



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

Now Hear This!

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general or scholarship)

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Contact@USSHouston.org

Association Founded 1946:

by Otto and Trudy Schwarz

REUNION 2011



Back Row from left: Marvin & Helen Sizemore, Bill Ingram, Sylvia & Howard Brooks, David & Donna Flynn, Ray Kester.

Front Row: Basil Bunyard.

Photo courtesy of Shawn Flynn

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Reunion 2011 was held at the Hyatt Regency Downtown Hotel in Houston the weekend of March 4-5. What a lovely gathering it was! More than 70 registered for the festivities with 150-200 people attending Saturday's Memorial Service including six survivors.

see Reunion 2011 on page 2

ALERT!

Save the Date

USS Houston CA-30

2012 Reunion

March 2-3, 2012

Hyatt Regency Downtown
Houston, Texas

REUNION 2011

continued from page 1

Survivors in attendance were: **Howard Brooks**, with wife, Sylvia; **Basil Bunyard** accompanied by his son and daughter-in-law, James and Melinda, 2 grandchildren and his full-time caregiver; **David Flynn**, with wife, Donna and the Fabulous Flynn Family; **Bill Ingram** whose son Scott joined him; and **Marvin Sizemore**, with wife, Helen, daughter Freddi Crawford and granddaughter, Tyra Keating. **Ray Kester**, a member of the Houston CA-30 crew during the early 1940s, but transferred to the Marblehead before the Battle of Sunda Strait, was honored as crew by our Houston Family as well!

Surviving spouses attending were: Audrey Kelley, Jimmie Pryor, Lee Robinson with daughter Judy; Teresa Reilly, Mary Schilperoot with daughter Nancy Greenwald and niece and nephew Barbara and Ron Miller; Trudy Schwarz and son John.

The Hyatt, a new venue for Reunion, is still in the process of remodeling. However, all of its guest rooms have been refurbished, the food was good and the service was outstanding.

The Annual Fundraiser for the internal Scholarship was a resounding success, netting the Scholarship fund over \$1500. Thanks for all who participated by either purchasing or contributing items! Friday night's audio-visual presentation crafted by the Association's Executive Director John Schwarz and Vice-President Dana Charles was both informative and enjoyable.

Saturday's brunch allowed us to hear from author, Jim Hornfischer, about his new book, Neptune's Inferno: the U.S. Navy at Guadalcanal. Authors Don Kehn and Jonathan VerHoeven also joined us for Saturday's activities.

Saturday had dawned cloudy, rainy, and very windy in the usually fair city of Houston. While getting the tent and seating established during rain showers and gusty winds was a challenge, the clouds parted 10 minutes before the ceremony, the sun shone and the wind subsided to reasonable levels! The Memorial Service included wonderfully patriotic music from the Invincible Eagles Band (25 piece ensemble) led by LCDR, USN (Ret) James Sterling. The guest speakers from the United States, Great Britain, the Netherlands and Australia did a fine job of remembering our fallen heroes and their surviving crew members. Wreaths were placed to commemorate the sacrifice of the crew.

Thank you to all survivors and spouses and widows for sharing your time and stories with all of us! Thanks to their families and all of the families of USS Houston CA-30 crew members who joined us for the weekend!

From the pen of the President **Sue Kreutzer**



*From the desk of the
Executive Director
John Schwarz*



Many, many times on Saturday, March 5th, I looked over to my left during our memorial service at the “tent”. In the “tent”, all huddled and snuggled together, keeping warm, were our beloved survivors in attendance, several spouses and surviving widows. Imagine that! In the year 2011, there sat no less than six men who actually served on our beloved ship, USS Houston CA-30. That “tent” touched me beyond what I can express. I hope it did you. It epitomizes why we do what we do along with each and every name etched on our beautiful memorial.

We hope all of you in attendance enjoyed the change in location for our reunion weekend. While some adjustments were necessary, the Board was very pleased with the Hyatt and the staff were very helpful.

I want to take this opportunity to once again pay tribute to President Sue Kreutzer and Vice President Dana Charles who did most of the work of putting this year's reunion weekend together. What a job well done! Thank you again Dana and Sue.

With completion of this weekend's activities, the Board of Managers has gone through the entire list of essential services and functions that our organization offers. This is very important to us to deliver successfully as your leadership team. That perpetuation of leadership from Otto and Trudy, to Val and Lin, to the Board of Managers, and all of your many contributions is what enables our Association to continue “perpetuating the memory of the great USS Houston CA-30 and crew”.

Good health and prosperity to you all for the next 364 days until that very special 365th day when we will once again be gathered in love and respect to honor our heroes of the USS Houston CA-30, along with spouses and widows, true examples of the “Greatest Generation”.



Survivors and spouses under the “tent” at the Memorial Service.

Nancy Greenwald has captured some of the thoughts and emotions felt by those present at the Memorial Service in a moving poem. See “*Standing Watch*” on page 4.

