



Newsletter of the U.S.S. Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations

Now Hear This!

Association Address:

c/o John Schwarz, Exec. Dir.
2500 Clarendon Blvd., Apt. 121
Arlington, VA 22201

Association Phone Number:

703-867-0142

Address for Tax Deductible Contributions:

USS Houston Survivors Assoc.
c/o Pam Foster, Treasurer
370 Lilac Lane,
Lincoln, CA 95648
(please specify which fund –
general, scholarship, or model case)

Association Email Contact:

Contact@USSHouston.org

Association Founded 1946:

by Otto and Trudy Schwarz

You Are Invited...



...to the Boucher Model Unveiling

Details on page 2, "Model Unveiling"

In This Issue...

- Model Unveiling / 1, 2
- Reunion 2012 / 1, 16, 17
- Desk of John Schwarz / 2
- In Memoriam / 3
- Crew Spotlight on Bill Ingram / 4
- Houston History / 4
- Asiatic Fleet / 5
- Upcoming Reunions / 5
- Running Lights / 6
- Two VIPs / 6
- Trudy Schwarz Birthday / 6
- Jim Hornfischer / 7
- Book & Movie Reviews / 8
- Bank Note Signatures / 10
- San Jacinto Museum Model / 10
- Nimitz Museum Memorials / 10
- Items for Sale / 11
- Scholarship Update / 12

- Kevin Swick / 12
- Dive Update / 13
- H. Res. 333 / 13
- NOUS / 13
- Perth News / 14
- Perth's Miniken / 15
- Mayday / 15
- Reunion Reg. Form / 16
- Reunion Agenda / 17
- Board of Managers / 18
- Membership / 18
- Websites / 18, 19
- The Mailbag / 19
- Financial Report / 19
- B B Masthead / 19

ALERT!

**70th Anniversary of USS Houston Sinking
in 2012**

You can start making plans now to attend

**USS Houston CA-30
2012 Reunion
Feb. 29 - March 4, 2012**

**Hyatt Regency Downtown
Houston, Texas**

*See pages 16 and 17 for
registration form and agenda.*

*From the desk of the
Executive Director
John Schwarz*

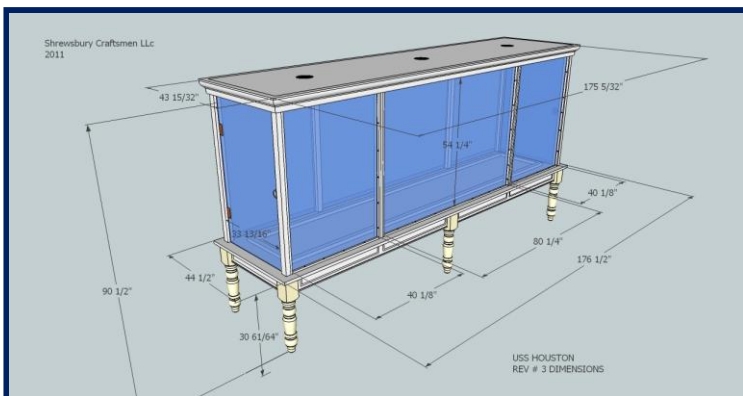


This is hoping all our Association members, friends, family and associates are well. We have before us now a wonderful opportunity coming up on November 17, 2011, in the nation's capital, Washington, DC. The original USS Houston CA-30 ship model is currently being restored by the Navy and will be unveiled at the National Museum of the U.S. Navy at the Washington Navy Yard. We are hoping to draw a great crowd at this gathering where we once again get to honor our CA-30 Survivors/Shipmates with this glorious accomplishment of getting this historic model back out there and on display for the visiting public. Displaying this model provides impact and attention to the memory of our ship and crew which is primary to the mission of our Association.

A number of folks are continuing to work hard each and every month to conduct the business of this organization. I want to draw attention to them and ask for your support as this requires much in the way of time, energy, and thought. I thank each one of you who show support to this wonderful 'thing of ours'.

Hope to see you in Washington in November in our nation's capital for the fabulous ship model unveiling ceremony!

Stay well,
John



*Design for New Model Case
by Shrewsbury Craftsmen LLC*

Continued from page 1

Model Unveiling

Who:

Everyone is welcome! Please join us.

What:

Special program and reception for the unveiling of the newly refurbished 14-foot-long original "Boucher" model of USS Houston CA-30 inside its brand new case. This will be a very festive and decorous occasion. Don't miss it!

When:

Thursday, November 17, 2011, 11:00 AM

Where:

The National Museum of the U.S. Navy
Washington Navy Yard
805 Kidder Breese St. SE
Washington, DC 20374

Special Hotel Rates:

Deadline: October 26, 2011

Hilton Garden Inn
Arlington/Courthouse Plaza
1333 N. Courthouse Rd.
Arlington, VA 22201

Call 703-528-4444 and ask for the USS Houston CA-30 block rate with special group rate code "UHC" or [click here](#) to make the reservation online.

We Need Your Help Now!

Donations for the model display case are greatly needed and appreciated! Please consider making a contribution.

