



USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUE BONNET

"The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast"

Founder: Otto Schwarz

Publisher: Pam Foster

Editors: Lin Drees, John Schwarz & Val Poss

2501 Amen Corner, Pflugerville, TX 78660

Phone: 512 989-0000 Fax: 512 989-3227 Email: CA30NG@AOL.COM

Web sites: www.usshouston.org & www.usshouston.net

MAILBAG - Nancy Morrow (NG) reports quite a bit of home maintenance & gardening out her way. She still harvests from her fruit trees & makes her jams – yum! Jimmie Pryor sent a short note of thanks for our work although this hasn't been her best year – let's hope '09 is better for one and all! Marie & JACK FELIZ sent an article about the mysterious sinking of the HMAS SYDNEY that claimed all hands (645 lives) making it the greatest Naval loss for Australia. The question remains why 314 Germans survived the sinking of the KORMORAN in battle with the HMAS SYDNEY yet no Australian survived. Anne DuHaimie writes she has moved to 299 Essex Rd, Warminster, PA 18974 (215 357-2818 – cell: 215 378-7072). Her macular degeneration has gotten worse but is grateful for her general vision. She didn't send Christmas cards this year but sends her best wishes to the Houston family. BILL INGRAM had back surgery on Jan. 26th – we hope this helps with his constant discomfort. Lost Battalion QUATY GORDON is now in a nursing home although Frankie still resides in their home. He's dealing with Alzheimer's. Dorothy sent a lovely letter telling us of her and LLOYD'S (WILLEY) 62nd wedding anniversary & Lloyd's 94th birthday. After Dorothy pulled a muscle in her chest trying to lift LLOYD, they now have help coming in daily. His stroke has affected his speech and Dorothy is now legally blind. However, they are able to stay home with the help of the healthcare providers driving them to their appointments and out to breakfast or lunch (fun outings for both!)

POW CERTIFICATE OF CAPTIVITY – This 8 1/2" x 11" certificate is printed on quality paper suitable for framing to display your history as a prisoner of war. Each certificate background is personalized to the theater of operation. To purchase your certificate from AXPOW, send your name, service number, unit when captured, POW number (if known), camp names & locations along with your \$25.00 payment. You may include a picture with your order. Please order from the national headquarters at 3201 East Pioneer Parkway #40. Arlington, Texas 76010- 5396. 817-649-2979, 817-649-0109 - FAX. hq@axpow.org

FINANCIAL REPORT FOR MARCH –

Scholarship balance - \$ 8,240.13

Organization balance - \$17,252.51

Above amounts as of March 21, 2009

(bills for the reunion are not paid yet) Tax ID# 74-2814051 for your tax deductions.

Donors this quarter: Nancy Morrow, William Lynch, Annie DuHaime, Lin & Ron Drees, Jimmie Pryor, Marie & JACK FELIZ, John & Susan Kreutzer, BASIL BUNYARD, Walter Grice, Johan Von Leer, John Schwarz, BILL INGRAM, Pauline Hainline, Alice Welfelt, Bette Fowler, Donia “Jean” Burroughs, Steven See, Walter Grice, Steven See, Capt. Kerry Magee, Trudy Schwarz, Leland Stewart, MARVIN SIZEMORE, Jimmie Pryor, Silvia & HOWARD BROOKS.

Note – if I omitted your name, please send me a gentle reminder. Speaking of gentle reminders - some folks won't be receiving a Bluebonnet next quarter.

KILROY WAS HERE – Although our men didn't see this in the POW camps, here's the story.... James Kilroy, a 46 year old shipyard rivet inspector from Massachusetts marked the rivets he inspected & counted with a large waxy marker. Then he began to write “Kilroy Was Here” to prevent the checkmarks from being erased & counted twice. He finally added the sketch of the guy peering over the fence. As ships were leaving the shipyard without paint, the “trademark” was seen by thousands of service men, it caught on & spread to all theaters of war from Berlin to Tokyo.

NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES – One half million dollars was raised entirely through private donations to dedicate a monument on September 17th to the 1,068 American Sailors & Coast Guardsmen that died in the invasion in Normandy, France. There was an official Monument Dedication tour for those that traveled to France to attend. Stephen Spears created the figures for the monument...the statue's base is a pentagon, each face representing one of the five landing beaches. The name of each ship that took part in Overlord is engraved there also. Once it was completed in Colorado, it was trucked to Galveston, TX & loaded onto the M Tagus where Ed Seiling & Carter Conlin of the Texas Commandery saw it begin its voyage. The ship offloaded the crates in Zeebrugge, Belgium, where they were transferred to another ship bound for the port of Le Havre. After clearing customs, the monument was then trucked to Utah Beach, Normandy arriving just in time for the dedication. One poignant side story is of Don Krebs, a Sonar Tech aboard the USS HARDING DD625. Don attended the dedication & returned to the church in Vierville where the HARDING demolished four machine gun nests & a lookout post. The next month Don died & was buried Veteran's Day.

MY GOOF – I failed to mention that Nancy Greenwald (daughter of Mary & SKIP SCHILPEROORT), husband Darrell, Connie Kobes (niece of Clarence Schilperoort) & friend Nancy Thomas also attended the Hawaii Veteran's Day gathering to honor her dad & the crew!

NOW HEAR THIS!

Scholarship Program - Applications are accepted beginning June 1- with the deadline for submission extending to November 1 for a scholarship in the amount of \$2,500. Applications and specific information about applying may be obtained anytime by visiting our website or writing request to: John Keith Schwarz, 2500 Clarendon Blvd., Apt 121, Arlington, VA 22201

*** Please remember that donations are appreciated - You can remember the USS Houston Scholarship Fund in your will, estate planning, or beneficiary designations. All donations are tax deductible. Donations should be made out to: USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association. Mail Donations to: Mrs. Pam Foster, 370 Lilac Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648*

Scholarship Program Update;

The 03/'09 reunion week-end was a spectacular one for your scholarship program.

First, we awarded our annual scholarship for this year for \$2500.00 to Alex J. James. Alex's great uncle was the late USS Houston CA-30 survivor John Stefanek, also the dad of our Scholarship Committee's own, Jane Mathews. Alex is an outstanding student at New York's, Syracuse University. We certainly wish the very best in all of this young man's future endeavors.

Second, the Scholarship Committee announced the monumental obtainment of a PERMANENT scholarship with the US Naval Academy Foundation which will be awarded FOREVER, biennially, in the name of, 'USS Houston CA-30 Memorial Scholarship'. This scholarship affords a prospective candidate to the U.S. Naval Academy a complete year of preparatory cadet school training prior to entrance into the US Naval Academy. Given that year, the success rate during the subsequent four years at the Naval Academy is significantly increased giving greater potential for the production of an Officer in the US Navy/Marines. What a fitting, everlasting memorial to the sacrifices made by the brave men of the USS Houston CA-30! We thank all of the generous USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations members and others who so unselfishly donated funds in the drive to obtain this permanent scholarship.

Finally, we had our annual auction that of course raises funds to perpetuate our yearly scholarship award. This year was critical, as will each and every month thereafter in that we must raise enough money during the year to be able to award a significant amount to properly assist our scholarship winner with the furtherance of their education. **We ask all of our organization members to donate \$100.00 this year; if you can afford more than that would be greatly appreciated, if you cannot do that amount then \$75, \$50, or whatever you can do would be helpful.** What is most important is that we all chip in and donate, that is how this will happen as there is truly strength in numbers. And please remember, the organization general fund needs your support as well for our organization to remain financially healthy.

