

# LST534 Newsletter

January/February/March 2005

Volume 8 , Issue 1

## Military Records in 2005

Happy 2005 to everyone!!! We are now starting the eighth year of our little LST534 newsletter. Can you believe it??

As we think about the New Year, it is a good time to create a goal—one that we can accomplish. That goal would be getting all of your medals you are due. Below is a list of names, addresses and in some cases, information about how to apply for and claim such medals.

Before you apply for any medals, you must have your **military records**, including discharge papers.

A good website to visit for all of you with internet access is:

[www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

You can search Personnel Records from there. The National Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records (NPRC-MPR) is the repository of millions of military personnel, health, and medical records of discharged and deceased veterans of all services during the 20th century.

If you are a veteran or next-of-

kin of a deceased veteran, you may now use [www.vetrecs.archives.gov](http://www.vetrecs.archives.gov) to order a copy of your Standard Form 180. It includes complete instructions for preparing and submitting requests.

Please note: All requests must be in writing, signed and mailed at the address shown below.

Nat'l Personnel Records Center  
Military Personnel Records  
9700 Page Avenue  
St. Louis, MO 63132-5100

### **COMBAT ACTION RIBBONS:**

Navy and Marine Corps veterans who served in combat during or after WWII are now eligible to receive the Combat Action Ribbon (CAR). When Richard Danzig was Secretary of the Navy, he authorized this award for those who served in combat but never received a ribbon.

In order to be eligible for the CAR, veterans must have participated in ground or surface combat after December 6, 1941 but before March 1, 1961, and you must not have already have been recognized for the same participation.

Under Public Law 106-65, the Fiscal Year 2000 Defense Authorization Act, the Secretary of the Navy can award the CAR to veterans retroactively. The time period required for submission is being waived in all cases. Two blocks of time have been designated for eligibility of the CAR, WWII: December 7, 1941—April 14, 1946, and Korea: June 27, 1950—July 27, 1954. Navy veterans who served during these periods may write directly to the Navy Awards Branch:

Chief of Navy Operations  
(N09B33)  
2000 Navy Pentagon  
Washington, DC 20350-2000

Former members of the Marine Corps should send their requests to:

Commandant of the  
Marine Corps  
Headquarters US Marine Corps  
Manpower & Reserve Affairs  
Code MMMA  
3280 Russell Road  
Quantico, VA 22143-5103

The following information must be provided: Standard Form 180 Request Pertaining to

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Military Records, or cover letter with the following information: full name, SSN, service number (if applicable), period of eligibility, combat unit assigned at the time, complete dates (from/to) associated with assignments to the combat unit, and mailing address. Copy of Naval Personnel For 553 or Defense Department (DD) Form 214, D-215 (if applicable). Additional substantiating documentation (optional): copies of combat awards substantiating ground or surface combat; muster sheets or orders showing assignment to the unit for the period requested. If documentation is not available showing time served in combat unit, specify dates in your correspondence.

[www.vfwdc.org/NVS/Medal/combat\\_action\\_ribbon.htm](http://www.vfwdc.org/NVS/Medal/combat_action_ribbon.htm)

## **FRENCH FREEDOM MEDAL:**

I am told that the time frame has elapsed for obtaining this decoration, but you might try anyway.

French Freedom Medal  
Department of VA Affairs  
Records Management Center  
Box 5020  
St. Louis, MO 63115-0020

## **MILITARY RIBBONS:**

For a list of all the military ribbons of the US Navy, visit:

[www.defenselink.mil/specials/ribbons/Navy1.html](http://www.defenselink.mil/specials/ribbons/Navy1.html)

## **NEWS:**



### **REUNION 2005**

As many of you already know, the US LST Association Annual Convention will be held in Norfolk, VA August 18 to 25. Sign up early so we can all be in the main hotel together. You can sign up now and cancel later if you can't come. Call Linda Gunjak at 1-800-228-5870. The LST 534 group will meet August 21 to 25, 2005.

### **Meet "SAM" by Cindy Alvers Arlantino and Reggie Arlantino**

I wanted to let all of you know that the children's book that Reggie and I have been working on is finally finished. We will have copies available for sale in December. We will be letting you know soon how you can order the book. You can take a peek at our website that is still under construction at

[www.greeneyesstudio.com](http://www.greeneyesstudio.com)

It is a series of children's books entitled, "The Big Picture." The first book in the series is, "All About ME." An adorable character "SAM" takes you through the book. He wants to show you his world and wants the children to show him their world. It is an interactive book that allows children to place photos in the book. They do so by placing their own photos of themselves and their world on the pages in side the book.

