



**USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUE BONNET  
"The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast"**

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**FROM THE SURVIVORS**

Once again one of our crew has joined his shipmates still standing watch in Sunda Strait.

**ARTHUR "ART" DuHAIME:** April 18, stroke and pneumonia  
**CAPT. LEON W. ROGERS** May 26, series of illnesses

**Art** had been ill for a long time but Ann said he never once uttered a complaint. Those of us who frequented the Pocono reunion will vouch for the emotional attachment he had for the Houston. On April 22, the local chapter of AX-POW held a memorial service and a Naval Honor Guard fired a 21 gun salute. Abiding with his wishes, he was cremated with half of his ashes to be scattered in Sunda Strait, and half buried in a family plot. He also had four devoted sons, Art Jr., Raymond, Jimmy and David, whom we encouraged to become active members of "The Next Generation" & help us carry on the memory of the ship he so loved.

**CAPT. ROGERS** had been ill for the past several years. Prior to his illnesses that incapacitated him, he was a staunch supporter of the organization. We all loved and respected this quiet, gentle man. He shall be missed. His widow, Marguerite called Val to advise that per Capt. Rogers' request, there was no memorial service held. His body was cremated and sent to the USS Rentz for burial at sea. Arrangements have been made to send a portion of his ashes to the USS Houston Museum at the University of Houston. His family has requested that donations in his memory be sent to the USS Houston organization.

**LOSS OF A DEAR FRIEND** – On April 23<sup>rd</sup> we received word that our dear friend, May Hekking, had passed away in The Hague. May, widow of "Doc" Hekking, who was 92, had been ill for some

time. Those of us who were fortunate to know Mae all agree that when the word "lady" was originated they had Mae in mind. Those who are familiar with the background of the Hekking family know of the great sacrifices made by this brave woman in keeping her two young children alive during those long years of captivity by the Japanese, all the time not knowing if her husband the "Doc" was alive or dead. She will be sorely missed by son Fred, daughter Lukie, her grandchildren and many American friends.

**POW BACK PAY UPDATE** – I would like to report how fortunate we were to have a person like CDR John DeNicola in charge of this program. He has been patient and compassionate in his handling of the many telephone calls, and has done all in his power to see that each of us receive as much money as possible. Those of you who have received your checks might consider sending him a thank you note, or perhaps a phone call. I have sent a letter of commendation to his Admiral, and also one of the Aussie coins with the Houston bell on it as a little expression of our gratitude.

**AUSSIE 60<sup>TH</sup> OBSERVANCES** – It must be their Irish background, the Aussies just love their celebrations. Their ceremonies surrounding the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Sunda Strait spanned a number of days and places. My good mate, Arthur "Blood" Bancroft, sent us a packet containing a set of the beautiful coins, and programs from the various events. The gala events in Perth included services in St. Johns Church in Fremantle, a day at the Nedlands Yacht Club, lunch aboard an American Warship, USS Sides, a day at the Ascot Race Track (where all the races were named for our two ships and skippers), and services in St. Georges Cathedral in Perth. The Lord Mayor of Perth presented a stirring address which clearly showed the deep pride the city of Perth has in it's ship. The celebrations climaxed with a reunion of Perth Survivors in Canberra in May.

**D.I.C. INFORMATION** - There has been some confusion about D.I.C. (Dependency Indemnity Compensation) awards from the V.A. when a veteran passes away. There have been some changes made recently.

1. A veteran only has to be rated 100% disabled for one year before his death, REGARDLESS OF THE CAUSE, for his widow to be awarded D.I.C; which is \$911 plus \$197 per month. The additional \$197 is awarded in the case of an ex. POW, who has been totally disabled for 10 years or more, and he and his widow have been married for at least 8 of those 10 years.

2. If the veteran is rated 100% for a period of over 10 years, and the widow was married to him 8 of those 10 years, there is an additional \$2,000 burial award.

3. There is also a \$300 allowance for a cemetery plot, in addition to a government headstone.

The above information is excerpted from the lengthy D.I.C. guidelines, and are only the basic benefits. If anyone desires the entire guidelines, just let me know.

