



Now Hear This!

Association Address:

c/o John K. Schwarz, Executive Director
2500 Clarendon Blvd., Apt. 121
Arlington, VA 22201

Association Phone Number:

703-867-0142

Address for Tax Deductible Contributions:

USS Houston Survivors' Association
c/o Pam Foster, Treasurer
370 Lilac Lane,
Lincoln, CA 95648
(Please specify which fund – General or Scholarship)

Association Email Contact:

Contact@USSHouston.org

Association Founded 1947

By Otto and Trudy Schwarz

U.S. and Indonesian Officials Meet in Jakarta To Discuss Cooperation



On 7 June 2017 over 40 representatives from more than sixteen U.S. and Indonesian government agencies and ministries gathered in Jakarta, Indonesia to discuss future cooperation.

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U.S. and Indonesian Cooperation Discussed in Jakarta

By Greg R. Adams

Over 40 representatives from more than sixteen U.S. and Indonesian government agencies and ministries gathered at the Indonesian Ministry of Education and Culture in Jakarta, Indonesia on 7 June 2017 to discuss future cooperation on shared U.S. and Indonesian Cultural Heritage. Dr. Jay Thomas, Assistant Director for Collection Management, Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) delivered a brief on the history and
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desired goals for safeguarding the remains of USS *Houston* in the Sunda Strait. Dr. Harry Widiyanto, Director, Directorate of Cultural Heritage Preservation and Museums, Ministry of Education and Culture encouraged all participants to work together to protect the USS *Houston*. He further explained, "The USS *Houston* is not only important cultural heritage for Americans, but important cultural heritage and an important piece of history for Indonesians too."

Members from the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency also briefed meeting participants on their mission to identify and repatriate the more than 2,000 US Soldiers, Sailors, and Airman who perished on land across the Indonesian archipelago during World War II.

The meeting marked an important step to continuing collaboration on these important issues.



Earlier that same day, Dr. Jay Thomas, NHHC and representatives from DPAA paid a call on the Director of the Indonesian National Archeology Center (ARKENAS). ARKENAS is charged with providing history curriculum to local schools, and wants to partner with both DPAA and NHHC to perform more research to better account for WWII history as it pertains to Indonesia.

On 6 June I traveled to Bantam Bay to pay a call on the Head of the Marine Police in Bantam Bay, Komisararis Besar (Police Chief

Commissioner) Imam.



I thanked the Commissioner for his commitment to protecting the remains of USS *Houston* and presented him with a U.S. Navy ball cap and a U.S. Naval Attaché Jakarta Coin.



After my office call I traveled to a pier in Bantam Bay, one of the piers from which anyone who wishes to visit the site of USS *Houston* or Pulau Panjang would depart. I spent some time with the Police on duty that day, thanked them for their service and talked about ways to raise awareness among the local population of Bantam Bay and Pulau Panjang.

Commander Greg R. Adams, USN is the Naval Attaché at the Embassy of the United States, Jakarta, Indonesia



From the desk of the Executive Director

John K. Schwarz

We continue to monitor activities occurring in and around Indonesia, and try to pass the information on to you as quickly as we can. Unfortunately, there is not always good news in spite of the best efforts of our U.S. Navy and others as they use diplomatic approaches to the issues. Some sunken allied ships in the Java Sea are totally missing and recent reports are that a significant portion of HMAS *Perth* is now gone. USS *Houston* CA-30, closer to shore, is hanging in there, but the scavenger/salvagers seem hell bent on pursuing their profiteering efforts in spite of the significance of what they are destroying. Our stance will remain steadfast: we want our ship left alone, undisturbed, to lie in peace as the sacred burial ground it is.

This edition of the Blue Bonnet affords all members with opportunity to vote in another Board member who would be a big help to us. I urge you to vote "Yes" on the ballot which is included on page 21, and send it in via any of the available communication channels.

We are already in planning mode for our Day of Remembrance 2018. Mark your calendars: the Memorial Service will be held at 2:30 p.m., Saturday, March 3, 2018 at the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument in Houston, Texas.

Our finances are healthy due to your generosity, which has enabled us to recently purchase a new printer that in the long term will save on the Association's printing expenses. We were also able to donate to the purchase of a much needed flag for our beloved Houston-area Sea Cadets. Once again, in 2018, a \$3,000.00 scholarship award will be available for a worthy candidate. The deadline for application: November 1, 2017.

Your continued donations are very much appreciated as we continue to fulfill the Association's mission: To perpetuate the memory of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and her crew.

The Houston Maritime Museum (HMM) is actively collecting items for a new, expanded USS *Houston* CA-30 exhibit which will be located in a new facility.

My continued "thank you" to fellow Board members, who work tirelessly throughout the year, conducting the affairs of the Association.

Hope everyone is, and stays, well,

John

*Son of Otto and Trudy Schwarz
Association Co-Founders*

Listen to "Overboard"

The Houston Grand Opera Company commissioned a song commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the loss of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* (D-29). To hear this beautiful work, click on the link below:

<http://www.uh.edu/engines/Overboard.htm> (Dr. John Lienhard's website contains audio for the HGOCo song, "Overboard")

Also, here's the link to Dr. John Lienhard's radio story about the Battle of Sunda Strait:

<http://www.uh.edu/engines/epi3115.htm>

A New Manager Nomination

At its June 24, 2017 meeting the Association's Nominating Committee placed into nomination Bernice Terluin Harapat for Manager of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations® (by-laws article VII-section 2). As a Board member Bernice would help the Board with the administration and management of the Association. The nominating committee has carefully considered Bernice's qualifications. Specifically, Bernice has:

- Completed all of the pre-requisite elements contained in the "Process to Become a Manager" which the Board adopted in January, 2011.
- Become an important participant over the last several years in the annual 'Day of Remembrance' (DOR) activities.
- Provided the leadership of the "Bicycle Camp Memorial Plaque" project involving a committee of folks from different countries, cultures, and geographic locations.
- Demonstrated a special ability to get along with everyone with whom she works, and is consistently an excellent "team player."
- Demonstrated a high level not only of intellect, but also of dedication to the Association's mission.

