



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

Editor: Val Roberts-Poss 5848 Back Bay Ln, Austin, TX 78739-1697

Res. 512 288-5505 Fax 512 288-9212

email: CA20NG@AOL.COM website: www.usshouston.org

Co-editors: Otto Schwarz and Lin Drees

SPOUSES - I was saddened to receive a letter from Mary Fort that her mom, Hester (widow of Cecil Chambliss) died peacefully in her sleep on March 3, 2001. I also received an email from Virginia Strong that her mother had died August 19, 2000. Winifred, wife of the late J.W. Scherta, Jr. had been in a car accident March 2000 and never fully recovered. We also regret to report the death of Mary Woody, wife of **Stanley Woody**, unfortunately we have no details to provide.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - Bob & Marti Charles have moved to 8600 Skyline Dr. #1125, Dallas, TX 75243 (phone 214 221-0320). **Claude Washburn & Billie Reese** have moved to 5301 Grey Fox Rd, Longview, TX 75604 (phone 903 759-8222)

CHANGI CHAPEL AND MUSEUM - The history of the Changi Chapel stretches to the days of the Japanese Occupation. Changi was home to several chapels, which offered solace & hope for thousands interred at the prison. Almost all were destroyed when the war ended. During the war, more than 50,000 civilians & soldiers were interned in Changi. On 15 Feb 2001, the relocated chapel and museum was dedicated to the memories of those who suffered there. (go to web site <http://www.stb.com.sg/media/press/20010215.stm> for more details).

MAILBAG - JACK AND JUNE SMITH have been keeping me informed on the news happenings on the west coast. JACK has been extremely helpful contacting people that have inquired about their loved ones via our web site (www.usshouston.org) & he's always sending me his new poems that I keep in our archives. As usual, Dottie Crispie & JoAnn Pryor-Wychpocen sent me funny jokes via email..... thanks for the constant giggles. BOB O'BRIEN sends greetings. Their health isn't as good as used to be & were unable to come to the March reunion. ART DUHAIME is holding up & has much to be grateful for, especially those visits from the family according to Anne. Mattie Atterberry always sends a long letter of good cheer. I just wish I lived closer to her so we could do some fishing together. Geneva King writes that her life is full with two daughters and the grandchildren living nearby. My aunt, Edie Bizzell sent a copy of a well written article in the "Llano Buzz" (newspaper from Llano, Texas). Johan van Leer has become my Dutch liaison and historian. He is always sending me updates and helpful information - thank you Johan! Marcella HURD has kept me posted on MAURICE's health problems - we all wish him a speedy recovery. HANK ALLEN has been hanging by a thread in ICU with heart problems and we send our prayers to Hank and the family. Vivian Barber has been traveling & writes about how she enjoyed the March reunion (her first time) and meeting so many people. EUGENE CRISPI is still on the mend from his broken back and also on his regime for cancer. EMIL BUKOWSKY is feeling fine in spite of his lower arthritic back. They have busy lives raising their teenage daughter since their daughter died plus caring for his mother in law. He sends his regards to everyone. OTTO SCHWARZ keeps amazing me.... he is now visiting schools giving talks and slide shows. Losing his sight hasn't stopped him - he just memorizes the sequence of the slides and keeps on talkin'! BOB CHARLES was interviewed on Fox 4 News (Dallas) on Memorial Day & reports. "I made a pitch for our government to insist that the Japanese government offer an apology for the atrocities they perpetuated on prisoners of war during World War II."

POW LAWSUIT - Legislation has been introduced (H.R. 1198) entitled "Justice for United States POWs Act of 2001" to ensure that the federal courts respect state laws to allow the lawsuits against the private Japanese companies to continue. It will also provide for Americans to be treated the same as citizens of other countries under the 1951 San Francisco Peace Treaty. Call & write letters to your Representative in Washington, D.C. to urge him/her to cosponsor the Justice for United States POW's Act of 2001. Call your Representative toll free at 877 762-8762. If you need the name of your representative you may call 202 225-3121, log onto the internet at www.house.gov, or call the Herman Mathis Law firm at 888 550-JPOW(5769). Have your friends and family call also! (This is not to be confused with the POW Compensation in the works)

BIRTHDAY LIST - For the newest family that has joined us, we have several people that have "adopted" our remaining 74 survivors and volunteered to take a month to send birthday cards. Volunteers are always welcome!

