



USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUE BONNET
“The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast”

Editor: Val Roberts-Poss 107 Hallie Ct. Georgetown, TX 78628-1985
Phone 512 763-1217 Fax 512 868-3385
Email: CA30NG@AOL.COM web: www.usshouston.org
Co-editors: Otto Schwarz and Lin Drees

JACOB MABRY	APRIL 11, 2000	HEART FAILURE
HAMPTON CRAY	NOVEMBER 29, 2002	HEART FAILURE
JAMES “PACKRAT” MCCONE	JANUARY 5, 2002	PNUEMONIA
JAMES L. BALLEW	FEBURARY 1, 2003	HEART FAILURE

Initial report on CRAY’S death, was sent by JACK SMITH. Cause of death was reported as “natural causes, and date of passing was November 29. Funeral was attended by shipmates, JACK SMITH, LLOYD WILLEY AND JOHN BARTZ.

MABRY’S death occurred in April 2000 and cause was heart failure. This was discovered by Val researching a returned Bluebonnet.

Fondly remembered by the men of Branch 3 and Saigon as Pack Rat, McCone passed away as a result of pneumonia on January 5, 2003. He gained a reputation as a No. 1 scrounger and fixer-upper. There is no doubt in my mind that God needed something fixed and called Pack Rat to pack his tools.

BALLEW passed away on Sunday, February 2, 2003. Apparently in good health, his daughter Vicki reported he had a coughing spell and went into a heart attack. This was a shock to his entire family, and to myself as Jim always seemed to be the most robust of all survivors.

WE HAVE WORKED VERY HARD FOR MORE THAN 50 YEARS KEEPING TRACK OF WHEREABOUTS OF USS HOUSTON SURVIVORS. THIS IS A DIFFICULT JOB AND IS OBVIOUSLY MADE MORE SO WHEN FAMILIES DO NOT NOTIFY US OF THE DEATH OF A SHIPMATE. WE URGE ALL REMAINING SURVIVORS TO INSTRUCT THEIR FAMILIES TO PLEASE NOTIFY VAL OR OTTO.

MAIL CALL – Trudy and I were overwhelmed at the number of get well and Christmas cards we received this year. The Next Generation is sure doing a great job in that area. The HOUSTON family is not forgetting us survivors. It is impossible to respond to each personally, so please accept these thoughts as our heartfelt thanks.

After too long a period, I heard from MARVIN “Snapper” SIZEMORE... Loukie and Olaf Belanfante (Mae & Doc Hekking’s daughter and husband) send thanks for our concerns on her mother’s recent passing. We will miss her....DOROTHY & LLOYD WILLEY send a complete & newsy resume of their 2002 happenings, L.W. “DUTCH” KOOPER says he’s hanging in there after several surgeries, but will miss not being able to attend this years reunion in Houston.

Marylou Bunch remembers with her always clever Christmas poem news. JACK & JUNE SMITH are recovering well after recent illnesses. JACK sends a beautiful tribute to HAMPTON CRAY....LEON GALSKI reports the death of his wife of 55 years, Rita. He mentioned also that despite “buddy statements” from HOWARD BROOKS and me, he was denied the Purple Heart. Leon, with the scars you carry on your legs, I do not understand the denial. If you want to take another shot at it let me know.... MARTI & BOB CHARLES made up a newsy newsletter recounting the accomplishments of their gifted grands, and the happenings in their family...NOK Nancy Morrow tells us that she underwent surgery for breast cancer and is recovering well.

EMIL BUKOWSKI “BUK” writes a cheerful outlook on the blessings we have enjoyed all these years. Reflects about what we have done for just one holiday meal when we were POW’s... Sally Johnson, widow of WAYNE, sends word indicating that after three bypass surgeries and congestive heart failure, she still plods ahead and will move into an assisted living complex in ’03..NOK Carol Pullen, brother R.H. Pullen, sends thanks to the association for all the work of the past years...Betty Mayer, widow of ADMIRAL AL, tells us of her planned move into a retirement home facility and thanks us for assistance with her back pay claim... Carter Conlin (Naval Order of the United States, Texas Commandery) gave a talk about the *Houston* before 350 high school students using our slides. He reports that it was well received.