According to the by-laws, New Managers are Nominated by the Nominating Committee and elected by the membership (article VI-section 3). Special Member meetings can be held for the purpose of holding an election for any new Manager (article V-section 1).

In accordance with the by-laws, a special member meeting to vote on electing a new manager is therefore scheduled for **2 p.m., Saturday, September 16, 2017** at the association's home address: 2500 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201.

Attendance at this meeting is **NOT** necessary to exercise your right to vote. Subsequent to the issuance of the August 2017 Blue Bonnet, members may vote on or before September 16, 2017 by email (to the contact@usshouston.org address), or by mail (to the association's home address), or members may vote by phone (by calling 703-867-0142).

Any member opposing this nomination shall offer their reason(s) for opposition through any of the aforementioned communication channels. Again, the deadline for voting is midnight **September 16, 2017**.

A Ballot is included on page 21 of this issue of the Blue Bonnet.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

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



Bernice Harapat – In Her Own Words

While I did not have a family member who served on USS *Houston* (CA-30), I have another kind of connection to her and her crew, different but just as special: My parents lived the war right alongside the *Houston* survivors in the former Dutch East Indies and on the Burma-Thailand Railway. We have the highest admiration for those brave Americans.

Dad, Willem Terluin, was 17 when taken prisoner with his KNIL (Dutch military) unit outside Bandoeng, Java. He was eventually transported to Burma, as luck would have it, in the same group with the *Houston* survivors. He was a little wiry guy, so they put him on hammer-and-tap detail. Ida, my Mom was from Batavia, a little girl of 10 who could hear the Java Sea battle from her home; saw the first Japanese troops march in; and was among those waiting outside the 10th Battalion camp, hoping to see her 3 brothers as the prisoners were marched out. They also were sent to the Railway. Her Dad spent 3 years in a Kempeitai prison for sabotage, tortured nearly to death. My other grandfather was put in a civilian camp, and the families left to survive as best they could.

Suffice it to say that if Dad, my uncles, and Mom's best friend had not been on the Railway together, my parents would never have met! Like all Dutch-Indo kids, I grew up among Railway survivors. All Indies people suffered during the years 1941-48. Many of their kids took this for granted, but this pesky "*anak*" wanted to know! So, I'd bug the grownups for stories; and at parties, when they sent the kids outside and the talk turned to "Indie" and sometimes, "Birma", I was always the nosy one hiding in the next room, listening to the stories. Well, trying to anyway; I usually got busted (darn parent radar) and told to go play. No one who had not **Been There**- they always said it like that- could join that exclusive club.

Not to be deterred, I started reading through my Dad's large book collection on the subject, in Dutch and English. I think that I finally convinced him my interest was real, and he would tell a little more, but not much. I wished he'd have written it all down, but I had to respect the boundary he'd set. Now I regret that he did not share his experiences with me.

When I was 11, watching ***Bridge on the River Kwai*** on the TV, I asked Dad: were there really Americans there? He told me yes, there were sailors from a ship called *Houston*. Did Dad like them? I asked. "Yes, I liked them. They were really good guys, they and the Australians." Dad was half Ambonese, very dark-skinned, and those Americans and Australians included him when many others wouldn't. I learned later that this influenced my parents' decision to come to America. In 1959 we were admitted as displaced persons under the Pastore-Walter Act. We are proud US citizens. So, *Houston*, you had quite an impact on my life!

I wanted to know more about these Americans who worked on the Burma-Thailand Railway, but never found much in books. Then, many years later, in a used bookstore in Oakland, one book's distinctive cover art caught my eye. The book was ***Last Man Out*** by USS *Houston* (CA-30) survivor H. Robert Charles and I swear that thing jumped off the shelf into my hands. I learned a lot from reading it, and it became Dads' favorite. Who knew, one day I'd meet the author's son, Dana Charles, at a party, and he'd invite me to a USS *Houston* (CA-30) reunion! I was blown away! These Americans let their kids come to reunions! I'd wanted to go to Dad's for years, and had always been gently turned down.

