



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

Editor: Val Roberts-Poss 2501 Amen Corner, Pflugerville, TX 78660
 Phone 512 989-0000 Fax 512 989-3227
 Email: CA30NG@AOL.COM web: www.usshouston.org
 Co-Editor Lin Drees CEO: Otto Schwarz

EMIL BUKOWSKY	Lung Cancer	November 19, 2005
O.C. MCMANUS	Pulmonary Fibrosis	November 23, 2005

USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS REUNION

Doubletree – Allen Center
 400 Dallas St, Houston, TX 77002
 713 759-0202

Contact: Val Poss 512 989-0000 email: CA30NG@aol.com

ASIATIC FLEET REUNION

SCYPAF 22ND ANNUAL – USNAF 7TH ANNUAL COMBINED REUNION
May 3 – 7, 2006

Best Western Asheville Biltmore
 22 Woodfin St., Asheville, NC 28801
 1 282-253-1851

Contact: Walter Ashe, 2606 River Ridge Dr., Asheville, NC 28803

LOST BATTALION/USS HOUSTON

August 17 – 20, 2006
 Omni Hotel – Dallas Park West
 1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75235
 972 869-4300

Contact: Susan Ficklin 817 326-1132 Email: Susuficklin@msn.com

**THE REGISTRATION FORM FOR THE USS HOUSTON REUNION IS ON THE
 VERY LAST PAGE OF THIS NEWSLETTER**

EMIL BUKOWSKY passed away on Saturday, November 19th after a very short illness. He had started to feel weak on the 8th & within a few days had difficulty walking through the house. His wife Sue took him to a hospital and tests were run. It was determined that it was lung cancer & so far along that he was moved to the VA Hospital. We send his widow and loved ones our sincere sympathy (232 Arvil Guyer, Franklin, N.C. 28734).

O.C.MCMANUS had been battling pulmonary fibrosis for several years. His daughter, Linda, emailed to tell us his health had been failing and he was finding it more and more difficult to breathe due to the pulmonary fibrosis. But thankfully, he died peacefully. We send our love and heart felt sympathy to his family.

MAILBAG – Marie Feliz emailed to report that PERTH survivor Frank McGovern was one of 25 veterans the Australian government sent to Honolulu to attend the VJ day celebrations. She and JACK were happy to entertain Frank and his wife Merle. Just last November the roles were reversed when JACK & Marie were in Sydney. Also, last November they visited with Sid and Barbara Harper (PERTH survivor). She just received news that Sid died at 6:30 am, Sept. 26th after a long illness. Alberta Hull, sister of JOHN HOOD had extensive back surgery (2 8” rods & 6 1 ¾” screws with the last 5 vertebra fused. OUCH! We wish her a full recovery. Fred Hekking sent a picture of his parents dining with Otto & another of Otto “herring popping” (that’s where you pop a herring into your mouth) back in ’88. Marilyn Messier, daughter of DAN STODDARD, sent an eloquent email stating, “Though I believe war has the ability to cause civilized man to demonstrate his worst side, I also believe the extremes of war are hardly ever forgotten. Neither the US vets nor the Japanese people will forget the horrors which stemmed from the conflict we call WWII. Given the tendencies showing up in the Japanese messages of late, I truly believe we should always be a country to never take our eye off the protection of our own people. However, extreme points of view on any side of the equation could easily start winds of war blowing all over again....Somehow I think our efforts need to be focused on getting across the message that the survival of all civilization depend on the efforts of all societies to find ways to bury their past wrongs in the sands of time”. Perry Vermillion, nephew of JOHN REILLY, emailed to tell us that John was on a flight on his way to Australia and by chance sat next to Al Rooks, Jr. John was able to tell Al about the *Houston* & her final battle. It was good to hear from Ann DuHaime, it had been a while... When ART DUHAIME died, the family had ½ of his ashes buried in the family plot in Troop, PA. The received confirmation that the remaining ashes were taken aboard the *USS McClusky* & buried at sea with traditional honors. I was very sorry to learn of David Faltot’s father’s death in early October. “The cause of death was a stroke which spared him the worst of the alzheimers. Dave’s father was a part of the 1st & 6th Marine divisions during WWII. He fought in the battles of Guadalcanal & Okinawa then later in China. Johan Van Leer sent an article in Dutch with a brief translation that from June 16 – Aug 12 Dutch ex-pow’s demonstrated in front of Japan’s Embassy in The Hague, Netherlands --- Accept the Blame – Remove the Shame. Also on June 30th representatives of 87 Human Rights Organizations from 100 nations presented the U.N.’s Special Advisor to Secretary General Kofi Annan, 42 MILLION signatures against Japan obtaining a permanent seat in the U.N.’s Security Council. I received a donation from Betty Miles in a beautiful card.....and noticed the art work is by Betty. She is a VERY talented lady!

