



**WELCOME ABOARD THE LANDING CRAFT SUPPORT MUSEUM**  
**Housed Aboard the USS LCS(L)(3) 102**  
**Vallejo, California**

Volume I, Number 1

Ginny Rooney, Editor

**PRESIDENT**

Dr. William J. Mason (Janice)  
2960 20<sup>th</sup> Ave.  
San Francisco, CA 94132  
415-661-9279 (h)  
415-359-4510 (c)  
[bmason6056@aol.com](mailto:bmason6056@aol.com)

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Gordon Stutrud  
119 Martin St.  
Vallejo, CA 94589  
707-553-1991 (h)  
707-373-2159 (c)  
[gordon@sdstech1.com](mailto:gordon@sdstech1.com)

**SECRETARY**

Dennis Steenbergen (Bonnie)  
7345 W. Lakeside Drive  
Littleton, CO 80125  
303-470-1187 (h)  
303-349-3503 (c)  
[dsteenbergen1165@gmail.com](mailto:dsteenbergen1165@gmail.com)

**TREASURER**

Bob Wage (Gina)  
4505 Arden Forest Rd.  
Holly Springs, NC 27540  
[canescountry@gmail.com](mailto:canescountry@gmail.com)

**LEGAL OFFICER**

David Edstrom  
19600 SE 32<sup>nd</sup> St.  
Camas, WA 98607  
360-834-2122 (h)  
503-432-3969 (c)  
[anhdedstrom@yahoo.com](mailto:anhdedstrom@yahoo.com)



*From the President's Desk*

March, 2014

Greetings from the beautiful San Francisco Bay Area.

The Landing Craft Support Museum is now a reality. We have a Board of Directors, an official 501(c)(3) status with the IRS, Articles of Incorporation (further in this issue) and a very enthusiastic crew of volunteers who love the ship as much as I do. Earlier this month, we had a group of Sea Scouts visit the ship and, as you can see from the photo below provided by Gordon Stutrud, they listened intently to my presentation.



Please also see the biographies of our 2 new board members included in this issue.

Also, during this difficult winter, our Convention Committee has been hard at work finalizing events for our New Orleans gathering. Tours and registration information are included in this inaugural Museum newsletter.

Until next time, all my best,



*Bill Mason*

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Gil Nadeau (Flo)  
2021 Via Veneto  
Escondido, CA 92027  
760-746-5368  
[gdnade@cox.net](mailto:gdnade@cox.net)

John Wisner (Janie)  
626 Bentwood Dr.  
El Cajon, CA 92021  
619-749-2588  
[John.Wisner@cox.net](mailto:John.Wisner@cox.net)

Allan Jessop (Anita)  
2180 Havenhill Dr.  
Benicia, CA 94510  
707-745-9534 (h)/707-982-9864 (c)  
[ajessop@sbcglobal.net](mailto:ajessop@sbcglobal.net)

Robin Rielly (Lucille)  
20 Chalfont Lane  
Manchester, NJ 08759  
732-657-4908  
[robrielly1@comcast.net](mailto:robrielly1@comcast.net)

Ginny Rooney (John)  
2 Emery Lane  
Phoenixville, PA 19460  
610-256-9223 (c) 610-935-0902 (h)  
[ginroon@verizon.net](mailto:ginroon@verizon.net)

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## EDITORIAL

Patriotism has always been in my blood. When I was a little girl, waving the American flag at the annual Fourth of July parade in my community was something everyone did – without fear of offending someone. My tricycle was covered in red, white and blue streamers, flags hanging from the handlebars and, of course, a red, white and blue outfit put together by my mother. To this day, a lump in my throat is always there when I recite the Pledge of Allegiance or sing the National Anthem.

My father had an appointment to Annapolis, but was unable to attend due to a disability acquired as a child, osteomyelitis. No branch of service wanted him because of it. So, during World War II, he was a block warden, ensuring the safety of his neighborhood in West Philadelphia by checking the window coverings everyone had when the blackouts were invoked.

