

# LST534 Newsletter

July/August/September 2009

Volume 11 , Issue 3

## The First Annual Scholarship Recipient

In 2008 I was approached by a grade school friend of mine, Amy Walker to help fund scholarships for the Public Education Foundation of Evansville. I am a native of Evansville, Indiana and wanted to help out high school graduates realize their dream of going to college. As Amy talked about the initiative, it occurred to me that I could set up a scholarship and tie its mission to the LST World and to honor my Dad at the same time. If you remember, I talked about establishing the scholarship in the first issue of this year's newsletter.

I am proud to share with you the good news that this process is working. We now have our first scholarship recipient. His name is Max Carnahan.

One of the criteria for the scholarship was to write an essay why you want the scholarship and what you learned. Max gave me

permission to reprint his essay in this issue of our newsletter.

In his own words, I present to you, the first "History of the LST/LST534 Scholarship" recipient, Max Carnahan.

---

Max Carnahan  
Reitz High School Senior  
Evansville, Indiana  
12 April 2009

### *From Obligation to Service*

My high school requires a senior project from all of its seniors that spans the entire senior year. The first grading period requires a formal proposal detailing a service-learning project and explaining how it would be a learning stretch for the student. The second grading period requires that the student write a research paper related to the proposal in some way. The third grading period requires that students complete the

project with a minimum of fifteen service hours, and the fourth grading period requires a formal presentation to members of the community about the experience.

I wanted my senior project to relate to something I was interested in—history. After some thought, I decided Evansville's LST would be a perfect project for me. I thought I could volunteer to assist with tours and general cleaning followed by leading tours on my own. It would require some volunteer hours on the ship and my willingness to listen and know enough interesting details to lead an effective and memorable tour. So, I made my formal proposal and it was approved. Shortly thereafter, I started my project.

I knew I had to complete a minimum of fifteen volunteer hours relating to the project. As I completed my hours I

# LST534 Newsletter

found my attitude changing from one of obligation to one of service. The personal stories shared by many of the older volunteers, my family connection to World War II, and my belief that the LST is an active memorial are the components that changed the project from "something I had to do" to "something I got to do."

First of all, the veterans who volunteered from the Evansville area were incredible. They eagerly welcomed me and gave me a tour of the ship. The tour included details about how the ship was built, what certain parts of the ship were designed for, and the ship's role during World War II. I found myself engrossed in the details and the stories. I worried that I would not be able to remember enough details to give a good tour, but I guess my interest in history overpowered my worries because I remembered each detail. I implemented their moving stories into my tours because it made the tour so much more satisfying and real.

Second, my LST project reignited my interest in all my family members who served. My grandfather had been a medic in World War II

who fought in the jungles of Okinawa. His brothers, my great uncles, were also in the war. My grandfathers oldest brother worked on planes in India, and the other brother had been an air force fighter who flew more than one hundred missions during World War II. My grandfather and his brothers have all passed away, but the stories of the volunteer veterans helped me form a new respect for my family members who had served in World War II. It was thought-provoking to think that I will soon graduate high school and face the decision of what college to attend, while my grandfather at the same point in his life was faced with basic training and going overseas to fight in a world war. My time on the LST really helped me better understand the familiar saying freedom is not free.

Third, a tour of the LST makes history come alive for those who visit the ship. It is one thing to read and see pictures of something, but it is another thing to walk on and feel and see what is being written about. Being on the LST made a deeper connection than any commemorative book or presentation could have made. The size, the color,

the weight, the sounds of the ship have found a spot in my brain that will never leave. I have a gift of understanding that I did not have before about monuments. Their importance is often overlooked, but I will communicate readily to anyone who would argue that monuments are not worth the effort people put into them.

In reflection, my senior project started out as another course requirement for high school graduation, but it now ranks as one of the most satisfying projects I completed in school. I hope to continue to volunteer, to visit other monuments so that I can experience the same level of firsthand knowledge that I received on the LST, and to financially support our veterans and the monuments that remind us of the sacrifice involved in freedom and safety.

My LST volunteer experience was memorable, significant and worthwhile.