O.C. MCMANUS is recovering from a stroke & says he intends to live to be 100. He probably will make it, if what he tells us about all the gals where he lives who keep making a big fuss over him, continue to do so...MARIE & JACK FLEIZ spent their usual whirlwind year traveling and selling a book or tow along the way. Among other places they visited was here in New Jersey at Marie’s family. Their limited time kept them from getting to us...JANE AND LANSON HARRIS sent a most welcome greeting giving us thanks for keeping the survivors together all these many years. Lanson is 85 and battling Parkinson’s disease, so his kind words are accepted with much humility.

Dear friends Leeta and Frank Ficklin, 131st FA, report that in spite of several strokes this year, Frank is doing well and is back playing 18 holes of golf and driving.

FROM DOWN UNDER - Letter and photo from Terry Beaton who is back in Australia after his work with Hintock Museum. He sent thanks for the information about Americans who worked on the Burma railroad, to help with the writing of his chapter in a guidebook about the railway.

HMAS PERTH Survivors will be commemorating the 61st Anniversary of the sinking of HMAS PERTH AND USS HOUSTON CA-30 on February 18, 2003, in Canberra. We have sent a letter of greeting on behalf of the *Houston* survivors.

Audrey and David Manning, HMAS Perth, reflect that despite the distance, our visits back and forth and frequent letters keep us close.

My old fellow-escapee from Saigon, Alan Donaldson, writes that he has had a few bouts with skin cancers that became infected & had him chair bound for a bit. A number of our Aussie mates report skin cancers. Guess that is the price for living below the Equator.

Seems that to current times there has not been any specific memorial to those Australians who endured the pain and suffering of the POW experience. Now a plan to fund such a memorial is underway. Proposed location at this point is The Botanical Gardens in Ballarat. This information was included in the latest edition of the POW News Bulletin.

Good and not-so-good news from HMAS PERTH survivor Arthur "Blood" Bancroft. The not-so-good was Blood's wife Mirla suffering a heart problem requiring hospitalization. After undergoing procedure to insert a pacemaker, Mirla is now recovering nicely back to her usual busy activity. The good news is that the Bancrofts have welcomed their first Great Grandchild, Kacey Lorraine. A beautiful addition to their Clan.

An email via Val from David Barrett of the Australian EX POW Association informs us of the passing of old friend David Milne on November 28. David produced a book dealing with WWII and large detailed map of the Burma Siam Railway... Word from Ernie Toovey, HMAS PERTH, tells us that there are only 3 *Perth* survivors left in Queensland; Chilla Goodchap, Charles Wray and himself.

REUNION 2003 – It was with great sadness that Trudy and I could not attend this year's reunion. Due to illness on my part this was the first *Houston* reunion we could not attend since the monument was dedicated. Val & Lin have graciously kept me in the loop as the plans for the reunion progressed. I cannot adequately express my personal gratitude to these two ladies and their husbands, Max and Ron. Although we Survivors are becoming older and sicker, we can rejoice in the fact that with these two gals at the helm, the memory of our great ship and crew will continue on into the future. God Bless them!

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**Line from Lin**

What a beautiful Memorial Service - and a grand reunion week-end! The weather was cool, but pretty - the rains held off until the afternoon! There were 218 people in attendance at the Memorial Service which was enhanced by the music of the Houston Brass Band, the color guard and rifle detail of the 23rd Marines, the professional sound assistance from the Houston Park Service, and the helping hands of the Houston Sea Cadets. Our M.C. this year was Larry Krug, a Next

Generation member. Survivor, Bob Charles, and his son, Dana Charles, led the singing of the National Anthem and God Bless America.

The following Survivors were in attendance: Bob Charles, M. L. Forsman, Ned Gallagher, John Hood, Bill Ingram, Paul Papish, and Gene Wilkinson, along with their families and friends. The 131st was represented by Arthur Clark and his wife. Several had to cancel at the last minute due to health: Marvin Bain, Gene Crispi, Quaty Gordon (131st), Skip Schilperoot, and their wives. Not in attendance, but represented by family members were Otto Schwarz and Gene Crispi. Our Surviving Spouses were: Joyce Ranger, Erma Snyder, Eunelle Weissinger, accompanied by family and friends.

The following USS HOUSTON men who have passed away (either March 1st, in the POW camps, or since liberation) were represented by family members: James Autry, Earl Bradley, George H. Cumming, Joseph Davis, James Gary, Vernon Koelling, Kenneth Kollmyer, Charles Lynch, Albert McGarvey, Thomas Pecena, Valdon Roberts, Capt. Albert Rooks, Tony Russell, Howard Walts, and Raydell Wilson.