Being a “baby boomer,” I have come to appreciate the sacrifices of those in the military, regardless of which branch of service one chooses. But the Navy will always be held in a little higher regard. The fact that I live a free life and speak English is a testament to their military service. In 1968, my boss at work was a Naval reservist and told me of a program where I could just join the reserve force – requiring 2 weeks active duty a year and drill one weekend a month. If I scored high enough on the admission test, I could go in with an advance rate, which I did – third class petty officer; Yeoman 3<sup>rd</sup> class to be exact.

It was the height of the Vietnam conflict and my monthly drills were mostly spent typing orders and, naturally, keeping the coffee maker in constant supply. Not very exciting, but necessary. I learned a lot in those two and a half years.

John and I had been married for a couple of years before he spoke of his World War II experiences in the Navy. Like most LCSers, he is very modest where his wartime contributions are concerned. As our children grew up, they began to see how important their father's service was to our country. Our third son chose to serve in the US Navy in the submarines. Attending his boot camp graduation at Great Lakes and then his graduation from Sonar School in Groton, Connecticut were some of the proudest moments a mother can experience.

How lucky can one woman get?!?! Serving a short stint in the US Navy Reserves, marrying a World War II Navy veteran and giving birth to a sonar supervisor on a “boomer,” ballistic missile nuclear submarine. Maybe that's why my favorite color is blue.

We have 2 flower boxes on our front porch, an American flag attached to each one. And proud of it!!! So, to ALL American military veterans, past and present, thank you for your service.

Ginny Rooney, March 2014

## MEET THE VEEP

Gordon Stutrud had been to the V.A. on Mare Island one day and stopped by to visit the LCS 102. Familiar sights and smells of a valiant and proud US Naval vessel permeated his brain as he went down the ladder to the mess deck and met Bill Mason and other volunteer workers. Visions of his being an 18 year-old swabbie again helped get him hooked and now, here he is – the Vice President of the Landing Craft Support Museum.

A brief bio was requested of Gordon and he graciously submitted the following:

“I’m 72 years old and retired. I was an ET2 in the Navy. My last and favorite ship was the USS Hunley, AS-31. I was a plank owner, meaning I was aboard this brand new ship for the commissioning. I guess being a plank owner is one thing I have in common with most of the LCS sailors.

The Hunley was a submarine tender. We serviced the Polaris submarines of Subron 14 out of Holy Loch Scotland. That was just 16 years after WWII. The war was still smoldering in the minds of the local folks. At that time there were still sailors on active duty who had served in WWII. There were also a large number of WWII ships still in commission and I was fortunate to get some hands-on experience aboard some of them.

After the Navy I spent a decade at Lawrence Radiation Lab at UC Berkeley involved with high energy physics research. I also spent some time in the Naval Reserve.

Following the UC Berkeley experience, I went to work for Computer Election Systems as their chief electronics engineer designing ballot counting equipment. This was followed by Vice President of Engineering in a couple of companies. As technologies rapidly evolved, I moved on to other things and ran my own engineering consulting business until I retired.”

*Ed. Note:* Gordon resides in Vallejo, CA and I’m sure it won’t be long before we all get to know him a lot better!

## COMPLETING THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS...

Please meet Allan Jessop. Allan was born in 1938 in Salt Lake City. He joined the Sea Scouts on the Great Salt Lake as a young teen and, in his late teens continued with the Sea Scouts after moving to the San Francisco Bay area. He joined the Navy at age 18, with a four-year tour of duty in the Pacific as a Steam Machinist Mate.

After marrying in 1964, Allan had a career of over 35 years working as a Corrosion Mechanic for the Pacific Gas & Electric Company in the Bay Area. He also earned an AA degree in History from Chabot College. Allan has been married to his wife Anita for 50 years, and raised two daughters. The youngest daughter, Lea, is a research scientist in genomics for the National Cancer Institute in Maryland, and their eldest, Holly, is a research scientist in epidemiology for the California Environmental Protection Agency in Sacramento, CA. Allan is a Grand-Dad (and sometimes wait staff) to two cats and an eighteen year old parrot. In addition to enjoying the wonderful camaraderie at the ship, RV traveling, and the companionship of his “fur baby” Ginger, a 7 year-old Schipperke (see photo below), Allan also enjoys desert rock hounding, bird watching, reading, and taking in quilt shows with his wife and daughter Holly.