Make your checks payable to:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association

On the memo line, write:

General Fund - Model Case

Mail to:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association

c/o Pam Foster, Treasurer

370 Lilac Lane,

Lincoln, CA 95648

In Memoriam

USS Houston

Our sincere condolences to the families of John Bartz and Jeannine Lohrig.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

John Bartz, USN

1/21/21-2/24/11

San Diego, California



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

June Jeannine Lohrig

(picture not available)

12/21/10

Sarasota, Florida

Wife of USS Houston survivor

Charles Lohrig (deceased), USN

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

continued from column two:

Anna Drees passed away at the age of 97 in Ohio after a brief illness. She lived the “American Dream” by emigrating from Germany in 1930 with her parents and three sisters after which they all learned English and lived long satisfying lives. Up until two years ago, Anna still lived in her own home and enjoyed tending her rose garden which had originally been planted by her husband (Ron’s Dad). Ron and Lin Drees spent Anna’s last few days together with her and other family members. After her passing, the family enjoyed reminiscing about her and sharing good memories. They report that she is greatly missed!

Remembering....

In addition to remembering those of our USS Houston family who have passed on from this life, we also remember those from the HMAS Perth and the "Lost Battalion" who forged such close bonds with our Houston crewmen while enduring the same treatment as prisoners. They too will never be forgotten.

In Memoriam

“Lost Battalion”

2nd Battalion

131st Field Artillery Regiment

U.S. Army



Ray King

March 2, 1921 - July 11, 2011

Lubbock, Texas

In Memoriam

Family and Friends

Wally Keehr

husband of Vickie Keehr

(daughter of USS Houston survivor

John Reas , USN)

Bob McGarvey

Son of USS Houston survivor

Albert McGarvey, USN, and

brother of Sharron Long and Patty Letze

7/23/11

Ed Seiling

3/4/11

Naval Order of the United States

Anna Drees

Mother of Ron Drees

7/23/11

(continued in column one)

Crew Spotlight

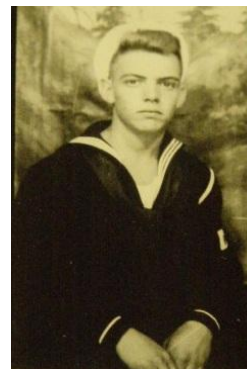


Bill Ingram was recently honored by his local Rotary Club in Orange Park, Florida, with a trip to Washington, D.C. to visit several memorials. At the time of the trip, Bill was suffering with a pulled tendon in his heel, so he had to wear a special boot and ride in a wheelchair! Bill, along with other veterans from his area of Florida, visited the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial (aka Iwo Jima Memorial), the National World War II Memorial, and the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. At the Tomb, Bill was

chosen to be one of the four veterans to participate in laying a wreath. He says, "It was quite an honor."

Bill also reports, "I'm going to be a movie star!" He was interviewed for a documentary (and its trailer) which is being executive produced by Florida Veterans Programs and Projects, Inc. entitled *Prisoners of War: Stolen Freedom*.

You can view the trailer at <http://vimeo.com/26990862>. The stories from this film were collected from four former American POWs from three of the major conflicts of the 20th century: WWII (CPO Bill Ingram, Navy), The Korean War (Cpl. Richard Bassett, Army) and the Vietnam War (Col. Hal Kushner, Army, and Capt. Giles Norrington, Navy). Each of their experiences are different but the film centers on how each of these men found a way to survive harsh incarcerations that lasted from two to six years.



Bill the sailor



Bill the movie star

The documentary film will premiere on Sunday, November 6, 2011, at the "Veterans Variety Show" at the Anastasia Baptist Church in St. Augustine, Florida. The event's main purpose is to honor all former prisoners of war. In addition to the documentary, there will be a medley of patriotic songs, a remembrance ceremony and local POWs will speak.

USS *Houston* CA-30 History

The second HOUSTON (CA-30) was launched by Newport News Shipbuilding & Dry Dock Co., Newport News, Va., 7 September 1929...

... she departed 3 November for the Philippine Islands as the world situation grew darker. Arriving Manila 19 November 1940 she became flagship of Admiral Hart, Commander Asiatic Fleet.

HOUSTON's fate was not known by the world for almost 9 months [after its sinking], and the full story of her courageous fight was not fully told until after the war was over and her survivors were liberated from prison camps. Captain Rooks received posthumously the Medal of Honor for this extraordinary heroism. In addition to two battle stars, HOUSTON was awarded the Presidential Unit Citation.

From: Dictionary of American Fighting Ships, Vol. III, 1968, Navy Department, Office of the Chief of Naval Operations, Naval History Division, Washington, D.C.

Asiatic Fleet



As we anticipate the Houston family gathering together in Washington, D.C. to witness the unveiling of the refurbished Houston CA-30 model, we are reminded of the gathering there August 20-24, 1997, of many who served in the Asiatic Fleet of which the USS Houston was the flagship. The Houston was well represented at the "Memorial Reunion" by some of our survivors as shown in the photo below. The event honored the men of the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps who served so honorably and courageously in the combined forces of the U.S. Navy Asiatic Fleet.

