

# LST534 Newsletter

April/May/June 2006

Volume 9 , Issue 2

## LST Week "06" in Evansville

**Message from Mike Whicker**  
(Reprinted from USS LST Ship Memorial Website):

LST Week 2006  
Posted 16 March 2006

TO: All in the LST and/or Amphibious Community

You are hereby ordered to report to Evansville, Indiana, for LST Week 2006! From September 5th thru 9th, Evansville will travel back in time and become a homefront city in 1943. Just some of the events planned are:

- \* LST/Amphib reception at Casino Aztar (Sept. 6)
- \* LST/Amphib reception on LST 325 (Sept. 7)
- \* LST/Amphib banquet at Executive Inn (\$25 on Sept. 8)
- \* Discussion forum about the future of the LST/Amphib community
- \* Local radio station to broadcast only music of WWII that entire week
- \* Actor portraying President Roosevelt to give speech on LST
- \* Tours of the Reitz Home Museum: docents will be in 1940s dress for LST Week

\* Tours of Evansville Museum of Art, History, and Science (a fantastic LST display)

\* Visit to the monument erected at the WWII Evansville Shipyard site where 167 LSTs were built

\* General George Patton re-enactor to visit LST

\* WWII re-enactments

\* WWII military vehicles on display

\* Possible LCVP — Higgins boat — rides on Ohio River (subject to approval)

Conventioneers should feel free to come for the entire week or just the days of their choosing.

A block of rooms at a special rate is secured for LST/Amphib conventioneers at the Executive Inn in Evansville. Call toll free 1-877-424-0888 for reservations. Tell them you're coming for the LST festivities. You can access information about the hotel at [the website www.executiveinnevansville.com](http://www.executiveinnevansville.com).

For reservations to the September 8th banquet call the LST office at 1-812-435-8678 or email [LST325@mikewhicker.com](mailto:LST325@mikewhicker.com).

LST Week 2006 is sure to be the most fun LST/Amphib gathering of all time!

Join us for this extra special event.

Mike Whicker

Log on to [www.lst325shipmemorial.org](http://www.lst325shipmemorial.org) for continued updates about LST Week in Evansville.

### **NEWS:**



#### Time Capsule

Unfortunately, I received very few items for inclusion in a time capsule for LST534. Not all ideas are good ideas, I suppose. And for some reason, the time capsule doesn't seem to be an idea that you shipmates embraced. Considering the cost involved for pulling off the event, it became clear to me that we needed to cancel the event. Therefore, LST534 will have no time capsule this year. I have notified the museum in Evansville and thanked them for their interest.

# LST534 Newsletter

## D-Day Museum in New Orleans

Just what happened to the D-Day Museum after Hurricane Katrina? ( Reprinted from www.ddaymuseum.org):

With cheers from an enthusiastic crowd and the “boom” of WWII artillery, the National D-Day Museum reopened to visitors on Saturday, December 3 after being closed for 93 days following Hurricane Katrina. The Museum has been designated by Congress as the country’s National World War II Museum and is the only national museum in the region.

Museum President and CEO Dr. Gordon H. “Nick” Mueller called the day a great occasion for the Museum and another important step toward the rebuilding of our city and the tourism industry. He affirmed that The National D-Day Museum will continue its planned expansion over the next several years. When completed, the Museum campus will occupy three full blocks in downtown’s Warehouse and Arts District.

Joining Dr. Mueller for the ribbon-cutting and welcoming remarks were Vice-Admiral Thad Allen, appointed by the President as Chief of the federal hurricane recovery effort in the Gulf South; David Voelker, Chairman of the Museum Board of Trustees; Major General David Mize [USMC,Ret.], Chairman of the Mayor’s Military Advisory Council; Jacquelyn Brechtel Clarkson, Museum Trustee and

City Councilmember; and Thomas Krentel, representing the The Gloria Shearin Smith and Ivy A. Smith, Jr. Charitable Trust which generously underwrote the day’s free admission and special activities. Bill Detweiler, former Museum Trustee and Past National Commander of the American Legion, served as Master of Ceremonies.

Archbishop Philip Hannan, a WWII veteran of the storied 82d Airborne Division, gave a stirring invocation and Tech Sgt. Kenneth Hollins of the Louisiana Air National Guard led the National Anthem before the crowds of visitors poured in beneath a Museum banner proclaiming “We Have Returned” with the classic WWII photograph of Gen. Douglas MacArthur striding through the surf.