John Keith Schwarz- Scholarship Program Chairman, son of the late CA-30 shipmate-
Otto C. Schwarz

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**Nancy Greenwald's** (daughter of Mary & SKIP SCHILPEROORT) poem as grace written for our survivors, spouses & widows at their Saturday Luncheon March 7, 2009 Reunion:

For this meal upon which we are about to dine,  
We thank you Lord, it will be divine.

The USS Houston folks that we all hold dear,  
Have gathered at your table from far and near.

Bless the men who fought in the Sunda Strait,  
Their wives, their families, keep them all safe.

Take care of our loved ones who have left us behind,  
We know you will, You are so kind.

Thank you for watching over us from high above,  
We know you will always embrace us with your love.

For all that we have, our families, every friend,  
We thank you dear Lord and with this we say Amen.

## USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION FACT SHEET

Founded by survivor Otto Schwarz in 1946 to perpetuate the memory of the USS Houston CA-30 & her crew.

We Next Generations, or as we say the NG's, have taken over the responsibility of:

Their annual reunion & Memorial Service held at the USS Houston Monument in Houston, TX the closest weekend to March 1<sup>st</sup> (date of the ship sinking March 1, 1942). The survivors, wives and widows are our honored guests.

Helped establish a like organization in England

Grant an annual scholarship in house along with a PERMANENT scholarship with the US Naval Academy Foundation which will be awarded FOREVER, biennially, in the name of, 'USS Houston CA-30 Memorial Scholarship'. This scholarship affords a prospective candidate to the U.S. Naval Academy a complete year of preparatory cadet school training prior to entrance into the US Naval Academy

Helped the History Channel to produce a 2 hour documentary 'THE TRUE STORY OF THE BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI

Took part in the BBC documentary HELL IN THE PACIFIC

NG, Vic Campbell produced a documentary entitled DEATH BECOMES THE GHOST

Opened our archives to Jim Hornfischer to write his masterpiece SHIP OF GHOSTS (#1 on the best seller non fiction list when it came out last year)

Continue to publish their quarterly newsletter the BLUEBONNET

Are in the process of scanning over 70 years of materials from our archives,

PBS documentary produced by Jim Fisher of the Houston PBS regional office: THE CRUISER HOUSTON: OF PRIDE AND PURPOSE

We have an official USS Houston Dive team headed by NG, Jerry Ranger. There have been several dives to the Houston and another is in the works for March '11

Converted our video interviews to DVD that span several decades.

The University of Houston has extensive archives and a large glass encased display of artifacts.

Presently working with the Nimitz Museum in regards to their expansion and including the first 3 months after Pearl Harbor.

Web sites: [www.usshouston.org](http://www.usshouston.org), [www.usshouston.net](http://www.usshouston.net)

## Line from Lin

This year the weather was as beautiful as the Memorial Service, some of us even got a little sunburned - Hurricane Ike "trimmed" the tree and there was not as much shade! At the beginning of the Service, BM2 Terrence Phillips blew his whistle to "pipe on" to the Memorial Service each of the six survivors. Assisting the Survivors were servicemen/women in the Navy Reserves with LTJG Charles Cager, they stood up front during the whole Service and assisted our Men when needed, and assisted with the ringing of the Eight Bells, to signify the End of Watch.

The City of Houston, again, participated this year; Mayor Bill White sent Buddy Grantham, Office of Veterans' Affairs, to lay a wreath during the Wreath Laying Ceremony.

Traditionally each year we have wreaths presented by: the Survivors, the Surviving Spouses, Next Generations, 131st Field Artillery, Australia, Britain, The Netherlands, the Naval Order of the United States\*, and last year we added 2 local Marine groups: Marine Corps League and the Marine Corps Coordinating Council.

\* the Naval Order are the ones who had the concept and followed through - and we have Our Monument - our beautiful Monument to the USS *HOUSTON* and her Men!

After the Memorial Service, many said "how touched they were by the Service," "how moving and beautiful," "emotional and thought-provoking," "that each year the Service is better than the year before" and most said that they would be back next year. Each year more people stay afterward to talk, look for loved ones' names on the Monument, take photos, and enjoy each others company before scattering to go their own ways.