BIRTHDAY CARD BONUS - I received an email from Sue Pogue, NG along with pictures of her meeting with STANLEY WOODY. Sue has been a Birthday Card volunteer for ages and Stanley is on her list. It seems Stanley would be out her way to attend his grandson’s wedding. He wrote to Sue wondering if he could meet her after all these years of receiving birthday cards from her. She and hubby Jim agreed to meet Wood and his son Kenny at O’Hare airport. Their visit was only 30 minutes but they had a great time talking. Sue wrote, “We were so happy to finally meet and spend some time together”.

PRESIDENTIAL RECOGNITION – The Presidential certificate recognizes devotion, duty to nation. The United States of America honors the memory of 'JOHN A. DOE'. This certificate is awarded by a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States. –signed President of the United States A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans.

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prepares the certificates expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service. Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones. More than one certificate may be provided. Requesting the certificate is very simple as long as you have the supporting documentation.

You'll need a copy of discharge and a death certificate. Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, can apply for a PMC either in person at any VA regional office; faxing your request to 202.565.8054; or mail your request to:

Presidential Memorial Certificates
(41A1C), Department of Veterans Affairs,
5109 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134- 3903

You may learn more about this program at www.cem.va.gov/pmc.htm.

NOUS NEWS – Capt. Martine Myers of the Texas Commandry advised that there will be a change of command in January. We look forward to meeting the new Commander at the reunion! We are also very proud to announce that Capt. Carter Conlin is now the Commander General of the Naval Order of the United States on the national level. Kudos to our Capt. Conlin!!

NEW PATRIOTIC SONG – On the very last page are the words to a new patriotic song. It's beautiful! For those with access to the internet go to: <http://www.managedmusic.com/>

YOUR ADDRESS – Please remember to notify me of your change of address. I'd really appreciate your email address also. Heads up! ML "Gus/Bud" Forsman's new address is:
PO Box 294322, Kerrville, TX 78020

IN SEARCH OF

ROGER POIRIER (killed when a bomb hit his turret in mid February) by grandson Phillip Roger Poirier. Phone 727 480-6323, email: ppoirier@asoccorp.com,

DVD – I received a DVD/video "An Interview with MAX WILKER" for our archives. It is terrific! I wish other folks would take the time and do the same..... this is priceless! Thank you, Max for a very valuable prize in our archives!

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

The guard takes 21 steps across the tomb of the Unknowns. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

He will hesitate 21 seconds after his about face to return his walk for the same reason.

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5'10" and 6'2" tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30". Other requirements of the Guard: They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform (fighting) or the tomb in any way. After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. They are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey the rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror.

The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone, nor watch TV. All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in the Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and where they are interred. Among the notables are: President Taft, Joe E. Lewis (the boxer) and Medal of Honor winner Audie Murphy, (the most decorated soldier of WWII) of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment; it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a serviceperson. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930.

BOMBING OF JAPAN NECESSARY - Over the years there has been a lot of rhetoric about whether or not the US should have dropped nuclear bombs on Japan. Generations of both Americans and Japanese who were not even alive then struggle to understand why the US would do such a thing. For those generations, and others that may have forgotten there were definite reasons for dropping those 2 atom bombs.

