

# LST534 Newsletter

October/November/December 2007

Volume 10 , Issue 4

## LST Week 2007

Evansville, Indiana was again the host of LST Week 2007. Over 1,000 attendees arrived in town to participate in a well-planned and executed convention.

The highlight for many was a well-deserved ride on the LST325. The LST325 made three trips sailing down river, turning around, and sailing back for a memory visit for 45 minutes. For most of the sailors on board it was a once in a lifetime event. They took pictures, toured the ship and told many old sea stories.

For me, it was yet another piece of this emotional puzzle. Of course, I've been on board the ship many times. But to actually sail on her, like my Dad did, was a tremendous treat.

I envisioned what each of you were doing some 67 years ago. Be it on the weather deck, the tank deck, the radio room, the engine room, or the galley—I walked around and said, "This is where my Dad worked; this is where Andy cooked; this is where Ed Overstake sent signals, and so on." Each of you

entered my mind and there I was, on board—it could easily have been LST534.

There was no rocking back and forth as the river was quite calm that late September day.

To hear Captain Jorlin instruct the men to loosen ties and assume positions gave me goose bumps. Just like during WWII, the volunteers took orders and went to work, hoisting ramps and tying ropes.

Thanks goes out to all the men who volunteered to work so hard that day to bring such thrills to our Veterans. Bravo Zulu to you.

The sail was not the only event at LST Week. Buses took veterans and their families to museums and malls and lots of trips to the ship.

The members' reception was held on deck and a "General Patton" look-alike came aboard standing up in a Jeep. He gave an educational and entertaining re-enactment of General Patton addressing his troops. Lois Jorlin, the Captain's wife, provided

delicious hors d'oeuvres and there was a cash bar. It was a fun reception to kick off LST Week 2007.

Many events took place on board. Indiana Lt. Governor Becky Skillman addressed the crowd with a targeted and thoughtful speech, relating LSTs to winning the war, and Evansville's place in history. Afterwards, she mingled with the LST Veterans and took a tour of the ship.

During her tour, I was down in the engine room with Jim Bartlett. I had interviewed Jim for the documentary so we went to the engine room, "for old time's sake." Guess who arrives in the Engine Room—you guessed it—Indiana Lt. Governor Becky Skillman. It was really awesome that she took such interest in an LST.

The Lt. Governor truly seems to appreciate veterans. She has spearheaded an effort to send Christmas greetings to our troops overseas and invited us all to participate. It is called Hoosier Cheer for our Heroes. I told her I would extend that invitation to the LST534

# LST534 Newsletter

newsletter folks. So here's how you can send greetings to the troops:

Office of Lt. Gov. Becky Skillman  
c/o Molly Fausset  
200 West Washington Street  
Suite 333  
Indianapolis, IN 46204

Or log onto [www.indiana.gov](http://www.indiana.gov) and click on Lt. Governor Becky Skillman, then click on Hoosier Cheer for our Heroes.

You can send your good wishes by email to [lg@lg.in.gov](mailto:lg@lg.in.gov). Be sure to put "Hoosier Cheer for our Heroes" in your subject line.

The banquet this year was really pretty. The room was huge and set for all 1,000 attendees. The Honorable Jonathan Weinzapfle, Mayor of Evansville, Indiana was the guest speaker. Mayor Weinzapfle has been a big supporter of WWII veterans and was instrumental in bringing LST325 to Evansville. He also helped to support building the dock for the ship to berth. The crowd appreciated hearing the Mayor's vision for the future.

All in all, it was a wonderful week in Evansville, Indiana. That was due in large part by Mike Whicker, Executive Director of the LST Ship Memorial. Mike assembled the largest fleet of volunteers who masterfully performed their duties with a smile. Thanks goes out to Mike and to all the volunteers who made LST Week 2007 a smashing success.

## News:



### Tomb of the Unknown Soldier In Honor of Veteran's Day

- 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.
- How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?*  
21 seconds for the same reason.
- Why are his gloves wet?*  
To prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.
- Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time, and if not, why not?*  
The rifle is carried on the shoulder away from the tomb. After marching across the path, he executes an about face and moves it to the outside shoulder.
- How often are the guards changed?*  
Every thirty minutes, 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.
- What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?*
  - ◆ To apply for guard duty, he must be between 5'10" and 6'2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30".
  - ◆ He must commit to 2 years, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink alcohol on or off duty for the rest of his life.