Also attending was Johnny Johnson, one of the "One Thousand Volunteers."

Larry and Linda Poole and Roy and Darlene Gideon again brought refreshments (homemade cookies, water, coffee, and hot cocoa) to share before the Memorial Service. They are friends whom Lin met at the Nimitz Museum while looking at the USS HOUSTON exhibits in the museum. Jerry Ranger made some beautiful paperweights for each Survivor in attendance. In each paperweight was a bit of oil (yes, the HOUSTON is still leaking oil). Helping Jerry was his sister, Jolene Stewart, and his mother, Joyce Ranger (Surviving Spouse of John Ranger). What a nice gift!

Susan Krug was in attendance, wearing her beautiful quilted vest, which features photos, relating to the USS HOUSTON, and signatures of men who have attended previous reunions. Susan brought 2 quilted pieces to auction. Allen Crispi, our auctioneer, quickly added additional monies to the coffer of the scholarship fund.

Dana Charles, our resident pianist, along with the musical and kazoo talents of our Next Generation, presented a musical medley - and a rose to our Ladies (wives, surviving spouses, and girlfriends) of the USS HOUSTON group.

The Westchase Hilton was very gracious to our group, always making us feel welcome. Our attendance was down this year, and we did not meet our quotas. BUT in spite of this fact, they let us use the exhibit room, the display room, and the banquet room, all were complimentary.

Don Kehn, our resident historian, again, brought his library of USS HOUSTON books to share in the display room -- Jerry Ranger had several videos going at all times (videos of dives made by Brad Gift over the HOUSTON) -- also seen played on the video were videos made by Tom Wilkinson and also made by Vic Campbell of last year's reunion / Memorial Service.

This year many more Next Generation participated -- please volunteer.

**Next year the Memorial Service will be on February 29th - with the reunion on February 28-29.**

## FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

### REUNION

131<sup>st</sup> Lost Battalion/USS Houston  
August 13 – 17, 2003  
Omni Hotel (Park West), Dallas, Texas  
Contact: Joe Cadenhead  
203 Shaffner St., Ponder, TX 76259  
940 479-0346  
Email: [Srchief1@msn.com](mailto:Srchief1@msn.com)

USS Houston-CA30 & CL-81 Association  
Holiday Inn West on the Waterway  
Myrtle Beach SC Oct 1 – 5, 2003  
Contact: Kenneth Rogers  
3949 Little John Dr, York, PA 17404  
717 792-9113  
Email: [donnakenr@cs.com](mailto:donnakenr@cs.com)

### DONATIONS –

Surviving Spouse - Geneva King (in memory of Harriet Fillmore, Florence Battles and **F.H. "PINKY" KING**), Erma Snyder, Hazel Boren, Mary Martwick

Next Generation – Joseph & Carol Lochner, Betty Miles, Terry Willis, Harry Kelley, Jr, Jean Lansing, Carl Kelley, Joe & Melisse Kollmyer, Vera Churchwell (June '02 & Jan. '03), Rita Jedniak, Dorothy Rogers, John Bradley, Mr. Carol Pullen – in memory of **JIM BALLEW**, Patricia Stoker, Don Chambliss in memory of **CECIL CHAMBLISS**, Marilyn Hobbs in memory of **MERLE HOBBS**, Dak & Brandi Poss – in memory of **VALDON ROBERTS**, Susan & John Kreutzer, Sharron Long, Scott Ingram

Survivor – Stella & **GENE PARHAM**, **STANLEY WOODY**, June and **JOHN BARTZ**, **MARVIN SIZEMORE**, Audrey & **HARRY KELLEY**, **GENE WILKINSON**, **BILL INGRAM**, Tia & **NED GALLAGHER**, Dorothy & **LLOYD WILLEY**, Theresa & **PAUL PAPISH**, 2<sup>nd</sup> donation: Theresa & **PAUL PAPISH** – in memory of the astronauts on the Columbia, **GUS FORSMAN**

Friends of the Houston – H. R. Luster, Don Kehn, Lem Brigman, George Duffy, Fred & Liz Seiker, Frankie and Quaty Gordon (131<sup>st</sup>), Young'un & Wanda Clark.

