

## **The Mission of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations- Scholarship Program**

The USS *Houston* CA-30 was a gallant, heavy cruiser helping to defend the Allies in the South Pacific just after the Pearl Harbor attack. Overwhelming Japanese forces sank the USS *Houston* in Sunda Strait, off Java, on March 1, 1942. A small percentage of the *Houston's* crew initially survived the ship's sinking that fateful night. These men went on to redefine the term "survivor" while attempting to live through three and one-half years as prisoners-of-war on the Burma-Thailand Railway. The notorious railway was made infamous as depicted in the epic movie "Bridge Over the River Kwai." One thousand sixty-eight men were aboard the *Houston* when she was sunk. Three hundred sixty-eight became POWs of the Japanese. Seventy-nine died from starvation, disease and brutality.

Only a few USS *Houston* survivors are with us today. The original crew represented men from many different occupations, ethnic backgrounds and levels of education. The survivors went on to a variety of professional pursuits and successes. Many men of that generation did not have the opportunity to complete their high school education, as they were children of the Depression. Even fewer had the opportunity to obtain a college education. The survivors have decided to help further the education of the next generations of worthy young Americans through the USS *Houston* CA-30 Scholarship Program.

Let us always remember the USS *Houston* CA-30 and her valiant crew as other young persons reach toward their educational goals assisted by this scholarship award based on the applicant's grades, an essay and a review of extra-curricular activities.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

- Be at least a high school senior assured of entering/attending college (including junior college) up to and including a college junior who will enter his/her final year of undergraduate education. Note- previous applicants/award recipients can re-apply (with a new essay and updated application).
- Be related by blood or marriage to or associated with a crew member or descendant of the USS *Houston* CA 30, the Next Generation, the USS *Houston* CA-30 organization and/**OR** has shown a keen interest in the history of the USS *Houston* CA 30 and/or the crew's legacy. This interest could come in the form of having participated in communications with any of the survivors and/or the organization while striving to learn more about the ship and its crew. The Scholarship Committee whose decisions are final will determine eligibility.
- Be able to document current academic grades or progress in school. **You must indicate whether your grades are based on a four or five point rating system.**
- Be able to document community/civic activities.
- Write an essay on one of the three topics listed in the Essay Topic Choices and observe all of the Essay Format Requirements.
- Complete each item as indicated on the scholarship application and provide all necessary supporting documents.
- Initial application and all succeeding correspondence must come from the applicant only.

## **USS *Houston* CA-30 Scholarship Program**

### **Essay Topic Choices and Format Requirements**

- The applicant must write an essay on only one of the following three topics:
  1. “What does the memory of the crew of the USS *Houston* CA-30 mean to me?”
  2. Explain the significance of the USS *Houston* CA-30 and the Asiatic Fleet in the Pacific Theater of World War II.
  3. What have you learned from the character and the experiences of the USS *Houston* CA-30 crew, especially their relations with one another, while prisoners of the Japanese?
  
- The essay format must be: Times New Roman, 12 font, 1” margins on all four sides, double-spaced
  
- Length: minimum of four pages  
maximum of six pages  
not counting any cover page

\*All submitted essay’s become property of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations Scholarship Committee

**USS *HOUSTON* CA-30 SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION &  
NEXT GENERATIONS SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

June 1-November 1

Dear Applicant,

Thank you for requesting an application for the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generation Scholarship. Please read the enclosed information carefully.

Do not put your name on your essay. Instead, you will need to note the last four digits of your telephone number in the upper right hand corner of each page of your essay to insure confidentiality. Any applications postmarked after the deadline date of November 1 will not be considered. The winning applicant should be notified by the end of December.

We look forward to receiving your application.

Sincerely,

USS Houston CA-30 Survivor's Association & Next Generations Scholarship Committee  
Encl: Instructions & Application

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

You are to furnish the following documents:

- 1) Your completed application.
- 2) Write a well-crafted essay based on only one of the three topics listed below, carefully observing the essay format requirements.

“What does the memory of the crew of the USS *Houston* CA-30 mean to me?”

Explain the significance of the USS *Houston* CA-30 and the Asiatic Fleet in the Pacific Theater of World War II.

What have you learned from the character and the experiences of the USS *Houston* CA-30 crew, especially their relations with one another, while prisoners of the Japanese?

Do not put your name on your essay. Instead, please place the last four digits of your phone number in the upper right hand corner of the essay. This is to insure confidentiality for you. Your essay will be scored in the following areas:

Clarity and coherency  
Ability to communicate an idea(s)  
Effectiveness in writing  
Credibility and sincerity  
Grammar

- 3) A list of extra-curricular activities and/or work experience in which you are/have been active while attending school may be included with your application.
- 4) Include a document showing your current grades or document current progress in school being attended. **YOU MUST INDICATE WHETHER YOU ARE GRADED IN A 4, OR 5 POINT SYSTEM.**

Any incomplete applications and/or applications postmarked after the deadline date of November 1 will not be considered.

All materials are to be postmarked on or before November 1 and sent to:

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

Good luck. We look forward to receiving your application.

**USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations**

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

\_\_\_\_\_

**Date of birth:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone number:** \_\_\_\_\_

**E-mail address (optional)** \_\_\_\_\_

**High School/College (please include mailing address & phone number):**

**College(s) to which application will be made (include address) if you have not yet started college:**

**Employment & number of hours worked per week:**

**On a separate page you may list any organizations, sports, clubs, civic/church groups, volunteer work, activities or any other special items of note ( not mandatory)**

**On another page(s) please describe: your relationship/association with a crew member/descendant of the USS *Houston* CA-30, Next Generation, the USS *Houston* Survivors Association and the Next Generation organization, or your keen interest in the history and/or legacy of the crew of the USS *Houston* CA-30.**

**Attach an essay on one of three topics as described in the Scholarship Application Instructions.**