A Joint Resolution of the U.S. Congress and Senate commended the personnel who served giving special honor to those who died in the line of duty noting that the fleet lost 22 ships, 1,826 men killed or missing in action, and 548 men captured and imprisoned under the worst of conditions with many of them dying while held prisoners of war. It then designated March 1, 1998, as “United States Navy Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day”.



Pictured from left: Ross Glover, David Flynn, Gene Wilkinson, Bob O'Brien, Walter Winslow, Earl Snyder, Joe Gans, Ned Gallagher, Howard Brooks



USS Houston CL-81 & CA-30

September 14-18, 2011
Doubletree Guest Suites Nashville Airport
2424 Atrium Way
Nashville, TN 37214
615-324-3410
Contact Esther Bentz
7277 Charlotte Pike #242
Nashville, TN 37209
615-483-1305

Other Upcoming Reunions of Interest

American Ex-Prisoners of War (AX-POW)

National Convention
Dayton, Ohio
September 13-18, 2011

“Enlightenment” on Houston’s Running Lights

Mr. I.C. Smith writes from Laneview, Virginia, “I thought you may be interested in my slight involvement with the *USS Houston*...

In 1988, I was assigned as the Legal Attaché at the US Embassy in Canberra, Australia. As I was taking over the position from my predecessor, I noticed two brass running lights sitting on a window sill and knowing my predecessor had not served in the U.S. Navy, asked about them. As related by Jim Sturgis, the story is as follows.

Before the *Houston* departed Darwin (it’s unclear if it was the final fatal voyage or one of the other trips in and out of the harbor), the ship had divested itself of about anything that wasn’t necessary for combat. When the ship failed to return, an Australian soldier had “souvenired” (an Australian term) the running lights off what was probably the Captain’s barge. The soldier kept them for years, then used them as payment for treatment by a doctor who later became the doctor for the Australian Federal Police. Jim Sturgis had befriended the doctor during his assignment and the doctor gave them to Jim, stating since they were off the *Houston*, someone from the United States should have them.

Jim never really followed up on the lights and gave them to me. I initially thought I would keep them, but during a conversation with someone at the Australia War Memorial, I learned the Memorial (I’ve often described it as the “soul” of Australia....a wonderful museum that perhaps you’ll have the opportunity to visit, if you haven’t already) had no artifacts from the *Perth* which, as you so vividly described in your book, was sunk in the same engagement as the *Houston*.

So I decided to donate the *Houston* lights to the Memorial, assuming they could be authenticated. The Memorial staff did indeed authenticate the running lights and in a ceremony, presided over by the U.S. Ambassador (Mel Sembler), as was protocol for that sort of thing, the two running lights from the *USS Houston* were donated to the Australian War Memorial. I have some photographs (in storage) as well as a very well written article about the event by an Australian historian/journalist.

I’ve never really had any regrets for making the donation, given the Australian sense of history and knowing that they would be well taken care of by the exceptional staff at the Memorial.”
Regards, I.C. Smith

Two VIP’s (very important people)

Nancy Greenwald and **Freddi Crawford** are providing important behind-the-scenes services to our Association. For several years, **Nancy**, daughter of survivor Skip Schilperoort, has been sending thank-you notes following the reunion to those who have participated in various roles (e.g. speaking at the Memorial Service, directing the band, providing equipment). Writing notes is a time-consuming labor of love! Her services have been invaluable and greatly appreciated. Thank you, Nancy!

Freddi, daughter of survivor Marvin Sizemore, has recently “come aboard” to help out with general correspondence. In an Association as large as ours (which continues to grow), there are numerous congratulations, thank-you’s, sympathies, and various other notes that need to be sent occasionally throughout the year. We look forward to the Association being more in touch and responsive with Freddi as our “Corresponding Secretary”. Thank you, Freddi!

If you do not know Nancy and Freddi, look them up at the next reunion and give them a special word of thanks.



Did you know that our co-founder, **Trudy Schwarz**, celebrated her 88th birthday on August 3, 2011? Wish her a belated Happy Birthday! ☺

Jim Hornfischer

Author, Speaker, Friend of USS Houston

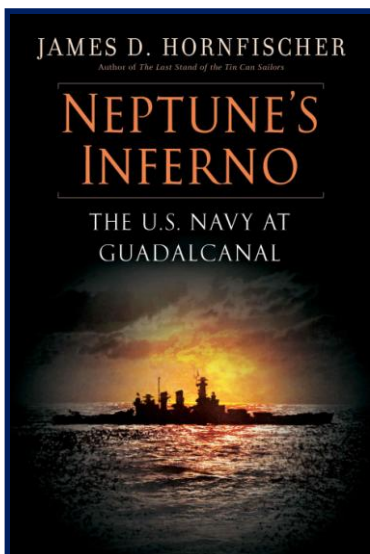
James D. Hornfischer, better known to our Association as “Jim”, served as speaker at the 2011 reunion brunch. I, for one, was spellbound as he told us of his latest book, *NEPTUNE’S INFERNO: THE U.S. NAVY AT GUADALCANAL*.