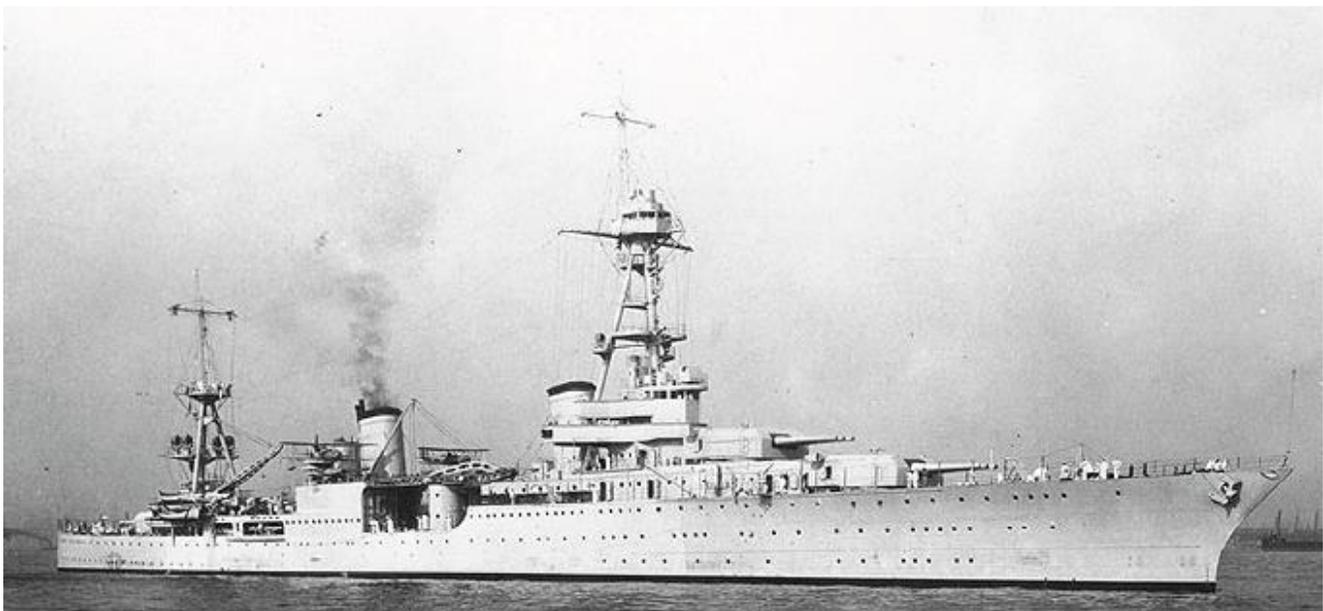
I've been attending USS *Houston* (CA-30) annual gatherings ever since. I wish Dad was still here to join me. It was surreal to hear the survivors tell stories that so exactly matched his, confirming that yes, they were there together. I met you, the Next Generations, who care as I do and keep the story alive, and we've swapped many tales about similarities in our upbringings and approach to life, as influenced by our Dads' experience. The children of ex-POWs can always relate to each other; I had to laugh when, after our first meal together, I looked around and saw every one of us had cleaned their plate. My dinner partner simply smiled and said "It's in the DNA." Kindred spirits! Now you are like family to me.

On the personal side, I was born in the Netherlands, grew up in Palo Alto, CA, and graduated from Stanford University. I'm widowed 6 years (many nieces and nephews but no kids of our own) and live in a little house in the woods on Whidbey Island, WA. I work as a flight attendant in Seattle, WA. That work was supposed to be temporary: Dad suggested I try it "for a year or two" after graduation. He loved to travel, and my flight benefits enabled him and Mom to make frequent trips to the Netherlands for visits and reunions. We also went back to Java, Singapore and Thailand. I kept adding one more year to my planned two and finally it stuck, with occasional stints as an instructor and union lobbyist.

I'm honored to be involved with the Association. The most heartbreaking thing I've ever been told by a survivor is: "Nobody cares about what happened to us." He didn't even know he was my lifelong hero. This Association is living proof that people DO care, and it means a lot to be part of its mission. If you accept me on the board, I'll give it my best. Just put me to work.

Thanks and God Bless,

Bernice Terluin Harapat



USS *Houston* CA-30 (early 1930's)

Notes From Here and There



A week before Memorial Day, 2017, members of USS *Houston* (CA-30) survivor Otto C. Schwarz's family arrived at "Otto Schwarz Woods" in the township of Union, New Jersey to decorate the main sign at the site with fresh American flags. Family members included: Schwarz's granddaughters Jessica and Willa, son John, and daughter-in-law Sara Jane Jelin-Schwarz. Situated not far from Otto's home, the woods were dedicated to Otto in 2003 for his civic service to Union, New Jersey in an effort to preserve the woods, John Schwarz explained. The woods remain preserved to this day.



(Above) At U.S. Embassy Jakarta, Indonesia on Memorial Day, 2017: In the picture are military members from the U.S. Defense Attaché's Office (DAO), Marine Security Guard (MSG) Detachment, Office of Defense Cooperation (ODC), and the PACOM Augmentation Team (PAT).

Charge D 'Affairs, Mr. Brian McFeeters made special mention of the USS *Houston* and the sacrifice of its brave crew during his remarks. "...Today we honor the fighting spirit of our military and their ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedoms. This same fighting spirit was displayed by the Sailors and Marines of the USS *Houston* just after midnight on 01 March 1941...[]...The USS *Houston*, to this day remains at rest on the bottom of the sea in the Sunda Strait, only a 2-hour drive from here, and remains the final resting place for those who perished with the ship. It is extremely important to remember the *Houston*, not only on Memorial Day but in U.S. Mission Jakarta's daily pursuit to protect this final resting place, with help from the Indonesian Government." We remain committed to this end.

...NOW HEAR THIS...!

INTERNAL ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Applications for next year's scholarship program competition are being accepted beginning June 1 with the deadline for submission extending to November 1.

To apply for the scholarship applicants can go to www.usshouston.org and click on the scholarship tab, scroll down to bottom of the page and click to download the application packet.

Application packets can also be obtained by writing to John Keith Schwarz, 2500 Clarendon Blvd. Apt. 121, Arlington, VA 22201.

Each year the amount our Association can award to the Internal Scholarship recipient depends on your generosity. The scholarship award available for 2018 will be \$3,000. Donations are always accepted and appreciated, and are necessary to perpetuate this program.

You can also remember the USS *Houston* CA-30 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. Please note on your check: "Scholarship Donation."

Mail Donations to: Pam Crispi Foster, 370 Lilac Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648

To-date and after approximately 18 years of program implementation, we have awarded **14** scholarships totaling **\$31,250.00**. This is an extremely successful program outcome by any measure.

We thank everyone who has donated and participated in this worthwhile endeavor.

