

# LST534 Newsletter

July/August/September 2003

Volume 6 , Issue 3

## Another Shipmate Found Us

It pays to surf the internet. Donald E. McDaniel's son, Don, Jr. found the LST534 website and contacted Darleen. She passed the information on to me and I sent Don, Jr. the usual packet of information. He returned the following information on his dad. How many of you recognize Donald E. McDaniel, S1c (MAC) in his navy days?



Donald E. McDaniel was 69 years old when he passed away on Oct. 4, 1995. On board the LST534, he was nicknamed Mac.

Mac was married to his wife of 49 years, Marian. He had four sons: Donald Jr., Scott, Clifton, and Keith. They all live in the Greensboro, NC area.

Mac was born on July 9, 1926 in St. Augustine, Florida. He enlisted in the Navy on June 16, 1944 after completing the 11th grade. He went to basic training at Camp Beary in Virginia until October of 1944. He boarded the LST 534 on February 14th, 1945 at Pier 92 in New York City. He was a seaman on board, and qualified as a specialist in aircraft identification. He was in the Pacific fleet, ending up in Okinawa. In fact, he kept a metal plate from the Kamikaze plane and a Japanese coin found in the plane.

Even though Mac was on lookout on board, he did cook for the LST534 shipmates when they were stranded on Okinawa after the ship was sunk. He learned to cook from his grandmother.

Mac served as part of the occupational forces until November 1945. He was then transferred to ship's company in Norfolk, VA as a truck driver.

His son wanted to share the following with all of you....  
"My father, Donald E. McDaniel, died on October 4th,

1995 and the US Flag flying on LST534 on June 22, 1945 was buried with him."

The following is a transcript that Mac recorded on February 21, 1945 to his fiancé, Marian. This was a service provided to the military by the New York City Defense Recreation Committee.

My Darling,

You have always wanted to hear  
A recording of my voice  
Because I love you so very much,  
There is no other choice.

I don't know whether to recite  
Or sing or what I should do.  
All I'm asking you, my darling,  
Is that I love you.

I want to try, my darling,  
To put my words in verse.  
Here's hoping that I get better  
Instead of getting worse.

I can never tell you  
All the things I'd like to say.  
My heart can only tell you  
I love you more each day.  
Love may come and years go by

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And still my love shall ring.  
Though trouble come to weaken  
us  
Or one can not have Spring.

Like glowing embers in a fire,  
Your warmth doth beckon me.  
Only you can realize, darling,  
How much you mean to me.

Let come what may in life's short  
while,  
No matter how far we are apart.  
I'll always be with you, my  
darling,  
As love has sealed my heart.

I'll always love you, my darling,  
And swear that I'll be true  
For love's own key has sealed my  
heart  
Until I return to you.



Thank you, Don Jr., for sharing  
these stories about your dad.  
And welcome to our LST 534  
family.

Don, Jr. can be reached at:  
5305 Winthrop Dr.  
Greensboro, NC 27407  
Ph: 336-454-1886

## In Memoriam



Joseph H. Blackburn, S1c,  
passed away on April 11,  
2003. He was 79. He had  
surgery for cancer in October,  
2002. His wife Dorothy told me  
Joe enjoyed the newsletters, the  
documentary and all the  
memories of the LST534. Our  
prayers are with Joe's family.  
May he rest in peace.

## LST 325 VOYAGE

For up-to-date information on the  
voyage, follow this link:

[www.lstmemorial.org/  
voy2003.htm](http://www.lstmemorial.org/voy2003.htm)

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## BIRTHDAYS:

### August 11

Larry Gray  
101 Forrest Hill Drive  
Taylors, SC 29687

### August 12

Robert Goldsmith  
95 Shepherd Drive  
Wakefield, RI 02879

### August 16

Luther Lyles  
2407 Reynolds Road  
Wauchula, FL 33873

### August 23

Sammie Porter  
5813 Seminole Ct.  
Oklahoma City, OK 73132

### October 1

Robert Ware  
2602 Darwood Ct.  
Mobile, AL 36605

### October 2

Emmett Cull  
PO Box 1885  
Portolla, CA 96122

### 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  
9841 41st Street, North  
Pinellas Park, FL 33782



# LST534 Newsletter

## Reunion Plans

The US LST Association is meeting in Dallas, Texas this year, August 26th to September 1st.

