



USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUE BONNET

“The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast”

Founders: Otto & Trudy Schwarz Publishers: Pam Foster & Sue Kreutzer

Editors: Val Poss, Lin Drees, & John Schwarz

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IN MEMORIAM

Stanley Woody	June 1, 2010	Natural Causes
Clarence “Skip” Schilperrort	June 22, 2010	Heart Attack

34th Annual USS Houston CA 30 - CL 81

Sept. 14th thru 19, 2010

Hilton Garden Inn 441 International Center Drive (Richmond area).

Sandston, VA 23150 1-877-782-9444

Contact: Donna Rogers, 3949 Little John Drive, York, PA 17408

717-792-9113 dlr7110@yahoo.com

USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

& NEXT GENERATIONS

March 2 – 6, 2011

Hyatt Hotel, downtown 1200 Louisiana St, Houston, TX 77002

Reservations online at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/USSHoustonCA30>

Reservation Line: 888-421-1442 or 402-592-6464

DONATIONS - Larry & Susan Krug, John Schwarz, Edward & Carol Wrobel in memory of LEON GALSKE, Eileen & ROBERT HANLEY, Pat & John Mintzer, BILL INGRAM, John Schwarz, Towers Watson in memory of LEON GALSKE, Jane Harris in memory of LANSON HARRIS, Pauline Hainline, Laura Stevens, John & Susan Kreutzer, Jimmie Pryor, BASIL BUNYARD, Joseph Lochner in memory of FRANCIS LOCHNER, Alice Welfelt, ROBERT FULTON, Anne DuHaime, Dorothy Rogers, Robert Rooks, Jeanette & Randy Schilperoort in memory of SKIP SCHILPEROORT

2011 Reunion ~ from organizer, Sue Kreutzer

Planning is underway for the 2011 Reunion to be held at a new location, the Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown. It is only a slightly longer walk from the hotel to the Monument. The registration form is included in this newsletter and also on our website at <http://www.usshouston.org/news.htm> Please save the dates March 2-6, 2011. We look forward to having you with us this coming year!

SICK BAY – Don Kehn reports he's had a bout with shingles just after the reunion, John Mintzer sent a donation with a note he's had 4 new knees in 17 months!! DAVID FLYNN had double hernia surgery in May (I think --- I can't get details). Jerry Ranger is still recovering from his 2nd knee surgery he had about a month before the last reunion. John Kreutzer has been battling severe problems with his immune system and was put in the hospital in mid July for a rare bacterial influenza. Geneva King (widow of "Pinkie" King) has been fighting cancer for the past few years. I received an email from her saying she misses hearing from us. If you have a few minutes, please give her a call at: 915 875-8248 or send her a note: 252 Shadow Mountain Dr. F#2, El Paso, TX 79912. Also, HARRY KELLEY is getting his chemo treatments in hopes to make it to the next reunion~913 724-2377 or 1910 155th St., Basehor, KS 66007.

MAILBAG -We, the Board & organization sent Challenge Coins to all of our survivors and widows who were unable to attend the reunion. Connie Suomi's coin was returned by the post office. After a little research on the internet, I found that Connie had died Nov. 20th, 2009. There were no details; it was a private funeral and no mention of children surviving her. Anne DuHaime sent a donation with a note reporting that she and ART now have 11 grandchildren and 4 greats! She's had to give up her driver's license due to macular degeneration. She always hopes to attend a reunion however family occasions continue to come up. She thanks us for the Houston Challenge Coin stating "it made my heart beat with joy". I learned of STANLEY WOODY's death via email from someone that had read of his death. STANLEY had moved to a facility several months ago but we never received his change of address. We don't know where to send a note of condolence other than the old home address of 525 Draper Dr, Norfolk, VA 23505. June 21st SKIP SCHILPEROORT joined his shipmates standing watch on Sunda Strait. He was 92 when he succumbed to a heart attack. SKIP was buried in his home town of Sunnyside, WA on June 29th with full Naval honors. NG, Larry Krug attended the funeral as a representative of the association. We now stand with 20 survivors. John Kreutzer reports the scanning of our archives continues. John is our only volunteer to scan. We sure could use some extra help. At this rate the scanning may be completed in about 10 years..... John is still wading thru the bureaucracy in his attempts to get approval for all Houston crew members to be awarded the Bronze Medal. Marilyn Vandever reports speaking to the Rotary Club in her hometown of Cuero, TX. I spoke at two Rotary Clubs in July.

RETIREMENT -

Dear USS Houston family and friends,

As you all know, I've had some health issues. I've gone thru denial & frustration. Friends and family ... and my Houston family point it out more often than not these days. It's time to admit I'm just not as sharp as I used to be or have the physical "umph" it takes to keep up. Under pressure from my physicians and husband, I must announce my retirement as Executive Director.

I made a vow to Otto and the survivors & widows to continue until the last man is gone; however, neither Otto nor I knew what surprises were down life's road. It's been an extraordinary journey. We have far surpassed Otto's goals and have set exciting goals for the next, next generations.

Over the years, we have all worked with mutual respect and a loving bond of friendship. We not only have our officers but also a Board of Members that has been in effect for 3 years. It is run by intelligent and talented people devoted to the organization's future. I will continue to be at their disposal. This will give the Houston family ample time to find my replacement if they feel the need to have an Executive Director. I plan to continue to volunteer to keep the newsletter going along with other odd jobs.