**1000 VOLUNTEERS** – Robert "Bob" Bradley was the Navy's "baby" of the 1,000 volunteers from Houston, Texas for the USS Houston CA-81. He was just 16 years old – 2 weeks from his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday. He had reason for volunteering so young and for this specific ship.... His brother, Leonard E. Bradley was KIA aboard the USS Houston CA-30. Bob died February 13, 2003. We are honored to have the brother of these two men, John Bradley, as an active member of our organization. We send our love and prayers to the Bradley family.

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS** – Ann DuHaime has moved to 280 Middle Holland Rd #1403, Holland, PA 18966. When **JOHN STANCZAK'S** newsletter was returned, I got into my super sleuth mode and began tracking him down. It took a few hours but I found him! Please note his new address is 1900 College Ave Room 521, Vincennes, IN 47591 (phone 812 895-1606). I did this as a courtesy to a survivor. If you have a change in your mailing or email address please notify me. I do not rely on the return address notification as per my saga finding **JOHN STANCZAK**. It costs the organization a 70 cent fee PER returned newsletter & postage to again mail it out to an unreliable address. So, I'm cutting our losses and my time spent by not re-mailing it.

**IN SEARCH OF –**

**ORVIL MCCARTY:** Winston McCarty (nephew), 2775 Rhodelia Rd, Payneville, KY 40157

**OWEN KEEN, JR F2c** – Glen Keen (cousin who says Owen was an outgoing curly headed blonde), 8255 St. John Rd., Eiberfeld, ID 46713 Email: [CNGKEEN@cs.com](mailto:CNGKEEN@cs.com)

**LUKE COLLITON** – Andrew Colliton (son), 33 Landing Dr., Methuen, MA 01844 call collect 978-794-4635 or Email: [COLLITON03@aol.com](mailto:COLLITON03@aol.com)

**HAROLD PAGE SMITH** – Al Peck (first cousin) 1512 Queens Av., Ponca City, OK 74604 580 762-0070 or email [albert.r.peck@juno.com](mailto:albert.r.peck@juno.com)

**EUGENE A. HUEBLER, JR** – Eugene Huebler III (son) 41-C Kepola Pl, Honolulu, HI 96817 808 595-2169 or email [alfie@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:alfie@hawaii.rr.com)

**PANGANIBAN, EDILBERTO** – Edilberto Panganiban, Jr (son) 210 Geary Court, Lincoln, CA 95648 Phone 916 408-3578 or email: [edandlucy02@yahoo.com](mailto:edandlucy02@yahoo.com)

**HAROLD JUSTICE** – Arthur Lane (British POW) 61 Charles St, Stockport, England Phone 44 0161 477-2681 email: [arthurlane.nesanews@ntlworld.com](mailto:arthurlane.nesanews@ntlworld.com)

**FREDRICK MILLS** – Rita Jedinak (sis) 2550 State Rd 580 #467, Clearwater, FL 33761 Phone 727 791-1913

**CLARENCE ALLEN BROCKMAN** – Dale Brockman, 17 Cresta Mira, El Paso, TX 78812 Phone: 915 227-0879 email: [cbrockman@elp.rr.com](mailto:cbrockman@elp.rr.com)

**Mullane, Allen Edward “Spike”** (Chief Master at Arms & FDR bodyguard when aboard the CA-30 1935 – 1939) – Allen Mullane (son), 16349 113<sup>th</sup> Terrace North, Jupiter, FL 33478 Phone 561 745-9078 or email: [mullanef@bellsouth.net](mailto:mullanef@bellsouth.net)

**FLOYD WESLEY BARRON-** Peggy Futch (niece), 115 Myrick Dr, Houma, LA 70360 Phone: 985 223-0004 or email [cfutch2@bellsouth.net](mailto:cfutch2@bellsouth.net)