Upcoming Reunions of Interest

Lost Battalion Reunion

Date: August 11-14, 2011
Location: Omni Dallas Parkwest
1590 LBJ Freeway
(Hwy 635@Luna Road)
Dallas, TX 75234
1-800-843-6664

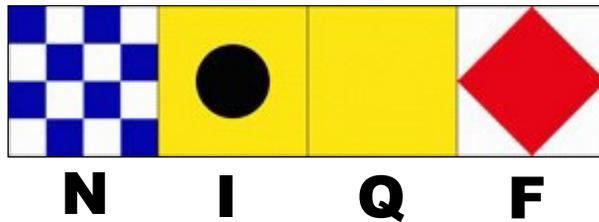
Call early for hotel reservations and be sure to state you are with the “Lost Battalion Reunion” for special rates.

USS Houston CL-81 & CA-30

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

American Ex-Prisoners of War

(AX-POW)
National Convention
Dayton, Ohio
September 13-18, 2011



The United States Navy uses four-letter identifiers for each of its ships beginning with the letter “N” (for Navy). This is its “call sign”. The call sign may also be represented by signal flags. The call sign of the USS Houston CA-30, as shown above, is **N-I-Q-F**. When referring to the call sign, the international phonetic alphabet is used, so Houston’s is “**November-India-Quebec-Foxtrot.**” This information came from Houston’s radioman, David Flynn, and was re-confirmed by Ray Kester at the reunion.

Our own Houston historian, Don Kehn, was successful in having this information added to the following website: www.navsource.org/archives/04/030/04030.htm . Don writes, “If one is researching USN (or other) message traffic, one of the most important aspects of naval warfare that the naval historian can assess, it is important to know such call signs....you can make better sense of message traffic logs.”

Of course all radiomen like David Flynn had to know ship call signs. One of a radioman’s duties was to “be familiar with the parts of Naval messages, including abbreviations and shortcuts .”

STANDING WATCH

Twas a frightening cold and windy day
When to Houston Park we made our way.

Together they fought as in days of yore
To make sure our service was special and more.

Drops of rain we felt on our faces
We did not turn back but hurried our paces.

Tw was a fine and glorious service indeed
We must honor our heroes and follow their lead.

Blankets, coats and gloves did we wear
We could not stop, we did not dare.

As we all departed and went along our way
Again it turned into a frightfully cold and windy day.

But lo and behold when we arrived at the scene
The weather changed and wasn’t so mean.

Some may feel this is too unreal
But I just wanted to share what I feel.

The clouds parted, the sky became blue
The wind died down, the rain stopped too.

To the men of the USS Houston, I thank you all-
Those not with us and those still standing tall.

Some say a miracle occurred that day
Maybe so, here’s what I have to say.

The widows and loved ones who attend each year
I hold you close to my heart, you are all very dear.

The men so gallant at Sunda Strait
Were standing together inside heaven’s gate.

*By Nancy Schilperoort Greenwald -
Daughter of Survivor Clarence Schilperoort
2011 Memorial Service-Houston, Texas*

They cleared the day from the heavens above
Still they watch over those whom they love.



The Invincible Eagles Band with director Jim Sterling
Photo courtesy of Cynthia Smith of the Liberty Gazette.



Now for the rest of the story.... The band members range in age from about 12 to 82, four are former band directors, and one member is Cdr. Sterling's talented wife Sue. All were reportedly moved by the Memorial Service and the story of the ship and its crew.



Cdr. Sterling is a graduate of the Texas Maritime Academy and is a retired USN Commander. His last active duty assignment was as Head Mortician/Executive Officer of Dover Port Mortuary during Desert Storm in 1991. Cdr. Sterling formerly played trombone in the Houston Brass Band and the Baytown Symphony and currently serves as the Choirmaster/Organist at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church and Music Director/Conductor at a local theatre. Cdr. Sterling is a past Commander of the Texas Commandery of the Naval Order and he served on the committee that designed and raised funds for the beautiful USS Houston Monument.

The band's repertoire includes the "Colonel Bogey March" which is the well-known tune whistled by British POWs in the movie "The Bridge Over the River Kwai" and "I've Been Working on the Railroad" which the U.S. POW's whistled when they were marching to work.

The **Invincible Eagles Band**, directed by Jim Sterling (Commander USN retired) performed beautifully for the Memorial Service at the reunion. The 30-member band lived up to its name – INVINCIBLE – and braved the early morning rain and wind to be rewarded with sunny skies and a delighted audience. The band's excellent music, which was enjoyed by all, contributed to the reunion's various moods from festive and patriotic to poignant and sad. This was the band's first appearance at the reunion and everyone hopes it will not be the last. **Thank you**, band members and Cdr. Sterling! And thanks also to Lin Drees who initially recommended the band and to Dana Charles for his succeeding contacts.