Each year at our Memorial Service, I would love to be able to call out all the names of OUR MEN who served on the USS *HOUSTON* - and are named on the Monument, BUT it would take too long. So we call out all the names of ones who are in attendance or have family and friends in the audience. This year the following Survivors attended with family and friends: Howard and Silvia Brooks, Basil Bunyard, David and Donna Flynn, Harry and Audrey Kelley, Clarence and Mary Schilperoort, and Marvin and Helen Sizemore. Bob Charles was represented by his son. Representing their deceased husbands, the following wives and family were in attendance: Jimmie Pryor, wife of Charley Pryor, Teresa Reilly, wife of John Reilly, Lee Robinson, wife of Marvin Robinson, Trudy Schwarz, wife of Otto Schwarz, the founder of the USS *HOUSTON* Survivors Association, and Eunell Weissinger, wife of Bill Weissinger. This year the following deceased men had family to represent them at the Memorial Service: Roger Barnett, Joseph Bienert, Leonard Bradley, Clement Burroughs, Gene Crispi, Joe Davis, Buel Fannin, Gus Forsman, Robert Fulton, Joe Garrett, Walter Grice, Alfred McGarvey, Paul Papish, Charles Parsons, John Ranger, John Reas, Valdon Roberts, Leon Rogers, Tony Russell, and James Raydell Wilson. Dub Reed was a POW w/ the *HOUSTON* men and a member of the 131st Field Artillery; he was also represented by family members.

This year we were honored to have Doc Hekking's son and wife with us. Fred Hekking had great stories to share of his days as a prisoner when he was a young adult.

Attending this year was Bob Ivy, a model maker, who has made models of many ships - always using the blueprints, no kits. Currently he has two models of the USS *HOUSTON* CA 30 - in two different sizes, plus a CL 81. This past year he also drew up his own blueprints from photos of the original USS *HOUSTON* which was a German ship captured during World War I - and renamed USS *HOUSTON*. With the blueprints he then made a model. Bob has his own mini-museum of ship models - and invited the Survivors and families to come to view his models in his mini-museum - his apartment!

The following also served in World War II and were in attendance: Jerry Waxman; with the VFW Post #8790: Bob Cook, Joe Rodriguez, Dana Rodriguez, and Arch Ethun; and with the Marine Coordinating Council: Don Scarborough, Oscar Sweet, Ernie Jackson, and Lyndon Howell.

With the beautiful weather we were able to enjoy the music of the Houston Brass Band, including the Echo Taps. They play 30 minutes before the Service begins, plus during the Service, they play the National Anthem, and Navy Hymn which is recited by Carter Conlin, Texas Commandery. The Honor Guard from VFW Post 8790 supplied the rifle salute. The Sea Cadets attended, helped with ushering, and provided the color guard. The Mayor's Office of Special Events, The Heritage Society, and the Houston Park Service had the Monument paving repaired (unfortunately this has to be repaired each year). The Park Service also mowed the park to make it ready for our use. Special Events is a tremendous assistance and provides the sound equipment, along with the sound technicians - we are very pleased to have Todd Holloman's assistance with the preparations beforehand and the expertise of the City's sound men. Peggy Horn with The Heritage Society flew our flags (the ABDA flags and POW flag) at the Monument, allowed use of the Museum's restrooms, and provided last minute assistance with the killing of red ants that popped up overnight! The NOUS, Texas Commandery, keeps the flags in safekeeping for us during the year.

Every year, two families appear with homemade cookies, coffee, hot cocoa, and bottled water. Larry and Linda Poole, along with Roy and Dorlene Gideon, are wonderful friends of the USS *HOUSTON*. Roy and Dorlene's granddaughter came this year since she is interested in World War II. Larry photographed a wonderful photo of the bell portion of the Monument with the American flag, flying in the wind; he made 8x10 copies and provided a copy for each Survivor in attendance at the Service.

