

# LST534 Newsletter

January/February/March 2009

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## INTRODUCING THE LST SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

We all need to be thinking of the future of LST325. For that reason, we now have a scholarship program that can be given to an Evansville Vanderburgh County high school senior to help with their college expenses. And the scholarship can HONOR our ship.

The LST325 represents all LST's. It is our living tribute to the amphibious fleet. To get younger generations on board and interested, we invite them to earn a scholarship.

Here's how it works. For \$500.00 you can sponsor a scholarship in the name of your ship, or a member of the crew. Area high school seniors compete for the scholarship. To be considered, a high school senior has to work 30 volunteer hours on board LST325 and then write an essay describing his/her experience. A scholarship committee selects the winner.

When the scholarship is awarded, you can accompany the scholarship with a description of your ship and why you sponsored the scholarship.

It is a win-win-win situation. You win because you honored your ship. The student wins because the scholarship dollars help with buying books and other college expenses. The ship wins because we have young people on board learning the importance of the LST in preserving America's freedom.

The LST Scholarship program will be administered by the Public Education Foundation of Evansville, Inc., which is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Therefore, your donation to the scholarship program will be tax deductible. I suppose that makes it another WIN!!!!

We have a scholarship in place already, entitled History of the LST534 Scholarship. To begin the Scholarship, I donated the first \$500. If anyone is interested in donating to this scholarship in honor of the ship, we can make the scholarship mean more to a deserving student of history. Any amount is welcome. Also, anyone who wants to donate a complete \$500 scholarship in the name of your family who served on board LST534, it could be named, for example, Norman

Alvers LST534 Scholarship. The above guidelines would apply so you could write up a story about your dad to be given to the scholarship recipient each year. That would really make the scholarship mean something to the student.

I think this is the most exciting program undertaken to help the ship in Evansville.

If you are interested in learning more about the scholarship program, or sponsoring a \$500.00 Scholarship, contact Linda Alvers at 1-800-237-1224. Or contact Amy Walker, Public Education Foundation of Evansville at 1-812-422-1699, Email: [awalker@pefevansville.org](mailto:awalker@pefevansville.org).

Checks can be mailed to: Public Education Foundation of Evansville, P. O. Box 1163, Evansville, IN 47706.

LET'S ENSURE THE  
FUTURE OF LST325 SO  
ALL THE WORLD LEARNS  
ABOUT THE IMPORTANT  
ROLE OF LST'S.

# LST534 Newsletter

## NEWS

### **The Intrepid**

New York City is home to the World War II aircraft carrier, the Intrepid. It has been docked for 24 years. But in 2006, the Intrepid was moved for extensive repairs and improvements, all totaling a whopping 120 million dollars.

Launched in 1943 as one of the Navy's then—new Essex class attack carriers, the USS Intrepid figured in six major Pacific theater campaigns including Leyte Gulf, one of the war's greatest naval battles. Unlike LST534, the USS Intrepid survived five Kamikaze planes and one torpedo. 270 crew members lost their lives during combat.

After World War II, the Intrepid saw service in the Korean and Vietnam wars and was twice a recovery ship for NASA astronauts. It was decommissioned and mothballed in a Philadelphia shipyard and later for demolition until being rescued in the late 70's by New York Real Estate Developer and Philanthropist, Zachary Fisher.

The Intrepid Sea, Air & Space Museum is one of America's leading historic, cultural and educational institutions. Opened in 1982, the Museum has welcomed more than 10 million visitors.

The Museum features a range of interactive exhibits and events providing a snapshot of heroism,

education, and excitement. Children and adults alike find themselves immersed in and inspired by the Museum's exhibits, which range from thrilling historical re-creation such as Kamikaze: Day of Darkness, Day of Light, to new interactive displays. Visitors also can ride in the A-6 Cockpit Simulator, visit the Virtual Flight Zone, and tour the inside of the world's fastest commercial airplane, Concord. More than 40,000 school children participate in the Museum's unique education programs every year. These programs cover every age group and include special initiatives such as character and leadership development. The Museum also hosts the annual Fleet Week celebration in honor of our military personnel.

Since 1982, the Intrepid has become a national icon. More than 750,000 people visit each year.

The mission of the Intrepid is to honor our heroes, educate the public, and inspire our youth. This mission is realized through the Museum's preservation, collection, exhibitions interpretations of individual contributions, and exceptional education programs particularly as pertaining to the service era of *Intrepid* from World War II through the present. The Museum seeks to promote a powerful visitor experience fed by a dynamic, innovative and moving environment for learning and enjoyment.

Thanks to CBS News Interactive and the Intrepid Museum for contributing this article.

### **In Memoriam**

George Olson, Jr., son of our first Captain, died November 1, 2008 from cancer. George donated his body to medical research.

His wife, Lyn, said there was no funeral, but she will have a "Celebration of Life" ceremony sometime in the future.

Some of you remember George and Lyn Olson from our reunions. We will miss him. May he rest in peace.

### **HOLIDAYS**

#### **January**

- 1 New Year's Day
- 19 Martin Luther King Jr.