During a Father’s Day outing to Mare Island in 2010, the Jessops just happened to spot a sign for the ship and ventured over to investigate. Bill Mason was in the middle of giving a lively tour to an official-looking group, and the Jessops unofficially tagged along. Initially, Allan began volunteering at the ship one day per week, but this quickly increased to his now regular routine of three days per week: When not RV traveling, Allan can usually be found at the ship Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

The Jessops reside in Benicia, not far from Mare Island.



As promised, below please find the Articles of Incorporation of the Landing Craft Support Museum.

**ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION  
OF  
LANDING CRAFT SUPPORT MUSEUM**

I.

The name of this corporation is Landing Craft Support Museum Corporation.

II.

This corporation is a nonprofit public benefit corporation and is not organized for the private gain of any person. It is organized under the Nonprofit Public Benefit Corporation Law for public and charitable purposes.

The specific purpose of this corporation is to manage the operation and maintenance of the former USS LCS(L)3 102/HTMS NAKHA as a mobile museum, and to preserve and perpetuate the memory of those officers and men who served so valiantly aboard one of the USS LCS(L) ships and their flagships of the United States Navy, which are informally known as 'The Mighty Midgets,' and the HTMS NAKHA of the Royal Thai Navy, especially those officers and men who gave their lives in the service of their country. To acquire, preserve, and present the records, relics and mementos of the Landing Craft Support vessels, and to inform the public of the World War II accomplishments of the Landing Craft Support ships during operations at Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Philippines, Borneo, China and the Occupation of Japan.

III.

The name and address in the State of California of this corporation's initial agent for service of process is: William J. Mason, 2960 20<sup>th</sup> Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94132.

IV.

This corporation is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes within the meaning of Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. No substantial part of the activities of this corporation shall consist of carrying on propaganda, or otherwise attempting to influence legislation, and the corporation shall not participate or intervene in any political campaign (including the publishing or distribution of statements) on behalf of any candidate for public office.

V.

The property of this corporation is irrevocably dedicated to charitable purposes and no part of the net income or assets of this corporation shall ever inure to the benefit of any director, officer or member thereof or to the benefit of any private person. Upon the dissolution or winding up of the corporation, its assets remaining after payment, or provision for payment, of all debts and liabilities of this corporation shall be distributed in a nonprofit fund, foundation or corporation which is organized and operated exclusively for charitable purposes and which has established its tax exempt status under the Section 501 (c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned incorporator has executed these Articles of Incorporation on the date below.

Date: 10/04/2011

LegalZoom.com, Inc., Incorporator

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ Eileen Gallo, Assistant Secretary