**AN INTERESTING BOOK** – "The Japanese Connection" by Bill McDonald, Writers Club Press, is an interesting mixture of fact and fiction. The author, a retired Suffolk County NY detective, tells me that at the end of the war he sat next to a young sailor on a train going cross country. During the trip he learned that the sailor was a USS Houston survivor, and he learned the story of our sinking and the brutality of the Japanese. After he retired he moved to Florida and decided to write a book, weaving in the sailor's account, changing the names, and creating a murder mystery. The mystery revolves around the Houston story, (renamed the USS Stewart) and jumps into the future

when the survivors are having a reunion in Long Island. It appears that the most sadistic of the Japanese had changed identities with another dead Jap, fearing war crimes trials. He has become a successful business man, and the survivor learns that he is in New York. Several days after the reunion, the Jap is found murdered in his hotel room. So there you have the mystery; the survivors are suspect: did one of them do it, and if so which?

**MAILBAG – LLOYD WILLEY** and Dorothy report that May 2<sup>nd</sup> they attended a luncheon at the North Island Officers Club to meet the Deputy Lord Mayor of Perth, Australia, Judy McEvoy and a couple of Perth City Counselors, Jennifer MacGill and Tess Stroud. Also attending was **JOHN BARTZ** and June. The Aussies were touring the US and had requested to meet some HOUSTON survivors. I supplied Naval Authorities in San Diego with a list of all the survivors in California, but only those mentioned above could attend. referring to the execution order the Japanese had and **JACK FELIZ** sends thanks for my review of “The Saga of Sailor Jack”, but points out that I erred in giving him the rank of Captain. He tells me that his highest rank was Commander. I won't apologize for that little slip, you should have been a Captain. If we young Seamen were made Chiefs, they you old China Hands deserved Captain..... Betty Miles, sister of BILLY BATCHELOR, has sent her collection of books about the HOUSTON to the University of Houston.... During one of my slide presentations recently a woman read the letter that her cousin's mother received from AL MAHER informing her that her son, CHARLEY D. ARGO, went down with the ship. Congrats to BILL INGRAM who was recently presented with a granddaughter, Hope Yvette, by proud parents son Scott & wife Robin. Aussie T.R. Beaton just back home after a stint in Thailand, setting up the Hintok Museum, sends a newly updated map of the Railroad. This map has all the camps identified by Kilo Number as well as name. It also locates the hospital camps and cemeteries from which bodies were recovered. This is truly a must for anyone who worked on the railroad. There are only 1000 numbered prints available. If interested send \$5 US to: T.R. Beaton

4 Brownes Crescent  
Eltham, Victoria 3095  
Australia

Time to train in and secure,  
Otto

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### FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

**AUGUST REUNION** – The 58<sup>th</sup> annual reunion will be Aug. 15 – 17. Children under 3 are at no charge; Children 2 – 12 have special meal rates. For single tickets: Brunch \$12 each day, \$8 child under \$12; Dinner dance Friday, \$22.50, child under 12 \$12; Dinner dance Saturday \$26, child under 12 \$12.50. Registration begins Thursday afternoon, August 15 followed by the officers' reception at 5pm. Friday – brunch at 8:30am, shopping at Grapevine Mall, with shuttle transportation available, silent auction 2:30pm (bring a donation) & the dinner/dance (Western band) 6pm. Saturday: 8:30 brunch, Memorial Service 11am, business meeting 2pm, the Next Generation meeting 3pm, dinner/dance (Big Band music) 6pm. Details for registration further along in the newsletter. Plan to come! Next Generation people – be advised – you will be expected to participate – we have a wonderful time!!

**SCHOLARSHIP** – Start gathering your information together as we are now accepting scholarship applications! An application will be found at the end of this newsletter.

**MAIL** – If you have an email address, please notify me at [CA30NG@aol.com](mailto:CA30NG@aol.com). We will be able to keep you updated on recent news. If you see a red @ by your name, this will be your last newsletter due to lack of response to the organization.

