



USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER #6 - JUNE 1993

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LAS VEGAS REUNION!!! Was a great success with 702 members and wives in attendance. We had quite a few first time reunion attendees, mainly those of you who live on the West Coast. To those of you who made your first reunion, we extend a special welcome to you and will be looking forward to being with you at our 1994 reunion. One thing though, we had much better weather in Las Vegas, than we encountered in Nashville last year. I have heard a few reports of those winning enough to pay for their trip, but there were more losers by a large majority. Did you ever hear of a slot machine not making money? They are preprogramed to make money for the Casino. Just plain luck, but I did have a lot of fun playing the PENNY slots. They systematically took 10 cents and gave me back 4 cents, all the time the slots had its hands in my pockets. I'm known as the last of the big time spenders. I just signed up for Gamblers Anonymous in order to kick my big stakes gambling habit.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1994!!! PRESIDENT: Bob WEISSER, V PRESIDENT: Bob BYHENY, DIRECTOR CLASS OF 96: Shelton SMITH. PRESIDENT Bob WEISSER in turn reappointed Howard CLARKSON, Treasurer, Walter KOPACZ, Secretary, Bob KIRSCH, Newsletter Editor, Recruiting Members.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP!!! We received a dues payment of \$100.00 from a member, saying, "Put me down for anything". We, the officers didn't know what to do with the money, and not wanting to give it back, came up with the idea of offering a LIFE MEMBERSHIP for \$100.00. Since then we now have LIFE MEMBERS, Raymond GREINER (490), Peter STER (490), Chris SHELVIK (337) Donald McGRANAHAN (412), James SCHULTES (414) Jim BIRKES (346). If you have a loose \$100.00 laying around, send it to our Treasurer, Howard CLARKSON. By the way, Howard has a lovely membership card made up just for LIFE MEMBERS. You will be given top billing in our Newsletters.

OFFICERS LIFE MEMBERSHIP!!! At our meeting in Las Vegas, the membership voted to bestow

life membership's to the present USS LCI NATIONAL OFFICERS in appreciation for a job well done. LIFE MEMBERS: Bob WEISSER (456), Bob BYHENY (613), Howard CLARKSON (537), Walt KOPACZ (346), Bob KIRSCH (74), Shelby SMITH (464), Sam RIZZO (687), Ralph LIPTACK (456). We your officers, THANK YOU for the vote of confidence that you have given us.

1993 DUES ARE NOW DUE!!! FIRST THING, LOOK AT YOUR ADDRESS LABEL. On the top line you will see your SHIP NUMBER. NEXT you will see a "NO" or "PAID". If your label has a "NO" on it, you have not paid your 1993 DUES which are due after MAY 31st. So send a check for \$10.00 made payable to the USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION and mail to Howard CLARKSON, 73 GRANGE RD., TROY, NY 12180. If no dues are received from you, your name will be dropped off the Newsletter mailing list. Going over the mailing labels, I see quite a few NO's on the address labels. Special Notice, if you just mailed your dues during the past two weeks and you have a NO, we do have a time lag from Howard to Walt and finally to me. The mailing labels were printed on May 25th.

1994 REUNION #4!!! You have been patiently waiting for the news of where and when our 1994 reunion will be held. ORLANDO, FLORIDA has been chosen by the membership at our Las Vegas Reunion. The dates are APRIL 13th to 17th, 1994. Our hotel will be the SHERATON WORLD RESORT which is a RESORT HOTEL containing 3 swimming pools, it is a two story building. The room rates are \$66.00 + tax, single or double. This special rate is in effect 3 days before and 3 days after our reunion. Our hotel is situated next to SEA WORLD at the end of "I" Drive, short for International drive. More information will follow in a later Newsletter.

HOW WAS THE REUNION SITE SELECTED??? First your Officers and Board of Directors got together with Ted DYE and selected five cities in the Eastern part of the country. Out of the five sites, three were chosen and presented to the membership for a vote. The three cities were Philadelphia, PA, Charleston, SC and Orlando, FL.

FUTURE REUNION SITES!!! We divided the country into three sections, EASTERN, CENTRAL, and WESTERN. We started with 1991 Reunion in Norfolk (EASTERN), 1992 Reunion in Nashville, (CENTRAL), 1993 Reunion in Las Vegas (WESTERN), 1994 Reunion in Orlando (EASTERN), 1995 Reunion (WESTERN), 1996 (CENTRAL), 1997 (EASTERN). Some how we got out of step with our 1995 reunion which should have been CENTRAL. Some of the cities to consider for 1995 are San Diego, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Denver, Phoenix, Colorado Springs, just for starters. If you would like to sponsor a reunion in your city, do some leg work and come up with some proposals. We need 400+ rooms and Banquet facilities for 800+ people, also a very reasonable room rate.