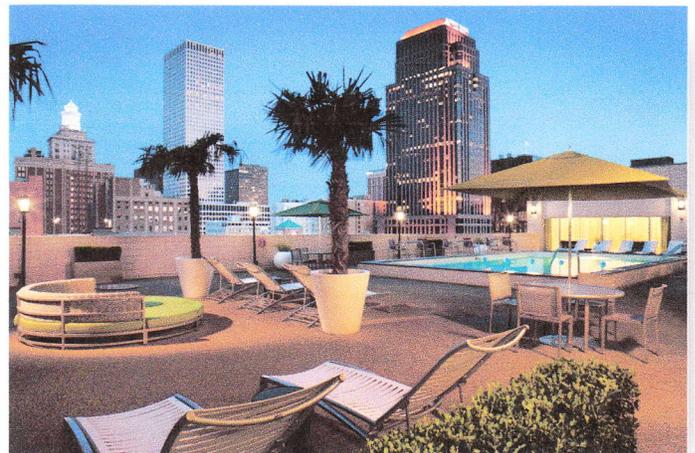
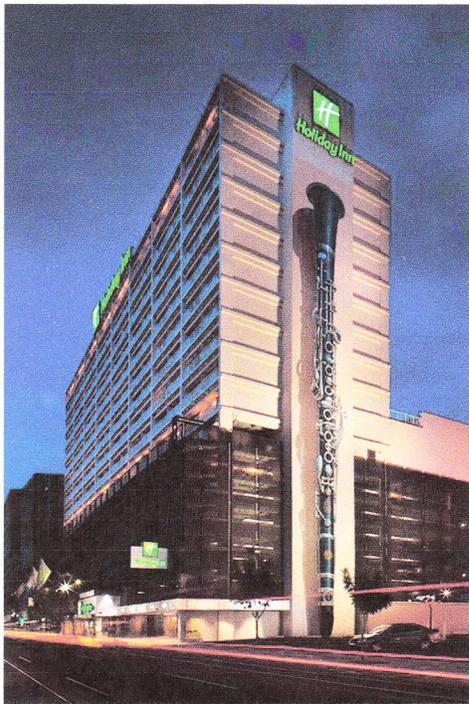
Landing Craft Support Museum 1<sup>st</sup> Annual  
Convention at the Holiday Inn Superdome  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
September 3-September 6, 2014

The room rates quoted below are in effect three days prior, during and three days after the 2014 convention.

Room Rate: Single \$119,

Double \$129 per night.

Room rate does not include applicable taxes. Room rate does include a full buffet breakfast for two people per room. Each additional person in the room is an additional \$10. Please Specify: Two double beds or king size bed.





Convention attendees may reserve their rooms by calling call 1-800-HOLIDAY and refer to the group code LCS or use can use this link. <http://www.hineworleans.com/guest-rooms.html>. A major credit card number will be required to secure your reservation. Make sure you mention that you are making the reservation for the *Landing Craft Support Museum Convention/Reunion*. Attendees must complete their room reservations no later than **July 18, 2014** to receive the discounted room rate.



If you have special requirements such as an accessible room or you need a refrigerator for medical reasons, please contact the hotel front desk directly using the number listed above.

Members and Associate Members are requested to contact any non-member or *Landing Craft Support Museum* shipmates they know and encourage them to attend the convention. Membership in the *Landing Craft Support Museum* is **NOT** required to attend the convention. Your friends and family members are always welcome.

**PLEASE REMEMBER THAT THE CUT-OFF DATE FOR ROOM RESERVATIONS AND REGISTRATION IS July 18, 2014!!!**

Holiday Inn Superdome  
330 Loyola Ave. New Orleans, LA 70112

The Landing Craft Support Museum Planning Committee is looking forward to welcoming you all to our 2014 convention in New Orleans, Louisiana.





## LANDING CRAFT SUPPORT MUSEUM 2014 NEW ORLEANS CONVENTION EVENTS

### GROUP WELCOME DINNER

**Wednesday, September 3 (6:00 pm at the hotel)**

Join your friends for a kickoff celebration featuring an all-you-can-eat buffet dinner at the hotel. This is a great chance to see who is here this year while enjoying a great meal. Dress is very casual and all you need to bring is your appetite. Don't miss this first opportunity to catch up with your friends and shipmates.

***Please note: All bus driver gratuities are included EXCEPT for the Swamp Tour!***

### STEAMBOAT NATCHEZ

**Thursday, September 4 (10:00 am - 5:00 pm)**

Your two-hour cruise from the heart of the French Quarter takes you back when cotton was king and life was as slow and graceful as the flow on the Mississippi Delta. Let us show you New Orleans, one of the world's most active ports, as it can best be seen from the river aboard New Orleans' only authentic Steamboat. You will enjoy a casual lunch buffet prepared fresh on board along with a live narration of historical facts and highlights of the port. For those who are interested, the Steam Engine Room will be open to visitors.