Past Internal Annual Scholarship Recipients

- 2004 – Gene Bankhead, grandson of Gene Crispi
- 2005 – Katy Fort, granddaughter of Cecil Chambliss
- 2006 – Gerald Agin, grandson of Gerald Agin
- 2007 – Jenny Garrett, granddaughter of Joe Garrett
- 2008 – Raymond Davis, great nephew of George Davis, Jr.
- 2009 – Alex James, great nephew of John Stefanek
- 2010 – Kevin Swick, grandson of John Reilly
- 2012 – Cody Karcher, great grandson of Richard H. Gingras
- 2013 – Laura Reilly, granddaughter of John Reilly and Maggie Tuttle, great niece of Howard Brooks
- 2014 – Stephanie Daigre, granddaughter-in-law of Gene Crispi
- 2015 – Stephen Reilly, grandson of John Reilly
- 2016 – Emily L. Kovacs, great niece of John Stefanek
- 2017 – Chris Karcher, great grandson of Richard H. Gingras

Past U.S. Naval Academy Foundation Scholarship Recipients

- 2010 – Stephen Scales
- 2011 – Lenué Gilchrist
- 2013 – Robert Z. Sutherland
- 2014 – Evan S. Hovenden
- 2015 – Megan Cessna
- 2016 – Anthony R. Powers, Jr.
- 2017 – Alana N. Stern

U. S. Naval Academy Foundation Scholarship Program

Due to the generosity of our Association members and friends, and since its inception in 2008, this permanent scholarship—the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Scholarship—has been awarded seven times. This scholarship award enables a year of preparatory military school education, which helps these candidates enter the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA). We are pleased to report that so far three scholarship recipients are currently serving in the US Navy as officers. The four other recipients are progressing satisfactorily towards graduation. What a lasting tribute to the legacy of the men of USS *Houston* (CA-30)!

Notes on news received via email at contact@usshouston.org and via regular mail...

- 3/31/17: Received the following email from **Commander Greg Adams, USN**: “Executive Director John Schwartz and Senior Leaders of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors’ Association, I relieved Captain Mark Stacpoole as the U.S. Naval Attaché to Indonesia just over two months ago and I wanted to introduce myself. My family and I are humbled at the opportunity to serve in Jakarta and honored to join you in remembering your loved ones...As you can see from my bio (attached), I have spent a majority of my career at sea in the Pacific, sailing in the enormous wake of heroes like Spruance, Nimitz, and Captain Albert H. Rooks. As the son of a Navy Captain and grandson of a WWII Marine who served honorably in the Pacific Theater, please accept my sincerest and heartfelt thank you for the sacrifice of your loved ones, the bravery of those who survived and continued to fight on in Singapore, Burma, Japan, and Thailand -- and your efforts to keep their memory alive...I promise to continue the herculean work already accomplished by Mark Stacpoole and the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC), alongside my friends and counterparts from the Indonesian, Australian, British, and Dutch Governments, to ensure the appropriate legal protection is applied to all Allied War Wrecks in Indonesian waters. I am happy to report that in my short time in Jakarta I was able to facilitate the delivery of a Diplomatic Note to the Indonesian Government expressing the U.S. Government's desire to work towards this goal. I promise to do everything in my power to ensure the final resting place for over 600 Sailors and Marines remains intact in the Sunda Strait and the memory of the ex-USS *HOSTON* lives on in Indonesia...As you've likely heard, there was a recent report of diving and alleged scavenging from the site of the remains of USS *Houston*. Although encouraging that activities like this are being reported and the authorities are responding, it also highlights the need to do more. I will be sure to send updates through NHHC as we attempt to validate these reports... Again, I am honored to embark on this mission with you and your families. God Bless, Greg R. Adams, Commander, United States Navy, U.S. Naval Attaché to Indonesia, Embassy of the United States, Jakarta, Indonesia.”
- 3/31/2017: I replied to **CDR Adams** as follows: “Dear Commander Adams, Thank you very much for your email. I am vice president of our USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors’ Association and Next Generations, and the son of the late **H. Robert Charles**, a U.S. Marine survivor of USS *Houston* (CA-30), and it is my honor to reply to your email message. We welcome you to your new position as U.S. Naval Attaché to the Republic of Indonesia, and we look forward to supporting any efforts you may undertake as U.S. Naval Attaché to remember USS *Houston* (CA-30) and to protect and preserve her remains. I had the great honor to attend the March, 2015 dedication at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* (D-29) Memorial created by **CAPT Mark Stacpoole’s son**, as well as the March, 2015 memorial service held aboard USS *Sampson* over the remains of USS *Houston* (CA-30) in Sunda Strait. I will be forever grateful to everyone at the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, especially CAPT Stacpoole, for making these events so memorable. If there is anything we can do to assist you in your efforts, just let us know... On behalf of our Association: Welcome aboard!”
- 4/1/2017: Received the following email from **Eduardo Martinez** (NG of LBA Survivor): “A few weeks ago, my wife and I made our way to White Sands Missile Range to partake in the Bataan Memorial Death March (www.bataanmarch.com) on the 75th anniversary of the original Death March. We spent the weekend on the base getting mentally ready for the march, listening to a