Many thanks to all who assisted this past year - setting up chairs, folding up chairs, handing out flags, ushering, assisting with various aspects of the Service. The following assisted: Ron Drees, Ron Miller, Leland Stewart, Becke Freitas, Tony Hodgson, Jon Burroughs, Dorothy Rogers, Steven Daniel, Tim Klenk, Jo Klenk, and Andrea Young. Also thanks to any whose names I have forgotten to mention - all assistance was appreciated.

Friday afternoon, we attended a reception held at the UH Library and also viewed the displays in memory of the USS *HOUSTON*. Come to Houston to view the Monument and to UH Library to see the display area for our USS *HOUSTON* photos, letters, memorabilia, and paintings. Precinct 3 was able to again provide bus service to the Library - we appreciate this service each year.

The Doubletree treats us quite nicely. Assisting this year was Charles Cager with the contract, Monica Funes who made all the arrangements for the reunion facilities, Lindsey Sheffield who managed the reservations, and all the other employees who took care of all the small details, involved with the background running of the reunion and the setting up of the hospitality suite and the banquet room, plus the cooking and serving of the meals.

Friday night Catch The Moment came and took photos of attendees. Various backgrounds were available: a flag background, riding an elephant, the Iwo Jima Monument, and bluebonnets were among the choices. A wonderful photo was taken of our six Survivors. Photo copies were available within minutes. Most of the cost was donated by Catch the Moment. We have now purchased the copyright to the photos - and copies will be available - check the website in a week or so.

Jerry Waxman made a wonderful brochure that was handed out at the reunion - and during the Memorial Service. The brochure includes one of Jerry's Veterans Corner newsarticles, the history of the USS *HOUSTON*, and drawings of POW days by Fred Seiker. Saturday night Jerry provided caricatures that he drew of ones in the hospitality suite.

We have not yet set a definite date for next year's reunion and Memorial Service. The 2010 date will be announced in future BLUEBONNETS and also via emails - be sure that we have your current email address! We cannot set a date until the Rodeo is over and they have chosen the Rodeo Parade date - we avoid that week-end as our reunion week-end.

Many thanks to all who attended our reunion and the Memorial Service - and for those of you who were not able to attend, you were missed!

Lin and Ron Drees, 14219 Wickersham, Houston, TX 77077, 281.493.5171 (phone and fax) -- or [lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net)

**MEETING NOTES** – If anyone wants a copy of the Scholarship or Membership meeting notes, please contact me (address on header of page 1)

**LATEST PROJECTS** - We have several projects going on. The organization is as strong as the next member & I'm proud to say we're charging on full steam ahead!

Dana Charles has agreed to work on getting that plaque designed to send to the museum on the River Kwai in Thailand. He has also become our liaison to handle "unusual" email queries.

Don Kehn continues to help us with emails pertaining to historical information. Buy his new book! "A Blue Sea Of Blood" ISBN 978-0-7603-2770-8 – Zenith Press!!

John Schwarz & Vic Campbell are working on getting some kind of recognition for the Asiatic Fleet at the US Navy Memorial -- We've tried to contact the Asiatic Fleet organization to become one force but that has fallen thru. The exec's at the US Navy Memorial seem to think the "Asiatic Fleet" updated conference room is sufficient. HOWEVER, the general public will never see it as it's tucked away behind STAFF ONLY doors, down the hallway & being used as a lunchroom for the employees.

Somehow, each year when we bring home the albums, several pages have been removed and I have to determine which album they belong in and put them back --- between now and the next reunion, I'll get that done.

Jim Fisher with PBS in Houston took the candid shots of the 4 FDR cruises I'd scanned and emailed to him, cleaned them up and gave us new copies. The originals are now with the University of Houston per Otto's agreement with them prior to his death. Jim gave me a disk of the pictures but that somehow grew hairy little legs at the reunion and walked away. Hopefully I can sweet talk Jim into sending another disk or I'll be doing more scanning.

