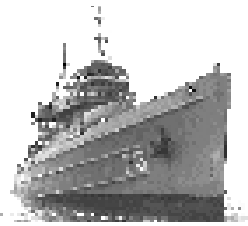




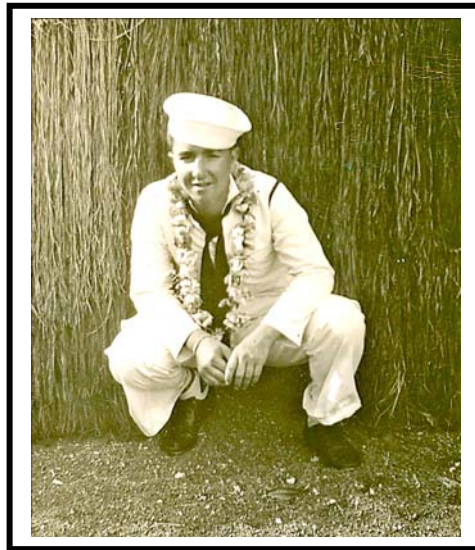
*LST-491*



*USS Seize (ARS-26)*



*USS Jicarilla (ATF-104)*



**Peter Joseph Illari**  
**Electrician's Mate 3/C U.S. Navy**  
**1 February 1943 – 3 January 1947**



*LST-530* beached at White Beach,  
Lingayen Gulf, Philippine Islands,  
July 1945

Peter was born on 3 January 1926 in Brooklyn, New York, where he attended grades 1-8 from 1931 to 1939. He left high school in Brooklyn during his senior year to enlist as a Seaman Recruit in the Navy on 1 February 1943. Peter was sent to Newport Naval Station, Rhode Island, for recruit training, and then was assigned as an Armed Guard aboard *SS Tustin*, an oil tanker out of New York, which went into various ports of the Atlantic and Caribbean Sea. On 6 February 1944, he reported aboard Landing Ship Tank (*USS LST-491*), which was commissioned on 3 December 1943 and assigned to the Atlantic Fleet. *LST-491* left New York Harbor and sailed via Halifax, Nova Scotia, to Cardiff, Wales, from where the crew practiced secret amphibious landings at Slapton Sands on the southwest coast of England. They then participated in D-Day operations at Normandy, France, on 6 June 1944, and D-Day operations in southern France on 15 August 1944. Peter left *LST-491* in November 1944, went home on leave over Christmas, and reported aboard *USS LST-530* at Norfolk, Virginia, in late January/early February 1945. *LST-530* then transited the Panama Canal to join the Pacific Fleet where she participated in landing troops, supplies, and equipment on several islands in Borneo during May 1945, including Linka, Tarakan Island; in the assault and occupation of Okinawa in June 1945; and in the Philippines during July 1945. In August 1945, *LST-530* was assigned occupation duty in Far Eastern waters. While aboard *LST-530*, Peter qualified for the Electrician's Mate rating. In September 1945, after the war ended, Peter left *LST-530* to report aboard Rescue and Salvage Ship *USS Seize (ARS-626)*, stationed at Shanghai, China, for a while until he was assigned to Fleet Tug *USS Jicarilla (ATF-104)*. While he was aboard *USS Jicarilla*, she was engaged in towing ships to the nuclear bomb test site at Bikini Atoll. Peter left *USS Jicarilla* in 1946, returning to the States in late 1946 for discharge as Electrician's Mate 3/C on 3 January 1947 at Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Florida. Peter returned to Brooklyn where he worked for the Public National Bank in New York City until 1953. Peter married **Victoria Marie Fuentes** (born 30 June 1930) on 1 September 1951 in Brooklyn. He attended New York University and earned a BS degree in Accounting and Finance in June 1952. After leaving the bank, he went to work for the New York State Department of Banking as a Bank Examiner for ten years. In 1963, Peter and Victoria moved to Bowie, Maryland, for two years where Peter worked for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation. In 1965, they moved to Center Valley, Pennsylvania, and Peter went to work for the General Acceptance Corporation (GAC) in Allentown, Pennsylvania. GAC was later acquired by Bank of America, from which Peter retired in 1985. He continued to work for three more years for Merchants Bank in Allentown until fully retiring in 1988. In 1992, Peter and Victoria moved to Lower Macungie Township, where they settled. Peter was a member of the Knights of Columbus from 1961 to 1963, and has been a member of VFW Memorial Post 9264 in Macungie, Pennsylvania, since 2003. Peter and Victoria had three children: **Michael Joseph**, **Peter Douglas**, and **Donna Marie**. Peter's parents were **Joseph Illari** (16 August 1884 – 1927) and **Maria Catalano Illari** (22 November 1891 – 17 September 1962), both of whom were born in Marsala, Sicily. Peter's brother, **Sebastian Illari**, served in the Navy from 1942 to 1947.