Jim writes, “The talk I gave was focused on the story of the fighting fleet in the Southern Solomons in late 1942, a story I develop at length in *NEPTUNE’S INFERNO*. It was an epic story that the USS Houston and her men surely would have been an important part of had they managed to escape the Japanese trap in the Java Sea. [See book review, page 8].



pleased and proud to be able to tell the story to the USS Houston survivors, family and friends.”

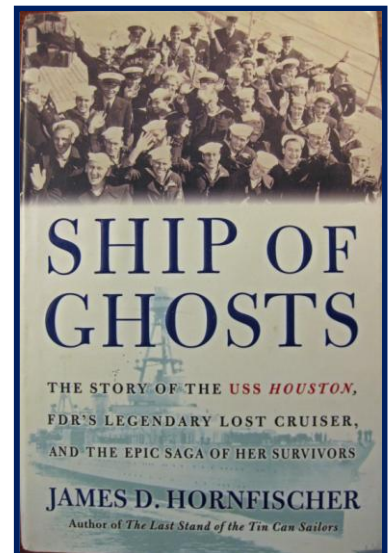
Jim’s writing career has grown out of a lifelong interest in the Pacific war. He has appeared on television on The History Channel, Fox News, and C-SPAN and is a frequent speaker on the subject of the war in the Pacific, the U.S. Navy, and the experience of America’s sailors in World War II. Jim’s first of three books was *THE LAST STAND OF THE TIN CAN SAILORS*.



After publishing *SHIP OF GHOSTS* [the story of the USS Houston], I anguished over choosing the right topic. I finally decided that the story of the Guadalcanal naval campaign carried forward the story of the sacrifice the men of CA-30 made.

These were their brothers, plunged into harm’s way in the name of Houston’s vengeance. It’s a story I think anyone who cared about the Houston or her survivors should know. While they were holed up in Singapore, some en route to Burma, the survivors wondered when the Marines and Navy would come. These were the battles that decided their fate and set the timetable of liberation. I was so incredibly

A native of Massachusetts, and a graduate of Colgate University and the University of Texas School of Law, Hornfischer is a member of the Naval Order of the United States, the Navy League, and was appointed by Texas Governor Rick Perry as an “Admiral in the Texas Navy.” A former New York book editor, Hornfischer is president of the literary agency Hornfischer Literary Management, located in Austin, Texas, where he lives with his wife and their three children.



The next time you see Jim, give him a special “thank-you” for helping to perpetuate the memory of the USS Houston. You can purchase an autographed copy of *SHIP OF GHOSTS* from our Association. See page 11.

by Jo Klenk

BOOK REVIEWS

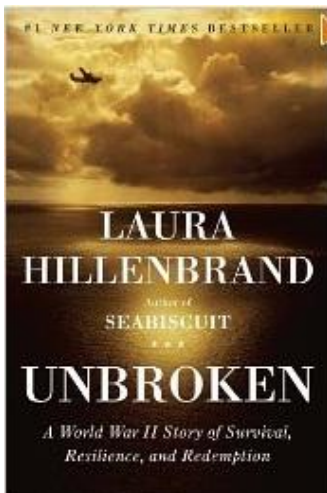
Neptune's Inferno: the U.S. Navy at Guadalcanal

Author: James D. Hornfischer

"Hornfischer's third outstanding book on the U.S. Navy's surface forces in WWII will have a ready-made audience because its subject is the naval side of the Guadalcanal campaign of 1942. The campaign began when marines landed on that deservedly unfrequented island to halt the creation of a Japanese airbase that might threaten U.S. communications with Australia. The Japanese riposte inflicted a disaster on the U.S. Navy second only to Pearl Harbor, called the Battle of Savo Island. Over the next few months, the two navies went at each other hammer and tongs in what was probably the most intense naval campaign of the war. The Japanese had an ace up their sleeve in the Long Lance torpedo, the best in the world. The U.S. eventually counterbalanced the Japanese by learning (all too slowly) to use radar-directed gunfire to take back the night seas. The author offers balanced assessments of the leaders on both sides, but the real heroes are the American bluejackets, who too often paid with suffering and death for those leaders' slowness to learn. And as in his first two books, the author's narrative gifts and excellent choice of detail give an almost Homeric quality to the men who met on the sea in steel titans." --Roland Green of the magazine BOOKLIST, the review journal of the American Library Association.

"With the publication of *Neptune's Inferno*, a masterpiece of 20th century naval history, it's time to declare James Hornfischer a national treasure, a member of the distinguished band of brothers--Stephen Ambrose, Shelby Foote, Ken Burns, Spielberg and Hanks--whose sacred mission has been vital to America's journey, preserving the stories of our fathers and grandfathers for future generations, before those stories fade forever out of our consciousness into the shadows of time." --Bob Shacochis, National Book Award winner, author of *The Immaculate Invasion*.

