

LST534 Newsletter

October, November, December 2009

Volume 11 , Issue 4

Wounded Warriors Project

I was introduced to the Wounded Warriors Project by a friend of mine who owns a horse ranch in the great big state of Texas. I was having dinner with this family at an event in San Antonio. In general conversation, I learned that every year they bring a group of "Wounded Warriors" to the ranch. They house them, put them to work and feed them. I found myself blown away by what I imagined to be an incredible responsibility. But oh, my friends chimed in, the honor is ours. We are so moved by the camaraderie, the respect, the dedication, the love, of our honored guests that they have for us and our country.

I found myself wishing I owned a horse farm in Texas.

I then listened one night to Bill O'Reilly on Fox News talk about helping the Wounded Warriors Project. So I went online to learn a little bit about this group.

WOUNDED WARRIOR PROJECT:

The Wounded Warrior Project (WWP) was founded on the principle that veterans are our nation's greatest citizens. The

WWP seeks to assist those men and women of our armed forces who have been severely injured during the conflicts in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other locations around the world. Many of the injuries are traumatic amputations, gunshot wounds, burns, and blast injuries that will retire these brave warriors from military service.

From the battlefield to their bedside, WWP is there to meet the needs of our wounded heroes: We provide them with unique programs and services. We raise awareness and enlist public support.

We provide a means for veterans to help each other.

Wounded Warrior Project is a nonprofit organization.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the Wounded Warrior Project is to *honor and empower wounded warriors.*

PURPOSE

- To raise awareness and enlist the public's aid for the needs of severely injured service men and women.

- To help severely injured service members aid and assist each other, and

- To provide unique, direct programs and services to meet the needs of severely injured service members.

CORE VALUES

- **Fun** - Enjoying what we are doing is paramount to the continued success of WWP's efforts.

- **Integrity** - Integrity and ethics are woven into the core of WWP.

- **Loyalty** - Unquestioned loyalty to our wounded warriors provides the foundation for what WWP is as an organization.

- **Innovation** - WWP's growth depends on the innovative and "outside the box" thinking with regard to new programs and approaches to helping our wounded warriors.

- **Service** - WWP strives to always provide the utmost in service to our warriors, alumni and donors.

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HISTORY

Wounded Warrior Project began when several individuals took small, inspired actions to help others in need.

One night while watching the evening news, a group of veterans and brothers were moved by the difficult stories of the first wounded service members returning home from Afghanistan and Iraq. They realized then and there that **something needed to be done for these brave individuals beyond the brass bands and ticker tape parades.**

The resulting objective was to provide tangible support for the severely wounded and help them on the road to healing, both physically and mentally. What had been initially viewed as a small contribution (compared with what the warriors had sacrificed while serving our country) has become WWP's signature program: "WWP backpacks delivered bedside to wounded warriors."

VOLUNTEER AT LOCAL EVENTS

Many of our events use volunteers to help with set-up, registration, clean up, handing out prizes, etc. If you would like to volunteer your time at an event in your area, please refer to our **calendar of events**. If there is something you would like more information about, please fill out our **volunteer form** and tell us which event you would like more information about. We will get

back with you as soon as possible with the details or contact information of the event coordinator.

For More Information contact:

www.woundedwarriorproject.org

Ph. 877-832-6997

When my family and I stuffed the first backpacks for wounded warriors five years ago in our home in Roanoke, Virginia, we never guessed one small gesture would grow into the organization WWP has become. Despite our growth, we remain committed to the ideal on which WWP was founded- one service member helping another. If there's any way WWP can assist you and fulfill the mission to honor and empower wounded warriors, please don't hesitate to let us know.

All the best,

John Melia
Executive Director
Wounded Warrior Project



So, if any of you out there can bring in one or more wounded veterans to help them get back on their feet, what are you waiting for? Believe me, the wounded warriors are getting help from you, but you will be amazed at what these fine folks can and will do for you in return. As if they haven't already given enough. Thanks goes out to all veterans and active duty military personnel all over the world.



NEWS

Luther Curtis Lyles has a new phone number: 863-448-1195.

My Mom and Family

Albert Straka, SK1c, called me the other day and asked how my mom was doing. He said he calls around shipmates who always end up asking him "How is Linda and her mom?" Albert suggested I drop you a line every now and then updating you on my mom.