What an honor to have worked to perpetuate the memory of the Houston and crew! I have been blessed to have you as extended family and will continue to be of any assistance asked of me.

Thank you for understanding....thank you for the friendship and love.
Val Poss

VISIT TO THE NIMITZ - Max and I went to the Nimitz Museum (WWII Museum of the Pacific) in Fredericksburg, TX April 17 & 18th. We met with college friends that knew my dad, Max Courtney and Terry Morris along with Bill Gary (brother James was KIA) and Barb & Ron Miller (Skip Schilperoord's niece). The Chief Curator, Mike Lebens was very pleased to receive the framed canvas. The new expansion has a lot of USS Houston recognitions - be VERY proud!!! There were other bits and pieces of information that connected with the *Houston* and Asiatic Fleet..... MUCH, MUCH more than the Naval Museum in Washington DC.

There was mention of the 1,000 Volunteers & upon returning home mailed a copy of the 'AVENGE THE HOUSTON' poster to the museum.

We got lost a couple of times and at one point, I thought we were at the end of the tour and accidentally opened an emergency exit (not the regular exit door) & set off the alarm!! Before the expansion there was more coverage of the POW's so we must have zigged where we should have zagged. We took two hours to go thru it and just KNOW we missed the POW section.

It's a small world! When we went over to the exhibits of the tanks, bunkers, etc., a couple in the car next to us asked if we were related to any *Houston* crew member. Both Barb Miller & I chimed in. The lady was the niece of GM 1c Ruscoe.

In the gift shop, they have Challenge coins. I got this BRILLIANT idea and asked the store assistant manager about our coins after showing her one. She's VERY interested & gave the manager's name and contact number. I left a dozen messages but have yet heard back from her... sorry, I tried!

When we went for coffee earlier that morning, the place was packed and we were telling the other folks at the table about our visit to the Nimitz. Max brought out his Challenge coin and one of the men wanted to buy it right away! I will learn to carry more than one at a time plus more business cards when going out!!

U.S. ASIATIC FLEET HISTORY – “From the beginning of foreign contact with China, the status of foreigners residing in, or doing business with, China was a puzzle for the Chinese government in Peking as well as the foreign traders attempting to do business. The Chinese government wanted to keep the western barbarians outside of China and did not want to administer their own internal disagreements. Strong foreign commercial and political influence in China between 1841 and 1942 emanated from treaty ports. These were tiny enclaves of foreign influence and government located throughout much of coastal and eastern China.

The Asiatic Station of the U.S. Navy was the overall command of the U.S. Navy in the Far East during the 1880's. Vessels of the Asiatic Squadron, including South China and Yangtze River Patrol, on this station were primarily involved in matters relating to U.S. commerce with China and Japan.

27 April 1898, this squadron, composed of 3 cruisers, 2 gunboats and 1 cutter (Commodore Dewey in flagship Olympia), sailed from Mirs Bay, China, to the Philippines to participate in the Spanish-American War, destroyed the Spanish fleet guarding the Philippines, and effectively took control of Manila Bay.

In 1902, the Asiatic Squadron was upgraded to the Asiatic Fleet.

In 1922, the Asiatic Fleet was charged with defending the Philippines and Guam, and with upholding the Open Door Policy in China.

In 1924-1927, the regularly assigned forces of the Asiatic Fleet were augmented because the political turmoil in the Philippines and China was such as to frequently require the presence of the United States naval vessels to protect American lives and prosperity where outbreaks occurred: Japanese Militarists “China war,” Rape of Nanking, and many incidents and “accidents” involving American properties

12 December 1937, Japanese bombed and sank Panay at Nanking in the Yangtze River.

28 February 1941 Asiatic fleet was renamed the U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

In July 1941, American, British Commonwealth, Dutch and Australian (ABDA) diplomatic and military planning determined that the principal military effort of the Associated Powers will be in the Atlantic and European Areas, and operations in other areas will be conducted to facilitate that effort. The U.S. Navy would not reinforce the Asiatic Fleet by the Pacific Fleet and assumed that war with Japan would see destruction of United States and allied air and naval forces in these regions. U.S. Pacific Fleet would defend the Malay Barrier, if the Japanese “made a direct act of war” against ABDA territory.

24 November 1941, Admiral Thomas C. Hart ordered Marines and others from China to the Philippines and Asiatic Fleet units to Philippine and Dutch East Indies ports.

Alerted that hostilities with Japan were close at hand, the fleet quickly prepared for war. When the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor occurred on 7 Dec. 1941, the Japanese naval and air forces began their attacks on the nearby U.S. Asiatic Fleet.

2 December 1941, Rear Admiral William A. Glassford deactivated the historic Yangtze Patrol and departed for Manila aboard *Luzon* with *Mindanao* and *Oahu*.

Tutuila remained upriver at Chungking and Wake at Shanghai as State Department radio station.

8 December 1941, Rear Admiral William A. Glassford, Commander Task Force 5, hoisted his flag aboard *Houston* at Ilio. Japan commenced hostilities.

15 January 1942, four old U.S. “4-piper” destroyers (*Ford*, *Paul Jones*, *Parrot*, & *Pope*) attacked and sank Japanese vessels anchored in Balikpapan Bay. This was the first surface action of the Pacific War and the first since 1898.