LAS VEGAS REUNION PICTURES!!! Each of you have received your picture proofs from Reunions Inc. of Orlando, FL. Send your choice picture back before June 14th. There is no obligation to buy the Reunion book. They will have your name and ship number by your picture, and in the back of the book you will have a complete address and ship number of everyone who attended the reunion. If you didn't attend the reunion and want your picture included, the form is found in Newsletter #5. Reunions INC has charged us \$.50 more for postage than the original offer in newsletter #5.

EDITORIAL FROM PRESIDENT BOB WEISSER!!! Big News! The ELSIE (LCI's) will finally be represented in UNITED STATES NAVAL MEMORIAL in WASHINGTON D.C. At our Las Vegas Membership Meeting our members voted to PLEDGE \$25,000 to sponsor PANEL NINE in the GLASS WAVE WALL. Panel Nine features the etchings of a Cimarron class oiler, a YMS motor minesweeper and a GATO class submarine. The PLAQUE is 3" X 5" satin finish .125" thick stainless steel with etched and infilled graphics. The USS LCI NATIONAL ASSOCIATION will be listed on the Memorial Quarter Deck Newsletter sent to over 150,000 members. This will be a great tribute to those of you who have served aboard LCI's. Since our National Association has only been in existence for three years, our funds are rather low. The down payment of \$12,500 was taken from our treasury, with the promise of paying the balance as soon as possible. The following have made donations to the MEMORIAL FUND: ARMED FORCES REUNION, INC., Bill CLINGON (456), Bob WEISSER (456), Dick SNELSON (456), Bob KIRSCH (74), Walt KOPACZ (346), Wm. FLOYD (1062), Ed. BISCOTTI (526), Keith RUDERT (336),

Don McGRANAHAN (412), James MCCARTHY (685). This money will start our memorial fund, which I hope will be supported by our members. We now have 1500 paid members, if each of you would send an extra \$10 we would have \$15,000 toward our \$25,000 pledge. Make your check payable to N. M. F. or Navy Memorial Fund and send to our treasurer Howard CLARKSON, 73 Grange RD., TROY, NY 12180.

You will be noted in the Newsletter as helping out with our Naval Memorial Fund. When I went to Washington before our Vegas Reunion. I talked to the Executive Director, Captain Howard Loving, Jr. He was very helpful but uninformed as to what an LCI was. When I left his office I'm quite sure that he now knows what a LCI was and that they participated in every invasion in WWII. They did everything from landing troops, inshore close support with rockets, guns and mortars and carried mail. The wave wall is one of the nicest tributes at the memorial and we are lucky to be a part of it.

EDITORIAL FROM AUXILIARY PRESIDENT DORIS SCHULTZ!!! It was a pleasure to see so many ladies attend the AUXILIARY MEETING in Las Vegas. The hotel was very accommodating in providing us with a conference room so we could have our meeting at the same time the men had their meeting. A number of problems relative to registration, etc., were mentioned. Unfortunately a number of people did not register before the deadline which created confusion at the hotel as well as for the committee, to have an accurate count of the number of people to expect. It makes it very difficult to plan a reunion when you don't know how many people will attend. Please urge your husbands to get your reservations in early for our meeting in Orlando next April. Many of you were disappointed that you did not get a hat, so for our next meeting we will have HATS or VISORS for the ladies. I have also ordered LCI AUXILIARY PINS that can be purchased at the ORLANDO MEETING. I appreciate all your letters this past year and welcome any input regarding our next meeting or any comments or suggestions about the AUXILIARY. A special thank-you for all the ladies who volunteered to help during the last reunion. It was greatly appreciated. See you in ORLANDO. DORIS SCHULTZ, 2500 Foxhill Dr., Martinsville, IN 46151, PH (317) 349-1586.

BACK ISSUES OF NEWSLETTERS!!! I have available back issues of our Newsletters No 1 to No 5. If you missed any issue and want it, write to me, Bob KIRSCH, 643 Callery

Rd., Evans City, PA 16033. Specify which issue you desire.

QUESTIONS FROM THE MEMBERSHIP!!! What is my \$10 registration fee used for? ANSWER: \$3.00 goes to Reunions Inc of Norfolk for doing all of the leg work involved in registration, name tags, chartering the buses and arranging the tours, setting up all of the banquet features. You have free soft drinks, coffee and snacks in the meeting rooms. You also received a hat worth \$5. You will have to admit that all of our reunion banquets and tours ran off like clock work, with the very slightest deviation or discomfort to you. Bare in mind that Reunions Inc. also gets commissions from the hotel, the catering service and booking the tours. They put in a lot of time into making our reunion so enjoyable. At this time, a "BIG THANK YOU" goes to TED DYE of REUNIONS INC "FOR A JOB WELL DONE". We also run into a number of unforeseen incidental expenses that crop up during the reunion. Any money left over is returned to the LCI Treasury. This year we received \$860.90 from Reunions INC. to be placed in our LCI Treasury.