**JAPANESE WAR CRIME RECORDS** – The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) published a report in mid March to Congress on the declassification of records concerning Japanese war crimes in World War II including such things as bacteriological warfare related activities. You can find this at:  
<http://www.nara.gov/iwg/report02.html>

**FALL OF SINGAPORE** – The Australian Broadcasting Corporation shot a documentary on the fall of the city. You can view a transcript, video, maps, etc at:  
<http://www.abc.net.au/4corners/specials/noprisoners/default.htm>

**WEB SITES** – Clay Ramsey (our USS Houston friend) has designed a great website at [www.asiaticfleet.com](http://www.asiaticfleet.com). He entered the information about the dive at Sunda Strait at:  
[http://www.asiaticfleet.com/diving\\_in\\_the\\_sunda\\_strait.htm](http://www.asiaticfleet.com/diving_in_the_sunda_strait.htm)

**DONATIONS** –We're **very** grateful to everyone that donates to the kitty. Thank you for your generosity! Special thanks to – Rita & Tracy Hobbs, Audie Lynch, **HOWARD & SYLVIA BROOKS**, Jo Klenk, **SULO AND CONCETTA SUOMI**, Jimmie & JB Pryor, Viva Willey, **OTTO AND TRUDY SCHWARZ**, Rita Jedinak, **HARRY AND AUDREY KELLY**, Audie Lynch, Dana Charles, John & Pat Mintzer, Bette Fowler, Joyce Ranger, **ELLA JANE & LANSON HARRIS**, Gwen McFarland, **EARL AND ERMA SNYDER**

**Donations in memory of ART DuHAIME**: Ellen McGarvey, Russel & Suzanne Van Camp, James Hartzell, Richard & Loretta Schaeffer, Mary Ellen, Glenn & Rob Hoffman, Marlene & Steve Kmetz, Albert & Marie Gentil, William and Catherine Gillespie, Joseph & Kathleen Murray, Brian Manley of the Jade Corporation, Michael & Ann Sabia, Elisabeth Smith, Alfred & Patricia Smith, Bill & Anne Roadfuss, Anne Royack, Margaret Kirkman, Doris & Charles Dunfee, Marian Weyhmuller, Michael and Marie Nastasi, Spector Gadon & Rosen Law Firm

**FROM DOWN UNDER** – Roy Barker (Perth survivor) emailed telling about his activities commemorating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the sinking of the PERTH and HOUSTON. He, Gavin Campbell (Perth survivor) and the US Naval Attaché to Australia, Capt. Daniel D. Sloss were Canberra (Australia's national capital) on February 28 laying a wreath on the tomb of the unknown warrior on behalf of the two ships. They are planning another anniversary get together in Canberra on May 6-11 "when no doubt *USS Houston* will feature in many retold memories.

**DIVERS IN JAKARTA** – David Faltot reported on May 15th they completed the last dive series at the USS Houston CA-30 site but conditions were very poor with storms and rain. They found a large torpedo hole in the vicinity of the hangar bay. It was on the port side but was actually underneath the long stabilizer that runs on each side of the bottom of the hull. He believes that means that the torpedo hit AFTER the ship had already rolled to starboard thereby exposing the bottom of the flat hull. No other torpedo holes were found on the port side. The bow impacted the bottom such that it is partially buried and broken away from the rest of the ship. "There may be a torpedo hole there that we simply cannot see. They also did several dives on the PERTH and found what appears to be an unexploded aerial bomb on the ocean floor in the vicinity of her.

**REUNIONS –**

LOST BATTALION, USS HOUSTON SURVIVORS

August 15 – 17, 2002

Holiday Inn Select DFW Airport North

4441 Hwy 114 & Esters Blvd, Irving, TX 57063

rooms - \$69 single or double (972 929-8181 – Contact: Nadine)

Pre registration rate to August 1 \$79.00 After August 1, \$85.00

Contact: Frank Ficklin

6303 Sioux Dr

Granbury, TX 76049-5393

USS HOUSTON CA30 –CL81

September 18 - 22,2002

Holiday Inn, Harrisburg, PA

Contact:

Donna & Ken Rogers

3949 Little John Dr.

York, PA 17404

717 792-9113

email: [donnakenr@cs.com](mailto:donnakenr@cs.com)

