



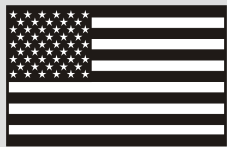
# FROM THE EDITOR

**Attention on deck**--Although this is arriving to you in January, it is officially the third issue of 2002. For those of you who have paid your \$10 to Bud Farmer for 2003, you will receive your next issue in late spring. If you have not sent your ten bucks to Bud, this will be your last issue. It is important to remember that subscriptions are for a full calendar year only.

By now you all should have received your invitations to our **2003 LCT Reunion**. Due to scheduling issues, the banquet will be held Friday night this year, with our grand tour and "cruise" on the LCT set for Saturday, 7 June. We will have a guest speaker to be announced in our next issue along with other reunion details. A special program will take place Saturday evening in the hotel.

Be sure and pay your balance to Bud Farmer by April 15th, and call the **Duluth Radisson** direct for room reservations at (218) 727-8981 or the national number at 1-800-333-3333. Tell them you are with the LCT WW2 Reunion Group.

*Ron Swanson*



## TAPS

*"You have served in the greatest Navy in the world. No other Navy at any time has done so much. For your part in these achievements you deserve to be proud as long as you live. The Nation which you served at a time of crisis will remember you with gratitude..."*

James Forrestal-1946  
Secretary of the Navy

**The LCT Flotillas of WW2 present a final salute to our departed comrades and their loved ones:**

**Baker, William D.** (XO LCT-1040,  
Skipper LCTs 34, 1045)

**Dennison, Fred** (LCT-271)

**Gramling, Sara** (wife of Clarence  
LCT-547)

**Owens, Edward R.** MoMM 1c  
LCT-534)



Your wonderful mailing labels are going like hotcakes!  
Will need some more come Christmas!

Walter Gillette, Fair Haven NJ

Thanks a lot for your help. Only recently, since my father's death, have I become aware that he may have been involved in a real shooting war. His LCT may have been mortared and possibly strafed during the invasion of **Leyte**, Philippines. I have a number of photos of LCTs, destroyed and captured Japanese destroyers, surrendering Japanese, Filipino victory parades, etc. If anyone is interested, I'm sure something can be worked out.

Bill Thiessen, Bemidji, MN

**Editor's Note:** *Bill's father, Victor L. Thiessen, was a motor-mach on LCT-1119 in LCT Flotillas 2 and 32.*

I am a WW2 Marine and survivor of **Iwo Jima**. A friend of mine, SM3c (in 1945), **Al Cini**, was assigned to a Signal Station on Iwo Jima. On 6 June, 1945, he and others, assisted in the rescue of 13 men (3 of whom were injured), from the "abandoned" LCT-1356, by use of a boatswain's swing, lifting them from the LCT onto the island. For this action, Cini received a letter of commendation from Captain F.W. Connor, USN. I would like to locate anyone that remembers this incident.

John Murphy, New Castle, DE

I stumbled upon the webpage about the **LCT-81** and I nearly fainted! There was a photo of my father I had never seen, and photos of the craft at Kiska. Pat Cooney, the Ensign on the LCT-81, was my father. From what he told me, the trip to Kiska was probably the biggest trauma of his life. He said that he had decided not to inform the crew that great loss of life was expected there, and when they landed, the island was empty.

I would love to know what the historical records tell us about the Kiska invasion. Anything you can share would be greatly appreciated. My father passed away at age 82 in July of 2000.

Mary Pat Cooney, Los Angeles CA

**Editor's Note:** *After years of searching for my father's skipper, I had nearly given up hope. We are now exchanging photos and recollections with Mary Pat, daughter of Ensign Pat Cooney, Officer-In-Charge, LCT-81 of Flotilla 3.*