"Neptune's Inferno is well written, packed with scene-setting details and clearly the product of extensive research, including interviews with some of the battle's now-aged survivors... The author's two previous WWII books, *The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors* and *Ship of Ghosts*, thrust him into the major leagues of American military history writers. Neptune's Inferno is solid proof he deserves to be there." --Dallas Morning News



Unbroken: A World War II Story of Survival, Resilience, and Redemption

Author: Laura Hillenbrand

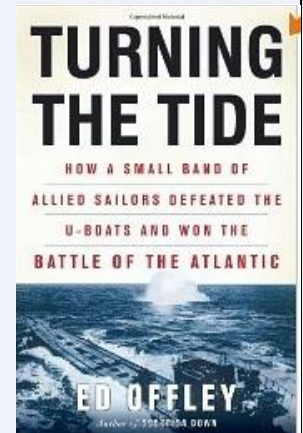
This is a true story about Louis Zamperini, an Olympic runner turned Army Lieutenant whose plane crashed into the Pacific in late 1942. After 47 days adrift in a raft, breaking the record for survival at sea, he was taken as a POW by the Japanese and spent the next 3 years suffering atrocities beyond imagining but refusing to be broken. In a couple of POW camps, Zamperini was co-located with CMDR Arthur Maher of the USS Houston. Mr. Zamperini is 94 years old and living in southern California. --Jo Klenk

"A meticulous, soaring and beautifully written account of an extraordinary life." --*Washington Post*

Turning the Tide: How a Small Band of Allied Sailors Defeated the U-Boats and Won the Battle of the Atlantic

Author: Ed Offley

"Turning the Tide is a dramatic contribution to understanding of a long-running and geographically huge confrontation that may have mattered more to the outcome of World War II than more commented-on campaigns.... As important and engaging as the sweep and generalities of the largest naval campaign in history are, the bulk of this book, and Offley's signal contribution, is his first-hand, blow-by-blow descriptions of some of the deadliest and most game-changing encounters of the Atlantic war.... Offley skillfully blends history and statistics and analysis as well as heart-pounding narratives of sea-battles that have the immediacy of a good novel, only they tell of real people and real events. *Turning the Tide*...belongs on the bookshelves of professional historians or of general readers attempting to understand a central campaign in the most horrific war in human history." –the American Spectator



"The author focuses on individual combatants, from the lowest ranks to the highest, emphasizing the human elements and making for an extremely readable text that should appeal to neophytes as well as professionals." --Publishers Weekly

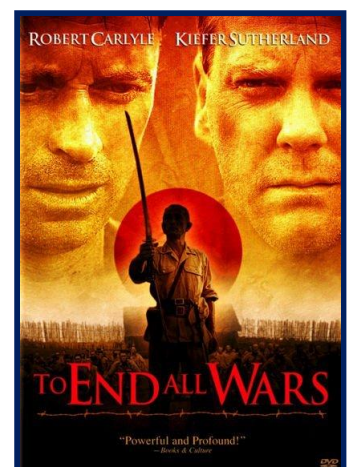
"This is an account of the crucial convoy battles of March to May 1943 that saw Allied naval escorts and air power finally subdue the deadly Kriegsmarine subs. Offley...shows how the battle was very much a mind game, each side trying to outfox the other. The author's emphasis is on the harrowing experiences of the men on both sides." –Library Journal

"This sound, readable WWII naval history focuses on a crucial period of the Battle of the Atlantic, one Offley argues was the turning point in the campaign.... Equally strong in writing, research, and backgrounding, this is a fine addition to material on the epic Battle of the Atlantic." --Booklist

Movie Review

To End All Wars (2001)

A story about four Allied POW's who endure harsh treatment from their Japanese captors during World War II while being forced to build a railroad through the Burmese jungle. Ultimately they find true freedom by forgiving their enemies. Based on the true story of Ernest Gordon.



Have you read a great book recently that you would like to share with members of our Association? Book or movie reviews are always appreciated. Send them along to Bluebonnet@USSHouston.org. Thanks! --the editor

Houston Survivors' Signatures Found on Bank Note

"My name is Ginger Cole Turner and my father, Louis B Cole, was a pilot who flew "The Hump" (China, Burma, India) during WWII. My family recently found an India 10 rupee note with signatures on it, dated September 6, 1945. It turns out that on this flight, my dad flew some recently released POWs from Rangoon to Calcutta. After researching some of the names, it has come to light that some of the passengers on this flight were USS Houston survivors. Others were from the Lost Battalion. I am pretty excited to be able to put some faces to the names and to discover some of the history of the people who signed the bill. ...Dana Charles, son of Howard Robert Charles, ... has confirmed that his dad signed my dad's bill and the date confirms that it was when he was on his way to the hospital in Calcutta after having been released in Saigon.

[Later, at the Lost Battalion Reunion] Everyone helped me and we figured out all the names but 2 on the entire bill!"

Editor's Note: Houston men who were found to have signed the bank note were Jacob Mabry, John Ranger, and Bob Charles.

Another Model You Should Know

At the **San Jacinto Museum of History** in La Porte, Texas, there is a six-foot model of the *USS Houston* which was built and donated by Bob Ivy. Plans of the original ship and photos of the model's construction are also included in the display.

Memorials at the National Museum of the Pacific War

Did you know that you can purchase any of several different types of "memorials" to be placed at the Museum of the Pacific War (aka Nimitz Museum) in Fredericksburg, Texas? For donations of varying amounts, a memorial can be sponsored. Here are some details:

Memorial Wall Plaques: Individuals, ships, or units from all U.S. and Allied branches of service that served in the Pacific during WWII may be honored with a plaque. 5" x 7" plaques cost \$350; 20" x 20" plaques cost \$2,500.