WEB SITES - http://www.channel4.com/nextstep/secret_kwai, <http://www.naa.gov.au> (National Archives of Australia), <http://www.awm.gov.au> (Australian War Memorial)

NEWS FROM DOWN UNDER - The Australian government will be paying \$25,000 to each of their W.W.II ex-POW's as compensation. Good on ya, Mates! I've been working with Di Elliott providing information for the museum in Kanchaburi, Thailand. They are building a database to list the names (rank, serial number, dates of birth and death, cause of death, location buried, etc) of all of the Allied POW's that died in the camps

DONATIONS - **Otto & Trudy Schwarz, Claude Washburn**, Billie Reese, Margaret Parris, Ramona Rininer, **Jim Ballew**, Cynthia Herschkowitsch in memory of her uncle **Fred Marshall Howard &** her father James Earl Deaton, USN Ret., **Lloyd & Dorothy Willey**, Grace Payton, George Jones, Mattie Atterberry, **Jack and Marie Feliz**, Ray Kester, **Robert O'Brien**, Jack & Pat Mintzer, **Art & Anne DuHaime**, Geneva King, Betty Miles, George Jones, John & Pat Mintzer, A.S. Bukowsky. Alicia Martinez in memory of Walter Guzzy, Janet Esip, Rita Jedinak, Vivian Barber, Betti Fowler, Harry Kelley Jr.,

Our tax ID number is DNL 17053122009007

JAPANESE FILM - Merdeka (translated as "Independence") portrays their troops as selfless liberators of their fellow Asians crediting themselves with freeing Indonesia from Dutch colonial rule. This movie was funded by members of the right-winged establishment that is also rewriting the schools history books depicting themselves as noble crusaders fighting in self defense.

CREWMEMBER SPOTLIGHT - I haven't received a biography lately to put in the newsletter. Come on now, I'm depending on you people to share this information!

JAPAN TEXTBOOK - Outrage has been vocal in Korea and other Asian countries over a new Japanese history book written by scholars who defend that nation's wartime record that justifies Japan's occupation of its Asian neighbors and emphasizes the suffering of the Japanese people during the war over the atrocities inflicted by its military on the rest of the region.. Official complaints have been lodged by the Australians and British also. There has been no word from the United States.

IN SEARCH OF - FREDERICK MILLS : by his sister Rita Jedinak at 2250 SR 580 #467, Clearwater, FL 33761.

JOE COMER: Ben R Reynolds (cousin) 2005 Hughey, Longview, TX 75601

Survivors --- please respond if you recall one of these names.

HISTORICAL FACTS - The youngest US serviceman was 12 year old Calvin Graham, USN. He was wounded but given a Dishonorable Discharge for lying about his age. His benefits were later restored by an act of Congress)

REFLECTIONS OF A BLACKSHOE

by VAdm Harold Koenig, USN (Ret)

I Like the Navy.....

I like standing on the bridge wing at sunrise with salt spray in my face and clean ocean winds whipping in from the four quarters of the globe - the ship beneath me feeling like a living thing as her engines drive her through the sea.

I like the sounds of the Navy - the piercing trill of the boatswains pipe, the syncopated clangor of the ship's bell on the quarter-deck, the harsh squawk of the 1MC and the strong language and laughter of the sailors at work.

I like the vessels of the Navy - nervous darting destroyers, plodding fleet auxiliaries, sleek submarines and steady solid carriers. I like the proud sonorous names of Navy capital ships: Midway, Lexington, Saratoga, Coral Sea - memorials of great battles won. I like the lean angular names of Navy "tine-cans": Barney, Dahlgren, Mullinix, McCloy - mementos of heroes who went before us.

