our delicious crepes.

Matthew was also our guest speaker this year. Having gone to Baghdad earlier in the year, he gave an impressive view of life in Iraq. An insightful discussion ensued and it was interesting to hear the view of the LST534 veterans. We broke for lunch. In the afternoon, we packed up the room. Thanks to all who helped. It really is a group effort.

Wednesday evening was the USLST Association banquet. It's a beautiful room and everyone enjoys Andy and Rose's tomatoes and mozzarella.

Here's a few items you should know. Willie Gunn is our Scuttlebutt liaison. Send Willie anything you think might be

interesting or relevant to the LST534. Thanks, Willie, for all your efforts.

Willie Gunn
105 Bull Street
Swainsboro, GA 30401

We voted to have calendars made. They will be 2006 calendars and we will have them ready and for sale at next year's reunion. I will also put information in the newsletter and on the website. Here's the calendar girls and boys for each month:

Calendar Girls of LST534

Ms. January	Helen Cress
Ms. February	Linda Alvers Cindy Arlantico
Ms. March	Helen Kingsbury Marie LaFlower
Ms. April	Angel Riker
Ms. May	Carole Robey
Ms. June	Marian Alvers
Ms. July	Rose Cumella
Ms. August	Lory Brooks
Ms. September	Marty Gunn
Ms. October	Opal Gray
Ms. November	Beverly Primmer
Ms. December	Monica Straka

Calendar Guys of LST534

Mr. January	Duncan Robey
Mr. February	Norris Long
Mr. March	Albert Straka
Mr. April	John Primmer
Mr. May	Luther Lyles
Mr. June	Larry Gray

Mr. July	Lyle Kingsbury
Mr. August	Andy Cumella
Mr. September	Larry Lord
Mr. October	Johnny Medeiros
Mr. November	Oscar Cress
Mr. December	Willie Gunn

Beverly Primmer, lovely wife of Stan Primmer, took all our chairback covers home with her to clean them, sew them, fix them, and bring them back next year. Whew! Thanks, Bev!

And thanks to the City of Philadelphia for making our 6th reunion very memorable.

NEWS:



Captain Bob Jornlin, famed Captain of the LST325, suffered an accident on his farm on August 31, 2004. He was in intensive care in Rockford, IL for about 3 weeks. He suffered 4 broken ribs, collapsed lungs, a broken left foot and massive bruises. From lots of thoughts and prayers sent his way, he recovered and will be home by the time this newsletter reaches you.

Thoughtful cards can be sent to:
Captain Bob Jornlin
4763 East 10th Road
Earlville, IL 60518

EMAIL ADDRESSES:

Stan & Bev Primmer
bevprim@yahoo.com

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IN MEMORIUM:

Leroy Spencer Graham, 81, passed away on June 18th, 2004. Spencer was a motor machinist on board LST 534. He and Wilma with grandson David Graham and Kathy, came to our reunion in Mobile. We will miss him and pray he rests in peace.

Darleen Olson Meade, daughter of Captain Olson, passed away this May of liver disease. For several years, Darleen maintained our LST534 website. I never met Darleen in person, but I feel like a sister to her. Our prayers go out to her brother George and Lynn and to her husband Dallas Meade.

Stephen G. St. Laurent, 1916-2004, departed to Heaven on July 20th at 88 years of age. Stephen was a ship fitter on board. He was one of our biggest fans, waiting intently each quarter for the LST534 newsletter. We only wish Stephen could have made it to one of our reunions. Now he has a reunion up above.

HOLIDAYS:

OCTOBER

10 National Children's Day
11 Columbus Day Observed
24 United Nations Day
31 Daylight Savings Time Ends
31 Halloween

NOVEMBER

2 Election Day

11 Veteran's Day
25 Thanksgiving Day

DECEMBER

7 National Pearl Harbor Day
8 Hanukkah
21 Winter Begins
25 Christmas
26 Kwanzaa
31 New Year's Eve



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
9701 E. Hasket Dr.
Dayton, OH 45424-1615

November 8

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

Birthdays are good for you.
The more you have,
the longer you live.

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
145 NE 31st St.
Oak Island, NC 28465

December 20

Wayne Jens
4275 Owens Rd.
Apt 136
Evans, GA 30809

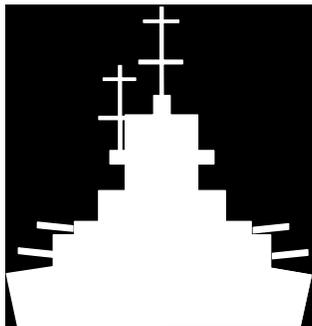
December 25

William Ayers
221 Westwood Avenue
Jackson, TN 38301



Shipmate who repaired the
Liberty Bell crack:
Lyle Kingsbury

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



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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

A blonde walks into a bank in New York City and asks for the loan officer. She's going to Europe on business for two weeks and needs to borrow \$5,000. The bank officer asks for some form of security for the loan, so the blonde hands over the keys to a new Rolls Royce. The car is parked on the street in front of the bank, she has the title and everything checks out.

The bank agrees to accept the car as collateral. The bank's president and its officers all enjoy a good laugh at her for using a \$250,000 Rolls as collateral against a \$5,000 loan. They drive the Rolls into the bank's underground garage and park it. Two weeks later, the blonde returns and repays the loan with interest, which comes to \$15.41. The loan officer says, "Miss, we are very happy to have had your business, but we are a little puzzled. We checked you out and found that you are a multimillionaire. Why would you

bother to borrow \$5,000?"

The blonde replies..... "Where else in New York City can I park my car for two weeks for only \$15.41 and expect it to be there when I return?"

Finally, a smart blonde joke.

Nautical Terms:

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

Outboard: Facing either side of the ship

Inboard: Facing toward the center of the ship

Ladders: Not stairs! Ladders!

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