To All Hands

from Trudy Schwarz

Always seems a challenge to find a new way to say thank you. So...just the simplest words seem to be the best. A SINCERELY MEANT "THANKS TO ALL" for the beautiful award presented to me at our 17th annual reunion. My conscience haunts me, because I failed to leave it somewhere for everyone to see. I think you know I am out of my comfort zone with any attention. Nevertheless, please know I will always cherish it, as much as I do each of you.

*Blessings,
Trudy*



To Trudy Schwarz

In Appreciation of Your Lifelong Service to
our organization
Co-Founder with Otto Schwarz and Still
Serving to this Day
1946-2011
USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association
and Next Generations Family

A Line from Lin

A beautiful day was again present for our Memorial Service. The day was cold and cloudy with sprinkles and wind until just before 2:00 p.m., the clouds parted and the sun came out! Heavy coats were removed. What a beautiful day for remembering our USS Houston family, Sailors and Marines and honoring those still living! A beautiful day for a beautiful service.

On Friday at the University of Houston Library, **Larry Poole** gave each Survivor and Surviving Spouse a mug on which was placed a photo of the Monument Bell and the American Flag flying beside the bell, and the words USS HOUSTON CA30. Larry has been very generous and in previous years has given a small gift to our Survivors.

For the last ten years, the families of **Larry and Linda Poole** and **Roy and Darlene Gideon**, often accompanied by grand-children of the Gideons, have provided homemade cookies, hot coffee, hot cocoa, and bottles of cold water to attendees of the Memorial Service.

For the curious, I met these very nice people among the exhibits at the Nimitz Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, Texas, as they were reading about the POW experience. I added some of your details and invited them to join us for the next Memorial Service, and they have attended ever-since!

Thank you, Pooles and Gideons! If anyone would like to send them a well-deserved personal thank-you note, send an email to BlueBonnet@USSHouston.org and ask for their postal addresses.

by Lin Drees

USS Houston CA-30 Annual Memorial Service



We were honored during our annual memorial service in Houston on March 5, 2011, as in past years, by the participation of all of our distinguished guests. Among our speakers and wreath-presenters (see below) were representatives of the ABDA countries (USA, Great Britain, The Netherlands, and Australia); the City of Houston's Office of Veterans' Affairs; the Naval Order of the US; and Marines of the Coordinating Council of Greater Houston, the Marine Corps League, and the 3rd Marine Division Association. Other participants included: US Navy Sea Cadets, the Heritage Society, the Invincible Eagle Band, and many other dedicated people. We thank all of the participants for their outstanding contributions to our Annual Memorial Service.

Memorial Service Speakers

U.S. Chaplain:
(Invocation and
Benediction)



Lt. Commander Bryan K. Crittendon, CHC, USN
Chaplain, USCg SEC Houston/
Galveston/Corpus Christi.

The Netherlands



Colonel Jos C. Coumans
Royal Netherlands Marine Corps

Australia



Commodore Stephen P. Woodall, CSC, RAN
Naval Attaché & Assistant Defense Attaché
Embassy of Australia, Washington DC

United States



Colonel David A. Davenport, MSSI, USMC (Ret.)

Great Britain



Mr. Paul Lynch
British Consul General, Houston, Texas

United States



Captain David S. Burr, USN (Ret.)
Commander, Texas Commandery,
Naval Order of the U.S.

The Netherlands



Mr. Geert Visser
Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

City of Houston



Mr. E. A. "Buddy" Grantham, Director
City of Houston Office of Veterans' Affairs



 In addition to our excellent speakers, we are grateful for many people who participated in various ways too numerous to mention in this newsletter. However, we will highlight a few here who participated in the Memorial Service in special ways.



Captain Carter Conlin, USN (Ret)
Past Commander General,
Naval Order of the United States
Led in reading the Navy Hymn

Ms. Nana Booker
Honorary Australian Consul
in Houston:
Assisted in laying wreath



Mr. Matt Rejmaniak:
Led in singing the
National Anthem

Tom Vandever:
Led in reciting the
Pledge of Allegiance



Marine Rifle Detail:
Rifle Salute

U.S. Naval Sea Cadets:
Assisted with wreath laying



U.S. Naval Sea Cadets:
Color Guard

Mr. John Schwarz
Executive Director,
USS Houston Survivors Assoc.:
Emcee



THANKS to everyone!

Model

The picture on the left shows the exquisitely detailed 14-foot model of the USS Houston which was built shortly after the ship itself in 1929 to replicate in miniature what the cruiser looked like when she was launched. This beautiful model has been out of the public eye for a number of years, but is now well on its way to being displayed once again, perhaps as soon as July 2011. U.S. Navy model experts in Bethesda, MD, are currently refurbishing the model, and our Association is in the early stages of planning for its “ceremonial unveiling”!