30 January 1942, U.S. Asiatic Fleet units were organized into U.S. Naval Forces Southwest Pacific under Vice Admiral W.A. Glassford – the U.S. Asiatic Fleet, not formally abolished, ceased to exist.

4 February 1942, Battle of Flores Sea: *Houston & Marblehead*, severely damaged by bombing.

15 February 1942, Admiral Hart relinquished operational command to Admiral Helfrich RNN. General Wavell reassigned and reassumed his position as Commander-in-Chief India.

17 February 1942, Battle of Badeong Strait: *Stewart, Java & Tromp* damaged, and *Piet Hein* lost.

27 February – 5 March 1942, Battle of the Java Sea and Battle of Sunda Strait. ABDA forces, nearly destroyed by superior Japanese forces, dissolved. The United States, in agreement with Allied governments, assumes responsibility for the strategic defense of entire Pacific Ocean.

The U.S. Asiatic Fleet – recognized by many awards for Valor, Meritorious Service, and achievement – relegated to history, remembered by those who served, and forgotten in contemporary history.”

~~~~ taken from the pamphlet “The Asiatic Fleet Memorial Room \_ In Honor and Remembrance of All Who Served; provided at the United States Memorial, Washington DC [www.navymemorial.org](http://www.navymemorial.org)

PLAQUES AVAILABLE - The Nimitz Museum offers 5”x7” plaques for \$350, 20” x 20” for \$2,500, or a brick for \$100. (contact Robert Esterlein 830 997-8600) The Navy Memorial offers a plaque for \$3,000 (7” x 3 ¾”) with \$500 down. (contact Paul Haley 800 821-8892 x 760)

**REUNION 2011** – The Board voted to have a Reunion Manager next year and elected Sue Kreutzer. We all know the reunion negotiators have had to deal with the city of Houston and their Rodeo parade, etc. We’ve also had to deal with a HUGE school book convention. The city hotels are full for the Rodeo until the first weekend in March. Sharron Long had negotiated with the Doubletree & the day she was to sign, they advised her there were no double rooms available the weekend we had agreed to (and around other city events and conventions in the area). Back to square one.... Sharron had to leave town so Sue and John Kreutzer began the hunt. Let me explain hotels aren’t as flexible as they used to be and that’s an understatement!! So please understand we won’t have ANY foods and beverages brought into the hospitality room. What is there is purchased from the hotel and ONLY the hotel. We’ll have an “Early Bird Special” of a gallon (ONE) complimentary coffee Friday and Saturday mornings while it lasts. Additional pots are charged at \$75 per pot (too rich for our blood). We have studied their catering offers extensively and will order soft drinks and water *if necessary*. The hotel charges \$3.50 per beverage. To avoid a huge increase in our reunion registration fee, we will have a little basket nearby and ask for at least a \$2 donation to help defray the cost. They will provide dry snacks for 75 people daily – PERIOD. Thank you very much for understanding!

Mark your calendars for March 3 - 6, 2011 ~~ We are providing a pending Agenda also. It is important to know it’s a PENDING agenda! If there are any major changes, you will be notified in advance, however moving a meal time by 30 minutes or closing the hospitality room early or late will be provided to you on the final agenda when you arrive at the reunion.

**BROTHERS KIA HONORED** – Brian Waldee was serving aboard the USS John L. Hall when his brother Greg was serving aboard the USS Houston SSN 713 in 2002 when the sub was in port in Houston, TX during the time the USS Houston CA-30 was having their reunion.....following me so far? The CO of the sub not only brought Greg to the Memorial Service but also had Brian come from his duty station to attend. The special significance was that these two brothers had great uncle's Don and Jack Fussel who served aboard the CA-30. Both young men honored the brothers that were killed in action that day. GM1 Brian Waldee is now retiring in Virginia. His only special request was to have a flag that had been flown over the USS Houston CA-30 Monument & bell to be a part of his retirement ceremony. NG Shawn Flynn got the original email via his website. Shawn emailed NG Dana Charles & NG Val Poss. Val emailed Lt. Ed Seiling of the Naval Order of the United States, Texas Commandery who is in charge of the flags flown over the monument during our ceremonies. Ed replied that the current flag was in good shape and would be sending it the next week...in ample time for Gunnersmate Waldee's retirement. Again, the memory of the *Houston* & her crew continues to be perpetuated.

**FROM DOWN UNDER** – H.M.A.S. Perth survivor Author Bancroft reported in to Trudy Schwarz saying "the service at St. John's Church Fremantle was lovely this year and they introduced a few new ideas. Proximately at the front of the church they displayed two big flags side by side – the Australian one and the American one – very impressive – a retired American Captain living in Perth, placed the wreath and read the Lesson for the first time the remaining four survivors were escorted into the church and to their seats by Naval Cadets [in uniform] from the Training Ship Perth. It was very moving to see. The Minister introduced the survivors, wives and widows and next – of – kin and we all had to stand up and got a great ovation from the congregation." Arthur also told us John Waller, son of Capt. Waller (KIA aboard the *Perth*) was in Perth for the HMAS Perth memorial events including church service and a lunch that followed. Our Aussie friend Pattie Wright helped us arrange to have a wreath to present from the USS HOUSTON "the Captain Hec Waller Memorial day up at Benalla in northern Victoria. The Royal Australian Navy turned out, as did the Head of the Navy, Admiral Crane. The wreath was laid by the US Navy Attache and Gavin Campbell - our wonderful Gavin. Perth man, of course."

Pattie was a speaker at a special presentation & claims to have wrangled a two for one deal to again include the USS HOUSTON. "It was just a little occasion for the unveiling of the flagpole at Grovedale Gardens, near Geelong. It was the last home of Harry Mee. Harry was one of the ten lads on the little lifeboat with Ray Parkin in their attempt to get back to Australia. I think Fred Lasslett and David Manning laid that wreath for you." I must say I've had such memorable experiences meeting wonderful Australians & becoming fast friends with them! Pattie is another example....