What are our dues used for? ANSWER: Printing, cost of this Newsletter and postage for mailing it. Phone calls by your officers to do our LCI business. Call backs to people with a problem. Tracking down people who have moved without informing the Association. Not one penny of your money is given to any officer for his work in the association. Your officers have a reunion planning session in January, we travel to Columbia, PA and stay over night at our own expense. We do this because we want to make a success of our LCI Association.

Not one of my shipmates showed up at the reunion! ANSWER: All I can say is that you will have to take the bull by the horns and track down your shipmates. It is quite easy once you have put your mind to the chore. In fact it is rather rewarding when you finally locate one of your shipmates. First off send for a muster list, this will cost you around \$10. From this list you will find their complete name, correct spelling of first, middle and last name you will also have a place of enlistment, this gives you a city, to start looking. The very best source is the BLACK ADDRESS BOOK that some crew members kept.

PENTAGON UNVEILS SEA SHADOW!!! On April 11th the Pentagon took the raps off a seagoing STEALTH SHIP. The length is about the size of a LCI. The catamaran design will explore

advanced technologies for surface vessels. Ship control, automation, sea keeping and signature control (radar). It is a weird looking ship.

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF NORMANDY INVASION!!! Galaxy Tours of Wayne, PA has put together a tour of Normandy to take place May 31 to June 9, 1994. If you are planning to take the trip, time is running out, just a year away. For more information call GALAXY TOURS, toll free 800 523 7287 or get in touch with Howard CLARKSON (518) 279-3846. Over 200 LCI's took part in the invasion. Just last Sunday an article about the 50th Anniversary of Normandy appeared in the Pittsburgh paper. The authorities in Normandy are expecting well over 50,000 people to converge on Normandy during the week of June 1st 1994. This will be one gala celebration. In a small town like Normandy, there just isn't any place to stay or eat. They are asking the local people to open their homes to the tourist to alleviate the problems of housing due to the large influx of people. Sign up as early as possible as the facilities are going fast.

NAVAL MEMORIAL PLAQUE DESIGN!!! We have a number of members who are artist and could come up with a design that would represent all of the LCI's. Since the plaque is only 3" X 5" there isn't much space to tell our story. Possibly a small picture of a LCI rocket ship firing rockets during an invasion, this best represents the heat of a battle. Since even a Retired Navy Captain didn't know what a LCI was, we need to get the word out, a picture on the plaque is worth 1000 words. What do you think about that? Send your ideas to our President, Bob WEISSER, 134 Lancaster Ave., Columbia, PA 17512 PH(717) 684-4785. For \$25,000 we should have some say as to the design of our PLAQUE. With this plaque we have a chance to tell the world who we are, let's not be hasty and blow it. If you are wondering why this small piece of stainless steel cost so much money, you have to look at the overall picture of the Memorial. It was paid for by private contributions. Not one penny of tax money has gone into the Memorial. There is an ongoing expense to operate the Memorial and that operating expense has to come from someplace, namely, contributions from groups like our LCI Association.

NAVY MEMORIAL!!! You too can become a part of the Memorial. There is a section of the Memorial that is known as the LOG ROOM. This room consists of banks of computers where

anyone can call up names of those who have contributed \$25.00 to have their name and Navy history entered. For another \$25.00 you can have your picture included alongside your name. In order to call up a name, there is an alphabet on the computer screen, just spell the last name by touching the appropriate letters appearing on the computer screen. If you can't quite spell the last name you can cross search by city, ship, or several other ways. Only those people who served or are serving in the NAVY, COAST GUARD OR MARINE CORP can be entered in the LOG. If you would like to have your name Navy record and picture the cost would be \$50.00. If you are interested please contact UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL FOUNDATION, 701 PENNSYLVANIA AVE., N.W., SUITE 123, WASHINGTON, DC 20004-2608, Call (202) 737-2300 for faster service. They will send you a form to fill out for the information needed for the LOG. I've been to the Navy Memorial and have used the LOG ROOM COMPUTER, it is quite impressive, especially when the picture is shown with the entry. This would be a wonderful memorial to those who were killed in action or are deceased.