number of presentations on the Bataan March, and meeting some of the survivors. For the first time in its 28-year history, the event recognized the Filipino veterans of Bataan via the efforts of the Filipino Veterans Recognition and Education Project...On the morning of the 19th, we lined up with 7,000+ other marchers for the opening ceremony. About 8:00 am, we hit the cross-country path, following 20-30 wounded warriors and the military teams marching with their 35 lb. rucksacks filled with food for the food pantry. On the way past the starting gate, everyone stops to shake hands with the survivors...Ten hours and 26.2 miles later, we crossed the finish line. It was a pretty grueling walk for me. I thought I'd trained pretty well, but the 90 degree heat just drained us. At mile 20, we entered a dry creek bed with ankle deep sand. It was like walking in dunes for the next 2 miles straight (a challenging exercise to attempt 20 miles into the whole walk). I was motivated by the thousands of other marchers, including 99-year old Col. Ben Skardon (Ret.) a Bataan survivor who walked 8.5 miles of the course. Marching alongside the wounded warriors making the walk with prosthetic legs is pretty inspiring too...Every marcher walked in honor of someone who has passed, including many casualties of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. My walk was dedicated to all the men of the Lost Battalion and the USS *Houston*, and their families. The march was among the most incredible experiences I've had in a while (including the pilgrimage to Death Railway last year). I'm planning to complete the March again next year and again, I'll honor our forefathers...My wife and I wore team shirts all weekend and many inquired about the Lost Battalion and the USS *Houston*. While the Bataan experience is well known, the plight of the Americans on the Death Railway isn't. It was such a great experience to be able to share the story with others but I'm reminded that there is still much education needed to keep this history alive. Eduardo [Martinez].”

- 4/1/2017: I replied to Eduardo as follows: “Eduardo, Many thanks for sending this email. What an amazing experience! As you know, our Lost Battalion & USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors were captured on Java about a month before the Bataan Death March took place in the Philippines. Thank you for honoring the men of the Lost Battalion and USS *Houston* (CA-30).”
- 4/8/2017: Received the following email: “Hello. My name is **Gary Goodson**. My Father (**Ray Goodson**) was a crewmember of the USS *Houston* when she was sunk and was an American Ex-POW. This photo was taken aboard a ship after Liberation. I was wondering if anyone could identify the Commander and/or personnel. Thanks very much, and God Bless.”
- 4/9/2017: I consulted with Don Kehn, Jr on the identities of the men in the photo, then emailed **Gary Goodson** as follows: “Gary, Thank you for your email, and for sending this photo. It’s great to hear from you. According to our Association’s historian, **Don Kehn, Jr.**, the men in the photo are as follows: (L to R): **Ray Goodson, George Stoddard, Tony Manista, Jesse B. Oldendorf** (former Commanding Officer of USS *Houston* CA-30), **Julius Cerruti**, and **Art DuHaime**. Except for Oldendorf, all of these men were USS *Houston* CA-30 survivors who were just recently liberated from POW captivity.”
- 4/29/2017: Received the following email: “I am the historian for the VFW Post in Bangkok Thailand. In 1997, the VFW District encompassing Thailand and Cambodia (District 5 of the Department of Pacific Areas), erected a memorial at the ‘Bridge over the River Kwai’ dedicated to the American POWs who labored there. We believe that all of those were survivors of the





sinking of the USS *Houston*. First, I wanted to be sure that you were aware of this memorial (See photo to the left). I just discovered this Survivor's Page and have barely skimmed its surface but I did not see any mention of the Thai memorial... Second, the 20th Anniversary of that memorial is approaching and we will likely hold a commemoration. Do you think that there would be any interest in your members participating? I'm not suggesting that travel half-way around the world to be with us but perhaps we could arrange a video link of some sort. I've attached some photos of that memorial and the 1997 dedication ceremony. Yours in Service to Veterans. **JJ Karwacki.**"

- 5/2/2017: I forwarded Mr. Karwacki's email to the Board, and replied to him as follows: "Dear Mr. Karwacki, Thank you for emailing us regarding the memorial located near the "Bridge on the River Kwai." I am the son of a USS *Houston* (CA-30) survivor, and vice president of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors' Association and Next Generations®, and it is my honor to reply to your email... Until we received your recent email, we had not heard of the memorial before. I visited the "Bridge on the River Kwai" a few years ago, but while I was there I did not see a memorial dedicated to American POWs. Thank you for bringing this memorial to our attention. We would appreciate any further information you may have in regards to this memorial, including the date of the upcoming memorial commemoration. According to our records, approximately 668 Americans, including my father and some 219 other USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors were transported to Burma and Thailand in 1942-1943 to work on the Burma-Thailand Railway construction project. The vast majority of the other Americans who worked on the railway included soldiers of the 131st Field Artillery/2nd Battalion—also known as the "Lost Battalion." Again, thank you for contacting us."

- 5/5/2017: Received the following email from **J.J. Karwacki**: "May I elicit your thoughts on this: Nearly 50% of the deaths of American POWs occurred in August and September 1943, most in Burma."
- 5/6/2017: Wrote the following email to Mr. Karwacki: "Dear Mr. Karwacki, Thank you for your email regarding the spike in deaths along the railway in August - September, 1943. According to an article by Vernon Loeb (see attached) that 1943 period of time coincides with the brutal monsoon season of that year, which was among the wettest and longest in the region's history. It also coincides with the period leading up to the October, 1943 completion of the railway known to POWs as the "Speedo" period in which the Japanese drove its labor forces furiously at the end to finish the railroad. Many allied POWs died during this period of time due to overwork, malnutrition, disease, and beatings. I hope this information is helpful."