Before the Navy can release the ship for public display, a **DISPLAY CASE IS NEEDED** with the dimensions of 168" long by 24" wide by 54" high which can properly protect and preserve this valuable piece of history. The cost will be about \$7,000. The photo on the left shows the type of case needed to display such a magnificent ship model.

In concert with the Navy’s Curator of Ship Models, Executive Director John Schwarz is tirelessly investigating qualified display locations where the model can be viewed by the public and “perpetuate the memory of the USS Houston CA-30 and her crew” – the Association’s ongoing mission.

How You Can Help

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

Make your checks payable to:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association

On the memo line, write:

General Fund - Display Case

Mail to:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association

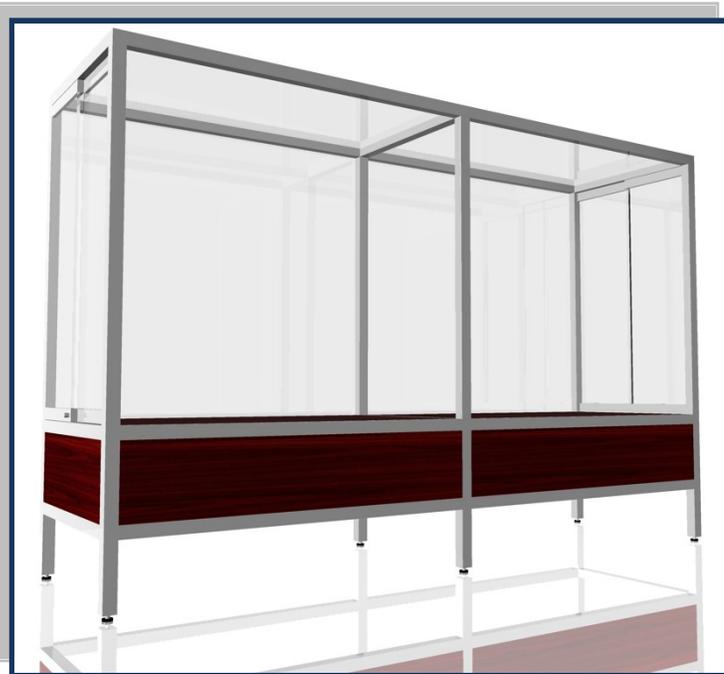
c/o Pam Foster, Treasurer

370 Lilac Lane,

Lincoln, CA 95648



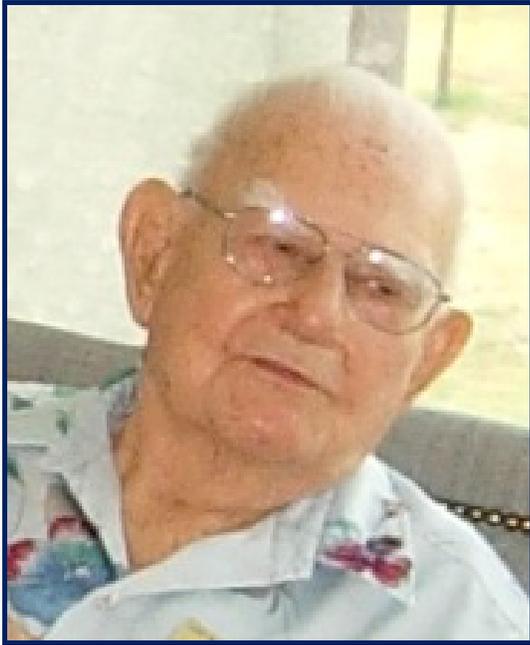
“Boucher” Model of the USS Houston CA-30



Model Display Case (one of several possible)

Did you know ?

...that the “Boucher Model” is so named because it was built by the Boucher Manufacturing Co. which was in turn named after its founder Horace Boucher who resigned from his job as a Naval model builder to start the company. The company is well known for its museum-quality models of which the Smithsonian has over 40 in its collections. The model was built following the original ship’s architectural plans.



Jack Feliz - 100 Years young!

Congratulations, Jack!

...on reaching the big 1-0-0!



We hope you had a happy birthday and enjoyed celebrating with your friends and family. All of us in the "Next Generations"

stand in awe of you and are grateful for your service to our country.

Here's wishing you many more!



USS Houston SSN-713

The tsunami which followed Japan's devastating March 11th earthquake, had little effect to the American Navy in the Pacific. The only notable effect was in Guam, where wave action caused two submarines to break their mooring lines – one of which was the USS Houston submarine SSN-713. Tug boats from Naval Base Guam responded quickly and kept the subs under control while crews moored them safely to the pier.



USS Houston CA-30 in Battle

LCDR Jason Ward with the Surface Warfare Development Group ("SWDG") in Virginia Beach, VA, contacted Executive Director John Schwarz recently offering to return a beautiful framed picture depicting USS Houston CA-30 in battle. The Association had loaned it to the SWDG some years ago and since the Navy plans to close SWDG, the picture can now be returned.