#### **February**

- 12 Lincoln's Birthday
- 14 Valentine's Day
- 16 Presidents Day Observed
- 22 Washington's Birthday
- 25 Ash Wednesday

#### **March**

- 8 Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 17 St. Patrick's Day

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**DON'T FORGET TO  
VISIT US AT:  
[WWW.LST534.COM](http://WWW.LST534.COM)**

# LST534 Newsletter



## **BIRTHDAYS:**

January 4

Ed Overstake  
2440 World Pkwy Blvd. E., #38  
Clearwater, FL 33763

January 14

Frank Frame  
PO Box 1017  
Jal, NM 88252

February 3

William Dox  
443 South Main Street  
PO Box 756  
Massena, NY 13662

March 14

Salvatore Logano  
101 High Street  
PO Box 144  
Portland, CT 06480-1656

March 26

Willie Gunn  
105 Bull Street  
Swainsboro, GA 30401

April 1

Angelo Cumella  
11 Freeport Court  
Toms River, NJ 08757

April 14

Alex Fielder  
5950 Ambassador Drive  
Fairfield, OH 45014

## **History of Times Square New Year's Eve Ball**

This article is from the Times Square Alliance.

Revelers began celebrating New Year's Eve in Times Square as early as 1904, but it was in 1907 that the New Year's Eve Ball made its

maiden descent from the flagpole atop One Times Square.

The first New Year's Eve Ball, made of iron and wood and adorned with one hundred 25-watt light bulbs, was 5 feet in diameter and weighed 700 pounds. It was built by a young immigrant metalworker named Jacob Starr, and for most of the twentieth century the company he founded, sign maker Artkraft Strauss, was responsible for lowering the ball.

As part of the 1907-1908 festivities, waiters in the fabled "lobster palaces" and other deluxe eateries in hotels surrounding Times Square were supplied with battery-operated top hats emblazoned with the numbers "1908" fashioned of tiny light bulbs. At the stroke of midnight, they all "flipped their lids" and the year on the foreheads lit up in conjunction with the numbers "1908" on the parapet of the Times Tower lighting up to signal the arrival of the new year.

The Ball has been lowered every year since 1907, with the exceptions of 1942 and 1943, when the ceremony was suspended due to the wartime "dim-out" of lights in NY City. Nevertheless, the crowds still gathered in Times Square in those years and greeted the New Year with a minute of silence followed by the ringing of chimes from sound trucks parked at the base of the tower—a harkening-back to the earlier celebrations at Trinity Church, where crowds would gather to "ring out the old, ring in the new."

In 1920, a 400 pound ball made entirely of wrought iron replaced the original. In 1955, the iron ball was replaced with an aluminum Ball weighing a mere 200 pounds. This aluminum ball remained unchanged until the 1980's, when red light bulbs and the addition of a green stem converted the Ball into

an apple for the "I Love New York" marketing campaign from 1981 until 1988.

After seven years, the traditional glowing white Ball with white light bulbs and without the green stem returned to brightly light the sky above Times Square. In 1995, the Ball was upgraded with aluminum skin, rhinestones, strobes, and computer controls, but the aluminum ball was lowered for the last time in 1998 .

For Times Square 2000, the millennium celebration at the Crossroads of the World, the New Year's Eve Ball was completely re-designed by Waterford Crystal. The new crystal Ball combined the latest in technology with the most traditional of materials, reminding us of our past as we gazed into the future and the beginning of a new millennium.

About "Time Balls": The actual notion of a ball "dropping" to signal the passage of time dates back long before New Year's Eve was ever celebrated in Times Square. The first "time-ball" was installed atop England's Royal Observatory at Greenwich in 1833. This ball would drop at one o'clock every afternoon, allowing the captains of nearby ships to precisely set their chronometers (a vital navigational instrument). 150 were installed around the world, but few have survived or still work.

At the US Naval Observatory in Washington, DC it descends from a flagpole at noon each day and once of course every New Year's Eve in Times Square where for not a few ships' captains but for over 1 billion people watching worldwide.

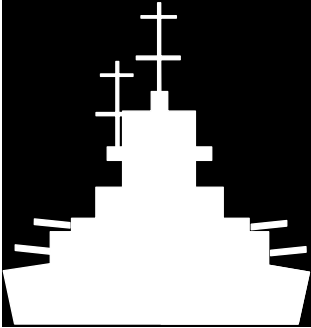
The 2000-2007 Times Square New Year's Eve Ball made its descent the last minute of the 20th century.



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

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**LST534**

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# Just for Fun

I don't feel old, I don't feel anything until noon.  
Then it is time for my nap. -- Bob Hope

We could certainly slow the aging process down if  
it had to work its way through Congress. -- Will  
Rogers

Don't worry about avoiding temptation as you grow  
older, it will avoid you.- - Winston Churchill

Maybe it's true that life begins at fifty, but every-  
thing else starts to wear out, fall out or spread out.  
- - Phyllis Diller

By the time a man is wise enough to watch his step,  
he is too old to go anywhere. - - Billy Crystal

### Nautical Terms:

**Cable Length**—A cable length or cable's length is  
a nautical unit of measure equal to one tenth of a  
nautical mile or 100 fathoms, or sometimes 120  
fathoms. The unit is named after the length of a  
ship's anchor cable in the age of sail. The definition  
varies:

- ◆ International 1/10 nautical mile, or 185.2 m
- ◆ Imperial (British Admiralty): 1/10 Admiralty  
nautical mile (608 feet, or 185.3184m) or 100  
fathoms (600 feet, or 182.88m)
- ◆ Historical US Navy: 120 fathoms (720 feet), or  
219.456m

### **Editor and Comments:**

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