I like the tempo of a Navy band blaring through the topside speakers as we pull away from the oiler after refueling at sea. I like liberty call and the spicy scent of a foreign port. I even like all hands working parties as my ship fills herself with the multitude of supplies both mundane and exotic which she needs to cut her ties to the land and carry out her mission anywhere on the globe where there is water to float her.

I like sailors, men from all parts of the land, farms of the Midwest, small towns of New England, from the cities, the mountains and the prairies, from all walks of life. I trust and depend on them as they trust and depend on me - for professional competence, for comradeship, for courage. In a word, they are "shipmates".

I like the surge of adventure in my heart when the word is passed "Now station the special sea and anchor detail - all hands to quarters for leaving port", and I like the infectious thrill of sighting home again, with the waving hands of welcome from family and friends waiting pierside. The work is hard and dangerous, the going rough at times, the parting from loved ones painful, but the companionship of robust Navy laughter, the 'all for one and one for all' philosophy of the sea is ever present.

I like the serenity of the sea after a day of hard ship's work, as flying fish flit across the wave tops and sunset gives way to night. I like the feel of the Navy in darkness - the masthead lights, the red and green navigation lights and stern light, the pulsating phosphorescence of radar repeaters - they cut through the dusk and join with the mirror of stars overhead. And I like drifting to sleep lulled by the myriad noises large and small that tell me that my ship is alive and well, and that my shipmates on watch will keep me safe.

I like quiet midwatches with the aroma of strong coffee - the lifeblood of the Navy - permeating everywhere. And I like hectic watches when the exacting minuet of haze-gray shapes racing at flank speed keeps all hands on a razor edge of alertness. I like the sudden electricity of "General quarters, general quarters, all hands man your battle stations", followed by the hurried clamor of running feet on ladders and the resounding thump of watertight doors as the ship transforms herself in a few brief seconds from a peaceful workplace to a weapon of war - ready for anything. And I like the sight of space-age equipment manned by youngsters clad in dungarees and sound-powered phones that their grandfathers would still recognize.

I like the traditions of the Navy and the men and women who made them. I like the proud names of Navy heroes: Halsey, Nimitz, Perry, Farragut, John Paul Jones. A sailor can find much in the Navy: comrades-in-arms, pride in self and country, mastery of the seaman's trade. An adolescent can find adulthood.

In years to come, when sailors are home from the sea, they will still remember with fondness and respect the ocean in all its moods - the impossible shimmering mirror calm and storm-tossed green water surging over the bow. And then there will come again a faint whiff of stack gas, a faint echo of engine and rudder orders, a vision of the bright bunting of signal flags snapping at the yardarm, a refrain of hearty laughter in the wardroom and chief's quarters and messdecks. Gone ashore for good they will grow wistful about their Navy days, when the seas belonged to them and a new port of call was ever over the horizon.

Remembering this, they will stand taller and say,

"I WAS A SAILOR ONCE. I WAS PART OF THE NAVY & THE NAVY WILL ALWAYS BE A PART OF ME."

BOOK REPORTS - Jack Feliz's book "Saga of Sailor Jack" is supposed to be available at most major bookstores via their website this month (June) "A Long Way From Silver Creek" by Margaret Gee follows three generations in Australia. Her father was Perth survivor Allan Gee. Otto Schwarz and Bob Charles are discussing a book about the POW's in Siagon and need your stories (survivors).

MUSEUM NEWS - Kyle Thompson (131st) is working with the museum at Camp Mabry in Austin, Texas on the expansion and improvements. Vic Campbell has provided video footage for the exhibit. Another goal is to have a picture wall of the 131st and USS Houston men. They prefer a 5x7, however send what you have and they can scan to the size they need. Please send your picture to Kyle Thompson at 7307 Holly Fern Cove, Austin, TX 78750. If you want the picture returned, include a stamped addressed envelope with the photo of your loved one.