First, Japan attacked the US with no warning. Secondly, Japan was overpowering sovereign countries, stealing their resources, and murdering civilians all over the Pacific Rim. Thirdly, along with Germany, Japan had plans for world domination including the US. Fourth, the US alone had been losing thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines as we sought to stop Japan's fanatical aggression. Fifth, Japan did not subscribe to the Geneva Convention and treated the tens of thousands of allied soldiers and indigenous natives of lands they conquered as slaves. My own father, who was in the US Army was one such POW. During his 3 ½ years as a POW he was forced to work on the railroad made famous in the movie "Bridge over the River Kwai". The tortures, back breaking slave labor, tropical diseases, lack of medication, and starvation diet he endured make what went on in Abu Ghraib prison insignificant by comparison. Sixth, the US was well aware that the planned invasion of Japan by the Allies would have resulted in hundreds of thousands of fatalities on both sides. Japanese POW camp guards made no secret of the fact that all POWs were to be executed if Japan was invaded. This fact was documented after WWII when Japanese Atrocities were investigated.

I feel sorrow for the innocent who get caught up in any war, but decisively ending Japan's will to fight any longer was the right thing to do. Had it not been done many of us reading this would not be here and the history of the world would be far different than we know it today. So next time you hear about the loss of life in Hiroshima or Nagasaki from atom bombs, just remember that Japan was the cause of its own loss.

Mark Clark (son of A.B. "Youngun" Clark, 131st)
Highland Village, TX

STORMY WEATHER - Our USS Houston family has had such bad weather with hurricanes and floods. I suppose no news is good news. The heavy rains, flooding, hurricanes and tornadoes have been terribly dangerous and destructive this year. We all have sent prayers out to y'all in hopes you have not suffered any great losses.

FYI – TO BE ABLE TO USE THE BULK RATE STAMP & SAVE ON POSTAGE, I MUST MAIL OUT A CERTAIN NUMBER OF ENVELOPES. SOME OF YOU WILL NOT ONLY RECEIVE AN EMAIL COPY BUT A PAPER COPY FOR THAT VERY REASON

Line from Lin

I have heard an amazing story - I am going to share it with you. A man in Australia found a lifebuoy with USS *HOUSTON* marked onto the buoy. It was found shortly after the *HOUSTON* and *PERTH* had sunk, but in the fishing village where they lived, they did not know about the sinking. Soon an Australian military intelligence officer came to his house and took the lifebuoy away. NOW the man's son is trying to find out what happened to the lifebuoy. Perhaps you can pass this along so that somewhere the truth will come to light as to what happened to the lifebuoy - or contact Mr. Brian Morris who wrote to Ron and I. The man who originally found the USS *HOUSTON* lifebuoy is his father. I am attaching his letter at the end of this article that he recently e-mailed to me. Brian also sent me information: the Australian War Memorial has the running lights from the captain's barge of the USS *HOUSTON* - I can forward that e-mail to you if you send me a request. Here is Brian's e-mail and home phone: morrispb@bigpond.com and telephone is 07 49336650. Also Brian sent me a news clipping – I will also e-mail that to anyone who requests it. lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net

We will again have buses - **SO be sure** to mark on your registration form if you will need to ride the bus to UH for the Friday reception.

A request, please **DO NOT** make your reservations over Internet - or through some other discounted service. We make our contract based on everyone paying the USS *HOUSTON* discounted rate -- and the hotel promises us complimentary services and perks. A complimentary shuttle will be available for trips downtown and across the street to the Memorial Service.

SO PLEASE make all reservations with the hotel.

Through the years, Ron and I try to take seasonal silk flowers to the Monument – we always take silk poinsettias for December. Let me know if you would like anyone remembered on a special day.

PLEASE remember if you would like to have any special bouquets to leave at the Monument after the Memorial Service, you are welcome to bring any bouquets or single flowers.

We are making the auction an annual event. Please consider bringing something patriotic or relating to the USS *HOUSTON* to donate toward the auction. The monies raised go toward the Scholarship fund.