### CAJUN CRITTERS SWAMP TOUR

**Thursday, September 4, immediately following Natchez cruise**

If you choose this option, you will be picked up at the Steamboat Natchez and transported to the end of Bayou Segnette, where you will board the SWAMP QUEEN, a fully Coast Guard approved vessel, complete with handicap accommodations. This is *not* a high-speed, airboat. You'll enter into the backwaters of Louisiana and float past the places where pirates and Indians once roamed. Discover the beauty of cypress trees draped with Spanish moss...graceful water lilies and wild flowers. Cruise serenely through bayous and swamps carpeted by Duckbill grass. Migrating songbirds, Egrets, Ibexes, Great Blue Herons, Pelicans, perhaps you'll even see a Bald Eagle or possibly an alligator or 2. **Dangling your feet overboard is not recommended!**

OR

### NEW ORLEANS SCHOOL OF COOKING

**Also immediately following the Natchez cruise**

For the more culinary types in our group, should you choose this option, you'll be picked up at the Steamboat Natchez and transported to the famous New Orleans School of Cooking. The entertaining classes and the Louisiana General Store are located in a renovated molasses warehouse built in the early 1800s in the Heart of the French Quarter. You'll be shown the basics of Louisiana Cooking in a way you'll never forget! Creole/Cajun experts teach New Orleans specialties such as Gumbo, Jambalaya and Pralines, and season them with history, trivia and tall tales. It's a "ga-ron-teeed" good time for all.

**\*\*\* REMEMBER TO CHOOSE EITHER NATCHEZ & SWAMP TOUR OR  
NATCHEZ & COOKING SCHOOL \*\*\***

## **MEMORIAL SERVICE & WWII MUSEUM**

**Friday, September 5 (10:30 am to 4:00 pm)**

The National WWII Museum in New Orleans opened on June 6, 2000, as The National D-Day Museum. Founded by historian and author, Stephen Ambrose, the Museum tells the story of the American Experience in *the war that changed the world* — why it was fought, how it was won, and what it means today — so that all generations will understand the price of freedom and be inspired by what they learn. In 2003, Congress officially designated it as America's National WWII Museum.

Our visit begins with our annual Memorial Service, followed by a lunch buffet. We will be given tickets to the 2 most popular exhibits: USS Tang – The Final Mission, a hands-on, personal experience to give those in attendance a feeling for what the sailors aboard this U.S. submarine endured. The other exhibit is a 4-D experience of WWII with an introduction by Academy Award-winning actor, Tom Hanks. You will feel the rumble of the German Panzer divisions in Northern Africa as well as the snow that fell during the Battle of the Bulge. **This is a not-to-be-missed event!**

## **GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING**

**Saturday, September 6 (9 am to 10 am)**

Location in the hotel to be announced later.

## **CRESCENT CITY & MARDI GRAS WORLD TOUR**

**Following the General Membership Meeting (10:30 am to 3:00 pm)**

We'll start in the French Quarter, where lacy balconies, Spanish architecture & vibrant markets speak of the city's European forbearers, passing the "dueling oak," New Orleans Museum of Art and on to the route of the St. Charles Streetcar. We'll see City Park and have our taste of beignets (say ben-yays), sort of a cross between a fritter and a doughnut, under a blanket of powdered sugar – so don't wear black that day!

The Crescent City tour will conclude with a visit to Mardi Gras World where you'll witness an insider's view of how Mardi Gras is made, including floats and colorful costumes. We shall be returned to our hotel in plenty of time to rest & get ready for the Farewell Banquet.

## **FAREWELL BANQUET**

**Saturday, September 6 (6:00 pm at the Hotel)**

Join all of your friends for your Farewell Banquet at the Hotel. Please make your entrée selection on your reservation form.