**OVER THERE.....** - Our friend Fred Seiker in England has been very active in the upcoming ceremonies dedicating a section of the original Thai-Burma Railway tract at the National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, England. The Prince of Wales..... Prince Charles asked to see the track on a private visit on May 14<sup>th</sup>. He also asked to personally meet Fred! Fred reports that the meeting went very well. Speaking of very well, Fred had him replacement surgery on Memorial Day. Liz has faxed ongoing reports and he is doing great. Carol Cooper, chairman of COFEPOW (Children of Far East Prisoners of War) sent a copy of her newsletter. It tells of upgrading their website, the COFWPOW lottery to raise money, book reviews, etc. One NG volunteered to bike 50 miles asking for donations to raise money for their organization! They have a dozen or more people that volunteer to help with research, public relations, etc. In just one quarter, their membership grew by 51 people!

**IN SEARCH OF –**

**EARL V. MAY** – contact Paula Duhn (grand daughter) 1431 Keegan Way, Santa Ana, CA 92705  
Email: [duhn@sbcglobal.com](mailto:duhn@sbcglobal.com)

**CHESTER L. CHORMAN** – contact Colleen Schwanz (sister) at 424 Monte Dr, Mason, OH 45040  
Email: [peschwanz@excite.com](mailto:peschwanz@excite.com)

**JAMES HAROLD VAUGHN** – contact Elizabeth Vaughn Stevens (cousin) 125 Elmwood,  
Huntsville, TX 77320 Email: [betty@tigerville.com](mailto:betty@tigerville.com)

**CHARLES LAROY SPENCER** – contact Kerrylea Stippes (niece) 3816 41<sup>st</sup> Ave. SW, Seattle, WA  
98116 (206 938-5295) Email: [KStippes@attbi.com](mailto:KStippes@attbi.com)

**JAMES ELMORE HOGAN** – contact Viva Hogan Wiley (sister) 603 Meadow Green Ct SE,  
Albuquerque, NM 87123 (505 291-8007) Email: [viken@rt66.com](mailto:viken@rt66.com)

**CLINTON A. SHETTLESWORTH** – contact Anna Hoffman (sister) 7529 E. Culver St. Apt 527,  
Scottsdale, AZ 85257

**FREDERICK MILLS** – contact Rita Jedinak (sister) 2550 State Rd 580 Lot 467, Clearwater, FL  
33761

**JAMES GILBERT AUTREY** – Albert Novak, Jr., MSgt, USAF(Ret) (nephew) 2204 Wilkes, Bryan,  
TX 77803, 979 778-1943 Email: [Trope1922@aol.com](mailto:Trope1922@aol.com)

**JAMES GORE** – Beth Hack (niece) PO Box 878, Soldotna, Alaska 99669  
Email: [mbhack@alaska.net](mailto:mbhack@alaska.net)

**MILTON MAY** – Anita Tate (niece) 1429 Cypress St., Weatherford, TX 76086

**MAILBAG** – Nancy Morrow sent her fantastic jam and separate letter saying she is recouping from breast cancer. Geneva King emailed that she has been ill & slowly mending. **CONNIE & SULO SOUMI** sent donations to our kitty and the scholarship kitty with a note wishing us well. **ELIEEN & BOB HANLEY** wrote to say how sorry they were to have missed the 60<sup>th</sup> reunion, however Bob began having pain in his stomach. He's had cancer before so they wanted to be careful and get back home right away. They were with us in spirit & their hearts. Viva Wiley wrote that she had some trouble finding me – it's been quite an adventure as the phone company changed our number twice and the post office first sends our mail to another address before they remember that ours is a new street causing quite a delay in receiving mail. She wishes she lived closer to volunteer to help --- oh boy! So do !!! Jo Klenk sent a long letter telling how much she & her family enjoyed the reunion. It was their first time for the **JOE GARRETT** family... and Joe. I'm glad he saw just how much we NG's care for our survivors! Joyce Ranger sent a copy of **FIGHTING HEROES** of WWII – someone had asked her for a copy and she doesn't recall the name. Whoever wants a copy can contact me. The **TRIBUNE** in Scottsdale, AZ wrote a nice article about our **SKIP SCHILPEROORT** that Anna Hoffman sent me. Nancy & Pete Adams went through their books,