NOTES OF INTEREST ABOUT OKINAWA!!! SHIPS

ATTACK #	DATE	KAMIKAZES	SUNK	DAMAGED
1	6-7 APRIL	355	6	17
2	12-13 APRIL	185	2	9
3	16-16 APRIL	165	1	6
4	27-28 APRIL	115	1	4
5	3-4 MAY	125	6	6
6	10-11 MAY	150	0	4
7	23-25 MAY	165	3	6
8	27-29 MAY	110	1	7
9	3-7 JUNE	50	0	3
10	21-22 JUNE	45	1	4
TOTAL		1,465	21	66

Counting all planes in mass attacks together with individual Kamikaze attacks not included above, over 3,000 sorties were launched against the U.S. Navy. The Navy suffered 5,000 killed and about that many wounded. More Navy Personal were killed and wounded in the Okinawa battle than in any of all the other engagements of the U.S. Navy in WWII. The U.S. Navy lost 36 ships sunk, none larger than a Destroyer, 368 ships damaged, including 10 Battleships, 13 Carriers, 5 Cruisers, and 67 Destroyers plus 763 aircraft destroyed.

LOCATE SHIPMATES!!! Look in my Newsletter #1 & #3, you will have all the information you will need to start looking for you shipmates. If you don't have the issues or misplaced them, get in touch with me.

IN MEMORIAM: #23 Halwey ROHRER, #74 Marvin TURNER, #237 Doug MAKINSON, #372 Benne BROOKS, Ralph YEAZEL, #420 Howard BECKETT, #401 Donald O'HARA, Reber CLARK, #432 Var NICKERSON, #434 Lester DREIFKE, #434 W. WOOD, James ODOM, Ray WRIGHT, Wintrop JACQUES, Haryey VAN METER, #455 Ray STUPPY, Harvy PORTER, Oscar MILLS, Kenneth KARST, Lesley MC CASLAND, Davis DALE, Albert COLDWICK, William PAYNE, Burton DAVIS, Paul SULLTROP, Pete HENRIE, David JONES, Glenn CHRISTIERNSSON, Emmett TEGHE, Clifford SMOOT, David ALLEN, Billy ELLERBE, Reginald POWELL, Leonard WIDICK, William DARDT, Eugene HOLLAND, Ernest TIDMORE, Phillip ALBANO, Stephen PLANKUL, #466 Wilbur WILSON, #464 Harley WILLINGHAM, Henry WIRKUS, William PATTERSON, Paul HARRINGTON, #526 James FRITH, Bill BAKER, Al GRIGAS, #556 Robert LAWSON, #577 Walter STREAMLE, #596 Earl STONE, Barton LAPHAM, #620 William BROWN, #621 Robert CAMPBELL, #622 Hoke SMITH, Thomas BROCKETT, #623 Robert BACH, Harry HOPKINS, Robert GRAY, #624 Ralph COLLIER, R. FUHRMAN, John HANLY, William HEALY, John FUHS, Harold KEISER, Robert HACKETT, Hap CHANDLER, Henry MASKEY, #626 William PISKLAK, William SAUNDERS, Theodore MERRITT, Joseph FULTONBERGER, Raymond FULTZ, Rufus LEWIS, #627 William BARBER, #628 Forrest MELLOTT, James SHIRLEY, #635 Harry Mc MAHON, #636 Joseph MOORE, Ralph ARMBRUSTER, Marco SMOLICH, #637 Hubert BAUMLER, #632 William EATON, John ELLIOTT, Leonard BRIGGS, Thomas COLLINS, #633 James MELVIN, William VANCE, #634 Theodore SHAY, #655 Edward HURLOK, #639 Thomas FOLGER, Milton FISHER, Sterling THOMPSON, #700 James KELL, Louie SIELE, Bobby BRYANT, Charles Mc DANIEL, #701 Lloyd RUTHERFORD, Thomas REILLY, Howard CHENEY, Donald NEELY, Dennis DANAHER, Benjamin PROPER, Joseph TONER, Antonio LEIJA, Lewis DANIELS, Delbert RAINS, Kenneth COLEGROVE, Willis SIMPSON, #712 Harry HAMILTON, #710 Arthur TIESO, Chester BACHUSZEWICZ, #703 Delbert LAMB, Francis KELLIHER, Donald MIKESELL, Peter WOLF, Edward BURK, Joseph MURRIN, Anson CALL, William GARRARD, Raymond MATHSON, Harold TRUMAN, Russell GRAHAM, Raymond HARPER, Robert GOTTLIEB, #710 Charles SAMPSON, William BENEFIELD, Able MOINHEIRO, Andrew MURRAY, Clarence SARTAIN, Edward SASS, Amos BYRD, Joseph ZEYHEN, Orville DIEKMANN, #712 Harley CLAYBORNE, Richard ELLING, Roosevelt GOOSBY, #713 Walter PARRIS, #714 Harold PATTERSON, James DAVIS, #714 Carl CARLSON, #714 Thomas WATTLES, Charles CASTLE, #1000 Dr Herbert WILSON, John BUCKLEY #1001 Richard NORTON, #1010 Clyde VAUGHN, Lloyd LEWIS, Lawrence JENKS, Arthur