## **TOUR CANCELLATION INSURANCE**

Protect yourself from unforeseen expenses caused by sickness, injury or any other causes that impact your travel plans. This insurance enables a refund of Tour & Banquet expenses. Please note Cancellation Insurance expires at 11:59 PM the day before the reunion starts. No refunds are given after midnight even if Cancellation Insurance was purchased. If you need to cancel – please contact us immediately: Ginny Rooney ([g Rooney@verizon.net](mailto:g Rooney@verizon.net) or 610-256-9223) or Bonnie Steenbergen ([bsteenbergen@msn.com](mailto:bsteenbergen@msn.com) or 303-349-5438). If you have not purchased cancellation insurance, all tour and meal money is non-refundable 6 weeks prior to the convention.

## **RESERVATIONS ARE DUE BY JULY 18, 2014**

- Reservation money is non-refundable after due date unless Tour Cancellation insurance is purchased.
- Insurance holders are eligible for a refund less processing fee until Midnight before the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the convention.
- Insurance ends once the reunion begins – notification in writing/email must be received prior to start of convention.
- Late reservations are accepted on a space available basis with a non-refundable \$10 per person late fee.
- Changes not permitted online including cancellations. Email/Mail notice for cancellations required.
- For a written confirmation please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope. LCS Museum is not liable for failure of vendors to provide contracted services or any injuries/accidents that may occur during the convention.



# Landing Craft Support Museum 2014 Convention Registration & Tour Signup Sheet

Date	Tour	Cost	Qty	Total
All Attendees must pay.	Convention Registration (Registration Fee is non refundable)	\$25 Per Person		
Wednesday Sept 3	Welcome Dinner buffet /cash bar 6:00 pm- 10:00 pm	\$43 per person		
Thursday Sept. 4	Natchez luncheon cruise and cooking school (Buffet Lunch included) 10 am-5:00 pm	\$121 per person		
Thursday Sept. 4	Natchez Luncheon Cruise and Swamp Tour (Buffet Lunch included) 10 am-5:00 pm	\$121 per person		
Friday Sept. 5	WWII Museum tour & Memorial Service (LUNCH included) 10:30 am- 3:30 pm	\$78 per person		
Saturday Sept 6	Crescent City Tour and Mardi Gras World 10:30 am-3:00 pm	\$81 per person		
Saturday Sept. 6	Convention banquet/ cash Bar 6 pm Dinner & Raffle 7:00 pm-11:00 pm			
	Broiled Tilapia Dinner	\$37 per person		
	10oz. Rib Eye steak Dinner	\$39 per person		
	Chicken Dumonde Dinner	\$34 per person		
	Convention cancellation insurance (Non Refundable)	\$10 per person		
	Late registration fee (Non Refundable)	\$10 per person		
	Museum Dues for 2014(if not paid already)	\$20		
	TOTAL:			

Name (As you want it to appear on name tag) \_\_\_\_\_ Ship# \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse: \_\_\_\_\_

Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ St: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (Home) \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: (Other) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Emergency Contact during the Convention: \_\_\_\_\_

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS July 18, 2014**  
**Complete and mail this entire form with check payable to:**  
**LANDING CRAFT SUPPORT MUSEUM,**

**C/o Dennis A. Steenbergen, 7345 W. Lakeside Dr. Littleton, CO 80125-9627**

DATE REC'D:	CHECK #	AMOUNT:
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(For Secretary's use only)

→ → → AIRPORT SHUTTLE IN NEW ORLEANS ← ← ←



Airport Shuttle New Orleans is the sole accessible-friendly transportation provider for Louis Armstrong International Airport.

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Once your flight is confirmed, simply go online to [www.airportshuttleneworleans.com](http://www.airportshuttleneworleans.com) or call toll-free, 1-866-596-2699 to make your reservation, either one way (\$20) or round trip (\$38) to our 2014 convention hotel, the Holiday Inn Downtown Superdome, located at 330 Loyola Avenue, New Orleans, Louisiana 70112.

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**LANDING CRAFT SUPPORT MUSEUM**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Please Print)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Number, Street, City, State and Zip Code)

Telephone: [Home] (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ [Cell] (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Check the appropriate box (es):     New Membership     Renewal Membership     Donation

Membership Dues are \$20 per year. Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations are tax deductible. Amount enclosed \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Donations are used directly for the operation and maintenance of the former USS LCS (L) (3) 102. The Museum is dedicated to the officers and men who served so gallantly and bravely on an LCS (L) during World War II.