Speaking of scanning. The scanning of our archives has become our biggest hurdle. About 1/2 has been scanned --- 1/2 of materials since the 1930's. There's a lot more to be done. There are two ways to do this.

First - get volunteers that will guarantee they will scan materials then mail the original works to the University of Houston (sending us a copy of their scanned work, of course) with a deadline date to get it done (not at one's leisure)

OR

Second - hire someone to come in & scan here.

Either way, there are costs involved. We can't do anything unless we get a decision how to do it and donations to get it done.

Third - forget the scanning and simply send the folders to the University of Houston.

No need to reply and tell me how difficult it is to get permission from a library/museum to view archived information -- I know already and have advised y'all.

Fourth - Continue to think Val will do it ----- sorry, as my job load is diminished with more volunteers, there's more work popping up. I've struggled with this for 3 years now & haven't been able to meet my goals to accomplish the scanning. The organization will need to decide....that means YOU. Either volunteers to do it or hire someone or forget about preserving our archives on scans & turn it over to U of H.

Max (my hubby) is going to work with Jim Hornfisher who is on the expansion committee at the Nimitz Museum in Fredericksburg, TX to get Bob Ivy's models of the USS Houston, Seagull, etc. displayed. I understand that Capt. George Holyfield is also a part of this planning -- this is a fantastic opportunity to have the USS Houston honored if we get our foot in the door soon enough.

The updating of our records has been a VERY slow work in progress. We started with the Next Generations last June and have YET got everything just right. I had to send another letter to a couple dozen NG's to make sure our records were correct simply because I didn't feel they WERE correct. Of the 26, only 2 have replied. I was correct! Our records were indeed incorrect!! I'd sincerely appreciate hearing back from the others --- if I don't, you won't be receiving the March newsletter (hopefully before we have to call it the April newsletter....) Jane Matthews is helping with updating our surviving spouse list. We suspect some have passed away & we've not been notified.

Per "The Quan" magazine (American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor), their reunion in late May will be their last. In the newsletter, they state "I have asked our Board of Directors to suggest organizations that meet the criteria and rules and regulations of both the IRS and the State of Massachusetts (where we filed for our non-profit corporation) and submit the names of the organizations along with reasons why they should be considered for some of our funds". John Schwarz has offered to follow up on this.

It took the good part of a year to get our bylaws formatted for the vote and approval this last reunion. Per the bylaws, we now have not only the officers but Board of Members. My new & improved job is to oversee the Board that oversees committee's and the officers. (Scanning doesn't come with the new job....) Many thanks to Tim Klenk offering his legal expertise AND for his patience with me asking so many questions.

Patty Letze has volunteered to take over the hospitality room responsibilities since Sharron Long is moving out of the country. Patty has been assisting Sharron (the McGarvey sisters) for several years so the transition will be smooth.

We have a group of volunteers that put the reunion together --- from sending out invitations to sending out thank you notes and every little thing in between. Once upon a time, Otto Schwarz handled everything, then it took two (Lin Drees & myself), now it takes a team. Forgive me if I miss a name -- so many volunteered & pitched in after they arrived! Thank you to: Sharron Long, Patty Letze, Dana Charles, Lin & Ron Drees, Jerry Ranger & friend Mike Whetstone, Nancy Greenwald, Pam Foster, Don Kehn, Andrea Young, Ron & Barbara Miller, Joann Pryor-Wychopen & Jane Matthews. Well Done!

By the by -- the old copier we've been using at the reunions wore out & we had to run out and get a new one. Ron & Lin Drees will be the keepers of the copier for the organization.

With the changes in the Bylaws, I will no longer be putting in 4-14 hour days & 7 days a week. For personal reasons, I can only promise a maximum of 4 hours a day - weekend AND holidays off. This shouldn't cause any concern because of our new structure.