Houston Monuments

There are many places in the world where the men of the USS Houston are memorialized. Three are highlighted here.

Arlington Cemetery Washington, D.C.



The Houston and HMAS Perth memorial tree (a Japanese Zelkova) is in the foreground on the right in this picture with the monument in its shade. The McClellan Gate is at the end of the road.



USS Houston and HMAS Perth monument



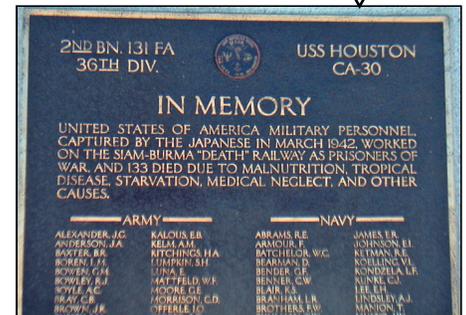
"Houston Monuments"
continued on page 14

National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific (aka Punchbowl Cemetery)

Dedicated on May 2, 1994, this magnificent monument memorializes the 133 men of the 131st "Lost Battalion" and the USS Houston CA-30 who perished while prisoners of war of the Japanese. It is located at the very top of the Lookout Walk and overlooks all of Honolulu from Diamond Head to Pearl Harbor on one side and the cemetery on the other.



Monument



"Lookout Walk" overlook where monument is located

**Memorial Tree and Monument
Shrine of Remembrance
Melbourne, Australia**



The monument is placed near the trunk of the tree.



Researcher Samuel Milner's Papers at UH Libraries

The University of Houston Libraries is pleased to announce that the finding aid for the Samuel Milner U.S.S. *Houston* (CA-30) and 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery Papers is now available online at <http://archon.lib.uh.edu/index.php?p=collections/controlcard&id=192>. The Milner Papers contain transcripts of interviews conducted by historian Samuel Milner in the 1950s with surviving crew members and unit members. These are probably the earliest interviews conducted with the men by a trained historian

While the interview transcripts themselves are not available online, the finding aid allows one to search to determine which individual crew members were interviewed. To search for a particular person, go to the finding aid via the previous link or directly at the following link:

<http://archon.lib.uh.edu/index.php?p=collections/findingaid&id=192&g>

and enter the name in the "Search box list" area in the left column. This will return a list of any folders in the collection where that name appears in the title. Those folders that contain interviews are marked as such.

The Samuel Milner Papers primarily contain research materials that Milner gathered for his uncompleted book project on the U.S.S. *Houston* (CA-30) and members of the 2nd Battalion, 131st Field Artillery. In addition to the interviews, the collection contains photographs, articles, and research materials pertaining to the *Houston*, the Lost Battalion, and the war in the Pacific. The papers can be viewed in the Special Collections reading room, located at M.D. Anderson Library on the main University of Houston campus.

Please contact Valerie Prilop at vgprilop@uh.edu if you have any questions about the collection.

By Julie Grob
Coordinator for Digital Projects & Instruction
Special Collections
University of Houston Libraries



USS HOUSTON ITEMS FOR SALE

Acrylic Paper Weight (10 oz.)	\$20.00
Ball Cap (Blue) (10 oz.).....	\$15.00
Ball Cap (Brown) (10 oz.)	\$5.00
Bumper Sticker (1-3 is 1 oz.).....	\$2.00
Challenge Coin (3 oz.).....	\$10.00
DVD "Last Stand" (8 oz.).....	\$20.00
Lapel Pin (specify Ship's Bell or Monument) (1-6 pins is 1 oz.).....	\$3.00
Note Cards of the USS Houston Ship (pack of 10) (5 oz.).....	\$10.00
T-Shirts (size Small to X-Large) (9 oz.)	\$20.00
T-Shirts (size 2XL or 3 XL) (9 oz.).....	\$25.00

Shipping Costs:

1 oz. – 6 oz.= \$4.00

7 oz. – 12 oz.= \$7.50

13 oz. – 5 lb.= \$10.50

Note: USPS Ground Service Only

Make checks payable to:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association

Mail checks to:

Jane Matthews
836 Kendal Drive
Broadview Heights
Ohio 44147



Houston T-Shirt

Include the following information (please print clearly):

Name

Address

City, State and Zip Code

Phone Number

Items Ordered, Size and Quantity

Questions?

Email: Jane@USSHouston.org

NOW HEAR THIS!

Scholarship Update

The Scholarship Committee has announced that the USS Houston scholarship to be awarded in 2012 will be in the amount of \$3,000! Applications will be accepted between **June 1 - November 1**, so please pass the word to your eligible family members to consider applying. College-bound high school seniors and current college or graduate students are eligible to apply. Grades, work, extra-curricular activities, and an original essay are considered in choosing a winner. The application is available through a link on the website at www.usshouston.org/scholarships.html or contact Jane Matthews, chair of the Scholarship Committee, for an application at Jane@USSHouston.org.