**MAILBAG** – Jim Granaham, cousin of Herman Eiden KIA, sent an article about the spans of the Death Railway that were sent to England. **BILL STEWART** writes he led the Veteran’s Day parade donning his uniform – how many vets can get into their old uniforms? **MATT MARINOS** writes that he doesn’t get around as well as before he broke his leg, but doing very well in spite of it. It’s been a long time since I’ve heard from Gwen McFarland. She had a 2<sup>nd</sup> knee replacement & is traveling. Son TJ is still awaiting a liver transplant. We all wish him the best. Vickie Keehr has retired & is now busier than ever doing consulting work. Dad, **JOHN REAS** had laser surgery on his good eye and is still struggling with his health. Marie & **JACK FELIZ** spent 2002 traveling from coast to coast. She talked a policeman out of giving JB Pryor a speeding ticket by bartering a trade for Jack’s book, *Saga of Sailor Jack*, while visiting in Texas. Should I say she is cunning or creative? What a gal! **STANLEY WOODY** had an excellent full page story written about him in his local paper. We’re proud of you **STANELY!** Scott Ingram sent a note with a picture of his beautiful family. **DUTCH KOOPER’S** health is failing but hoping for improvement. Mary Jane & **PAUL BEATTY** sent their annual letter telling of their world travels. **NED GALLAGHER** called and told us of their wonderful Thanksgiving Dinner hosting 6 refugees. Patricia Stoker used the poem from the March 2001 issue, “Freedom Is Not Free” as a part of a ceremony to honor WWII vets on November 11, 2002 at a senior residence. We are all wishing Audrey Kelley well after her heart surgery. They have had much sorrow with the loss of their son, Calvin just weeks before her surgery.

**SHOULDER BOARDS** - Dorothy Rogers, daughter of **CAPT. LEON ROGERS** has the shoulder boards made by one of the crew members while in the POW camps. She wants to donate them, however, would like the name of the crew member who made it. Please contact her at: 3106 18<sup>th</sup> St. NW, Washington DC 20010. Phone 202 483-8064

**OVER THERE** – The National Memorial Arboretum at Alrewas, England now display the rails and sleepers from the Burma/Thailand “Death Railway” in the Arboretum’s Far East Prisoners of War plot. A service was conducted August 15, 2002 along with the sounding of the Last Post and poppy petals were spread along the line. Reveille and a dedication prayer were followed by the laying off wreaths. Approximately 550 ex POW’s, wives, widows, family and friends attended. Our dear friends, Liz & Fred Seiker sent pictures of the site along with once picture of Fred and Prince Charles talking with the railway memorial in the background that is very touching. Our “sister” organization, COFEPOW, continues to amaze me! They meet every six weeks and come up with the most ingenious ways to keep the kitty healthy. The membership’s participation on committees is very impressive. In the past 5 years, they have made great strides.

**FROM DOWN UNDER** – John Toon sent a card with new of other Perth survivors: David Milne passed away due to throat cancer; Jack Fitzgerald is out of intensive care due to a blood clot in his legs & stomach and will spend several weeks in the hospital. His wife fell and fractured both wrists. They are in dire need of volunteers to their POW & Relatives Association (they should ask Otto for his expertise on “recruiting” NG’s). He signed off “Remember us to all”. Our friend Di Elliott wrote to say she is recovering slowly after her complications with gall bladder surgery. They survived the nightmare of the fires in the area. Space doesn’t allow for all the horrors the fires caused. Although they suffered from some havoc, they didn’t lose any possessions or loved ones.

**SICK BAY –DUTCH KOOPER** is toughing it out with constant medical problems. **JOE GARRETT** has recouped from pneumonia. His beautiful bride, Louise is fighting pancreatic cancer. **RAY GOODSON** is having to depend on oxygen & is unable to travel. Audrey Kelley had bypass surgery. **JACK SMITH** is slowly healing from heart surgery & his lovely June is still fighting lung cancer. **LLOYD WILLEY** is having constant pain in his legs. **OTTO SCHWARZ** is fighting constant back pain. **ML (GUS) FORSMAN** is on oxygen full time, has an RN come in twice a week and a C.N.A. comes in to see him 3 times a week. **JOHN REAS** fell and ended up in ICU after breaking his ribs and puncturing his lung...he got an infection at that hospital & had to be transferred to another.. he is having a very bad time of it. **HOWARD BROOKS** had hernia surgery & is on the mend. **MAURICE HURD** is dealing with his heart problems & a mini stroke on March 2nd. **HOWARD BROOKS** is recovering nicely from hernia surgery. What amazes me that none complain but simply comment on their issues. The survivors and their spouses are an inspiration.

**NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES, TEXAS COMMANDERY** – We were very saddened to learn of the death of Chaplain Conan Meehan, LCDR (Ret) just before Thanksgiving. He had always graciously participated at our Memorial Services by leading us in prayer. I feel honored to have known him and experienced his warmth and gentleness. I’ll miss working with him. We are very lucky to have had their help with this last reunion from cleaning up of the Monument grounds, getting the flags up for the ceremony, Capt. Carl Ragsdale for participating in the wreath laying ceremony and having their new Commander, Capt. Martine Myers as a speaker. Thank you!