Our home address is 14219 Wickersham, Houston, Tx. 77077. Phone and fax are the same number, 281.493.5171. E-mail address is lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net

Ron and I wish everyone a Very Merry Christmas - and a Very Happy New Year. And we hope to see you here in Houston for the 2006 reunion and Memorial Service.

BRIAN'S ORIGINAL LETTER:

U.S. Naval Institute
Annapolis, Maryland 21402-5035

10 Rose St
Yeppoon Q 4702
Australia

6-9-97

Dear Sir,

Sometime during 1942, my father Cres Morris, found a lifebuoy from the USS Houston washed up on Great Keppel Island. (Lat 23^oS Long 151^o E.), together with a life raft which appeared to have bullet holes in it.

At the time, because of censorship, we were unaware of the dramatic event that had occurred near the Sunda Straits resulting in the tragic loss of the battle fleet which included Houston and Perth.

I would have been eleven years old and can distinctly remember the lifebuoy hanging in the storage area under our house. It was in excellent condition with no marine growth or barnacles growing on it, so could not have been floating in the ocean for any great length of time.

During 1942 or 1943, the lifebuoy was confiscated by Australian Army Intelligence Officer Steve Jolly (Rockhampton). I don't know how the army found out about the lifebuoy, but the town Emu Park where we lived is only a small coastal settlement and the local railway station master George Jolly was a brother to Steve Jolly, so word probably got around.

This lifebuoy is not the only material that drifted from the Sunda Strait area to Great Keppel Island. My father also picked up a small piece of pine plank in the 1950's with a name and address in Amsterdam written on it. Again this plank had not been in the water long enough to get covered with marine growth. I wrote to the address in Holland and received a reply from the Dutchman who had thrown the piece of timber from the vessel sometime after leaving Batavia on his way home to Amsterdam.

Unfortunately I cannot remember the time it had taken for the plank to drift here, but I do recall that I considered it a surprisingly small amount of time.

I have just finished reading a book "Proud Echo" written by Ronald McKie, which details the story of ten survivors from the Perth. It contains an appendix on the part played by USS Houston in the Sunda Strait, written by Commander Walter Winslow.

The reason I have written this letter, is in the hope that there are still some surviving members from the Houston who would like to know about this lifebuoy.

I have often wondered whatever happened to the lifebuoy and whether it would be possible to trace it after all these years. Maybe the historical section of the US Navy would be interested to try and achieve this.

I don't know if I am forwarding this letter to the correct address, so could you kindly acknowledge receiving this correspondence and if necessary give copies to any other interested parties.

My father Cres Morris was an oyster and fisherman who worked his entire life on the waters of Keppel Bay. He passed away in 1986 at the age of 86.

Yours faithfully

PB Morris

Exciting Developments for USS Houston Exhibit

I am delighted to announce that the University of Houston Libraries has hired Steve Harding Design, Inc. to assist with the design of the new USS *Houston* exhibit, and to create professional quality graphics and labels for the exhibit cases. Steve Harding Design has produced exhibits for the Texas State Capitol Visitor's Center, the Museum of the Coastal Bend, the Kenedy Ranch Museum (not those Kennedys!), and the Nolan Ryan Center. The design team will create a colorful, professionally designed backdrop to go in each case that combine historical photographs and documents from the Cruiser Houston Collection along with beautifully laid out text that tells the story of the USS *Houston*. Steve has been a pleasure to collaborate with, because he really understands the significance of the USS *Houston* story, and how to make that story come alive for people who are new to it.

I want to thank everyone who has donated to the Cruiser Houston Fund over the years, because we are using this account to hire Steve Harding Design. This permanent exhibit will be truly special, and it is because of all of you that we are able to do this. I hope that all of you who are attending the reunion will join us on the afternoon of Friday, Feb. Feb. 24th, 2006 to view the new exhibit and enjoy some light refreshments.