tapes, etc and gave a presentation of the Houston at Pete's Masonic Club. Kudos to you! We need more NG's doing the same. Thanks to all of you that sent pictures of the March Reunion. Max & I brought a camera but, for some reason, we didn't take a single picture!!! I always enjoy the funny messages from **RAY GOODSON**, Joann Pryor & Dottie Crispi they send via email. **JIM BALLEW** sent an article from Wisconsin entitled "Texans are just a little bit different" that gave us a good chuckle....**O.C. MCMANUS** called to advise that he has moved to an assisted living center. He says the place is very nice but wishes there were more lady helpers that are young and pretty.... Spoken like a true sailor! Gwen McFarland sent a generous donation with a note that her knee replacement surgery was May 1<sup>st</sup>... we hope it is a huge success so we can have her back at the reunions. She's been missed! **PAUL & THERESA PAPISH** faithfully send emails and cards that keep my spirits boosted – thanks for the inspiration! Roger Poirier, son of **ROGER DALE POIRIER** (KIA 2-12-42) has graciously scanned and emailed material about his father for our archives. Many thanks Roger! I hope more NG's will do the same. Dana Ferguson, granddaughter of **JOHN FERGUSON**, took the American flag flown in combat in his honor that was presented by Sean Gouge (grandson in law of the late **VALDON ROBERTS**) to Smithtown Middle School (NY) as a part of a school program honoring veterans. **LLOYD WILLEY** was back in the news again – his letter to the editor was printed May 13<sup>th</sup> telling of the execution orders by the Japanese & how the atom bomb SAVED many lives.

**AN OBSERVATION** – This is a gentle reminder to some readers that this is a non-profit organization..... not free as we have overhead. It costs the organization money to send you the newsletter, it costs the organization to send or call you with information you have requested. We have faithful donors to the kitty, but they should not shoulder the expense of others. We were queried what the registration fee of \$10 was for at the reunion – we had many who generously brought goodies but we had to continuously replenish supplies in the hospitality room, we furnished a copy machine and paper, we had the charge for the speaker phone for the overseas call from Jakarta, we have to spruce up the wreaths each year, we had chairs and tents and tarps at the memorial service – that alone was \$1,000 plus dollars. Let's see now.... We had over 300 at the memorial service (not including the band) and just over 200 that paid the fee. The math is simple. The same goes for the newsletter – I send out almost 600 newsletters, some snail mail and some email. There is the expense for the paper, ink, printer, postage, phone line & internet service. Our web site has an annual fee, our bulk rate permit has an annual fee.... the list goes on. Nooo, neither Lin nor I receive pay for our work. Vic Campbell doesn't charge to design or keep the website up to date. Nor has the organization paid for the addition to building our home to have this office & storage area especially designed. 'Nuff said.

**CHANGE OF COMMAND** – On May 20<sup>th</sup> at Keyport, Washington, the USS Houston SSN 713 held the Change of Command from Commander Daniel Mack to Commander Christopher Kaiser. Although both Lin and I provided a list of all the survivors and those NG & friends of the organization that lived nearby, there seemed to be a snafu with the postal system as many have reported their interest and intent in attending but didn't received an invitation. Mary & **SKIP SCHILPEROORT** attended along with **LAURENCE LOUIS** his two daughters. LTJG Donovan Coffey and MM1 Jerry Lantz were their personal escorts. Also attending were **HOWARD BROOKS'** son and wife. Capt. Mack spoke of the CA-30's courageous history & invited them to a special reception room to meet his family. We welcome the new Captain to the USS Houston family.

**BACK PAY STATUS** – I've received reports from some men that they have received their checks. There is a 2 year deadline which ends August 2003. Kathie Tiedeman, daughter of the late HERBERT LEVITT, has been a one man army pushing for an adjustment of the back pay based on the CPI inflator from 1942 – 1946 to 2002. Senator McCain's office will keep her posted, she will share with me and I will pass the word! It's very exciting to have the NG get involved. She needs back up so call his office at 202 789-2626 or your state Senator's office. Let's rally here! An information sheet is at the back of the newsletter.