Memorial Bricks: A donation of \$100 will sponsor one who has served in the nation's military or one in domestic, industrial or civilian efforts who have supported them. An engraved 4" x 8" paver will be placed in the "Veterans Walk of Honor".

Memorial Trees and Benches: For a \$1,500 donation, a tree or bench may be dedicated in the Memorial Courtyard to a loved one or someone who touched your life and made a difference.



Veterans Walk of Honor bounded by benches and trees

Note from the Nimitz Museum: An item our Association donated to the Nimitz Museum in 2000 is now being displayed. The postcard from POW George R. Hendrick, Jr. to his parents can be seen in the new Discovery Drawer in the *America Needs You* exhibit. It is expected to remain on view thru the end of 2011

USS HOUSTON ITEMS FOR SALE

Acrylic Paper Weight (10 oz.)	\$20.00
Ball Cap (Blue) (10 oz.)	\$15.00
Ball Cap (Brown) (10 oz.)	\$5.00
Bumper Sticker (1-3 is 1 oz.).....	\$2.00
Challenge Coin (3 oz.).....	\$10.00
DVD "Last Stand" (8 oz.).....	\$20.00
Lapel Pin (specify Ship's Bell or Monument) (1-6 pins is 1 oz.)	\$3.00
Note Cards of the USS Houston Ship (pack of 10) (5 oz.).....	\$10.00
T-Shirts (size Small to X-Large) (9 oz.)	\$20.00
T-Shirts (size 2XL or 3 XL) (9 oz.).....	\$25.00
<u>Ship of Ghosts</u> book (about the USS Houston), autographed by author James Hornfischer (2.2 lb)	\$30.00

Shipping Costs:

1 oz. – 6 oz.= \$4.00

7 oz. – 12 oz.= \$7.50

13 oz. – 5 lb.= \$10.50

Note: USPS Ground Service Only

Make checks payable to:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association

Mail checks to:

Jane Matthews
836 Kendal Drive
Broadview Heights
Ohio 44147

Include the following information

(please print clearly):

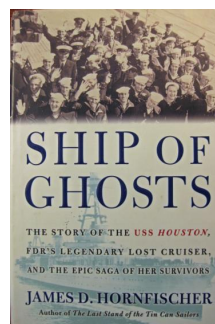
Name

Address

City, State and Zip Code

Phone Number

Items Ordered, Size and Quantity



Ship of Ghosts

autographed by author
James Hornfischer



Houston T-Shirt

Questions?

Email: Jane@USSHouston.org

UPDATE FROM THE DIVE LOCKER

Jerry Ranger and friends successfully completed their dive trip to the USS Houston, June 2-17. They made many dives on both the Houston and Perth. One of the highlights was when Jerry placed a picture of Harry Kelley and Harry's white hat on the gun mount over the hanger bay where Harry's battle station was located. Jerry will be speaking at the 2012 reunion, so we will see and hear much more at that time. Here are a few pictures from the dive.



Jerry Ranger



*Picture of Harry Kelley
placed on USS Houston*



Dive Team

House Resolution 333

There is an effort in the US Congress to honor former American POWs of the Japanese. The resolution (named H. Res 333) was introduced by Rep. Michael Honda (D-San Jose, CA) with bi-partisan support, according to a June 22, 2011, statement issued by Rep. Honda's office. On June 24, 2011, the resolution was referred to the US House of Representatives' Committee on Foreign Affairs. The [American Ex-Prisoners of War \(AXPOW\)](http://americanpowsofjapan.blogspot.com/p/h-res-333.html) veterans organization expressed its support for H. Res. 333, applauding the action taken in the resolution. You can read the resolution here:

<http://americanpowsofjapan.blogspot.com/p/h-res-333.html>.

If you decide you would like to support the resolution, you may sign a petition here:

<http://www.change.org/petitions/tell-congress-to-support-american-veterans-of-wwii> .

Mindy Kotler, director of Asia Policy Point, says, "Working on the resolution and related issues to make the Japanese companies accountable is less about the past than the future. It is to preserve and teach the history for future generations."



NOUS

The mission of The Naval Order of the United States (NOUS) is "To encourage research and writing on naval and maritime subjects preserve documents, portraits and other records of prominent figures deeds and memories of our naval and maritime history and through fellowship of our members advance the Naval Order's unselfish service and worthy aims for the security and enduring well-being of our country. To foster, among all American citizens, informed interest in the Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Merchant Marine, with the understanding that their efficiency is essential to national security and that readiness to make victory in war certain and speedy will deter aggression and minimize dangers to world peace."

The annual 2011 NOUS Congress will be held October 10-22 in Galveston, TX.

HMAS Perth

Notes from "down under"



David and Audrey Manning (center) at Australian Ex-POW Memorial in Ballarat.