Donations to the Scholarship Fund in any amount are always greatly appreciated and are tax deductible. Make your check payable to:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association

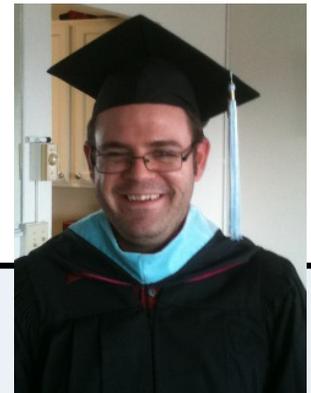
Write **"Scholarship Fund"** on the memo line and mail it to:

Pam Foster, Treasurer
370 Lilac Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648



Where Are They Now?

Have you ever wondered what our former scholarship winners are doing now? Here are updates on three of our "in-house" winners and the two Naval Academy Foundation winners.



Gene Bankhead

**2004 Scholarship Winner
Grandson of Gene Crispi**

I cannot believe how much time has passed since I was awarded the first USS Houston Scholarship! I graduated from the University of Puget Sound in Tacoma, WA, in 2005 with my Bachelor of Arts in Theatre with an emphasis in Directing for the Stage. While I was at Puget Sound, I was also highly active in the Music Department. I am an instrumentalist, and music will always be a passion of mine.

After graduation, I stayed in Tacoma and commuted to Seattle for my job as an editor for an online publishing company called Onvia. In November of 2009, I was affected by the state of the economy and was laid off. Actually, this turned out to be a wonderful turn of events.

I decided to return to school and was accepted into the Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) program at my alma mater. I began the program in June of 2010 and will complete it in May of 2011. The field I have chosen to teach is high school English. I couldn't be happier! The M.A.T. program is very highly regarded in Washington, so I am very lucky to be a part of this prestigious program.

Currently, I am in the midst of my student teaching at Fife High School which is just outside of Tacoma. I am teaching three sections of 11th grade English and one section of Beginning Acting. I still live in Tacoma and reside with my partner of three years.

Ryan and I are doing very well at the moment. Part of my success can be attributed to the USS Houston Survivors Association and its generous contribution to my education. With any luck, I will be teaching full time in a class of my own in the fall.

continued on page 10, "Jenny Garrett"

Midshipmen

USS Houston CA-30
Naval Academy Foundation
Scholarship Recipients
and currently studying at the
U.S. Naval Academy



Stephen Scales
2010



Lenue Gilchrist, III
2011



Did you know....

....that the USS Houston Survivors Association not only sponsors an "in-house" scholarship annually , but that it also has provided \$50,000 to fund a perpetual scholarship through the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation? So far, two academy midshipmen have received this scholarship – Stephen Scales and Lenue Gilchrist, III.

Stephen Scales, from Texarkana, TX, is in his second year at the Naval Academy. He writes...

"I cannot thank the USS Houston organization [enough] for sponsoring me as it means a great deal to me. I have read the book SHIP OF GHOSTS that was sent and still use the USS Houston crystal/clear paper weight to make sure my fan does not blow away important documents as I battle the heat in my room. I am doing quite well with my Ocean Engineering major and have learned a lot about oil rigs, bridges, and yes even boats. I am taking my second semester of 20 credits with much stress trying to keep as close to a 3.0 as possible. Don't get me wrong, I love my major and have made great friends along the way. I have come one step closer to understanding the bonds that those have made before me with their fellow 'brothers in arms.'"

Stephen Scales

Lenue Gilchrist, III from San Antonio, TX, is in his first year at the Naval Academy. He writes...

"I attended Valley Forge Military College in Wayne, PA, last year (2009-2010) for the Naval Academy Preparatory Program. I am very grateful and thankful for my experiences and outcome of my time there and for the scholarship foundation programs. I accomplished my goal through the program and am now a Midshipmen at the United States Naval Academy finishing up my plebe (freshmen) year. It has been a rough year but I am proud that I stuck through it and finished strong. The foundation program prepared me for the rigor of the academy. I appreciate the opportunities and doors opened up from the foundation programs.

Lenue Gilchrist, III

UPDATE FROM THE DIVE LOCKER

By Jerry Ranger and David Phillips

The dive team is putting the final touches to the June 2-17 dive trip to the USS HOUSTON in Jakarta, Java. We have changed dive boat to KM HARVEST which seems to be nicer than the last one we used. It also sleeps more people, but closer together. Some of the initial dive team members are unable to make the trip, so we are open to divers and non-divers who would like to go. Contact Jerry Ranger at 850-293-1140 or email ranger9@bellsouth.net if you are interested. The editor of Wreck Diving Magazine has contacted me about doing a story about the USS HOUSTON dive. He would like to go on the trip, but if he is unable to make it, David Phillips will write the story about the dive trip for the magazine.