Matt in Senator McCain's office just advised her that **the Bill to correct the calculation of the back pay for POW survivors was presented to the Floor of the Senate last Thursday, May 23. The Bill is S2564. It will proceed to the Armed Services Committee.** The text of the Bill can be found at <http://thomas.loc.gov>. Enter Bill S2564 at Search prompt.

**PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIAL CERTIFICATE FOR DECEASED AMERICAN VETERANS:** Every American family that has a deceased member who served in the military is eligible regardless of when a veteran served or cause of death. You can find more information at <http://www.members.aol.com/forvets/vvssp4.htm>. You must provide a copy of any document which would help establish honorable military service. Write to: Director, Office of Memorial Programs, National Cemetery Systems, US Dept of Veterans Affairs, Washington DC 20420.

**THE ASIATIC FLEET'S ODDS:**

		U.S.	Japan
Aircraft Carriers	0	10	
Battleships		0	10
Heavy cruisers	1	18	
Light cruisers	2	18	
Destroyers		13	113
Submarines		29	63
Other ships		24+	Unknown
Combat aircraft	0	Hundreds	
Other aircraft	38	Unknown	

Source: The Fleet the Gods Forgot. The "other" categories include tenders, patrol craft and similar assets.

## CREWMEMBER SPOTLIGHT

### EUGENE "GENE" T. WILKINSON

Gene Wilkinson was born in Trinidad, Colorado on 23 June 1922. He enlisted in the US Navy at Denver, Colorado on 30 August 1940 at age 18. Seaman Wilkinson completed his boot training in San Diego, California, where he was then assigned to the *USS Chicago*, the *USS Argonne*, and the *USS Houston* consecutively. On March 1, 1942 while defending the Dutch Islands in the Sunda Strait between Sumatra and Java from a Japanese land attack on Java, the *USS Houston* was sunk. He was captured on March 9, 1942 by the Japanese and interned as a POW for 3 ½ years as a slave laborer. As a prisoner he was moved from Java, to Singapore, from Singapore to Malaga, from Malaga to Burma, from Burma to Thailand and finally from Thailand to Saigon French Indo China. Gene recalls his worst experience as a prisoner was while he was involved in what is known today as the Railroad of Death. Working 16 – 24 hour days for 18 months, they were driven to build a railroad over 450 kilometers through jungle covered mountains from Moulmein, Burma to Bangkok, Thailand. He recalls suffering you can't imagine with the monsoons, malaria, dysentery, cholera, pellagra, and the lice suffered by many, and he himself dropped from 165 pounds to 85 pounds. He ended up in Saigon French Indo China building runways, working in oil refineries and loading and unloading ships. Living in fear of mass extermination he claims the dropping of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki in 1945 with saving the life of himself and 1000 other prisoners there. Within days they were free to roam as they pleased. It was at this time early in the Vietnam war that he remembers the killing of hundreds of French people in Saigon. The Americans, untouched during this time, would help as many French personnel as they could by escorting them back to their camps in a safe haven. Within days the Americans were liberated and flown back to Washington DC. Gene served another 18 months active duty and was discharged as a Photographer's Mate 3<sup>rd</sup> Class at Treasure Island, San Francisco, California. His awards include the American Defense Service Medal with one bronze star, the Asiatic-Pacific Campaign Medal with three bronze Stars, American Area Medal, World War II Victory medal, Navy Good Conduct Medal with one bronze star, the Philippine Defense Service Ribbon with one bronze star and the Presidential Unit Citation with one bronze star. Gene now resides in Santa Barbara, California. He has one son, Tom, that also lives in Santa Barbara.

## **Cruiser Houston Exhibit Undergoing Changes as Work on New Library Wing Commences**

In April 2002, the University of Houston Libraries held a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the beginning of work on a new wing for our library building. When completed in the fall of 2004, the new wing will provide not only new space for books and more study areas for students, but a wonderful new exhibit area for the Cruiser Houston Exhibit.

The new Cruiser Houston Exhibit will be located in a prominent area on the second floor of the library, where students and other library users will pass by frequently. New glass cases will show off materials from the Cruiser Houston Collection in an area adjacent to the library's new Special Events Room. The exhibit itself will be revamped to include many new gifts that have never been displayed before, and fragile items that have been on exhibit for many years will get to have a much-needed rest. Best of all, the new Cruiser Houston Exhibit will be accessible to the general public during all hours that the main library is open.