Black granite wall and basalt obelisks



One prone obelisk representing those POWs who did not return home

Commemorative Service in Australia

As mentioned in the April Blue Bonnet, a special service was held on February 6, 2011, in Ballarat, Australia, at the Australian National Ex-POW Memorial. At that service, David Manning was so very kind to lay a wreath in memory of the crew of HMAS Perth on behalf of the USS Houston Survivors Association and Next Generations for which we are very grateful.

David followed up by sending along a picture taken at that event in which we can see some of the large obelisks which make up the central section of the memorial. He writes that the memorial provides a very moving experience for visitors.

From the Ballarat Memorial website, we read, "The POW monuments' design uses the basic idea of a journey through and an experience of time and place. The start of the pathway is long and straight heading off into the shape of railway sleepers, a reference to the Burma Railway. Running parallel to the pathway is a polished black granite wall, 130m (142 yards) long etched with the names of all the Australian POW's. Standing in a reflective pool are huge basalt obelisks up to 4.5m (almost 15 feet) high with the names of the POW camps. The columns are out of reach and across the water symbolizing that all the POW camps were away from Australian shores. Further on there is another wall with the words Lest we Forget engraved, allowing for an area of contemplation and reflection after the 'journey'".

Perth Website

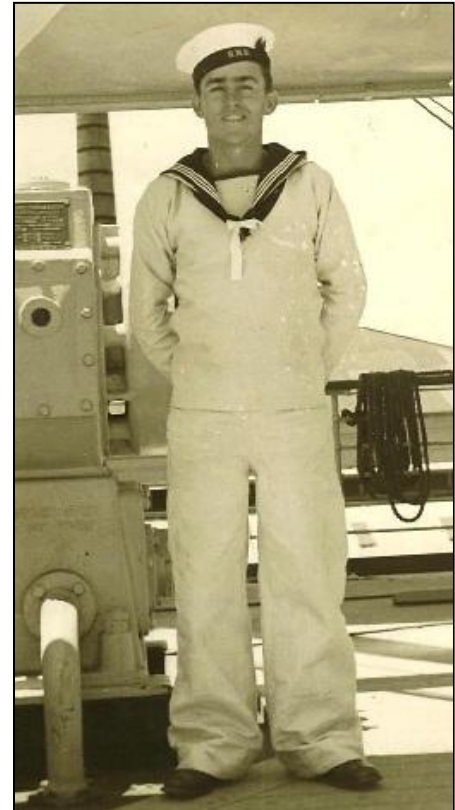
For more information on the HMAS Perth, the Australian ship which fought alongside the USS Houston in the Battle of Sunda Strait, refer to: www.perthone.com/perth.htm

Perth Survivor's Grave Receives New Headstone

The gravesite of Perth survivor, John Miniken, was dedicated on June 25th with a new headstone in a solemn ceremony in Kitimat, B.C., Canada. As reported in the May 2011 Blue Bonnet, Mr. Miniken's original tombstone made no mention of his birthplace, his military service, the Perth's sinking, his years as a POW, or how he died. The new headstone covers all these.



Old Grave Stone of John Miniken



Perth Survivor, John Miniken



New Grave Stone of John Miniken
(photo courtesy of Robin Rowland;
© Robin Rowland; <http://robinrowland.com>)

For Your Information:

Mayday is an emergency procedure word used internationally as a distress signal in voice procedure radio communications. It derives from the French *m'aider* (pronounced "may-day"), meaning "help me". It is used to signal a life-threatening emergency primarily by mariners and aviators. A mayday situation is one in which a vessel, aircraft, vehicle, or person is in grave and imminent danger and requires immediate assistance. Examples of "grave and imminent danger" in which a mayday call would be appropriate include fire, explosion or sinking. The call is always given three times in a row ("Mayday Mayday Mayday") for clarity.

REGISTRATION FORM

USS Houston Memorial Service/Reunion

February 29-March 4, 2012

Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown

Hotel room reservations MUST be made by YOU either by calling the Reservation Line at
888-421-1442 or 402-592-6464

or online at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/USSHouston>

DEADLINE – MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 7, 2012

**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)

Spice 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, 2012)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Reception at the University of Houston (Friday) # _____

Bus seat need to U of H # _____ Handicapped Access # _____

Tour of the University of Houston Library Houston Archives: Yes _____ How Many? _____ No _____

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

AGENDA FOR 2012 REUNION

February 29 - March 3, 2012

WEDNESDAY (February 29)

Set up hospitality room 3 PM~ Arboretum 2-3 (2nd floor)

THURSDAY (March 1)

Registration & hospitality room 8:00 AM –11:30 PM ~ Arboretum 2-3 (2nd floor)

Scholarship Committee Meeting 4:00 PM ~ Arboretum 1 (2nd floor)

FRIDAY (March 2)

Hospitality & registration 8:00 AM – 11:30 PM ~ Arboretum 2-3 (2nd floor)

** Hospitality room is closed during meals

Annual Members' Meeting 10:00 AM ~ Arboretum 1 (2nd floor)

Board of Managers Meeting 11:00 AM ~ Arboretum 1

Lunch on your own –List of eateries is available at concierge desk. **Please** double check when the restaurants will be open!