We are also working at this time to have a Blog set up on www.videoray.com site so that everyone with a computer can keep up with the dive. We are hoping to send some pictures back to the blog too. We are also working on being able to stream back video in live time to another site or have Mike Whetstone place the video on YouTube so that everyone can see the VideoRay video. We do not know if it going to work but we are going to try. I will send an email out just before we head over to let you know what sites to check.



VideoRay ROV
(remotely operated vehicle)

David Phillips has also picked up another company that is going to let us use a smaller sonar to scan the bottom and the ship. Tritech International LTD from Aberdeen, United Kingdom, is loaning a Starfish Sonar for us to use on this trip. One of the goals of this trip is to get some quality sonar images of the Houston and Perth and this sonar will allow us to do that. To give you an idea of the type of images we hope to get , you can visit www.starfishsonar.com . We are excited to use this new technology and are grateful to Tritech and VideoRay for their support of this mission!



I still have some small dive T-shirts for sale if anyone would like to purchase one at \$25 plus \$4 shipping. I would like to thank everyone that donated money and purchased T-shirts to support the upcoming dive. It is not too late to help! We could use about \$2,000 more to help with meals, travel insurance, and excess baggage fees. Any and all help is greatly appreciated. Send checks to:

Jerry Ranger
6478 Kennington Circle
Milton, FL 32570

Navy Policy Regarding Custody and Management of Sunken Naval Vessels

from www.history.navy.mil/faqs/faq28-1.htm

Since Jerry Ranger and his crew are about to embark on another dive on the USS Houston, you might be interested in knowing more about the Navy's policy regarding custody and management of sunken naval vessels.

Who owns U.S. Navy ship and aircraft wrecks?

The Department of the Navy retains custody of all its ship and aircraft wrecks unless specific, formal action is taken to dispose of them.

What do I do if I want to dive on Navy ship or aircraft wrecks?

Divers may dive on Navy ship and aircraft wrecks at their own risk. However, federal property law dictates that no portion of a government wreck may be disturbed or removed.

Additional Information:

Navy custody of its wrecks is based on the property clause of the U.S. Constitution and international maritime law and it is consistent with Articles 95 and 96 of the Law of the Sea Convention. These laws establish that right, title, or ownership of federal property is not lost to the government due to the passage of time. Only by congressional action can ship and aircraft wrecks be declared abandoned.

Through the sovereign immunity provisions of Admiralty law, the Department of the Navy retains custody of all of its naval vessels and aircraft, whether lost within U.S., foreign, or international boundaries. Under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the U.S. Navy is obligated to protect its historic properties, including ship and aircraft wrecks, for which it has custodial responsibilities. The NHPA directs federal agencies to manage their cultural resource properties in a way that emphasizes preservation and minimizes the impact of undertakings that might adversely affect such properties. It is important to note that the management of Navy cultural resources such as ship and aircraft wrecks is not only a matter of historic preservation. The issues of war graves, unexploded ordnance, and potential military usage of recovered weapons systems must also be addressed in wreck-site management.

Blue Bonnet or Bluebonnet?

Did you know that the original USS Houston newsletter and this one as well are named for the state flower of Texas? The only difference is that we spell it with two words rather than one. Named for its color and, it is said, the resemblance of its petal to a woman's sunbonnet, the bluebonnet blooms in the early spring and can be readily found in fields and along the roadsides throughout central and south Texas. It is also called buffalo clover, wolf flower, and (by the Mexicans) el conejo.



Update Regarding Bronze Star Project by John L Kreutzer

Originally the Bronze Star was to recognize soldiers (Army) who participated in the Philippine Islands Campaign between 7 Dec 1941 to 10 May 1942. Duty must have been on the island of Luzon or the Harbor Defenses in Corregidor and Bataan. The Navy and Marines were included in 1944 to include action from 6 Dec 1941. In both 1947 and 1962, those who are eligible to receive the medal was broadened. It is still awarded today.

The Bronze Star is not to be an award individual who has distinguished meritorious achievement or service, flight, while engaged in an action. The level of heroism required is a lesser than the Silver Star or the Legion of Merit. accomplishment or performance of sufficient to distinguish the individual duties, is required. Minor acts of of merit or meritorious service in operations may justify this award.



recognizing a group but rather an himself or herself by heroic or not involving participation in aerial against an enemy of the United States. degree than required for the award of To justify this decoration, duty above that normally expected and among those performing comparable heroism in actual combat or single acts connection with military or naval

What about the USS Houston CA-30 crew? Our founder, Otto Schwarz, learned of the changes for the criteria to receive the Bronze Star and was convinced that the crewmen of the USS Houston CA-30 could be eligible to receive the award based on their service in the Philippine Islands while serving on the ship at Iloilo in December of 1941. In the late 1980's and early 1990's, he encouraged members of the crew to apply for the Bronze Star. Subsequently, he and others did apply and receive the medal – Otto receiving his in 1992. Later, however, the Office of the Chief of Naval Operations determined that those who received the medal as a result of serving on the Houston while in Iloilo did not qualify them for the medal. Otto returned his medal, encouraging others to return theirs if they received them under the same qualification.