Arthur Bancroft and his wife Mirla have been writing a book and in the midst of editing it, selecting pictures, writing captions for them. They plan to have it published by August 2<sup>nd</sup> and available on the 12<sup>th</sup>. Mirla is slowly recuperating from a stroke & son Colin had a heart attack. For the NG's, Art was in the camps with some of our *Houston* boys & has remained a fast friend. Sadly, I've received word of the new steps at the 7m Mound on the Memorial Walking trail (along the Death Railway) are unsightly and seemingly not cost efficient. Rex Crane, the former National President of the Ex-POW Association of Australia, who had posed for years as an ex-POW (and collected benefits) and was defrocked by historical researchers last year, was charged with fraud by the Government. He has allegedly been to court & the case has been deferred to a later date...

**DD214 – SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFIT** – Please share this with anyone who had active duty service between January 1957 to December 31, 2001 and planning for retirement. In a nutshell it boils down to this: You qualify for a higher social security payment because of your Military service, for active duty anytime from 1957 through 2001 (the program was done away with 1 January 2002). Up to \$1200 per year of earnings credit credited at time of application monthly payments upon your retirement. You must bring your DD-214 to the Social Security Office and you must ask for this benefit to receive it!

Go to the Social Security website: <http://www.ssa.gov/retire2/military.htm>

This is something to put into your files for when you apply for Social Security. It is NOT just for retirees, but anyone who has served on active duty between January 1957 through December 31, 2001.

FYI: This benefit is NOT automatic, you must ask for it! We've all been on active duty or know someone who has between these dates.

**THOUGHTS FROM TRUDY** -- at Trudy Schwarz's suggestion, I've agreed to make mention that the Board, the Officers and the Scholarship Committee basically consists of the same people. Trudy mentioned we need *more* NG participation in order for our survivors to see we have met goals before the last man is gone. With the internet, fax, etc. we can accomplish anything from anywhere. Most folks don't realize what goes on behind the scenes in preparation for the reunion and during those busy days. The next Next Generations are welcome with open arms to get their feet wet. We can make this fun! This next gathering is MOST important to attend! It may seem we are going thru some rough waters. This is NOT the case. We are still hail and hearty simply going thru changes to ensure our future.

**Australian Ambassador Lays Wreath at USS *Houston* Monument**, Thursday, June 3, 2010 - written by Ron Drees

Houston greeted Kim Beazley, the new ambassador from Australia, with an early morning downpour, Thursday, June 3, 2010, leaving the memorial site spongy, but walkable. Nana Booker, a Waco native and honorary Australian counsel, had arranged the ceremony and provided the wreath, about eighteen inches in diameter, decorated with dozens of white and red roses. The *Houston* Survivor's Association was represented by Capt. Carter Conlin, USN, retired, a member of the original monument planning committee, Dak Poss, Lin and Ron Drees. The Australians were represented along with the Ambassador, by his wife, a daughter who will attend USC shortly, and the Public Affairs assistant from the embassy. Carter presented the Ambassador and counsel with memorial coins from the *Houston* and Lin provided a *Houston* bell lapel pin. The visit was due to the war time alliance and long-standing friendship between the United States and Australia and the prisoner of war brotherhood between *Houston* and *Perth* survivors. The ambassador, while growing up in Perth, met several *Perth* survivors who hailed from nearby Freemantle. The *Houston* contingent recounted past stories of survivor Dutch Kooper and other crew members, the bell, and the archival display at the University of Houston. The Ambassador laid the wreath followed by several moments of reflection of the price paid by both crews so that we could all live in free nations. Shortly, the Australians departed for their next stop, NASA, with stated intentions of returning soon, perhaps for the next memorial ceremony in March.

NOW HEAR THIS!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM- Applications are accepted beginning June 1 with the deadline for submission extending to November 1. Applications and specific information about applying may be obtained anytime by visiting our website or writing 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  
2011 Scholarship Award= \$2500.00

Scholarship Program Update:

Folks, as it is now the August newsletter, we are approximately half way into our current scholarship program application window. For those of you who are coaching any of our prospective candidates, please remember to remind them to not wait until the very last minute and thus possibly sacrifice on the quality of their submission. Remember- if there is literally more than one application, it is truly then a competition. If there is only one application it does not ensure that the one candidate automatically gets the scholarship award. Their application still has to be of the quality that the review committee would deem it worthy of receipt of the award. There is \$2500.00 of our generous contributor's money that is involved and it has to be earned.

2011 is an off-year for our permanent scholarship award through the US Naval Academy Foundation. This is an every other year award so there will be no award winner announced for 2011.

\*Current scholarship fund balance = \$9,762.64 (includes \$2500.00- 2010 scholarship award debit)

\*Scholarship Donations;

We continue to need funding to keep our internal, yearly scholarship properly funded for the long term. We ask all of our organization members to consider donating \$100.00 this year; if you can afford more than that it would be appreciated, if you cannot do that amount than \$75, \$50, or whatever you can do would be greatly appreciated. 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 viable.