**DID YOU KNOW?** The destroyer escort, USS *George E. Davis*, DE357 was named for crew member Lt. George E. Davis, KIA? There is a website <http://www.de357.com> also.

**ATTENTION VETERANS** – For information about moving into a Veteran’s Nursing Home please call 1 800 252 VETS (1 800 252-8387).

**REUNION EXPENSES** – A reunion like we just had costs roughly \$21,000. There are obvious expenses: Meals, chairs at the Memorial Service, tarp/tent at the Memorial Service, bus rental, hospitality and display suites, etc. There are hidden expenses: refurbish the wreaths, postage, paper, printing, supplies for the hospitality room, flowers, centerpieces, rental of the banquet rooms (at \$3,300 per meal), even the microphone and podium at the meals.... Of course, the meals were automatically covered so that was one less worry! However, we had 91 people registered to attend either one or all of the events at a registration fee of \$20. That came to \$1,820 BUT, we received \$1,500. Doing some quick math, we were approximately \$16,400 in the hole and Lin and I were sweating bullets. Thanks to many of you, through donations to the hospitality room and out and out cash (some pretty hefty donations) we saw some relief but not close to the \$16,400 we were staring at! Through Lin and Ron’s special efforts and finesse in negotiating, they were able to do some tall taking to the bus service, chair & tarp people, the band and hotel to save us close to \$15,000!!! Lin and Ron..... we owe them a huge thank you!

**DR PING SU LU MUESUM** – After two decades, Bee Sun Lu, M.D., daughter of Dr. Ping Su Lu was dedicated in Liang Tao, China (approximately 7 hours by car from Shanghai) on what would have been his 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Bee was a child when her father was executed along with seven other Chancellors of the Chinese Consulate from the Philippines by the Japanese. The museum contains historical documents before, during & after the imprisonment of her father and other seven Chancellors, the military trial of the war crimes committed by the Japanese military officers, the testimony provided by his widow (Bee’s mother) who was one of the key witnesses, the pictures of the two American planes that dropped the atom bombs, the first day issue of the Flying Tiger-General Chenault, a copy of the book by our Fred Seiker, “Lest We Forget”, a USS *Houston* CA-30 Memorial Service program and a copy of one of our “Bluebonnet” newsletters. Bee still requests materials of the Japanese atrocities to be displayed in the museum. Your accounts can be sent to her at 2711 Eastgrove Ln, Houston, TX 77027 (phone 713 621-8560, fax 713 224-9540 or email [besulu@msn.com](mailto:besulu@msn.com)).

**FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON** - With the Cruiser Houston Collection at the University of Houston Libraries growing, we librarians realized that it would be useful to write a Collection Development Policy outlining what kinds of materials were appropriate to add to this archival collection. Because our space and resources are limited, we need to be selective in what gets added to the collection.

Archival collections are normally paper-based, including papers and photographs, although we do accept small items of memorabilia into the Cruiser Houston Collection. Materials in the collection should have value both as information, and as historical evidence. Thus, original items are always preferred.

For more information, please see the Cruiser Houston Collection Development Policy that follows, or contact Julie Grob, Special Collections Librarian, at [jgrob@uh.edu](mailto:jgrob@uh.edu) or 713-743-9744.

**REUNION** - We realize that with health problems & today's economics fewer attended but that did not damper our plans.

Knowing that some would be arriving early, Max and I left on Wednesday as soon as the roads were safe enough to travel. Our decks and lawn had 4 solid inches of ice on the ground. We didn't realize that the main line to our sprinkler system had frozen and burst. We were gone when it thawed and we had a lovely fountain in our front yard. Luckily, we have wonderful neighbors next door and he came and saved the day. He repaired it enough for us to have running water inside when we returned.

Back to the reunion - Friday night at the dinner, we had a special presentation of paperweights with oil from the Houston encased in it thanks to our NG, Jerry Ranger and his contacts with a diver in Jakarta. Jerry also set up not only pictures but a video display of the dive that was fascinating. NG Susan Krug donated some hand made patriotic quilted items and we had one paperweight left over that was auctioned off by NG Allen Crispi. NG Dana Charles led us in a sing along after the dinner. Saturday, our prayers were answered and the weather was overcast and cool ... a far cry from last year! (Max & I packed a footlocker full of spare jackets, knit caps and gloves, just in case.) The Memorial Service was MC'd by NG Larry Krug. He did a beautiful heart felt job of it. The speakers representing the ABDA Fleet were The National Anthem and God Bless America was sung by NG Dana Charles with his father, Bob. Friends of Leonard Bradley (KIA) brought hot coffee & coco along with cookies that were served to the crowd while they listened to the band or milled about the monument.