Before we are able to enjoy the excitement of the new wing and the new Cruiser Houston Exhibit, however, we are going to have to suffer through the inconvenience of construction. As many of you know, the George R. Brown Room has long been the home of the Cruiser Houston Exhibit, and the site of the annual reception that the library holds for the USS *Houston* Survivors Association and the Next Generation. But due to construction, the George R. Brown Room will be converted to office space for librarians whose offices are being demolished to make way for the new wing. To prepare for this, we have had to take down the materials that were on display in the Cruiser Houston Exhibit and put them away in Special Collection and Archives.

During the construction period, we will continue to have a smaller exhibit of materials available for the many visitors who contact us wishing to view items from the Cruiser Houston Collection. The exhibit *In War and In Peace: An Exhibit Commemorating the Sixtieth Anniversary of the Battle of Sunda Strait and the Sinking of the U.S. Houston (CA-30)* will be mounted in the Special Collections and Archives offices on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor of the library, and will be available for viewing by appointment. (Many members of the USS Houston Survivors Association and the Next Generation enjoyed this exhibit while they were in Houston for the reunion in March).

When the new Cruiser Houston Exhibit is finally unveiled on the second floor of the library, we will be able to reach people with the story of the USS Houston (CA-30) and her crew as never before. While getting to that point will require some inconvenience to all of us, the end result of more visibility for the historic materials in the Cruiser Houston Collection will be worth it. If you have any questions about the new library wing or visiting the In War 7 In Peace exhibit, please contact Julie Grob, Special Collections Librarian, by email at [jgrob@uh.edu](mailto:jgrob@uh.edu), or by phone 713-843-9744.

## **A Line from Lin**

For Memorial Day Ron and I went to the Monument to leave remembrances (bluebonnets with names and information) for my cousin and others whom we have been asked to remember. I always take a magnolia, the state flower of Louisiana, for my cousin and others from Louisiana - this year I took a sunflower, a state flower for a lost crew member. We also left remembrances for the ones still "standing watch at Sunda Strait." As Our Men have passed away, Ron and I have taken a bluebonnet with the man's name to leave at the Monument. Please let me know if you have a special person or date that you would like to have remembered at the Monument. Since the Monument is locked up along with the Park on Memorial Day, we went earlier in the month. We have decided that we will always have to take a broom; the Heritage Society lent us a broom to sweep off the grass trimmings, etc., to clean off the Monument for Memorial Day. We consider it our privilege to take care of the Monument for special holidays.

**Together Rx Card** - Several pharmaceutical companies are now participating together to offer the Together Rx Card -- the combined income of the household of 2 must be less than \$28,000 for individuals, \$38,000 for couples (Alaska, \$35,000/\$48,000 and Hawaii, \$33,000/\$44,000). For households with 3 or more, please call 1-800-865-7211. There is no cost for the card, and with the card, the cardholder will be offered 15% to 40% on prescriptions for participating companies. On internet, [www.Together-Rx.com](http://www.Together-Rx.com) or use the above listed phone number for an application or additional information.

**A Change of Circumstances** - As many of you know, Compaq was merged with HP, and as some of you know, Ron (my husband) works for Compaq. HP offered Compaq employees with 15+ years a retirement package (now it was not golden, but it was a handshake - and not a kick out the door). There has been a forecast of the lay-offs taking up to 2 years - not wishing to watch and wonder for 2 years, Ron took the retirement package - and by the time that you receive this newsletter he will be a student at UT, studying in the field of archives; so he will continue his studies of history (last year he completed a Masters with a major in History at the local University of St. Thomas). (he also has an MBA from Kent - he thinks that there is a GREAT REWARD for the "most Masters Degrees") So the change is that Ron will be in Austin part-time - and part-time in Houston. So, yes, Max, Ron does bleed orange - - (for those of you not living in Texas, orange and white are the colors for University of Texas - and they bleed orange)

**Mark your calendars - next year** - February 28 - March 1, 2003 - with the Memorial Service being on March 1 at 11 a.m. We hope to see you there.