CORRECTION - In the last newsletter, I reported that Jack Penhollow was transferred to the *DeRuyter* from the *USS Houston*. However, he was in fact transferred from the *Marblehead*.

REUNIONS - Lost Battalion / USS Houston CA-30
August 9 - 12th, Wichita Falls, Texas
Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites (401 Broad St.)
940 766-6000

(be sure to tell them you're with the group for your \$70.00 rate)

Registration: \$70.00 per person (After August 1, \$75.00 per person)

This includes Friday brunch, Friday dinner/dance,
Saturday brunch and Saturday dinner/dance.

Send Registration to:

Frank Ficklin
6303 Sioux DR
Granbury, TX 76049-5393

USS Houston CA-30 Reunion & Memorial Service
February 28 - March 3, 2002

Allen Park Inn - more details in the next newsletter

*** This is the 60th anniversary of the sinking of the *USS Houston* ***

Mark your calendars NOW and plan to be there!!!

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM - By now, you should have received the special mail out in regards to the scholarship program we have been working on. We realize that some pockets are not as deep as others, however when you add it all together, it mounts up.

\$10 or \$1,000 --- it's all for a wonderful cause. You can send a donation to the scholarship fund in honor of a loved one, in memory of a loved one, or in memory of the *USS Houston CA-30*.

Whatever the reason, this scholarship fund will perpetuate the memory of the *Houston* and her crew! Do NOT procrastinate --- send your donation now. Look in the "Donations" section for our tax ID number. The organization's account is healthy and I have made an executive decision to jump start the fund with a contribution of \$1,000 in honor of the *Houston* and her crew.

LINE FROM LIN - I hope that you have marked next years Memorial Service and reunion on your calendar - applications are being completed, permits applied for, etc. The Memorial Service will be Saturday, March 2nd, 2002, with the reunion being the same week-end. Again, we thank you for all the nice compliments for this past year's Service and reunion.

I now want to tell you about 2 e-mails and communications that I think that you will be interested in - the first is about Changi Prison and Singapore and the second about the plaque marking the spot on Main Street in Houston where 1,000 men signed to avenge the lost of the HOUSTON (CA-30) in 1942.

I recently heard (via e-mail) from Jim and Junia Baker, Jim had been asked to speak at the Changi Museum on Memorial Day - his topic to be Americans imprisoned at Changi. Realizing that he would not be able to properly explore the topic and speak to the men who were imprisoned there, he asked for a delay in the program. At this time the program is set for December 7th. The American community in Singapore is seeking the names of all Americans in Changi, Sime Road or other prisons in Singapore during W.W.II for a memorial plaque to be presented to the Changi Museum in a ceremony on December 7, this year. Participating in this event will be representatives of the American community, the US Navy, and the Singapore government. They are also seeking memorabilia, letters, stories, etc. in the hopes that they can donate a full display area to the museum and possibly include in a book about the history of the American community in Singapore. If you would like to correspond with Jim Baker in Singapore, he can be reached at junia@pacific.net.sg or Jim Baker, 3 Jalan Anek Bukit, #105-02, Singapore 588998. Steve Loeffler, Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret.), just signed on to help with military research; he lives in the United States and can be reached at steve-loeffler@home.com or RADM Steve Loeffler, USN (Ret), 1381 Hempden Court, El Cajon, CA 92020. Before retiring from the Navy earlier this year, his last assignment was in Singapore for three years where he commanded Logistics Task Force 72 as well as Task Force 712 with ships, subs, aircraft, and Marines to conduct training with the Armed Forces of Singapore, Malaysia, Thailand, Brunei, Philippines and Indonesia. He will be happy to write to each individual personally to tell you about the Changi Museum and ensure the sacrifices as a POW in Singapore are recognized. This is an excellent opportunity to correspond, tell your story, and have your name added for the Memorial Plaque. Please contact Steve if your were in Singapore during the war.