Marian Alvers is an adorable 88 year old. She is healthy and happy and continues living on her own in midtown Manhattan. In the summer she makes jelly; yummy jelly in all kinds of flavors, grape, blueberry, raspberry and so on. All year long she makes greeting cards. Some of you have been the recipient of her cards. They really are beautiful and unique.

In her apartment building, she is lovingly and simply called "Mama". Even the other tenants know her as "Mama". She is very friendly with the locals at the pet store, dry cleaners, and corner store. She daily chats up the post woman while she stuffs mailboxes with lots of mail. She keeps in touch with her family and friends, mostly by phone. She is the proud grandmother of 2 grandkids that live about as far away from her as they can get and still be in the US. She does not have a computer and doesn't want one.

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She keeps up with the news and often discusses current events with me that I have not had time to hear or read. I'm grateful for that. I'm lucky to be able to have lunch with her most days if I'm in town. She makes sure we adhere to our 5 fruits or vegetables a day, and I deeply appreciate that.

She has macular degeneration in both eyes, although one eye is better than the other. Her magnifying glasses are never too far away. We enjoy breakfast with each other on Sunday mornings, again, if I'm in NY. I have been traveling an awful lot this past year. We go to the local diner, sit down and they automatically deliver our breakfast. We then fight the urge to claim we are in a rut, and instead label that as being uniquely New York.

She's up early every morning and goes to bed around 10:30 PM. She never takes a nap, and she says she never dreams. I'm amazed at that because I am as busy at night in my dreams as I am during the day.

She's lucky to enjoy New York City and its special moments. This year she watched the 4th of July fireworks while sitting on her terrace with some friends of mine who stopped by. Of course, I was out of town.

So that's the latest on my mom. Thanks for asking.

HOLIDAYS

October

- 12 Columbus Day
- 24 United Nations Day
- 31 Halloween



November

- 1 Daylight Savings Time Ends (set clock back 1 hour)
- 3 Election Day
- 11 Veterans Day
- 26 Thanksgiving



December

- 7 National Pearl Harbor Day
- 12 Hanukkah
- 21 Winter Begins
- 25 Christmas
- 31 New Year's Eve



7 WONDERS

NEW WONDERS OF THE WORLD

1. Great Wall of China
2. India's Taj Mahal
3. Brazil's Statue of Christ the Redeemer
4. Peru's Machu Picchu
5. Mexico's Mayan Ruins at Chichen Itza
6. The Colosseum in Rome
7. Jordan's Ancient City of Petra

The only remaining wonder of the world in today's encyclopedia: Giza Pyramid Complex in Egypt.

OFFICE TIDBIT

Remember Shailee, my office assistant who helped at the LST reunion parties? Shailee left my employ two years ago to go to medical school to become a doctor. In the two years she has been gone she has gotten married and

is expecting a little boy the first week of October. We are all excited to welcome the baby.

BIRTHDAYS

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 11

Albert Straka
643 Foothill Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

November 27

George Popham
6375 Juniper Drive
Missoula, MT 59802

December 5

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

December 20

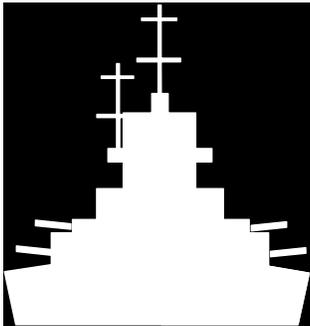
Wayne Jens
4275 Owens Rd.
Apt. 136
Evans, GA 30809

December 25

William Ayers
221 Westwood Ave
Jackson, TN 38301-4321



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New York, New York 10019



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Just for Fun

Two blondes living in Oklahoma were sitting on a bench talking, and one blonde says to the other "Which do you think is farther away...Florida or the moon?"

The other blonde turns and says Helloooo, can you see Florida???

A blonde pushes her BMW into a gas station. She tells the mechanic it died. After he works on it for a few minutes, it is idling smoothly. She says "What's the story?" He replies "Just crap in the carburetor." She asks, "How often do I have to do that?"

Credit: "Circulating on the Internet"

NAUTICAL TERMS

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

Abaft - Toward the rear (stern) of the boat.
Behind

Flare - The outward curve of a vessel's side near the bow. A distress signal

Windward - Toward the direction from which the wind is coming.

Editor and Comments:
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