New Documentary Film Planned

I had the wonderful occasion to interview recently with Christian Broadhurst from 360 Productions, a British documentary company based in London. They are Emmy nominated filmmakers who make documentary series for both UK and US broadcasters. (See website: <http://360production.com/>). They are currently developing a documentary film that will follow the Dutch investigating team and an American host as they travel to the Java Sea to monitor the remains of the USS *Houston* CA-30 and other British, Australian and Dutch wrecks that have been/are being illegally salvaged. A major US network is interested in the project. This interview, conducted by SKYPE on June 20th, 2017, afforded me the opportunity to: (A) Offer insight on the ship: USS *Houston* CA-30; and (B) Articulate the reasons our Association desires that USS *Houston* CA-30, and other sunken warships containing deceased servicemen be left alone and undisturbed. We hope this opportunity to offer historical perspective and other insights concerning our ship and her crew will help with the ultimate mission of protecting USS *Houston* CA-30. – John K. Schwarz

Sunset Services - Anzac Day 2017

Kings Park and Botanic Garden,
Western Australia, 22 April 2017.

Remembering the loss of HMAS *Perth* (D-29)
and USS *Houston* (CA-30) 75 years ago.

At right (L to R): Kay; Jan (daughter of HMAS *Perth* survivor Norm Fuller); John & Di Pendred (daughter of HMAS *Perth* Survivor Arthur Bancroft); Colin & Cheryl Bancroft (son of HMAS *Perth* survivor Arthur Bancroft); Matt Bancroft (Colin's son); Erin (Matt's wife).



At Left: HMAS *Perth* (D-29) Survivor David Manning recently turned 94!

You Shop, Amazon Gives

By Pam Crispi Foster, Treasurer

Many of us already shop online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Did you know that Amazon has a program where they will donate a portion of your purchase price to the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations®? There is no additional cost to you or to the association and the proceeds help to perpetuate the memory of our ship and the sacrifices made by her crew. Visit our website: www.usshouston.org and click on the AmazonSmile link or go to the website shown below. This is a win-win situation for all of us.

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations®** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support the **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations®** by starting your shopping at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2814051>.

USS HOUSTON (CA-30) ITEMS FOR SALE

- DVD "Last Stand" (8 oz.) \$20.00
- Bumper Sticker (1-3 is 1 oz.) \$2.00
- Challenge Coin (3 oz.) \$10.00
- Bell or Monument Lapel Pin (specify type)
(1 - 6 pins is 1 oz.) \$3.00
- Ship Lapel Pin (specify silver or gold highlights)
(1 - 3 pins are 1 oz.) \$4.00



- Polo Shirts - Short Sleeve, Navy Blue
with Gold Embroidery of the USS Houston:
- Men's - sizes M-2XL \$25.00
- Women's - sizes S-XL \$25.00
- (Shipping Weight-10 oz.)



- T-Shirts (size Medium) (9 oz.) \$10.00
- T-Shirts (size Small, large, and X-Large) (9 oz.) \$20.00
- T-Shirts (size 2XL or 3 XL) (9 oz.) \$25.00

- Blue Ball Cap ("USS Houston CA-30", 10 oz.) \$15.00
- Brown Ball Cap ("USS Houston CA-30", 10 oz.) \$5.00
- Brown & Black Ball Cap
("U.S.S. Houston CA-30 2nd Generation", 10 oz.) \$5.00



Blue Ball Cap
Brown & Black Ball Cap
T-Shirt



Women's Polo Shirt



Men's Polo Shirt

Note Cards of the USS *Houston* Ship (pack of 10) (5 oz.) \$10.00

Shipping Costs:

- 1 oz. – 6 oz. = \$4.00
- 7 oz. – 12 oz. = \$7.50
- 13 oz. – 5 lb. = \$10.50

Make checks payable to:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association

Mail checks to:

Sue Kreutzer
43156 Meadowbrook Cir.
Parker, CO 80138

Include the following information
(please print clearly):

- Name
- Address
- City, State and Zip Code
- Phone Number
- Items Ordered, Size and Quantity

Questions? Email: Sue@USSHouston.org

Meet your...

Board of Managers

...here to serve you!*

Exec. Director/Secretary: John Schwarz
Son of USN survivor Otto Schwarz
Association strategy/outreach, Special Projects,
Scholarship Committee, Membership liaison
Email: John@usshouston.org



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



Vice-President: Dana Charles
Son of USMC Survivor Bob Charles
Crew and POW camp records,
Blue Bonnet Editor, researcher, correspondent
Email: Dana@usshouston.org



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



* The Board of Managers is available to members for questions, concerns, input, or to clarify any matter regarding the Association via email (to contact@usshouston.org), phone, or regular mail.

Membership

Our "USS *Houston* family" continues to grow weekly as more and more folks want to know about the gallant crew of USS *Houston* CA-30. If you have relatives and friends who have not yet joined our Association, please encourage them to join us! Members do not have yearly dues. However we do operate based on the generosity of our membership. All donations are gratefully accepted. For more information and a membership form, click on: <http://www.usshouston.org/memberform.pdf>, fill out the form and send it in!

Welcome Aboard!

We would like to extend a hearty welcome to everyone who has recently joined our USS Houston (CA-30) Survivors' Association and Next Generations®!



Association Website:
www.usshouston.org

Facebook Group Site:
[USS Houston CA-30](#)

In Memoriam
Gertrude “Trudy” Emma Schwarz



(1923 – 2017)

Gertrude Emma Schwarz, affectionately known as 'Gerri', or 'Trudy', was born in Newark, New Jersey on August 3, 1923—an only child of loving parents Edward and Grace Kraft. These adoring parents also raised other family relatives, so Trudy was among a very loving, caring family. She lived through the Great Depression and after finishing high school, as the nation labored through the World War II years, she worked in a factory. In 1946 Trudy married her childhood sweetheart whom she had known since she was three—Navy man Otto C. Schwarz. A survivor of USS *Houston* (CA-30), Otto had just been liberated from prisoner-of-war camps in Burma and Thailand at the conclusion of WWII.