Trevia Woozier Beverly is a volunteer with the County Historical Commission. She recently contacted me (again via e-mail) because the Avenger Marker on Main Street was taken down for street construction in that block. After the construction and when the marker is replaced Trevia, along with the commission chairman, Al Davis, would like to see it rededicated (maybe even next March). While her main thrust will be to try for a list of the thousand men who volunteered that day, she is also interested in your "story". If you would like to be invited to the rededication, please contact Trevia at Trevia Wooster Beverly, 2507 Tannehill Drive, Houston, Texas 77008-3052, or call her at 1 713-864-6862 or TREVIABEVERLY@aol.com. Trevia hopes to attend our Memorial Service next year and is looking forward to meeting our Survivors, Next Generation, family and friends. Again, here is another opportunity to make others aware of the patriotism of our USS HOUSTON men. Ron and I recently took bluebonnets to the Monument for Memorial Day - and a bluebonnet in memory of Mary Woody, Stanley's wife who recently passed away. We take a bluebonnet to place at the Monument when there is a death in our USS Houston family. Please contact me about any requests - Lin Drees, 14219 Wickersham, Houston, TX 77077 - or ronlindrees@juno.com - fax or phone, 1 281-493-5171

VALE HOUSTON

from the USS Houston organization archives - date unknown

Terrible Days: Pearl Harbour - Japanese seize command of the Pacific - Thailand capitulates - British battleships *Prince of Wales* and *Repulse* go down - the brown hordes take Penang, British North Borneo falls - Wake Island falls - Hong Kong surrenders. Manila falls - the Japanese take the Philippines 0 roll south and take Rabual.

The hordes rush on - they land in Malaya, the Dutch East Indies, the Solomons, Australia battles for time. Furious then are the battles of the Java Sea, our skeleton forces attacked by thousands of foes. H.M.A.S. *Perth* goes down, desperately fighting to hold back the brown flood.

The Japs invade Burma; Singapore falls; Port Moresby is attacked. All hopes of the Allied Navy beating back the Japs have gone for the time being. Time! . . . Time!

Burma gone, Malaya gone, the Dutch East Indies going, and the shadow of Japanese war planes over North Australia.

But E. L. Cullis, A.B., tells the story of the H.M.A.S. *Warrego* and *Swan*.

We'd had a hell of a time. The Japs had overwhelmed us everywhere, by sea, land, air, and under the sea. There seemed no end to them, no matter where we steamed upon the seas. In furious battle after battle they'd driven us from the China seas, from Singapore, throughout the Java seas, and now right to Darwin in our own North Australia. During these terrible weeks we'd seen many good ships go down - many good men.

There were four transports in our convoy, and the escort leader was our hero ship, the U.S. cruiser *Houston*. The others of the escort were the destroyers U.S. *Peary* and our own *Warrego*, and our sloop *Swan*.

We sailed from Darwin at dawn on 14 February 1942, and were warned to expect Jap scouting planes within a few hours. Fighter protection was promised along the nor'-west coast only. We knew how pitifully weak was our air strength in the north those days.

Through the Timor Sea we made full speed for Koepang with the lookout's nerves on edge seeking first sign of a Jap fleet. We seamen knew that Japan now ruled these seas. When out from the Australian coast overwhelming Jap forces might swoop upon us at any time.

We were only a few hours out when a huge Jap seaplane high up in the sky came droning towards us. *Houston* immediately opened fire, followed closely by *Warrego*, *Swan* and *Peary*. The Japs circled, savagely droning, high up there among the shell-bursts. His observer was gazing down at us through glasses, counting our ships, noting their types, our position, speed and course. We drove him away, but he carried news of us back to his headquarters. We shrugged, glanced expressively at one another. Here and there a man whispered softly as he fingered the mechanism of a gun. All the ship's company closed up at action stations.