We conducted our annual scholarship auction at this past year's reunion. We thank very much, all of you wonderful folks who donated an item(s) for the auction. You made that fund raising element possible, along with the generous folks who purchase these items to enable money to go into our scholarship fund. Job well done by all, THANK YOU. This is how we can perpetuate this award from year-to-year.

Anyone who has a 'lead' to an outside person, company, or other entity who may be a possible donor, we can provide you with a fund raising letter and brochure, or, accept the referral and a Committee representative will follow-up that lead. Please present leads to your Chairman, John K. Schwarz and that too, would be appreciated.

\*Reunion Auction: We have every intention of continuing to run our annual reunion scholarship auction in March, 2011. It is not too soon to be thinking in terms of what you may want to donate to be auctioned if in fact you have anything. As we have had many auctions through the years, I believe everyone should be aware of the kinds of things that tend to auction well; framed art, Houston memorabilia things, etc., as well as what does not fit this kind of auction (for instance flea market type items).

And of course, we also appreciate all of you who bring your check books and bid on the donated items, all for the good of our scholarship fund.

Donator's- if you are shipping goods to the reunion for auctioning, please remember to retain the packaging in case the purchaser wants to re-ship the item back to their residence. Donators are asked to keep their donated item(s) and bring it to the Friday night dinner at least one-hour ahead of the dinner time so the items can be showcased to potential bidders.

Bidders- come to Friday night's dinner early and check out all the wonderful items that will be auctioned off.

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

March 31 - July 23, 2010

(Submitted by Pam Foster – Treasurer)

Beginning Balance: \$12,035.19

Donations: 290.00

Interest: 3.86

Bank Service Charges -15.40

Ending Balance: \$12,313.65

### **FINANCIAL REPORT**

Previous balance: \$6,385.96 + \$2,322.97 (donations, sales, meal payments)

- \$3,759.30 (newsletter, balance of reunion expenses, postage, supplies, phone)

Current balance \$4949.63 Note – if I omitted your name, feel free to remind me

**We sincerely appreciate the generosity of our *Houston* family & friends!**

- Note – Tax ID # 74-2814051 for your tax deductions
- Gentle reminder-- some folks won't be receiving complimentary newsletters in the future.

**USS Houston CA-30 Ship Models Update** - The CA-30 was one beautiful ship; sleek, beautiful, classic lines, always looking in photographs as though she belonged as a 'Flagship'. And how about those models; Bob Ivy's and that fabulous evolving piece of work by our beloved 'Frey Team', the wonderful one on display at the U of H permanent collection, and any of the others yet mentioned.

All the models wherever they are, are beautiful in and of themselves. When and where they can be publicly displayed, they then become an important piece of the meeting of our mission- perpetuating the memory of this great ship and her men. Seeing a ship model of the CA0-30 can peak interest in the ship, then perhaps knowing of the books

about she they will be possibly read, and if 'Ship of Ghosts' is among them, then they will also know that we are in existence to continue perpetuating the legacy of this ship.

I'd like to update you all on specifically, three other models;

Back in the early nineties, Otto had me drive down to Washington D.C., a model he had displayed in his basement office that he was happy to offer to the US Navy Memorial as he knew that would give it, much more exposure. In the ensuing years, somehow the Navy Memorial ended up with yet another CA-30 model as donated by the late Gene Wilkinson. The Asiatic Fleet Room in the Memorial was recently re-modeled and there was room for but one model, so the other ended up on someone's desk in the library area. While Val, Sharon Long, Trudy and I were visiting the memorial several years ago, we spotted the model on the desk and that did not sit well with us. If any of our models are going on anybody's desk, it will have to be a survivor's desk, a spouse, a NG's or other organizational member. But as Otto's thinking would suggest, it is the outside world's exposure that we really desire.

So after several year's effort, and given a permanent scholarship in the name of the ship and a fountain on campus dedicated to our beloved Captain Rooks, our desire to transfer the model from that desk to the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD has finally come true. In the picture enclosed you will see the model transfer being made to Mr. Don Preul, Curator of Ship Models for the US Naval Academy Museum. We thank he and the Navy Memorial for the realization of this model to be on display at the nation's training ground for Naval/Marine Officers (07/26/10). The model is now in the possession of the USNA Museum where it will be on display either in the museum itself, or in an appropriate place somewhere on campus. (Note: picture unavailable at time of printing newsletter)

So- we have one model (Wilkinson's) on display at the Navy Memorial in Washington, DC and Otto's at the US Naval Academy in Annapolis, MD. By the way, both have a framed 'Ship of Ghosts' postcard sitting right beside they so that folks seeing the model and having their interest hopefully peaked, will know that this book of her complete story is available. If they read it, they'll know about us as well.

And that leaves the final model of this threesome; that being the original model as contracted by the CA-30 ship builders to be built that had been at one time, on display on the Battleship Texas. That model is in secured storage at the Naval Surface Warfare Center in Bethesda, MD. She is ready to be refurbished for display. What a display she would be! All we need is good fortune, and for the Pacific War Museum in Fredericksburg, TX to say they would like to have her.

Keep your fingers crossed, say a prayer, hope that word will come to you soon that this model too, is on it's way to being yet another contribution toward perpetuating the memory of the USS Houston CA-30, the ship and her gallant crew.

John Keith Schwarz- son of our founders Otto and Trudy