Gertrude and Otto started a rather simple life in Newark, NJ, raising two sons. Otto regularly lamented at how he missed, and might never see again, so many fellow shipmates and prisoners of war (many from Australia). At Trudy's urging he began the process of making contact with those approximately 268 men—an effort which led to the birth of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations® which is still alive and well to this day. From 1946 until the very day of Trudy's passing—71 years!—she served that association as its mentor, inspiration, and in so many ways: its major contributor.

Trudy Schwarz loved her immediate family including: sons Edward and John; daughter-in-law Sara Jane Jelin-Schwarz; granddaughters Jessica, Bessie and Willa and grandsons Jake and Marty. She loved her relatives, friends and neighbors, her Westfield YMCA exercise group and the Union Optimist family. She loved her church, Connecticut Farms Presbyterian, and her bakery family at Romano's, both in Union, NJ. She came to love her caretakers Anita and Eunice and her doctor, R. Solomon, as well as the entire Hospice Team who cared for her until her passing.

She loved and adored her Survivors' Association family and the best part is: **all of the above truly loved her back!**

The Schwarz family is thankful that Gertrude passed away as peacefully as one could ever hope for, at her home in Union, New Jersey on the morning of June 26, 2017. God Bless this wonderful woman, and may she rest in peace.



Tributes to Trudy

I wish to extend the condolences of the Committee and Members of our Association on the passing of Trudy Schwarz. Sincerely yours, Lyle Phillips, President, HMAS *Perth* National Association.

Trudy spent so much of her life, helping Otto remember/support our USS *Houston* families - and then continuing it after Otto passed. In late June, I was in the process of writing Trudy a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY AMERICA** card - she often talked about the Aussies calling on July 4th, and saying/singing *Happy Birthday, America!* to her and Otto. Peace, blessings, Lin and Ron Drees.

It's everyone's loss because she was a wonderful caring woman. Fulton, Ellen Flynn and family.

I will always remember Trudy and feel fortunate to have known her (just a lady). The world has lost someone very, very special- your grief is shared by many. Trudy was extremely kind to my late husband David, and of course to me. I loved her so much. She was my 'Jersey Girl'. Donna Mae Flynn.

Trudy Schwarz a beautiful and courageous lady and Otto her husband: a great couple who will always be remembered for their life long work and dedication to the USS *Houston* (CA-30). They both will be greatly missed. Silvia Brooks, wife of Howard E. Brooks, USS *Houston* (CA-30) survivor.

Mom put her heart, her soul into the Survivors' Association since the very first day she urged Otto to start it, through all the years that she allowed the inordinate amount of time he spent on it that could have been spent with she, and contributed big time emotionally, spiritually and quite frankly functionally, virtually until the day she passed (71 years of dedicated service!). She was able to truly enjoy all of the festivities this past March in Houston, contributed to by so many, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the loss of USS *Houston* CA-30. On her side of the headstone at Arlington National Cemetery will read: 'Inspired Many, Loved by All' God Bless my Mom (Trudy), Otto, and may they rest in eternal peace both 'Still Standing Watch Over Sunda Strait'. John Keith Schwarz.

She was a sweet lady. She will be missed. Terry Shields.

Very sorry to hear this. My thoughts are with the family. Geert Visser, Consul (ret.) of the Netherlands NL, Consul of Belarus.

[Trudy] was a very special person to me, and I always looked forward to our annual March visits before I retired. Pat Bozeman, former Head of Special Collections, UH Libraries.

Trudy and Otto will be missed! Thank you for all you have done. Matt & Jane Matthews.

I was shocked as I'd just learned of your mom's passing. I am so very sorry to hear this. She was a terrific lady. So gracious and very thoughtful. I am sure your Dad is welcoming her now. Please know our sincere thoughts and prayers are with you and the family. Please let me know if there is anything I can do. Dave Kenney.

We feel very lucky to have known Trudy these last 19 years. We've enjoyed our time together, she will be sorely missed and we are better people for having known her. Jack and Pat Mintzer.

Just wanted to say how sorry I was to hear of your mom's passing. Although I never met her, I'm obviously a huge fan of her work on behalf of USS *Houston* (CA 30), the Navy, and their shared, rich history and proud heritage. Like the overwhelming majority of Navy spouses she embodied the same core values that define their active duty husbands and wives: honor, courage, and commitment. Although she'll be missed here on Earth, there's comfort in the knowledge that because of her hard work and dedication, the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors' Association And Next Generations® will continue for years to come to honor the service and sacrifice of that great ship and its remarkable crew. There's also a measure of comfort in knowing Heaven now musters a proud Sailor reunited with, and on the arm of, his equally proud wife. Paul Taylor, Communication Branch Head, Communication and Outreach Division, Naval History and Heritage Command.

I was very sorry to hear of the passing of Trudy Schwarz on June 26, 2017. She has been so faithful to the memory of all of those crew members who lost their lives during the Battle of Sunda Strait and those in the Survivors' Association. We will miss her presence at the reunions which she has attended so faithfully. We send our sympathy to her family. Sincerely, Carter B. Conlin, Captain, USN (Ret.)

The news of losing our dear Trudy has been numbing. She has always held a special place in our hearts. We send our love to the Schwarz family & prayers of comfort. Val and Max Poss.

Our hearts go out to you all. Sharron Long.

We will all miss Trudy: her smile, enthusiasm, and being quite a lady with a contagious positive outlook; most of all, Trudy's passion to keep the memory alive and fresh for all the men of the USS *Houston* CA-30. Dennis Flynn.

After the dedication ceremony at Punchbowl Cemetery in Hawaii, a group of us including, Otto & Trudy, the Crispis, Brooks, Flynn, John and me circled the islands on a cruise ship. I vividly recall how Trudy went out of her way to make everyone feel so "SPECIAL". What a great lady! She will always be with us. Teresa Reilly.

