

LST534 Newsletter

October, November, December 2012

Volume 15 , Issue 4

THE REUNIONS LIVE ON

I recently decided that my storage units bills were getting too high, so I called my sister and said, "Let's have a yard sale".



She said bring it on. So I shipped all of my 'stuff' to California, to my sister's back yard. I spent two weeks in late August with my sister, my Mom and my brother-in-law, cleaning out boxes and unpacking furniture. We went through box after box of items, and had a joyous trip down memory lane.

However, when we came upon a box full of LST534 items, we started making a pile. That pile grew and grew. We had plastic anchors and paper portholes; fish nets and crepe paper; balloons and decorations. We had home made nautical chair back covers. There was an architectural drawing of the LST. We had LST Bingo and The Oldy Weds Games. Not to mention the large oil painting of my Dad appearing in Heaven over an LST.

At first I did not know what to do

with these things. They had fulfilled their mission in life many times over. How many of us remember the evenings of decorating our reunion room? How we remember the fun and games and ice cream night. And our respect and reverence during our candle ceremony.

Remember the cookbooks and the calendars? Those calendars were the best. The sexy men and women of LST534.

As I crawled back through the memories of ten wonderful reunions, it occurred to me that these items could live on. Maybe the LST Ship Memorial would want to enjoy them. I reached out to Lois Jornlin, Captain Jornlin's wife with that question. I also asked her about the large painting of my Dad. I explained to her that I always cry when I look at that picture. Ron had it commissioned for me shortly after my father passed away. I took one look at it and cried for hours. I cannot explain my reaction to that picture, I only know that that I do not want it hanging in my life.

Captain Jornlin and Lois attended some of our reunions, so she was acutely aware of the possible items I was describing to her. I waited a few days and then I heard from her. This is her email response:

Linda,

As far as I am concerned, we would love to have these things. Can always use for decorating for reunion (did not have one this year but will sometime again in the future) or special occasions/receptions on the ship. Asked the office gal (Wanda) and she said they can find room to store. The cookbooks can sell in the store. As for the picture we would be honored to accept it. It could represent all LST sailors.

After I got this email, I cried. To think that my Dad's picture could hang and represent all LST sailors who have passed on was priceless. What an honor for my Dad, my family, and for the LST 534 family.

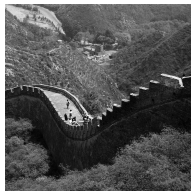
Thanks goes out to Lois Jornlin, Captain Jornlin, the LST Ship Memorial Board of Directors and the gift shop manager, Ms. Wanda Engstrom. Thanks for appreciating and loving our LST reunion decorations as much as we did. It was the best of times and will now live on to be appreciated by many.

PS: I just got word that the cookbooks have all sold and the money went to the gift shop. They were very thrilled with the sale of the cookbooks. So our little reunion stuff has already done good.

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News:

The Great Wall of China



The first-ever measurement of the Great Wall of China has determined that it is 13,173 miles

long.

The Wall was built more than 2,200 years ago, spans 15 provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities. The survey was jointly conducted by the State Administration of Cultural Heritage and the State Bureau of Surveying and Mapping.

Oldest Survivor of Bataan Death March dies at 105.



A doctor once told Albert Brown he shouldn't expect to make it to 50, given the toll taken by his years in a Japanese labor camp during World War II and the infamous, often-deadly march that got him there. But the former dentist made it to 105, embodying the power of a positive spirit in the face of inordinate odds.

"Doc" Brown was nearly 40 in 1942 when he endured the

Bataan Death March, a harrowing 65-mile trek in which 78,000 prisoners of war were forced to walk from Bataan province near Manila to a Japanese POW camp. As many as 11,000 died along the way. Many were denied food, water and medical care, and those who stumbled or fell during the scorching journey through Philippine jungles were stabbed, shot or beheaded.

But Brown survived and secretly documented it all, using a nub of a pencil to scrawl details into a tiny tablet he concealed in the lining of his canvas bag. He often wondered why captives so much younger and stronger perished, while he went on.

Brown's account described the torment that came about every mile as the marchers passed wells U.S. troops dug for natives but weren't allowed to drink from once they became prisoners. Filipinos who tried to throw fruit to the marchers frequently were killed.