**FUTURE DIRECTION** - Dana Charles, John Schwarz and Jane Matthews are on an advisory committee to develop a list of recommendations about the future direction of our association. We are asking for your input – should we function as we do today or perhaps differently? We will compile a list of your recommendations to present to the Board of Directors at our 2011 reunion. We are asking for your ideas that would enable our association to continue in the years to come. The following categories are ideas for which you might like to offer input. Please use these categories as a guide; however, you are not limited to only these categories:

Memorial Service

Reunion

Scholarship

Organization (setting future goals, gain more involvement from the next generations and their children, how to improve decision making and planning)

Education programs

Communications

Involvement with other Ex-POW Organizations

Miscellaneous

If your last name begins with A – H, please respond to:

Mr. Dana Charles (either email, snail mail or phone call)

1244 Little Boy Blue Avenue

Las Vegas, NV 89183

702-378-6230

[rdanac@aol.com](mailto:rdanac@aol.com)

If your last name begins with I – Q, please respond to

Jane Matthews (either email, snail mail or phone call)

836 Kendal Drive

Broadview Heights, OH 44147

440-736-7233

[mattjane@att.net](mailto:mattjane@att.net)

If your last name begins with R – Z, please respond to

John Keith Schwarz (either email, snail mail or phone call)

2500 Clarendon Blvd., Apt. 121

Arlington, VA 22201

703-867-0142

[John.K.Schwarz@usps.gov](mailto:John.K.Schwarz@usps.gov)

We thank you for your time and responses.

Jane Matthews

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations Family,

Some of you may already know that some changes are taking place on our Leadership Team. Due to health reasons Val Poss has decided that she will be leaving her post as Executive Director as of 4 March 2011 (the Association's next annual meeting). Also, although Lin Drees will continue to assist in preparations for our next reunion in March 2011, she has decided to give up her position on the Board of Managers, effective immediately.

I know that all of us wish both Val and Lin the best of health and happiness. I also know that you join me in voicing our heartfelt thanks to both of them for their outstanding work with our Association.

Back in April 1997, when our founder, Otto C. Schwarz, became fully blind and could not manage our Association any longer, Val and Lin stepped up, learned the ropes then unselfishly kept our organization on a steady course for the next 13 years. It is hard to imagine what might have happened had they not. Because of these two talented people, our Association's mission has not been simply maintained; rather it has moved ever-forward, year after year, consistently exceeding expectations of our survivors along the way.

To both Val Poss and Lin Drees: a heartfelt "Thank You!" To each of you: a "Job Well Done!"

Also, we wish to take this opportunity to assure our USS HOUSTON family that the dedicated leadership of our Association remains committed to the perpetuation of the memory of USS HOUSTON (CA-30) and her crew—the mission of this great organization.

Sue Kreutzer, our association's vice president, and her husband, John Kreutzer, are serving as program managers of our next annual reunion, which will be held in March, 2011. Dana Charles has been nominated and selected to replace Lin on our Board of Managers. Meanwhile, Val Poss will continue to assist us with the newsletter, email correspondence, and much appreciated advice. By our next annual reunion, our Board of Managers will have determined how to handle the duties of the Executive Director position which Val has so capably handled since 1997.

The CA-30 Board of Managers wish to thank all of you for your continued support of our Association. We look forward to seeing you in March 2011.

Peace and health be with you all in the meantime,

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations  
Board of Managers

## **DIVE TEAM LOCKER BY JERRY RANGER**

Since our last newsletter, the dive team has been trying get ready for the June 2011 dive on the USS HOUSTON and HMAS PERTH. The dive boat that was going to be used for the trip has been SOLD so we have been looking for another one to used. The ones that we are looking at only hold/sleep ten (10) people at this time. But we are still looking. We are still offering space onboard for non-divers to experiences being over the USS HOUSTON and watching the divers and Video Ray (ROV) in action. You might even get to operate the ROV around the ship.

The dive trip may be a seven or ten day dive over the USS HOUSTON with a day before and day after on shore so that the divers do not get the bends from flying over and back.

We are working on a new dive team tee shirt for the upcoming dive. When I get it together I will put it out there for everyone to see and take orders for them.

We are also working on recovering some lost VideoRay footage of the 2008 dive, which shows a lot of machines deep in the ship. David Phillips and Mike Whetstone are working on this so we can try and put it on YouTube so all of us can see it. We will be asking everyone to log on to it so we might be able to get some money back from them to help paid for the trip.

The dive team in the past has had the USS HOUSTON Family and VideoRay Company sponsoring the dives trip by donating money to the dive team. As of right now we still have VideoRay Company donating the ROV and two ROV Operators (David Phillips and Tom) to go on the 2011 dive trips.

We did asked the USS HOUSTON Family and friends if they could help us by donating money to the USS HOUSTON CA-30 DIVE TEAM to make this dive trip happen and some of you gratefully did. ~ Robert and Sharon Long, John Schwarz, Trudy Schwarz, H&H Builders (Ivan Hammond - the Marine), Max & Val Poss, Ottley Family Dental.

*Several more USS HOUSTON'S family member given me cash that I can not remember there names or if I missed your name please email/call so I can give you credit for sponsoring the dive team.*

This may be the last dive trip to the USS HOUSTON for the dive team. I would like to turn it over to the Next, Next Generation to care on. For those that would like to donate money to the Dive Team, please send your check to: USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION & NEXT GENERATIONS, 2501 Amen Corner, Pflugerville TX 78660 (DIVE TEAM in the left hand corner).