**FOR SALE** – Bumper stickers \$1.00, Caps \$15, Monument and Bell pins \$2, “Death Become the Ghost” videos \$15, Avenge the Houston posters \$10, schematic of the Houston \$5 for small, \$10 for large.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENT**

Previous balance	3475.94
Donations/Sales	1619.00
Sub Total	5094.94

**DEBITS**

Print newsletter	323.73
Postage newsletter	127.38
Phone	338.57
Postage	134.46
Supplies	1001.50
Subtotal Debits	1925.64

**NEW BALANCE** 3169.30

**IN CONCLUSION** - Max and I are finally settled into our new home. I've unpacked every box, hung the pictures, made curtains & Max has 75% of the yard landscaped. We had a small tornado touch down and twist (not pull) a small tree from it's trunk, however, we were one of the lucky ones as others nearby lost more. I had a minor procedure done on my back to alleviate the discomfort from a bulging disk & have started physical therapy. I have had to limit my time sitting here at the computer & have gotten a bit behind so please forgive me if you do not receive quick responses. I have checked into getting a student to come on a part time basis to help out, but it will quickly eat into our kitty. If push comes to shove, then I just may have to do it.

I made a stab at getting money (for our scholarship fund, paying for meals for our guest speakers, etc.) with the Governor's office and was declined. However, I am looking at other possible resources to carry my begging hat. I never retreat; I just regroup then plunge into something else! Anyone have any brilliant ideas other than a bake sale or car wash???? We've got hundreds of names on our mailing list and a little input here and there would be appreciated.

Speaking of input..... how about a bio on a crew member? Next Generation, I sure do need your participation!

**Please look at the last two pages and respond right away ---  
GET INVOLVED..... TIMES A WASTIN' !!!**

**TO EACH AND EVERY READER – FRIEND AND FAMILY ALIKE:  
NAVY & MARINE CORPS POW'S DURING WORLD WAR II NEED YOUR HELP!**

**Please**, clip out the below letter (make 2 copies) and send one to your Congressman & the other to your Senator right away. Time is of the essence! The written word is the best communication in influencing Congress. Senator McCain can not do this alone, especially in these days of tight military budgets. In addition, call them toll free at 877 762-8762. There is room provided at the bottom to place an appropriate PS to express your personal feelings.

.....

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Congressman \_\_\_\_\_  
And Senator \_\_\_\_\_

I urgently ask for your support of Senator McCain's new Senate Bill S2564 that will pay Navy, Marine Corps POWs during WWII their back promotion pay, while interned in current dollars.

The 2001 Defense Authorization Bill, that was passed into law, only provided payment in the **1942** dollars, a meager amount even in those days, considering the sacrifices we (they) made and the inhumane treatment endured at the hands of the enemy.

Most of us (them) are in our eighties, some critically ill and dying, as well as in serious financial need. This may be our (their) last chance to receive a proper amount of back promotion pay equal to the cost of living today, especially after 60 years!

I request a reply for your support of Senator McCain's new bill.

Thank you,

Signed \_\_\_\_\_  
PRINTED name \_\_\_\_\_

PS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**USS HOUSTON CA-30 SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**  
(Please print legibly)

Name:

Address:

Date of Birth:

Telephone: (please include area code)

E-mail address (optional)

High School:

High School contact name and number: (ie: guidance counselor, teacher, etc)

College(s) to be applied for: (include location)

List any sports, clubs, civic groups, volunteer work, activities or any other special items of note (include contact person name and phone number)

Note: use additional sheet if necessary

On an attached page please describe; your relationship/association with a crew member/descendant of the USS Houston CA-30, Next Generation, the USS Houston Survivors Association and Next Generation organization or your keen interest in the history and/or legacy of the USS Houston CA-30 or her crew.

- Attach 1 page on: "What the memory of the USS Houston CA-30 means to me"
- Attach 1 page on: "Why I feel I am worth, in need, and deserving of the scholarship"
- Attach High School transcripts documenting grades to date.

**SEND TO:**  
**USS HOUSTON SCHOLARSHIP**  
107 Hallie Court  
Georgetown, Texas 78628