Please make checks payable to **Landing Craft Support Museum** and send to:

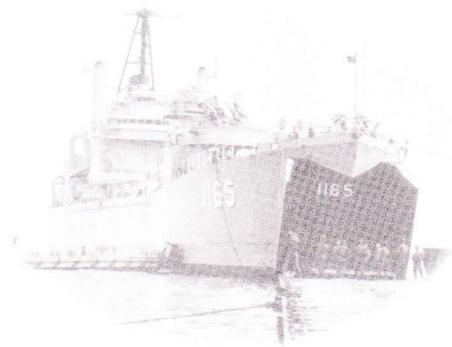
Landing Craft Support Museum  
C/o Dennis A. Steenbergen, Secretary  
7345 W. Lakeside Drive  
Littleton, CO 80125  
Telephone: 303-470-1187

## GET TO KNOW THE SECRETARY

Ahoy, to all the members of the new Landing Craft Support Museum. It is my distinct pleasure to be your Secretary and welcome you to the new Landing Craft Support Museum. The guns of WWII have been silent for 69 years. That was the greatest triumph in many of your lives so what can I say to make your lives any greater? I am humbled to be in your company.

I have been affiliated with the National Association of USS LCS (L) 1-130 since 2001. Over the years it has occurred to me that I have never formally introduced myself to you all. So I thought I would take this opportunity to give you a little history of my life and experiences. As they always say, "better late than never".

I was born in Rochester, Indiana and grew up in Southern California. I served in the US Naval reserve from 1964 through 1970. I am proud to be a "gator Sailor" having served on the *USS Washoe County LST 1165* as an Engineman 3/c. I was a Viet Nam veteran long before it became popular to be one.



My dad served aboard the *USS LCS (L) (3) 49* as SC 2/c. Fortunately for me, he left the *49* for medical reasons about a week before she was sunk in Mariveles Bay, Philippines. I grew up listening to his stories of the "mighty 49" and all his buddies who survived the sinking. I was with him when he grieved for those who did not survive. I don't think a day went by where he didn't remember his buddies. Edward G. Steenbergen, Sr. was a kid's best friend. I worked, played and learned from him. I was proud of him and proud to say that he was my father. Dad was the reason I volunteered to be your Secretary. I could not think of a better way to honor his memory.

My life's work has been in law enforcement for over 30 years. I was a patrolman for the city of Golden, Colorado and a Deputy Sheriff for Arapahoe County Colorado. I worked as a Jail Deputy, Patrol Deputy, Civil Deputy and a Fugitive Investigator. I served seven years on our Special Weapons and tactical team where I was an assistant team leader. I was a field training officer where I trained new rookie deputies in the art of staying out of trouble and to being able to

determine who was friend or foe. Yes, it is the Aurora theater shooter is currently in located. You might remember those events vacation when the Columbine High School shootings occurred or I might have been involved in that unfortunate event.



the same Arapahoe County Colorado where custody and where Arapahoe High School is from the recent TV news stories. I was on

I have been married for 45 years to my lovely and charming better half, the former Miss Bonnie Blaikie of Whittier, California. We have two sons and two young grandchildren ages 15 and 12. Unfortunately they live in Germany with our son and his German wife. We visit with them as often as possible.

I am proud to say that Bonnie had a connection to our LCS family much before we met. Bonnie's father was William G. Blaikie and was a QM 1/c and was an instructor at the Quartermasters school in Biloxi, Mississippi during WWII. One of his students was none other than John Hughes of USS LCS (L) (3) 100. I am sure that he instructed many of the other young men who studied at the school during the war.



Well, that is me in a nutshell. Just a reminder that the little numbers next to your name on the newsletter label is the month and year that your dues are paid through.

Thanks for allowing me to be part of you. You are all my heroes.

Dennis A. Steenbergen (Denny)

Secretary

Landing Craft Support Museum