We are greatly saddened by the loss of Trudy. We have many fond memories both from her visits to Australia and our time enjoying tea and scones in Union, NJ in Oct 2015. The bond forged between the Bancroft & Schwarz families will endure forever. Colin & Cheryl Bancroft (son of Arthur Bancroft, deceased, HMAS *Perth* D-29), Perth, Western Australia.



We will miss you, Trudy, having enjoyed your letters you sent right up to the time of your passing. Many shared times both in the USA and Australia will held in our fond memories forever. Di Pendred and Kirsten Munachen (daughter & grand-daughter of Arthur Bancroft, deceased, HMAS *Perth* D-29), Perth, Western Australia. [At left: Otto Schwarz, Arthur Bancroft, Trudy Schwarz, in Australia for the 50th Anniversary of the loss of USS *Houston* and HMAS *Perth*, 1992].

Trudy has been “our rock” for so many years, never wavering in her support to honor the crew and to perpetuate the memory of the USS *Houston* CA30. She has been an inspiration to all of us and has touched our lives in so many ways. She will be deeply missed. Rich & Pam Foster.

Survivor Bill Ingram sent a beautiful flower arrangement with the following remarks: “Trudy was a wonderful woman and will be truly missed.”

During my tenure at the Australian Embassy in Washington I got to know Trudy through the Association. She was certainly a very thoughtful, caring and wonderful woman – one of a kind really. RIP and God bless your soul. Captain Ray Saad, RAN (Retired).

Trudy Schwarz, as I try to compose word of tribute, all I see in my mind is a captivating smile radiating so much presence. A diminutive figure, behind an ever present smile contained a most wondrous woman, as large as life itself. I see her still; the smile, the blue USS *Houston* shirt, the aura projected for all to take comfort in. She always greeted and blessed everyone with her mere presence. She found time, to comfort all and talk to all. Trudy never shied away from a warm welcoming greeting at the reunions. Yet she had an inner resolute presence of responsibility and incredible strength. I always looked to her at the Houston ceremonies; strong and resolute; the first lady of the USS *Houston* family. Trudy was the elder stateswoman of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors’ Association. Quietly listening to all the talk and tribulations of *Houston* Family squabbles; but when she spoke: it was eloquent. Trudy was so many things. So much, in such a small package, such strength. She listened to all. Comforted all. Loved the men. Always spent time with each and every family, as if they were hers. Talked with my father, comforted my mother. Even put up with and loved the Flynn and Crispi Boys. My deepest sympathies and love go out to the Schwarz family. Who was always there for my mom and dad. With all our love, The Flynn family.

The Schwarz family would sincerely like to thank everyone, each and every one of you who reached out with condolences and sentiments about our beloved Trudy Schwarz. There were so many of you who took the time and caring to do so- Job Well Done! Truly, God Bless all of you. Please know that the work started by Trudy and Otto will continue, and continue strong, with un-dying dedication and service by the Association's leaders and all of you who so faithfully support the Association in the many ways that you do. Together we will continue to ensure that the bravery and sacrifices of the men of USS *Houston* CA-30 will not only never be forgotten but that their story and history will continue to be put forth on all of our collective behalf. Lest we forget. Trudy Schwarz: rest in peace with all of Otto's shipmates “Still Standing Watch Over Sunda Strait.” John K. Schwarz.



Trudy Schwarz at the USS *Houston* CA-30 Banquet, 2015 (Photo: Tim Joseph)

Thank you!

...on behalf of the Association to those who have made donations, as follows:

Donations March 16 – July 17, 2017

In Memory of David Flynn
Donna Mae Flynn

In Memory of Matthew Marinos
Melissa Ellsworth

In Memory of Trudy Schwarz
Silvia Brooks
Rich & Pam Foster
Matt & Jane Matthews
Joseph Salkin
John Schwarz

In Memory of John Stefanek
Matt & Jane Matthews

Other Donations
Jerald Broussard
Bernice Harapat
Sue Kreutzer

2017 Amazon Smile Donations Earned: \$47.62 YTD

Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

FY 2017

January 1, - July 17, 2017

General Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$20,593.63
Receipts:	+11,495.89
Expenses:	-9,809.57
Ending Balance:	\$22,279.95



Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$15,780.46
Receipts:	+3,554.77
Expenses:	-3,000.00
Ending Balance:	\$16,335.23



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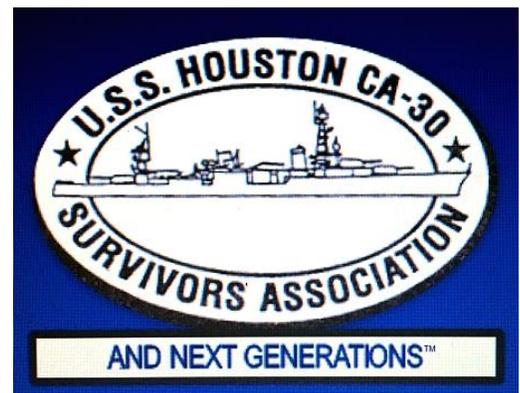
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**Ballot for Voting for Board of Manager
of the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations®**

The Association's Nominating Committee presents the nomination of Bernice Harapat for Manager.

YES _____, I hereby vote affirmative to elect Bernice Harapat for Manager:

OR

NO _____, I oppose this election for the following reason(s): _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

On or before September 16, 2017 please email the above completed ballot to: john@usshouston.org
or mail the completed ballot via USPS to:

**John K. Schwarz
2500 Clarendon Blvd., Apt. 121
Arlington, VA 22201**