The dive team would like to thank all that has already donated and hope that other will help the dive team get over to Java by donating to the USS HOUSTON DIVE TEAM. For those (scuba diver and non-divers) that might want to joined in the dive trip to the USS HOUSTON and HMAS PERTH. Please contact: DIVE TEAM LEADER – Jerry Ranger [Ranger9@bellsouth.net](mailto:Ranger9@bellsouth.net) 850 623-3399 or 850 293-1140 2011 DIVE TEAM AS OF NOW ~ Jerry Ranger, David Phillips 7 Tom, Brad Gift & Eunju Kim, Scott Ingram (non diver), Commodore Vince DiiPietro, Jolene Stewart & son Kurtis, Mason Logie & girlfriend.

18 July 2010

To: USS Houston (CA-30) Association

HMAS Perth Association

Greetings from the USNS Sumner (T-AGS-61)

We would like you to know that on this date, at the following time and location: 180715Z July 2010 05-45.31S 106-07.05E our ship rendered honors by dipping our flag to those that fought and died and those who fought and lived to tell the story during the Battles of Java Sea and Sunda Straits.

Always aware that freedom is never free, we are ever thankful for these heroes. And, we realize that our freedom was bought and paid for by such as these. We would like them to know that the watch is still set, our flags still wave, and our countries' hearts beat strong because of them and their dedication.

God Bless All of Them.

Fair Winds and Semper Phi,

USNS Sumner

s/Gary Hughes, SCPO USN (ret)

**2011 IS ELECTION YEAR** – Per our Bylaws Article VI Section 3 our Board of Directors (amended to Board of Managers) shall serve for a three-year term (ending 2012) and Article VIII, Section 2, states each officer (President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer) shall serve for a one-year term (2011 is election time). If you are interested in any of the positions please turn your name in to me. Please remember all work is voluntary and there is no compensation but guaranteed a lot of satisfaction. No, we can not post campaign slogans or donate to your campaign fund!

**TENTATIVE AGENDA FOR 2011 REUNION**

Wednesday March 2<sup>nd</sup> - set up of displays & hospitality room

Thursday March 3<sup>rd</sup> - registration & hospitality room

Scholarship & Board of Managers meetings in late afternoon

Friday March 4<sup>th</sup> - Registrations & hospitality room ~ Members meeting late morning

University of Houston Reception early afternoon

Transportation times to be determined

Dinner/Scholarship night

Saturday March 5<sup>th</sup> - Hospitality ~ Brunch ~ Memorial set up immediately following  
Memorial Service ~ Dinner



**STATE OF TEXAS  
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**Greetings:**

As Governor of Texas, it is my honor to welcome everyone to the USS Houston (CA-30) Survivors Association and the Next Generations Annual Memorial Service.

This nation owes its very existence to patriots who were willing to put their lives on the line for the betterment of their fellow Americans. Only through the courage and sacrifice of our very best does the United States remain free.

The story of the USS Houston personifies the bravery and selflessness so characteristic of the men and women of our armed forces. Facing overwhelming odds against overpowering numbers, the USS Houston fought valiantly in its doomed effort to protect allied forces in Java. Ultimately, the USS Houston was lost, but for the survivors, the battle was just beginning.

Years of internment in Japanese prison camps followed, and the crew of the USS Houston endured beatings, starvation and forced labor. In such an environment, the only possible victory was surviving as long as you could.

As you gather to remember those who did not make it home, please know that their story, and yours, will live on forever in all of our hearts.

First Lady Anita Perry joins me in thanking all of you for your service and sacrifice.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Rick Perry  
Governor

**HISTORIC BLUEBONNETS NOW ON LINE** - The University of Houston Libraries is excited to announce that historic issues of the *Blue Bonnet* are now available online and fully searchable in our Digital Library. The original *Blue Bonnet* was the shipboard newsletter for the USS *Houston* (CA-30), and contains great information about the history of the ship and the social activities of her crew members. The new digital collection includes newsletters from the years 1933 through 1941, although not every issue is available.

To use the new collection, just go the website for the Digital Library, <http://digital.lib.uh.edu>, and click on the image of the *Blue Bonnet*. When you reach the collection page, look for the search box in the upper right corner. If you type in a name such as "Roosevelt" or a term such as "baseball", the Digital Library will return a list of all of the newsletters that the term is found in, with the word highlighted on the page where it is found.

The USS Houston Blue Bonnet Newsletters is a joint project of the UH Libraries' Special Collections and Digital Services departments.

**LINE FROM LIN** ~ The newly remodeled National Museum of Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX, was reopened in December of 2009; we were pleased to have a short guided tour that first day. It was totally remodeled - the building was enlarged, maybe doubled! As you approach the building, you immediately notice various battles are written across the top of the outside wall - and we were very proud to note that "Java Sea" was above the main entrance!!!!

Inside we found several ways that the *HOUSTON* was remembered - in one room a large, wall-size photo of the *HOUSTON* is used as background on a display wall. There is also a large display case - maybe 2-1/2 x 4 - which contained several items relating to USS *HOUSTON*: the pair of paintings, one USS *HOUSTON* and 2nd, HMAS *PERTH* at last battle; a photo of part of the crew of the *HOUSTON*, taken about 1940; a letter, typed, describing the last battle; a list (not really readable) of Survivors, handwritten in pencil; plus a paperweight of encapsulated oil from the USS *HOUSTON*. Jerry Ranger made the paperweight with oil that was leaking from the *HOUSTON* and collected on one of his dives. Jerry asked that it donated, and Ron and I presented the paperweight at a Nimitz Symposium. This same display also had a pencil, handwritten list of *PERTH* Survivors.