Speaking for the NG's -- it's an honor to be a part of this organization. We still have 27 survivors & continue to keep our vow to perpetuate the memory of the Houston & crew!

## **ASIATIC FLEET ACTION & NAVAL RAIDS LEFT OUT OF HISTORY**

- 1.) Battle of Balikpapan January 23, 1942 (4 Asiatic Fleet flushdeckers; first USN surface action since the Spanish-American War)
- 2.) Raids on the Marshall & Gilbert Islands Feb 1, 1942 (Naval raids with surface bombardments & air attacks)
- 3.) Battle of the Flores Sea Feb 4, 1942 (CA-30, MARBLEHEAD, DeRUYTER & others)
- 4.) Battle of Bandoeng Strait (Bali) Feb 20, 1942 (Asiatic Fleet DDs & Dutch ships)
- 5.) Raid on Marcus & Wake Islands Feb 21-March 4, 1942 (Naval raids with surface bombardments & air attacks)
- 6.) The LANGLEY Operation Feb 27, 1942
- 7.) Battle of the Java Sea Feb 27-28, 1942 (ABDA Striking Force)
- 8.) Battle of Sunda Strait Feb 28/March 1, 1942 (CA-30 & HMAS PERTH)
- 9.) Action Off Cape Puting March 1, 1942 (HMS EXETER, HMS ENCOUNTER, & USS POPE sunk)
- 10.) Loss of the PECOS 1 March, 1942
- 11.) "The Sea Battle Off Tjilatjap" USS EDSALL (DD-219) (Afternoon March 1, 1942) vs. *Kido Butai* (the only surface action by a USN vessel against the Japanese carrier force which struck Pearl Harbor)
- 12.) Raids on Lae & Salamaua, New Guinea March 10, 1942 (Naval air raids from carriers)

ATTENTION- At this last reunion we had two items disappear. I've waited this long to mention this in hopes they were misplaced or incorrectly packed by Max or myself.

There was a large sheet with several pictures of Houston crew members from the late 30's along with a disk of FDR candid pictures in the exhibit/hospitality room that can no longer be found.

We noticed they were missing as we were packing up but I thought Max picked it up and visa versa.

I'm sure it could just be that it was inadvertently removed from the hospitality room & then forgotten to return.

Our address is 2501 Amen Corner, Pflugerville, TX 78660. The organization would sincerely appreciate your returning the item(s) as soon as possible.

However, if these items are not returned, I have to reconsider what can be brought and exhibited in the future. These are valuable items displayed on the honor system.



UNITED STATES NAVAL ACADEMY  
FOUNDATION

The Executive Director of the United States Naval Academy Foundation, Athletic and Scholarship Division, takes great pleasure in recognizing the outstanding accomplishments and generous support of the

**USS Houston (CA-30) Survivors Association  
And Next Generations**

With this special

**Letter of Appreciation**

For their contribution of \$50,000 to establish a permanent United States Naval Academy Foundation scholarship in memory of the valiant, heroic warship which was lost in the Battle of Sunda Strait on March 1, 1942.

This scholarship is also in memory of Commanding Officer, Captain Albert H. Rooks, and over 1100 men stationed aboard the USS Houston at that time. Many of the ship's complement were lost when it was sunk in the Sunda Strait on that fateful day. Three hundred and sixty-eight (368) men were taken prisoner by the Japanese and were forced into hard labor on the infamous Burma – Thailand Railway. Many of these prisoners died during their 3 ½ years of internment during the war.

This permanent scholarship will always honor the valiant ship which was sunk and the brave men who gave their lives in the service of our country. In a very real way, it honors the essence of bravery, service to a nation at war and what sacrifice is all about in the United States Navy. We are proud to recognize them and their surviving generations in this special way.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "E. Wallace".

Edward C. Wallace  
Captain, USN (Ret.)  
Executive Director