- ◆ He cannot swear in public for the rest of his life and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.
- ◆ After 2 years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on the 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 his life or give up the wreath pin.
- ◆ The shoes are specially made with thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.
- ◆ There are no wrinkles or folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.
- ◆ The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are President Taft, Joe E. Lewis, the boxer, and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII, of Hollywood fame.
- ◆ Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

### New Address

Fred Maddix  
4429 Grandview Drive  
Ashland, KY 41101-6333

# LST534 Newsletter

## In Memoriam



### Odell Walter Hill, MoMM2c

Alice Hill, Odell's wife of 65 years, wrote me in August to tell me of Odell's passing. He died of congestive heart failure on May 21, 2007. Odell and Alice were only 5 weeks away from celebrating 66 years of marriage.

Before Odell passed on, he asked Alice to send me some information on a shipmate, Henry S. Gray. Henry Gray was a MoMM also and was on board in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

Some of you who went to the reunion in Chicago will remember Odell and Alice Hill. They have two children. Their daughter accompanied them to the banquet that year.

In saying goodbye to Odell, we wish him to rest in peace.

### David W. Pollack, MoMM2c

Dave Pollack has also passed on. His wife Virginia told me he died suddenly at home on January 12, 2006. They were married 59 years. Dave and Virginia had four children and most of them live nearby to their home in Ohio. Virginia said she was grateful he died suddenly and did not suffer or be in a nursing home.

Dave was also a MotorMac. May he rest in peace.

### Edward J. Holt, SM2c

Ed Holt, 81, Norwich CT, passed away on Wednesday August 22, 2007. Ed was married to Adelaide "Gus" Brinkman in 1979. Ed was a veteran of WWII and served in the Navy from 1943 to 1946. He worked at Pfizer in Groton, CT for 34 years before retiring in 1982 and moving to Florida. Ed was a past master of the Masons as well as a member of the Niantic, CT American Legion. He was an avid golfer, camper and loved watching baseball. Besides his wife, he is survived by a daughter, son, two brothers, a sister, four grandchildren, four step-children, and one step-grandchild.

Ed was buried in Niantic, CT with a full military funeral. Donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association of CT.

## HOLIDAYS:

### OCTOBER

8 Columbus Day  
31 Halloween

### NOVEMBER

4 Daylight Saving Time Ends  
6 Election Day  
11 Veteran's Day  
22 Thanksgiving Day

### DECEMBER

6 National Pearl Harbor Day  
22 Winter Begins  
25 Christmas  
31 New Year's Eve



## BIRTHDAYs:

### 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  
4429 Grandview Drive  
Ashland, KY 41101-6333

### November 11

Albert Straka  
643 Foothill Road  
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

### November 27

George Popham  
6575 Juniper Drive  
Missoula, MT 59802

### December 5

Norris Long  
Ocean Trail Nursing & Rehab  
630 N. Fodale Ave.  
P.O. Box 10249  
Southport, NC 28461

### December 20

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

### December 25

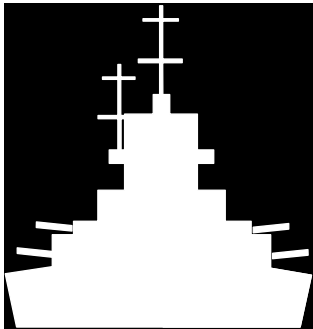
William Ayers  
221 Westwood Avenue  
Jackson, TN 38301-4321



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

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**LST534**

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# Just for Fun

Reprinted from The Exchange, Aug 2004

1. What clothing does a house wear? **Address**
2. What do you get when you saw a comedian in two? **A half wit**
3. If you were pushed down a flight of stairs, what would you fall against? **Your will**
4. What should you always keep because no one else wants it? **Your temper**
5. What flies when it's on and floats when it's off? **A feather**
6. What question can you never answer "yes" to? **"Are you sleeping?"**
7. What kind of bell doesn't ring? **A dumbbell**
8. What can you always find in the middle of a taxicab? **The letter "i"**
9. What sickness can you get from a mattress? **Spring fever**
10. What do you call a man when a Marine sits on him? **A submarine**
11. Born at the same time as the world, destined to live as long as the world, but never five weeks old. What is it? **The moon**
12. What do we all put off until tomorrow? **Our clothes**

### Nautical Terms:

**Draft**—Vertical distance from waterline to lowest part of ship's bottom.

**List**—When ship is out of balance.

### **Editor and Comments:**

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**New York, NY 10019**  
**1.800.237.1224**