To our delight and surprise, two of the people (father and son team) that were on the dive last year that called us via satellite came to join us. It was a pleasure to meet Greg Smith and his son.

After the luncheon, the University of Houston hosted a lovely reception for us at the hotel since their library where our memorabilia is stored is under construction. They were able to bring some of their display items and were impressively displayed.

That evening, we NG's had a special recognition for the wives, widows and special lady friends. We serenaded them. Those that were to shy performed on the kazoo. As we sang/kazooed - the ladies were presented with a red rose tied with red, white and blue ribbon provided by Marilyn Vandever & Kathy Larson (daughters of **TONY RUSSELL**). We NG's realize they are quite strong and remarkable women - along with kind, loving and beautiful!

Again, after the dinner, we had a sing along led by NG Dana Charles.

Before every meal, we recognized our POW/MIA men with lone table set for one. A reading of it's significance was presented by a NG - Robert, brother of **GEORGE CUMMING**, Audie, brother of **GEORGE LYNCH** and sisters, Sharron Long and Patty Letze, daughters of **ALBERT MCGARVEY** at each respective meal. The first evening, Chuck Chrispi entertained us with singing the blues. The second evening Paul Papish's son in law, John Kruetzer, gave his imitation of Satchamo (forgive my spelling). My Max and Larry Krug decided to serenade two of the wives again - this time, with an "underwater" kazoo rendition never heard before.

Behind the scenes, we had so many of the NG's tending to the display room, taking tickets, keeping the hospitality room in full supply and maintained, putting up chairs at the monument site, running errands.... the list goes on!

You will be glad to know that the Next Generation is pulling together to keep this going for you survivors --- and ---- we are having a grand ole time in the process.

**IN CONCLUSION** – I can't thank you enough for all your participation and help this past quarter. Although Saturday was a busy time, Max & I were able to visit with more people this year at the reunion. This was a first and we enjoyed it! Thank you Birthday Volunteer folks for keeping up the good work. Thank you, Susan Kruetzer (daughter of Paul Papish) for volunteering to help our webmaster (Vic Campbell). Thank you Tia & **NED GALLAGHER**, Sylvia & **HOWARD BROOKS**, Susan & John Kruetzer, and Marti & **BOB CHARLES** for your extraordinary donations. Thank you for your notes of encouragement.

By the time you receive the next newsletter, I will be announcing the birth of our 5<sup>th</sup> grandson! Max found a little nursery down the road that needed a part time helper and he decided to go "back to work". He loves to work on the landscaping and this is just up his alley...like a kid in a candy store! I am co-coordinating with my dad's home town to speak at their library club and his old high school about the history of the HOUSTON and her crew.

If I have overlooked any requests, please give me a gentle reminder.

Rachel Watkins is doing a fantastic job at scanning our files. It is slow and tedious. Why not send a note of thanks to her at: 1100 W 45<sup>th</sup> St, Austin, TX 78756. Rachel is a student at the Texas School for the Blind & is doing this on a **volunteer** basis.

Good by and God speed until the next newsletter in June

**LITTLE RED @** - If you see one by your name on your address label, this is your last newsletter.

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

|                     |         |                                    |                    |
|---------------------|---------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Debits              |         | Credits                            |                    |
| Postage Newsletter  | 135.89  | Old Balance                        | 3206.50            |
| Printing Newsletter | 311.87  | Donations, sales, reunion payments | 9086.45            |
| Postage             | 247.50  | Total                              | 12292.95           |
| Supplies            | 524.62  |                                    |                    |
| Reunion Expenses    | 4873.43 | New balance                        | \$5829.24          |
| Total               | 6463.71 | TAX ID NUMBER:                     | DLN 17053122009007 |

**LAST MINUTE NEWS** – As I was preparing to walk out the door to take this to the printer, Otto called with word from Perth Survivor Arthur Bancroft reporting on the Perth Survivors 2003 reunion in West Australia which included very, very good news regarding the formation of a "Next Generation". Involved in the group are Arthur's son, Conlin, and one of Capt. Waller's grandsons as part of this new venture. We will report more later as we have more information.