-Julie Grob
University of Houston Libraries

WEST POINT – As I mentioned in our last newsletter, Timothy Clark, grandson of AB “Youngun” Clark is attending his first year at West Point (he's on the football team too). He was contacted by CDT PVT De Marco, CO E3, class of '09, the grandson of USS *Houston* crew member CHARLES “WOODY” LOHRIG (deceased '89). Tim's father Mark said, “There are 4000 cadets up there so it's great that incoming cadets with a WWII POW legacy in their background is considered significant news. What a unique and honored pedigree!”

We are wondering if there are more of our NG's out there attending any of these honored military academies? I'd like to get reports about any and all of our NG's in the military also. We want to acknowledge and honor those NG's.

DONATIONS – Donald Rooks, Susan & John Kreutzer, Rita Jedinak, Dorothy Rogers, Betty Miles, Jean Burroughs, Walter R. Grice in memory of WALTER L. GRICE, Anne Du Haime, American Ex-Prisoners of War (49ers Chapter) in memory of GEORGE STODDARD, Fred Hekking, Donia Burroughs, GENE WILKINSON, JOHN HOOD, Matt & Jane Matthews, Theresa Papish & Susan & John Kretzer.

BIG MISTAKE - Sheeze, it seems I don't know where I live! I've received some mail with the numbers transposed but it never dawned on me I gave the incorrect house number until the police responded to our alarm going off and told me we were registered under the wrong house number! I set off the silly alarm and my mind went blank on what to do. Boy, do I feel stupid. We got this alarm system because the instructions on how to use it were so simple. We are at 2501 Amen Corner. Again, repeat along with me.... Two five oh one.....

FROM DOWN UNDER - Gavin Campbell emailed with news; Just a little bit of news from down under as to our participation in the commemorative services to mark the 60th anniversary of the Victory in the Pacific.

Two survivors of HMAS "PERTH" were chosen to attend two services one to be held in Hawaii the other in Singapore.

Frank McGovern was chosen to go to Hawaii on 2 September for 7 days and he attended, along with 16 others in the Aussie party, services were held at the "ARIZONA" memorial and the final one onboard "MISSOURI". He met up with Jack Feliz and renewed old memories. They even appeared on national TV! Frank couldn't find Jack in the phone book and worried that he would miss him, but oddly enough he was talking to a person on one of the tours and mentioned that he was looking for a survivor of "HOUSTON" and mentioned his name and you wouldn't believe it he knew Jack! So that is how they got together.

Gavin Campbell was chosen to go to Singapore for the 60th anniversary of the surrender of the Japanese in SE Asia on 12 September. The impressive commemorative ceremony was held at the Kranji War Cemetery attended by representatives of all nations involved in the war in the Pacific. Tours were made of the sites where POW camps used to be.

I hope this may be of interest to you, it's a long time ago but it's good to know that services are being held by the next generation to commemorate the freedom we won for them.

With best wishes and say hi to Trudy and Otto.

The Commissioning of PERTH III is planned for about August/September 2006, probably in Perth, Western Australia. I will have specific news in the March issue for those interested.

SITES TO SEE – *Always good – always improving;*

Official USS Houston website: <http://www.usshouston.org/>

USS Houston blog website: <http://usshouston.blogspot.com/>

USS Houston crew bios and pictures website: <http://home.pon.net/shawnf/>

NISSAN COMMERCIAL – I was contacted via email to watch for a Nissan commercial that played the “Colonel Bogie March” while the vehicles fell into line to the tune. Also included in the email was a phone number to call or address to write to complain. Thinking that just one voice might not be heard I emailed everyone on my email list (not only the USS Houston group but the Lost Battalion and our friends and family) urging them to join me. Your participation worked! The commercial was modified with a different tune. Thank you one and all.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF OUR VETS - Presidential certificate recognizes devotion; duty to nation. The United States of America honors the memory of 'JOHN A. DOE'. This certificate is awarded by a grateful nation in recognition of devoted and selfless consecration to the service of our country in the Armed Forces of the United States. –signed President of the United States
A Presidential Memorial Certificate (PMC) is an engraved paper certificate, signed by the current President, to honor the memory of honorably discharged deceased veterans. The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) prepares the certificates expressing the country's grateful recognition of the veteran's service. Eligible recipients include the deceased veteran's next of kin and loved ones. More than one certificate may be provided. Requesting the certificate is very simple as long as you have the supporting documentation. You'll need a copy of discharge and a death certificate. Eligible recipients, or someone acting on their behalf, can apply for a PMC either in person at any VA regional office; faxing your request to 202.565.8054; or mail your request to: Presidential Memorial Certificates (41A1C), Department of Veterans Affairs, 5109 Russell Road, Quantico, VA 22134-3903. You may learn more about this program at www.cem.va.gov/pmc.htm.