Future titles in the series include, "Going On Vacation," "Sam's Birthday," "A Trip to the Park," and various Holiday books. We are currently working on a Halloween Pop-Up book. We invite everyone to open up and become part of "The Big Picture."

Love, Cindy and Reggie



## **IN MEMORY**

Robert J. Ware, GM2c,  
died August 6th, 2004.  
He was 78 years old.

I will always remember Robert and Louise dropping in on our reunion in Mobile. Robert was tall and walked with authority and was so happy to see his shipmates again. His wife, Louise, is one funny person. Finally Rose Cumella met her match. We are sorry to hear of Robert's passing and we send our condolences to Louise and their four children.

## **GET WELL WISHES**

Many of our shipmates have ongoing illnesses that prevent them from traveling or attending our reunions. Please say a prayer for all our shipmates.

## **HOLIDAYS**

### **January**

1	New Years Day
17	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day
30	Super Bowl Sunday

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## February

- 1 Chinese New Year
- 9 Ash Wednesday
- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 21 President's Day
- 22 Washington's Birthday
- 24 Flag Day

## March

- 17 St. Patrick's Day
- 20 First Day of Spring
- 25 Good Friday
- 27 Easter Sunday

### WHO WAS ST. PATRICK?

The person who was to become St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, was born in Wales about AD 385. His given name was Maewyn, and almost didn't become bishop of Ireland because he lacked the required scholarship.

Far from being a saint, until he was 16, he considered himself a pagan. At that age, he was sold into slavery by a group of Irish marauders that raided his village. During his captivity, he became closer to God.

He escaped from slavery after six years and went to Gaul where he studied in the monastery under St. Germain, bishop of Auxerre for twelve years. During his training he became aware that his calling was to convert the pagans to Christianity.

His wishes were to return to Ireland, to convert the native pagans to Christianity. Patrick,

having adopted that Christian name, was appointed as bishop to Ireland.

Patrick was quite successful at winning converts. He traveled throughout Ireland, establishing monasteries across the country. He also set up schools and churches which would aid him in his conversion of the Irish country to Christianity.

His mission in Ireland lasted for thirty years. After that time, Patrick retired to County Down. He died on March 17 in AD 461.

That day has been commemorated as St. Patrick's Day since.

Much Irish folklore surrounds St. Patrick's Day. Not much of it is actually substantiated. Some of this lore includes the belief that Patrick raised people from the dead. Though originally a Catholic holy day, St. Patrick's Day has evolved into more of a secular holiday.

One traditional icon of the day is the shamrock which stems from a more bona fide Irish tale that tells how Patrick used the three-leafed shamrock to explain the Trinity. He used it in his sermons to represent how the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit could all exist as separate elements of the same entity. His followers adopted the custom of wearing a shamrock on his feast day.

The St. Patrick's Day custom came to America in 1737. That

was the first year St. Patrick's Day was publicly celebrated in this country, in Boston.



## **BIRTHDAYS:**

### January 4

Ed Overstake  
2440 World Parkway Blvd. E  
#38  
Clearwater, FL 33763

### January 14

Frank Frame  
PO Box 1017  
Jal, NM 88252

### February 3

William Dox  
443 South Main Street  
PO Box 756  
Massena, NY 13662

### February 13

Captain's son, George Olson, Jr.  
786 Seely Avenue  
Aromas, CA 95004

### March 14

Salvatore Logano  
101 High Street  
PO Box 144  
Portland, CT 06480-1656

### March 26

Willie Gunn  
105 Bull Street  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

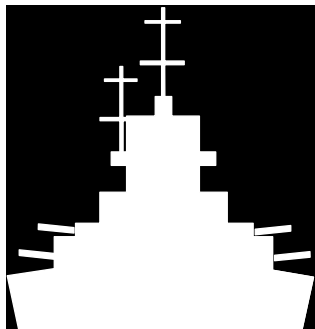
### April 1

Angelo Cumella  
11 Freeport Court  
Toms River, NJ 08757

### April 14

Alex Fielder  
5950 Ambassador Drive  
Fairfield, OH 45014

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



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.

### THE IMPORTANCE OF EXERCISE:

(from the internet)

My grandmother started walking five miles a day when she was 60! Now she's 97 and we don't know where the heck she is.

The only reason I would take up exercising is so that I could hear heavy breathing again.

I like long walks, especially when they are taken by people that annoy me.

I have flabby thighs, but fortunately my stomach covers them.

### Nautical Terms:

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

**Padre**—Affectionate slang for chaplain

**Peacoat**—Enlisted men's' top coat.

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