## The POW/MIA Table

You may notice this small table here in a place of honor.

It is set for one.

This table is our way of symbolizing the act that members of our military are missing from our midst.

They are commonly called POW's or MIA's – you called them brothers.

They are unable to be with us this evening so we remember them.

This table is set for one, and is small.... It symbolizes the frailty of one prisoner against his oppressors.

The tablecloth is white.... It symbolizes the purity of their intentions to respond to their country's call to arms.

The single rose displayed in a vase reminds us of the families and loved ones of our comrades in arms who keep faith awaiting their return.

The red ribbon tied so prominently on the vase is reminiscent of the red ribbon worn on the lapel and breasts of thousands who bear witness to their unyielding determination to demand a proper accounting for our missing.

A slice of lemon is on the bread plate... to remind us of their bitter fate.

There is salt upon the bread plate.... symbolic of the family's tears as they wait.

The glass is inverted.... They cannot toast with us tonight.

The chair is empty... they are not here.

Remember.....

All of you who served with them and called them comrades,

Who depended on their might and aide,

And relied on them... for surely... they have not forsaken you.



## Add Your Memories to the Navy Log

To all Navy Log Shipmates: this would be an excellent time to add your own "Memories" account to your entry in the Log. Our "Memories" collection consists of over 3,300 first-hand accounts of naval service. "Memories" may be written up as biographies, histories, anecdotes, sea stories, poems or even prayers. If you are a Log member, you can add your "Memories" to your existing Log entry for a requested donation of \$25.

Accounts may be one-to-two pages in length and may focus on any subject, provided it relates to military service. Please provide your Memories on computer disc in an IBM-compatible format if possible. While typed and hand-written accounts will be accepted, their processing is far more time-consuming and error-prone.

A Memories account is really history as seen through your own eyes, so personalize it! Remember, if you don't tell your story, no one else will. Mail your completed Memories to the U.S. Navy Log, Department "M," P.O. Box 96570, Washington, D.C. 20077-7685, or bring it to the Naval Heritage Center.

If you are already enrolled in the Navy Log, just send us your Memories account plus your Navy Log ID number and payment. You can pay by check, money order, or credit card (card number, expiration date, name on card). Memories entries cannot be returned. If you are not yet a member of the Log, it is not too late to enroll! Please submit a completed Log application and picture. We cannot add your Memories account until we receive your application.

## Pass This To A Friend: Join Over 250,000 Shipmates in the Navy Log

- ★ The Navy Log is a permanent register of naval service men and women — the only publicly accessible evidence of your service, proudly preserved in a national memorial.
- ★ Entries are displayed on video screens in the Log Room of the Naval Heritage Center in Washington and on our Internet website [www.lonesailor.org](http://www.lonesailor.org).

- ★ A tax-deductible \$25 donation is requested for each Log enrollment. Those who have served in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard, reserve components or Merchant Marine are eligible for the Navy Log. Fill out this form, mail with \$25 check to:

U.S. Navy Log, P.O. Box 96570  
Washington, DC 20077-7685.

**Navy Log Enrollment** — Enroll yourself or share this form with a Sea Service friend or relative, LS03  
or use as a gift or tribute, sponsor an eligible friend, relative or ancestor. **Enrollment donation is fully tax-deductible.**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
First Middle Last Suffix (Jr., III, etc.)

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(For deceased leave blank)

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Rank/Rate: \_\_\_\_\_ Corps/Specialty: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthplace: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of birth: \_\_\_\_\_  
Month / Day / Year

Branch: (circle one)  
 USN USNR  
 USMC USCG  
 USMM  
 From (mo./yr.) \_\_\_\_\_  
 To (mo./yr.) \_\_\_\_\_

List up to five (5) of your most recent or significant duty stations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

List up to five (5) of your highest or most significant awards or decorations: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

If you wish to include a photo, an additional \$25 contribution is requested (total \$50). With soft pencil, print your name and location and year taken on the back of the photo and on the next line below. Photos cannot be returned.

If photo is enclosed: Year taken: \_\_\_\_\_ Location: \_\_\_\_\_

Sponsor name: \_\_\_\_\_  
(If different from Log Entrant named above) First Middle Last Suffix

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

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_