SURVIVOR UPDATES – LLOYD WILLEY has a new electric wheelchair to get around the house & up & down the ramps to the car. Care Givers come 16 hours a week to give Dorothy a change to run errands as well. His 91st birthday was celebrated Dec. 6th. As usual his spirits are high & loves to hear from his USS Houston family. ML (GUS/BUD) FORSMAN had us worried for quite a while. He had a long struggle with pneumonia & there were days that looked pretty grim. He's finally out of the hospital and living near his daughter in Kerrville, TX. JOHN HOOD continues to battle his blood pressure and diabetes. The VA has a nurse check up on him once a week. He celebrated his 84th birthday Nov. 3rd. GENE WILKINSON had back surgery and is slowly mending. Hospice type help comes in on a regular basis to keep an eye on his recovery. OTTO SCHWARZ is having a tough time. It seems he had another reaction while under sedation going through a procedure for his prostate cancer. They seem to think he had several mini strokes. After returning home, he wasn't recovering and Trudy needed help. He was in the VA nursing home for a week. Although the care was good, they didn't have the facilities set up for a blind patient. During that time, they tweaked his medications and there was a marked improvement. Enough so that he could return home. He just returned from yet another trip to the hospital with the same symptoms. I have just received word he is struggling again. HOWARD BROOKS fell down the stairs and broke some bones. It took him several weeks to mend enough to keep up with sweet Sylvia on a trip to Italy. Please keep our folks in your prayers.

IN CONCLUSION – We should be very proud of ourselves. So many of the NG's have taken on duties and have made this organization one of a kind. We've lost a few members this last year, however the membership we do have is robust and enthusiastic. Max and I still aren't totally unpacked and I've not finished making the curtains for this home. We have slowly deliberated how to decorate the place. I have the material for the last windows but not the time just now. This time of year is always busy and that will have to be put on the back burner. There's the decorating, baking, Christmas cards, shopping, wrapping & this newsletter to do first! Max and I did sneak away for 5 days to watch the change of the colors in New Mexico. It's amazing that people don't believe in a Supreme Being when they gaze at the natural wonders we saw. We did some sincere relaxing by picnicking by babbling brooks (with one eye on the outlook for bears), sitting on the balcony and listening to the leaves rustle in the breeze, strolling around the square in Taos (we got our fill of galleries in Taos AND Santa Fe) plus stopping to watch the world go by just to name a few of the exciting experiences. Ha Ha.... All too soon, we had to come back to the triple digit heat. Just as I was getting this Bluebonnet ready to take to the printer we got THE CALL from our son that our Brandi was in labor. We drove up for the event and got to meet their 2nd son. Carson John Poss was born at 3:30am today (Nov 27th) in Houston, TX. He is 2/10ths of an oz. short of 9 lbs and 21" long with loads of black wavy hair. He is absolutely beautiful!! (and I'm not the *least* bit partial) So far, all are grandsons (6) & we couldn't feel more blessed. Otto and I talk as often as possible. I have thanked him repeatedly for being patient with me and mentoring me for this job. It has become my passion & given me an enormous sense of accomplishment. I'm sure those members that have gotten involved with the workings of the organization feel the same way. Be assured we will continue telling of your story long after the last man is gone!

PLEASE **NOTE OUR CHANGE OF ADDRESS, FAX AND PHONE NUMBERS**
NOTED ON THE FIRST PAGE OF THE NEWSLETTER!!!

