

**THE MISSION  
of the  
USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association and 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 of WW II. Overwhelming Japanese forces sank the USS *Houston* in the 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 and elsewhere. The notorious railway was made famous as depicted in the epic movie "Bridge on 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 while in captivity. Approximately 289 men came home following the conclusion of WWII.

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 Survivors Association and Next Generations Scholarship Program.

The research required to apply for the scholarship program helps Next Generations (and others) to learn the history of the USS *Houston* CA-30 thus perpetuating the ship's memory and its legacy. Let us always remember the USS *Houston* CA-30 and her valiant crew as other young people reach toward their educational goals assisted by this scholarship award based on the applicant's essay, grades and a review of extra-curricular activities.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICANT REQUIREMENTS

**In order to apply for this scholarship, you must meet the following requirements:**

- Be at least a high school senior planning to attend junior college, college, or graduate school. Previous applicants/award recipients can reapply (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 Association 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 Association 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 your current academic grades by submitting transcripts/grades which include your cumulative GPA. **You must indicate whether your grades are based on a four or five-point rating system.**
- Be able to document your community/civic/church/extra-curricular activities and/or work experience.
- Write an essay on one of the three topics listed in the Essay Topic Choices and observe all of the Essay Format Requirements. Include your Essay Topic Choice on the first page of your essay. Failure to include the essay topic will result in your application being disqualified.
- Complete each item as indicated on the Scholarship Application and provide all necessary supporting documents.
- The initial application and all succeeding correspondence must come from the applicant only.

## SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION INSTRUCTIONS

You must provide the following documents:

1. Your completed application (see page 6).
2. Your original essay (see page 5 for specific instructions).
3. Your transcripts along with your cumulative GPA. You must indicate whether you are graded on a four or five-point system.
4. Your list of community/civic/church/extra-curricular activities and/or work experience (including hours per week) in which you are or have been active while attending school. (Use a separate piece of paper.) Include a contact person who can verify all information listed and his or her phone number.
5. Your description of your relationship or association with a crew member or descendant of the USS *Houston* CA-30, or your keen interest in the history and/or legacy of the crew. (Use a separate piece of paper.)

Note: All documents become the property of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations Scholarship Committee.

Any incomplete applications or applications postmarked after the deadline date of November 1<sup>st</sup> will not be considered. We would highly recommend that you conduct some research before you write your essay. A separate list of research items are listed on the last page of this packet.

All materials must be postmarked on or before November 1<sup>st</sup> and sent to:

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

Good luck. We look forward to receiving your application.

## ESSAY TOPIC CHOICES AND FORMAT REQUIREMENTS

**Failure to follow these requirements will result in your essay being disqualified**

- **Topic:** Write an original essay on any one of the following three topics:
  1. What does the memory of the crew of the USS *Houston* CA-30 mean to me?
  2. What is the significance of the USS *Houston* CA-30 as a part of the Asiatic Fleet in the Pacific Theater of World War II?
  3. What have I learned about the character and the experiences of the USS *Houston* CA-30 crew while prisoners of the Japanese?
- **Title:** State your chosen topic as your title on page 1.
- **Format:** Use Times New Roman or Calibri font in either size 11 or 12; use 1-inch margins on all four sides; double-spaced.
- **Length:** Three to five pages double-spaced.
- **Identification:** Write the last four digits of your telephone number in the upper right hand corner of each page of your essay. This will identify your essay while ensuring confidentiality and objectivity. Do not make any reference to identify yourself or a crew member by name in your essay. Instead, you may use “my grandfather, uncle, brother, cousin,” etc., if applicable.

Your essay will be scored in the following areas and points may be deducted in each area:

- Clarity and coherency
- Ability to communicate an idea(s)
- Effectiveness in writing
- Credibility and sincerity
- Grammar, Spelling and Punctuation
- Content (including factual accuracy)
- Originality (any non-original quote or paraphrase should be identified and attributed to its author.)

**SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION**

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

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

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

E-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_

High School or College you currently attend or from which you have recently graduated including the school's mailing address, phone number, and your student ID:

High School or College contact person including his or her name, title or position (e.g. counselor, professor, teacher) and phone number:

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

## USS HOUSTON CA-30 SCHOLARSHIP RESEARCH/PREPARATION TIPS

This is not intended as a total comprehensive list of what one can do to help prepare for submitting an application for the USS *Houston* CA-30 Scholarship Program, but rather a list of suggested resources:

1. Read [Ship of Ghosts](#) by James Hornfischer and/or [Ghost of the Java Coast](#) by Walter G. Winslow. Check your local library for availability. Both are available on <http://www.smileamazon.com>
2. View DVD's:
  - a. "The Last Stand of the USS *Houston* CA-30" Parts 1 and 2 by Vic Campbell available through the [Ship's Store](#)
  - b. Power Point Presentation "Survivors of Sunda Strait" by R. Dana Charles, available through [Ship's Store](#)
3. Research the internet at [www.usshouston.org](http://www.usshouston.org).
4. Interview a living USS *Houston* CA-30 survivor or family member.
5. Interview a knowledgeable Association member.
6. Visit the USS *Houston* CA-30 Memorial in Sam Houston Park in Houston, Texas.
7. Visit the library on the campus of the University of Houston which houses a permanent collection dedicated to the ship and her brave crew.

Note: If you quote a book or a person, be sure to identify and attribute it to the author and then show how that information relates to your topic and what it means to you. You may contact [john@usshouston.org](mailto:john@usshouston.org) or [contact@usshouston.org](mailto:contact@usshouston.org) for additional research or informational leads.