Sure enough, over they cam. Forty-four silver specks in the first flight. The separated up there in the sky into four formations of eleven planes each, harshly droning as they spread out over us. Each formation was separating to pick its ship. Apparently they were going to tackle the four fighting ships first and sink them; then the transports would be easy prey. We opened up with everything we had and they came screaming down at us like four tornadoes ripping through the skies.

Each formation attacked from every quarter. They blasted us from starboard and port fore and aft, then wheeled back and each individual plane shrieked down to rake us best way the pilot knew. Every man of us from stokehold to bridge was working in a thunder of sound, a fury of energy and nerves; but this was such a well-directed and sustained attack it looked pretty sticky for our scattering convoy.

They came in again and again. Straddled *Houston*, then *Swan* with bombs that drenched the fighting ships with mountains of boiling water.

Again and again a plane exploded in a welter of smoke and flame and flying fragments or came shrieking down to plunge into the sea. But always other came droning to take their place.

It was a blazing hot day and a hotter fight; with a following hot wind, we smothered in anti-flash helmets, gloves and tin hats. The fight roared on, growing ever fiercer until with gasping breath we felt neither eye nor body nor heart could work or fight one bit more.

Then an awful crash - a bomb exploded on *Houston*, ripping her after turret as if it had been cardboard, killing forth-two of her gallant men, wounding many others. She roared into action like a wounded tiger and the speed of her gun flashes was dazzling through the smoke. *Perry* and *Swan* turning and twisting and zigzagging under a hail of bombs looked to have been hit, but continued fighting like fury. A thrill went right through *Warrego*; we believed we were done, but each man felt every ship would go down fighting, just like we were fighting now. A screeching of steel splinters across the deck knocked out some of our after gun's crew, but the crews fought on with no apparent notice more than a bitter curse. The barrels on our after guns were so hot that if they became a little hotter there was danger of the shell exploding in the gun. The decks had grown fearfully hot, thickly littered with the heavy brass cylinders from the hot guns. And then .

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~~~~~ to be continued next edition ~~~~~

**POW COMPENSATION** - If you survivors and surviving spouses haven't begun to gather your papers together, it's time to do it now! Write to: Military Personnel Records Center, Military Personnel Records, 9700 Page Ave., St. Louis, MO 63132-5100 for the records) We have word "HR5408 Sub title E (Section 667) Directs the Secretary of the Navy to pay back pay to a claimant who, by reason of being interned as a prisoner of war while a member of the Navy or Marine Corps during World War II, was unable to accept a promotion for which such claimant was selected. Requires such back pay to be paid to the spouse of such member if the member is deceased. Requires such Secretary to ensure that such benefits and eligibility requirements are widely publicized". That last sentence is a sore spot with me..... I called my Congressman & they got back with me advising me they were unable to find anything..... I called the Department of the Navy in DC and they told me if I wrote to them they would check it out and write me back. Widely publicized my foot!!!

**TRIP** - Indonesia, Singapore & Thailand: March 23, 2002 departing from Los Angeles, CA to Jakarta. March 25 - 27 Carita/Java (during this time we will be taken by boat to the USS Houston and Perth sites for a wreath laying ceremony). March 28 back to Jakarta, March 29-30 Singapore (this includes a guided tour to Changi Prison), March 31- April 6 Bangkok, Kanchanaburi, River Kwai (including the JEATH World War II Museum, Cemetery of Allied Prisoners of War, the Bridge on the River Kwai, ride on the Death Railway train, trip to Hell Fire Pass and Three Pagoda Pass). There are several other things we will be doing along this trip - Mason and I have worked hard with the comforts of our survivors that will be traveling with us in mind. The price of \$3,370 (additional \$720) for singles flies us out of LA on Thai Airways. Arrangements out of New York, Chicago, Houston and Miami have been made for an additional \$400 round trip. These charges include air fare to Jakarta, Singapore and Thailand (and back, of course).Hotel (tax and service charges), transfers, meals indicated in day-by-day itinerary, government fees, local chages, travel permits, admission fees and privately guided sightseeing by English speaking guides. Please contact me if you are interested -- I will then give you the full details. So far, we have Harry & Audrey Kelley, Jim Ballew, Gene & Tom Wilkinson & friend, Jerry Ranger, Mason Logie plus Max & I as definite travelers. I am corresponding with 3 *Perth* survivors that have shown an interest. A half dozen more have shown an interest..... the more the merrier. This will probably be the NG's last chance for a trip with a survivor present to give us their input. As Jim Ballew put it..... it's his "Sentimental Journey". I will be handling questions, applications and deposits. We will need to pay our deposits (\$500 per person) by September 15, 2001. Contact me at: Val Poss, 5848 Back Bay Ln, Austin, TX 78739, phone 512 288-5505, fax 512 288-9212, email CA30NG@AOL.COM for an application.