START PREPARING FOR THAT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION RIGHT AWAY
CONTACT: RON DREES
14219 WICKERSHAM LN, HOUSTON, TX 77077
281 493-5171
REMEMBER ---- IT'S \$1,000!!

FINANCIAL REPORT:

DEBITS		CREDITS	
Sept '05 Newsletter		Previous Balance	1981.42
Printing & postage	237.00	Donations & sales	948.61
Postage	147.85	Total	2930.03
Supplies	188.80		
Phone	134.35		
Total	708.00	BALANCE	2222.03

Remember – we also have \$3000 reserved for reunion expenses (ie: tent if it rains, payments in advance to the hotel)

REUNION INFORMATION: Please read this carefully.....

This year will have a new routine! It will be more low keyed for our survivors comfort. Our March 1st is in between the Houston Rodeo and a city wide convention. We could go the weekend of the city wide convention but the room rates were much higher – trust me A LOT more expensive. Ergo, Sharron Long negotiated the weekend of the Houston Rodeo. THEREFORE, we're moving things around a bit. First and foremost ---- plan to arrive by morning on Thursday. We're trying to negotiate between the city and USS Houston SSN-713 for a visit to the sub OR some of the crew to join us. At this point, I don't even know if the sub will be in town but I'm trying to coordinate just in case they will be. If you haven't arrived yet, then there's no point in the coordinating, but then..... it's still up in the air!!

Thursday: arrival and registrations

Friday: we will be guests of the University of Houston. The construction of the new display area is complete & everyone is excited to see the finished project with our

USS Houston items on display! We urge everyone to have a late breakfast or early lunch to be ready to board the buses on time. We are scheduling the trip to the U of H reception from 1 – 3PM

Saturday: We will not compete with the Houston Rodeo Parade this time around. We will have a complimentary breakfast for the USS Houston family & friends that have paid their registration fee, NG & Scholarship meetings in the morning. The Memorial Service will be at 3PM.

Hotel –

Doubletree-Allen Center (downtown), 400 Dallas St., Houston, TX 77002

Make your reservations through the hotel only & advise you are with the USS Houston for your discounted rate of \$79 per night

Call 713 759-0202 by FEBRUARY 7, 2006

If you have walking difficulties, tell the hotel & ask for a room near the elevator

Handicapped rooms are available – please advise the hotel if you need one.

Area restaurants – A list of restaurants in the nearby area will be provided to you. Please call before going to be sure they are open when you want to go. Also, check with the hotel shuttle service to see if they can accommodate you getting to and from the restaurant of your choice.

Meals - You will notice on the registration form that only two meals are planned. We have had some negative feedback about the breakfast – food selections, cost, time of morning, etc. Morning and lunch meals are your choice. As stated before, we will have a complimentary continental breakfast for those that have paid their registration fee Saturday morning from 9 – 9:30. More details will be in your registration packet.

Friday night will be: Salad, chicken breast topped with crabmeat, asparagus and Béarnaise sauce, veggies, roasted potatoes & Walnut Cream Cake for dessert.

Saturday night will be: salad, 8oz. Strip Loin Steak “enhanced with a Cabernet sauce”, fresh veggies, garlic whipped potatoes & New York cheesecake

Of course there will be rolls, coffee & tea at each meal.

By the way, there will be a piano “bar” starring our own NG, Dana Charles each evening in the CA-30 Lounge (aka hospitality room). The hospitality room will be bigger and easier access this time (more information in your registration packet).

DIRECTIONS TO THE DOUBLETREE

From Airport Directions

12 Miles Hobby Airport. Take I-45 north and take the Houston Ave exit. Turn right onto West Capital. Turn right onto Bagby St. Turn left onto Dallas St. The hotel is on the corner of Dallas and Bagby. 21 Miles Houston Intercontinental Take I-45 south from the airport. Follow the signs to downtown. Exit at McKinney which is to the left. Turn right at the first light (Bagby) and then turn left onto Dallas St. The hotel will be on the right. Transportation Airport Express, Taxi, Car Rental services in baggage claim. A one day car rental can be less expensive than a round trip cab fare. If Taxi, ask for fixed zone rate General Arrival Directions

From North Houston

Take I-45 south to McKinney Street exit, downtown. At the first light (Bagby), turn right. Follow Bagby to Dallas and turn left the hotel is immediately on the right.