Enthusiastic visitors toured the exhibition galleries and participated in the many special activities throughout the day. Children and parents enjoyed such hands-on projects as Morse Coding, building models of the famous Higgins Boat D-Day landing craft and poster-making. Adults and children alike posed in frames of famous WWII posters “Uncle Sam Wants You” and “We Can Do It!”

The Museum’s Director of Research Martin Morgan gave a fascinating briefing on Pearl Harbor, wearing an authentic period military uniform.

Michael G. Walling spoke about the Coast Guard’s critical role in the Battle of the Atlantic and autographed his book, Bloodstained Sea.

Veterans for the USS St. Louis, the WWII light cruiser that was at Pearl Harbor, presented a model of the ship and the flag from December 7, 1941 to the Museum.

A highlight of the afternoon was a concert by Rocky’s Hot Fox Trot Orchestra, playing the swinging sounds of the WWII era. Visitors cut a rug to such tunes as “It Don’t Mean A Thing If It Ain’t Got That Swing,” “Don’t Sit Under the Apple Tree with Anyone Else But Me,” “the A-Train” and “Boogie-Woogie Bugle Boy.”

With its reopening The National D-Day Museum begins new days and hours for the months ahead:

Tuesdays and Wednesdays 10-6  
Thursdays and Fridays noon – 8  
Saturdays 10-6  
Closed Sundays & Mondays

## US LST Convention

The US LST Association will hold its annual reunion this year in Nashville, Tennessee from August 31 to September 5, 2006. The headquarter hotel is the Sheraton Nashville Downtown Hotel. For further information, contact Linda Gunjak at 800-228-5870.

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## In observance of Memorial Day

Here are some tidbits about the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier **guard detail**. (Reprinted from the web):

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the Tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why? 21 seconds for the same reason as the 21 steps.

3. Why are his gloves wet? His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not? He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face, and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed? Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to? For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5'10" and 6'2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30".

Other requirements:

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

## HOLIDAYS:

### April

1 April Fools Day  
9 Nat'l Former POW  
Recognition Day  
22 Earth Day

### May

1 May Day  
5 Cinco de Mayo  
14 Mother's Day  
20 Armed Forces Day  
29 Memorial Day

### June

14 Flag Day  
18 Father's Day

## GET WELL WISHES

Several shipmates need our thoughts, prayers, and love.

Alex Fielder is now in a nursing home. We need to think of Alex

and his wife Betty and their entire family during this time.

Also, Duncan Robey is now home, recovering from a small stroke. Please send get well wishes to Duncan and send your energy to Carole.

We wish all our shipmates and their families good health.



## BIRTHDAYS:

### April 1

Andy Cumella  
11 Freeport Court  
Toms River, NJ 08757

### April 14

Alex Fielder  
5950 Ambassador Drive  
Fairfield, OH 45014

### May 17

Duncan Robey  
8301 Tieton Drive, #87  
Yakima, WA 98908

### May 17

Jim Miller  
1452 S. Ellsworth Rd., # 2211  
Mesa, AZ 85208

### July 8

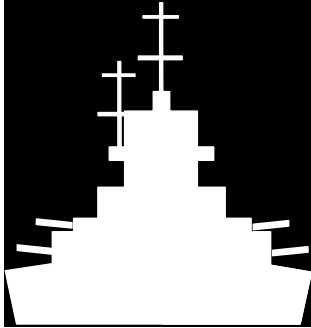
Lyle Kingsbury  
3878 Claremont Rd.  
Charlestown, NH 03603

### July 11

Bill McAndrew  
P.O. Box 781546  
Wichita, KS 67278-1546



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**LST534**

## LST534 Newsletter

### Just for Fun

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

#### The Importance of Exercise:

Walking can add minutes to your life. This enables you at 85 years old to spend an additional 5 months in a nursing home at \$5,000 per month.

I joined a health club last year, spent about 400 bucks. Haven't lost a pound. Apparently, you have to go there.

I have to exercise early in the morning before my brain figures out what I'm doing.

The advantage of exercising every day is that you die healthier.

If you're going to go cross-country skiing, start with a small country.

#### **Nautical Terms:**

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

*Contributed by Willie Gunn.*

Eyes in the boat—Keeping your eyes looking straight ahead without looking around.

Belly Robber—Navy cooks.

#### **Editor and Comments:**

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