Another display / small room - TEXAS related, entitled TEXANS PITCH IN - one display told the story of the Avengers/Volunteers who signed up on Memorial Day, 1942, to replace the lost *HOUSTON* crew.

We found a display that had one of Frank (131st Field Artillery) Fujita's drawings of POW days . A display had Kyle (also 131st) Thompson's voice with a very short part of an oral history, relating to the American bombing of the bridges - and the POWs having to repair the damage - and the fact that the POWs were given very little food.

We have been back to Fredericksburg a few additional times and have found other displays relating to the *HOUSTON*. In one room relating to the Home Front, I found a display with the small blue star flag that was hung in windows to represent the number of sons in war - Gene Wilkinson's Mother's flag is on display - and a photo of Gene's brother who did not come home. Also Ron found a display that told the story of Chaplain Rentz.

Hopefully someday we will see a model of the *HOUSTON*. In the outside Memorial Area there are also plaques and bricks dedicated to the *HOUSTON* and her men.

God bless each of you - Lin and Ron Drees

**LAST MINUTE NEWS** – As I sorted thru 4 months of emails and notes plus receiving donations at the final hour, I'm adding all of this together here. If I have missed something, please resend it to me and I will add the information to the December newsletter.... Our favorite author, Jim Hornfischer announces his new book coming from Bantam on January 25, 2011. NEPTUNE'S INFERNO is "The epic story of the U.S. Navy's bloodiest campaign of WWII: the four-month struggle for Guadalcanal, & the seven major naval battles that broke Imperial Japan's will to fight. His Houston family eagerly awaits the release of his newest endeavor! Johan VanLeer sent a copy of a statement by the Foundation of Japanese Honorary Debts, a Non Governmental Organization in consultative status (ROSTER) with ESOSOC in the Netherlands to the President of the Human Rights Council in Geneva requesting Japan to denounce publicly denounce the violation of Human Rights during WWII, in particular the enforcement of young women and girls into sexual slavery (comfort women) by the Imperial Japanese Army. My apologies – I received an email from Ron in Australia but can not recall his last name nor can find his email address in my address book to jog my memory. He reports: "I have been busy since our last contact as we have had our Remembrance Service for the Fall of Singapore on the 15th February and then the ANZAC Day March and Reunion for the Veterans I also attended a Memorial Service for the Indigenous Veterans and next month I will be at a Service for the POWs who died at the Sandakan Camp and the Death Marches the Japs forced them to do then on the 15th August there is the VJ service to celebrate the surrender of the Japanese.

In a book written by an Australian who was captured in Java he writes that at the Tamuang camp in Thailand he shared a part of a Red Cross parcel with the fellows who slept either side of him. One was Petty Officer Flanagan from the USS Houston the other was a British soldier. I was lucky my local library was selling books they no longer wanted and this book was amongst them. I now have a fair collection of books written about the Burma-Siam Railway and the suffering of the POWs. We received The Official Organ of the EX=Prisoners of War and Relatives' Association Inc. NEWS BULLITEN full of interesting information about memorial services (previously mentioned), notices and projects. We sincerely thank them for keeping us up to date. Just as I am completing this, we received a donation from Sue & John Kreutzer in memory of SKIP SCHILPEROORT and another donation from The Comprehensive Dental Center towards Jerry Ranger's last dive on the *USS Houston CA-30*. Please refer back to page 13 for information how to donate! My apologies for the small print but after deleting sections and adding requested information, I could make the print smaller or add more pages. Since it's already 9 pages front to back, I flipped a coin to determine what to do! Small print won.....

Until December ~ God Bless

**REGISTRATION FORM**

USS Houston Memorial Service/Reunion

March 2 - 6, 2011

Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown

Hotel room reservations MUST be made by YOU either by calling 888-421-1442 or 402-592-6464 or online at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/USSHoustonCA30>

Reservation Line: 888-421-1442 or 402-592-6464

**DEADLINE – MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 7, 2011**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LIST THE NAME OF EACH PERSON INCLUDED IN THIS REGISTRATION (Use the back of this form if necessary)**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

Please include branch of service \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated date and time of arrival: \_\_\_\_\_

**Friday Dinner – 6:30 PM (please select your choice of entrée)**

Spiced Rubbed Chicken Breast # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$33.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Vegetable Lasagna # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$33.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Brunch – 10:30 AM # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$22.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Saturday Dinner – 6:30 PM # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$29.00 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Pasta Primavera in Alfredo Sauce

**Registration # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$35 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**Late Registration # \_\_\_\_\_ X \$15 per person = \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

(Received after February 7, 2011)

**Total Enclosed: \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

Reception at the University of Houston (Friday) # \_\_\_\_\_

Bus seat need to U of H # \_\_\_\_\_ Handicapped Access # \_\_\_\_\_

Please include a check for the total cost made payable to: USS Houston-Next Generations (your check is your receipt)

**Mail registration to: Pam Foster, 370 Lilac Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648**