**UNIVERSITY OF HOUSTON** - Don Kehn, our NG in Houston has been working with the University of Houston with their preparations for their USS Houston web site. I've talked to the people at U of H and they are working very hard to make it an excellent source of information.

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**CHANGE OF COMMAND** - When I was in California on my vacation, I was able to attend Cmdr. Susan Ficklin's Change of Command on April 20th. Cmdr. Ficklin, affectionately called Cmdr. SuSu by the NG's, is the daughter of Frank and Letha Ficklin (131st survivor). My best friend and I were greeted and escorted into a private reception area before the ceremonies. I was thrilled and honored to be escorted down the red carpet at the beginning of he ceremonies by DUTCH KOOPER while the band was playing the Colonel Bogie March (the USS Houston's "theme song"). Cmdr. Ficklin gave a moving speech mixed with humor telling of her admiration of her parents and the survivors. Also on hand were DOROTHY AND LLOYD WILLEY. We are very proud of Susan --- Well Done!

**SPEAKING OF CHANGES** - The mailing list was cut from 593 to 402 this past quarter after receiving no response from readers that I had not heard from for over 1 1/2 years.

WARNING --- if you ever see a \* at the end of your name, that is a warning that this is your last newsletter. I regret to have to do this but the procedure for sales orders will have to change. In the future we will request payment in advance simply because I still have been unable to collect from shirt orders filled and mailed in April. There 7 people (\$210 outstanding) that have not paid as yet.

**USS HOUSTON WEB SITE** - As ever, Vic Campbell has spent a multitude of hours updating and upgrading our website at [www.usshouston.com](http://www.usshouston.com). The word excellent comes to mind, however, that is understated. He's made us proud and we are indebted to this man that refuses to be reimbursed.

**IN THE WORKS** - These are the projects that the organization is working on: August reunion, trip to Java/Singapore/Thailand (I am contacting the American and Australian Ambassadors to join us in the wreath laying ceremony, contacting news media among other things), March Reunion (this is the 60th - Lin and I are writing letters and making calls in hopes of a truly memorable ceremony), University of Houston web site (I am talking with them in regards to their visiting our headquarters to cull out needed information and materials), Scholarship Program, and of course the daily correspondence, calls and emails along with keeping constant notes on the content of the next newsletter.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

## DEBITS

|                    |         |
|--------------------|---------|
| Print Newsletter   | 478.80  |
| Postage newsletter | 117.61  |
| Reunion expenses   | 965.20  |
| Phone              | 232.80  |
| Supplies           | 726.22  |
| Postage            | 245.39  |
| Shirt order        | 725.49  |
| Scholarship        | 1000.00 |

## CREDITS

|                  |          |
|------------------|----------|
| Previous balance | 8648.70  |
| Donations/Sales  | 3424.00  |
| TOTAL            | 12072.70 |

|       |         |                |                  |
|-------|---------|----------------|------------------|
| TOTAL | 4491.61 | <b>BALANCE</b> | <b>\$7581.09</b> |
|-------|---------|----------------|------------------|