University of Houston Reception 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

Gather in Lobby to check-in prior to boarding bus ~ 12:30-12:45 PM, departure 1:00 PM

Dinner 6:30 PM ~ Arboretum 4-5 (2nd floor)

Speaker: John Schwarz, Executive Director

SATURDAY (March 3)

Hospitality 8 AM – 11:30 AM ~ Arboretum 2-3 (2nd floor)

** Hospitality room closed during meals & Memorial Service

Brunch 10:30 AM – 12:00 PM ~ Arboretum 4-5 (2nd floor)

Speaker: Jerry Ranger, Dive Team

Memorial Service setup 12:00 PM

Memorial Service 2012 2:00 PM

Dinner 6:30 PM ~ Arboretum 4-5 (2nd floor)

Speaker: Special 70th Anniversary Program

PLEASE REMEMBER, THIS AGENDA IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE

Meet your ...

Board of Managers

...here to serve you!

Executive Director: John Schwarz
Son of USN survivor Otto Schwarz
Ship models, compiler of ship memorial sites,
archives, Scholarship Committee
Email: John@usshouston.org



President: Sue Kreutzer
Daughter of USN survivor Paul Papish
Webmaster, archives, membership,
Scholarship Committee
Email: Sue@usshouston.org



Treasurer: Pam Foster
Daughter of USN survivor Eugene Crispi
Financial and IRS records,
Scholarship Committee
Email: Pam@usshouston.org



Secretary: Jo Klenk
Daughter of USN survivor Joe Garrett
Blue Bonnet editor, blog master,
birthday card project, Scholarship Committee
Email: Jo@usshouston.org



Manager: Jane Matthews
Daughter of USN Survivor John Stefanek
Chair of the Scholarship Committee,
Chair of the Future Vision Committee,
Sales Items
Email: Jane@usshouston.org



Vice-President: Dana Charles
son of USMC Survivor Bob Charles
Crew and POW camp records,
media specialist, researcher, correspondent
Email: Dana@usshouston.org



Membership

Our USS Houston "family" continues to grow weekly as more and more folks are wanting to know about the gallant crew of USS Houston CA-30. **Membership is free** and we invite you to join with us. Click on the [Membership Form](#), fill it out and send it in. We encourage you to attend the Annual Membership Meeting held during the Reunion weekend as we value your thoughts and ideas.

Website

We are currently working on a "facelift" for our website. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please feel free to contact Sue Kreutzer by phone at 303-840-5362 or email at sue@usshouston.org.

From the minutes of the

Annual Membership Meeting

March 4, 2011...

John Schwarz reported that there are many areas in which opportunities to serve are available and greatly appreciated. He noted that the Board needs pro bono help with internally auditing its financial records and storing its archives and equipment. Board members would appreciate help in many of the areas in which they are currently serving. This serves two purposes – needed assistance and a Board member "backup" in the present and training for leadership in the future. For example, the Reunion Committee could use help in many areas especially as the reunion nears. **John suggested that anyone who would like to volunteer to help could contact him or any of the Board members.**

TJ McFarland, late son of USMC survivor Tom and Gwen McFarland, has been selected as a 2011 Honoree of the Austin Music Memorial and will receive a plaque on the wall at The Long Center, Austin's new performance center.

Chloe Evelyn Poss, 8th grandchild and 1st granddaughter of Val Poss, great-granddaughter of USN survivor Valdon Roberts, was born on June 17, 2011, weighing 9 lb, 13 oz.

Harry Kelley, Jr., son of USN survivor Harry and Audrey Kelley, and family were okay following the devastating tornado that struck their hometown of Joplin, MO. The tornado missed his house by a mere six blocks!



World War II Trivia:

At the time of Pearl Harbor, the top US Navy command was called CINCUS (pronounced 'sink us'), the shoulder patch of the US Army's 45th Infantry Division was the Swastika, and Hitler's private train was named 'Amerika.' All three were soon changed for PR purposes.

Association

Websites:

USSHouston.org

Our primary website

USSHouston.blogspot.com

Blog for current news



Noteworthy News

Albert Brown, the oldest survivor of the Bataan death march in the Philippines, died at the age of 105 on August 14, 2011, in Nashville, Illinois.

Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

From April 29 to July 29, 2011

Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 12,747.31
Receipts	<u>51.07</u>
Ending Balance	\$12,798.38

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 10,665.50
Receipts	4,174.13
Expenses	2,457.99
Ending Balance	\$ 12,381.64*

*General Fund includes \$5,205 in donations for the model case less \$1,650 deposit made to Shrewsbury Craftsmen, LLC.

Donation in memory of **Lanson Harris** by Ella Jane Harris.



Published by:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations

Editor: Jo Klenk

Proofreaders: Jane Matthews, Dana Charles, Pam Foster

Distribution: Sue Kreutzer, Pam Foster

Articles or information may be sent to:

Bluebonnet@USSHouston.org

All articles submitted are subject to editing.

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of this Association, its members, or its Board of Managers.

© **Copyright 2011**

All rights reserved. All articles and photographs used in this newsletter are copyrighted unless otherwise stated. They may not be sold or used in any other publication without express written permission from the Board of this Association.