# LST534 Newsletter

## Independence Day— Patriotism Prevails & Our Nation is Born

### DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

On July 4, 1776, the Continental Congress ratified the Declaration of Independence, the document in which thirteen colonies declared their independence from Great Britain and became known as the United States of America.

John Adams (2nd U.S. President), spoke of this day—Independence Day, as being, “The most memorable epoch in the history of America...it will be celebrated by succeeding generations as the great anniversary festival...It ought to be solemnized with pomp and parade with shows, games, sports, guns, bells, bonfires, and illuminations, from one end of this continent to the other, from this time forward forever more”.

### THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Throughout the 1750's and 1760's, tensions rose between Great Britain and her thirteen North American colonies, due to the colonial struggle against the economic and political policies of Britain. The result: a breakout of fighting in 1775 at Lexington and Concord. This marked the beginning of the American Revolutionary War (1775-1783), also known as the American War of Independence.

At the start of the war, the Americans were without a regular army or “standing army”, but each colony traditionally had its own de-

fenses through a local militia. Seeking to coordinate military efforts and increase patriotic force, the Continental Congress established the Continental Army in June 1775, and appointed George Washington as commander-in-chief.

After the American victory at Saratoga in 1777, France, Spain, and the Netherlands entered the war against Great Britain. A naval victory in the Chesapeake led to the surrender of a British Army at Yorktown in 1781, which crushed political support in London. Ultimately, the Treaty of Paris in 1783 was signed and recognized the independence of the United States...Patriotism prevailed and our independence was won!

### HOLIDAY CUSTOMS

Independence Day is the only holiday that celebrates the United States as a whole. American across the country patriotically come together with family & friends at parades, barbecues, picnics, sporting events, fireworks and more!!

*Credit for article: VetFriends.com*

### LABOR DAY

Labor Day is observed annually in honor of working people on the first Monday in September in all the states and territories, including Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands. The day was originally conceived in 1882 by Peter J. McGuire, the radical founder and indefatigable warrior of the Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of New York. On May 8 McGuire

proposed to New York City Central Labor Union that the first Monday in September, because it fell midway between the Fourth of July and Thanksgiving, be set aside annually as a “labor day.” On June 28, 1894 by an Act of Congress, Labor Day became a national holiday celebrated on the first Monday in September.

*Credit for article to John R. Commons.*

### HOLIDAYS:

#### July

- 4 Independence Day
- 26 Parents Day



#### August

- 7 Purple Heart Day
- 21 Senior Citizen Day



#### September

- 7 Labor Day
- 11 Patriot Day
- 22 Autumn Begins



### BIRTHDAYS:

#### August 16

Luther Lyles  
2407 Reynolds Road  
Wauchula, FL 33873

#### August 23

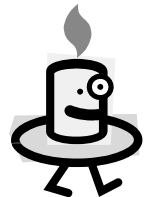
Sammie Porter  
5813 Seminole Ct.  
Oklahoma City, OK  
73132

#### September 1

John Stanley Primmer  
19410 East Cameron Road  
Rockford, WA 99030

#### September 11

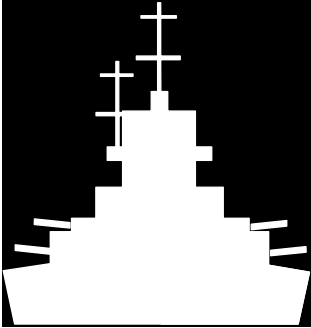
Myron W. Pully, Jr.  
63 Yorktown Road  
Newport News, VA 23603



---

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

---



**LST534**

---

## LST534 Newsletter

### Just for Fun

Computers will never take the place of books. You can't stand on a floppy disk to reach a high shelf.

Hard work spotlights the character of people; some turn up their sleeves, some turn up their noses and some don't turn up at all.

What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? Frostbite

*From the Collin County Coffee News & Kandy Steinfurth*

### NAUTICAL TERMS

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

Fathom - Six feet.

Heading—The direction in which a vessel's bow points at any given time.

Jetty—A structure, usually masonry, projecting out from the shore; a jetty may protect a harbor entrance.

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