Brown remained in a POW camp from early 1942 until mid-September 1945, living solely on rice. The once-athletic man — he lettered in baseball, football, basketball and track in high school — saw his weight whither by some 80 pounds to less than 100 by the time he was freed. Lice and disease were rampant. He studied dentistry at Creighton University in the 1920s and was called to active duty in 1937, leaving behind a wife, children and a decade-old dental practice his war injuries prevented him from resuming.

By the time the war ended in 1945, the 40-year-old Brown was nearly blind, had weathered a broken back and neck and suffered through more than a dozen diseases including malaria, dysentery and dengue fever.

He took two years to mend, and a doctor told him to enjoy the next few years because he had been so decimated he would be dead by 50. But Brown soldiered on, moving to California, attending college again and renting out properties to the era's biggest Hollywood stars, including Joan Fontaine and Olivia de Havilland. He became friends with John Wayne and Roy Rogers, doing some screen tests along the way.

"He had this incredible spirit to live and overcome, positive thinking or whatever you call it, he survived."

Source: Associated Press

WHAT IS KWANZAA

Maulana Karenga of the US Organization created Kwanzaa in 1966 as the first specifically African American holiday. Karenga said his goal was to "give Blacks an alternative to the existing holiday and give Blacks an opportunity to celebrate themselves and history, rather than simply imitate the practice of the dominant society." The name Kwanzaa derives from the Swahili phrase *matunda ya kwanza*, meaning first fruits of the harvest. The choice of Swahili, an East African language, reflects its status as a symbol of Pan-Africanism, especially in the 1960s; despite the fact that East

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African nations were not involved in the Atlantic slave trade that brought blacks to America.

Kwanzaa celebrates what its founder called the seven principles of Kwanzaa, or *Nguzo Saba*. Each of the seven days of Kwanzaa is dedicated to one of the following principles, as follows:

- * *Umoja* (Unity): To strive for and to maintain unity in the family, community, nation, and race.
- * *Kujichagulia* (Self-Determination): To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves, and speak for ourselves stand up.
- * *Ujima* (Collective Work and Responsibility): To build and maintain our community together and make our brothers' and sisters' problems our problems, and to solve them together.
- * *Ujamaa* (Cooperative Economics): To build and maintain our own stores, shops, and other businesses and to profit from them together.
- * *Nia* (Purpose): To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.
- * *Kuumba* (Creativity): To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.
- * *Imani* (Faith): To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders, and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Kwanzaa symbols include a decorative mat on which other symbols are placed, corn and other crops, a candle holder with seven candles, called a kinara, a communal cup for pouring libations, gifts, a poster of the seven principles, and a black, red, and green flag. The symbols were designed to convey the seven principles.

Source: Wikipedia

Sympathy

Sammi Porter passed away on December 6th, 2011. Sam and Marjorie Porter attended our St. Louis reunion. He enjoyed getting to meet some of his LST 534 shipmates and kept in touch over the remaining years. His wife Marjorie lives in Huntsville, TX. May he rest in peace.



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

November 11

Albert Straka
643 Foothill Road
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

November 27

George Popham
6375 Juniper Drive
Missoula, MT 59802

December 20

Wayne Jens
4275 Owens Road Spt. 136
Evans, GA 30809

December 25

William Ayers
221 Westwood Avenue
Jackson, TN 38301-4321

HOLIDAYS AND IMPORTANT DATES

October

National Breast Cancer Month

8 Columbus Day (Observed)

31  Happy Halloween

November

4 Daylight Savings Time Ends

11 Veterans Day

22



December

7 Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day

8 Hanukkah Begins

21 First Day of Winter

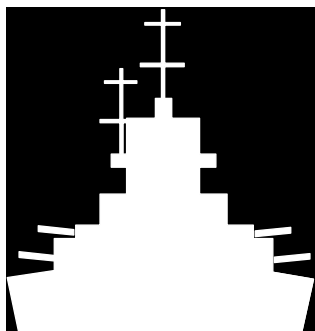
25  Merry Christmas

26 First day of Kwanza

31 New Year's Eve



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Just for Fun

An elderly woman died and having never married she requested no male pallbearers.

She wrote in her will: "They wouldn't take me out when I was alive, I don't want them to take me out when I'm dead!"

A police recruit was asked during his oral examination, "What would you do if you had to arrest your Mother?"

He answered, CALL FOR BACKUP!!!

Nautical Terms

Breakfast, Dinner, and Supper....The three meals served in the Navy. Official definitions in WWII.

Morning Muster...Roll call at group, groups or on station as directed.

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