The LST534 Reunion will be Thursday evening, August 28th to Sunday evening, August 31st.

We will meet at the Adam's Mark Hotel. Here's a beginning schedule:

### Thursday, August 28

6 pm—Pizza Party and Decorate

### Friday, August 29

8 am—Breakfast on your own  
9 am—Opening Prayer Service  
Light Candle  
Business Meeting  
6 pm—Game Night

### Saturday, August 30

Texas-style Rodeo

### Sunday, August 31

Memorial Service  
Take Down Decorations  
Pack-up  
Banquet

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆  
 ☆ **To Friends:** ☆  
 ☆ ☆  
 ☆ **Everyone hears what you say.** ☆  
 ☆ **Friends listen to what you say.** ☆  
 ☆ **Best friends listen to** ☆  
 ☆ **what you don't say.** ☆  
 ☆ ☆  
 ☆ **A friend is someone who knows** ☆  
 ☆ **the song in your heart and can** ☆  
 ☆ **sing it back to you when you** ☆  
 ☆ **have forgotten the words.** ☆  
 ☆ ☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆

## America Remember 9/11

It was just another Tuesday morning, Or so they all thought.

Each day they face reality,  
To them it's just they're job.  
They don't think they're special,  
but they really are.

When the alarm sounded, as it had so many times before,  
They grabbed their gear and headed for the door.

They heard the call and knew it was unlike any other,  
As they drew closer, they knew what they had to do.  
Thousands needed them, this was true.

As many ran for safety, they took to the stairs,  
One goal in mind, to save all that they could.

The reality set in when, again, another plane flew in.  
Now they looked to the second tower and sent in another crew.  
They were just doing their job, many for the last time,  
Although that thought never crossed their mind.

Just when they thought it couldn't get any worse,  
They hear that terrible rumble, as it all came crashing down.

With no regard for their own lives, they saved many.  
These are the men and women we call

Police, firefighters and medics, but on this day,  
They showed what they really are, HEROES!

For the unselfish and ultimate acts they preformed,  
We will never again look at them the same.

To the families, friends, and communities who have lost,

Hold your head high.

We will never let their spirits die.

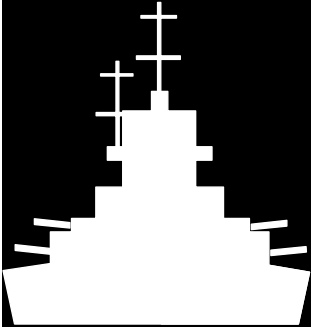
All just because they did their job!

—Reprinted from *The High Twelvian*, Vol. 77, No. 3 (Fall 2002)

**Let us please take a moment of silence in remembrance of all those who perished in New York, Washington DC and Pennsylvania on September 11, 2001**



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



LST534

## LST534 Newsletter

Just for Fun  
Is a column  
meaning just  
that – FUN.

Jim Sarres  
has  
graciously  
volunteered  
to keep it  
going.

We all know  
how Judge  
Sarres can  
keep us  
laughing!

Thanks Jim.

# Just for Fun

What did one plate say to the other plate?

“Lunch is on me.”

=====

What did one elevator say to the other  
elevator?

“I think I’m coming down with something.”

=====

Why did the lifeguard kick the elephants  
out of the pool?

“Because they couldn’t keep their trunks  
up.”

### Nautical Terms:

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

**Sea Bag:** Heavy canvas bag used to carry  
all of sailor’s clothes while traveling.

**Clothes Stops:** Short cord used to attach  
clothing to lines for drying or to tie up cer-  
tain pieces of clothing.

**Sea Bag Inspection:** Inspection of all items  
of clothing required of all sailors.

Editor and Comments:  
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