From 59 North - Take Hwy 59 south to the Capital St. exit. Capital St. Follow to Bagby, turn left, follow to Dallas, turn left. Hotel is on the right hand side.

From South Houston

Take I-45 north to the Memorial Drive/Houston Ave. Exit take Memorial Drive exit and follow to the first light. Turn right on Rusk and follow, under freeway, to Bagby. Turn right on Bagby and then left on Dallas. Hotel is immediately on the right.

From Southwest Houston - Take Hwy 59 north to the Louisiana/Downtown exit, follow Louisiana to Lamar and turn left. Follow 2 blocks to Bagby and turn left. Follow 1 block to Dallas, turn left. The hotel is on the right.

From I-10 East

Heading eastbound on I-10 to the Smith Street exit. Take Smith to Lamar and turn right and follow to Bagby. Turn left and follow 1 block to Dallas and turn left. The hotel is immediately on the right.

From I-10 West

Traveling west on I-10, take I-45 south and exit on McKinney. Turn right on Bagby and then left on Dallas. Hotel is on the right.

NOTE:

Transportation Airport Express, Taxi, Car Rental services in baggage claim. A one day car rental can be less expensive than a round trip cab fare. If Taxi, ask for fixed zone rate General Arrival Directions

BEFORE YOU GO

Quietly you've all turned gray,
You did your job, you saved our way.
Our life and freedom you preserved
We've thanked you less than you deserved.

You never boasted, bragged or asked
For adulation for your past.
You did the job you knew was right
And quietly, you cry at night.

For bodies maimed and comrades lost
For sights beyond our furthest thoughts
For what you've lived and felt and seen
For what the cost of freedom means.

You leave us blessed with every breath
That cost you arms and legs and death.
You won the worst and greatest war.
We owe you more, we owe you more.

Thank you for your wondrous feats,
For open speech and quiet streets,
For worship as we choose to pray,
For preservation of our way.

Before you go, we need to show
That in your silence we still know
What you accomplished and what you did
For who we are and how we live.

So go with love from wives and sons
And daughters for a job well done,
From kids who've never seen a tank.
We give you thanks, we give you thanks.

Thank you for your wondrous feats,
For open speech and quiet streets,
For worship as we choose to pray,
For preservation of our way.

For home and jobs and baseball games
For many colors and many names.
You saved our lives and we're still free
From shining sea to shining sea.
Thank you, thank you,
thank you ---- go in peace.

Lyrics by Sam Biersteck

REGISTRATION FORM
 USS HOUSTON Memorial Service/Reunion
 February 23-25, 2006
 Room reservations **MUST** be made by **YOU**
 PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name (s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of crew member you are honoring and relationship (or state you are a friend): _____

FEEL FREE TO USE BACK IF NECESSARY - DID YOU PRINT CLEARLY?

Friday night dinner 7:00 PM # _____

Saturday night dinner 7:00 PM # _____

Dinner Friday: \$ 28.00 x # eating _____ = \$ _____

Saturday Dinner: \$28.00 x # eating _____ = \$ _____

Registration \$ 20 per person x # _____ = \$ _____

NOTE: LATE MEAL REGISTRATION – AFTER FEBRUARY 7
\$5.00 per person for registration and \$5.00 per meal
Hotel will not be able to guarantee the same entrée as prompt registrations

TOTAL \$ _____

Grand Opening of University of Houston display of USS Houston artifacts - Friday

Reception at University of Houston _____ #

Bus seat needed to U of H _____ #

Please include a check for the total cost (your check is your receipt)

Make Payable to: USS Houston – Next Generation

Send to: Sharron Long
 11402 Memorial Dr.
 Houston, TX 77024

PLEASE INDICATE ANY FOOD ALLERGIES (nuts, blue cheese, shellfish, eggs, etc.)