I believe that the men of the USS Houston CA-30, while heroes to each and every one of us, do not as a group qualify for the Bronze Star, because the men did their "duty" to the best of their ability while on the ship and as POWs as is expected by the Navy. Each acted with the greatest degree of honor and performed to the highest traditions of the US Navy and our country. However, some may qualify individually as a result of specific acts of heroism during battle or for other meritorious service. Who are these men? I believe I read about some of them in Jim Hornfischer's Ship of Ghosts and other books published over the years. How do these men or their families receive the deserved recognition? Families who know of possibly qualifying acts of their loved one can apply and others (including possibly an Admiral) may be able to endorse the application.

Please feel free to contact me at kreutzerj@aol.com with questions.

By John L Kreutzer

PERPETUATING THE MEMORY OF THE USS HOUSTON CA-30 AND HER CREW

Spreading the Word

By *John Schwarz*

Having opportunity to speak about our men's story to groups of people, particularly younger folks in educational settings, is a very powerful and effective way to meet our mission of perpetuating the memory of the USS Houston. My late Dad, Otto C. Schwarz, did this regularly and the outpouring of positive reaction to his message was at times simply overwhelming.

Well, that was Otto. Some folks are comfortable doing this kind of thing and others are not. Our own Dana Charles has assembled a nice power-point presentation that can be used by and serve as a guide for those who would like to attempt to "swim in these speaking waters". He can be contacted at Dana@USSHouston.org.

However, our longstanding former Executive Director, Val Poss, has displayed her speaking ability on many occasions of which one of the more memorable was about four years ago at the Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. More recently, she was invited to speak at a seminar for history teachers from the San Antonio Independent School District which was held at the National Museum of the Pacific War



(also known as the Nimitz Museum) in Fredericksburg, TX. The topic under discussion was what students should be taught about WWII history. A distinguished professor, Dr. Terry Smart, from Trinity University spoke first from his perspective as an authority on the European theater. Our own Val Poss followed Dr. Smart and spoke from her perspective with particular knowledge on the Pacific theater. Val told about the Asiatic Fleet, the ship USS Houston, the men's capture, life in the prison camps, and their experiences when returning home. As is often the

case, she found that none of them had ever heard of the Asiatic Fleet! She charged them to continue to teach this often forgotten part of history. Later, Val said that she was "truly humbled to have the opportunity to introduce them to history previously left out of the classrooms."

Val's talk was apparently very effective, because the audience received it enthusiastically and asked if she would share her talk in written form with them. Other comments were "wonderful speech, moving tribute, we are proud of you for keeping the story alive and honoring the men who so nobly served their country in the midst of horrible conditions."

Job well done, Val!



HMAS Perth *Notes from "down under"*

Perth Website

For more information on the HMAS Perth, see the following website:

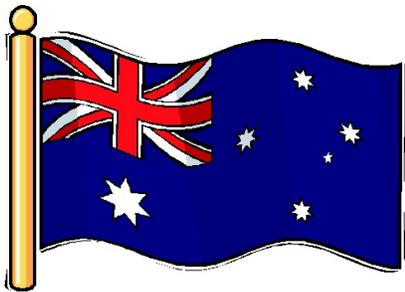
www.perthone.com/perth.htm

Pattie Wright

In Melbourne, Australia, Pattie has submitted the first draft of her biography of an HMAS Perth survivor to her publisher and is now in the editing stage.

Commemorative Service in Australia

On February 6, 2011, a special service was held in Ballarat, Australia, at the Australian National ex-POW Memorial. At that service, David Manning was so very kind to lay a wreath commemorating the crew of HMAS Perth on behalf of the USS Houston Survivors Association and Next Generations. We would like to express our gratitude to David for providing this service



Australian Flag

Perth's Captain Hector Waller – Update

As reported in the December Blue Bonnet, HMAS Perth's Captain Hector Waller is being considered by the Australian government for a posthumous "Victoria Cross for Australia", the highest award available to Australian military personnel, in recognition of his heroism during the Battles of the Java Sea and Sunda Strait. This medal is equivalent to the American Congressional Medal of Honor which was awarded posthumously to USS Houston's Captain Rooks.



**Captain Hector Waller
HMAS Perth**

On April 16, 2011, Australian Senator David Feeney, the Parliamentary Secretary for Defence, announced that the independent Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal "...will inquire into recognition for thirteen naval and military personnel. Their brave acts of gallantry and valour deserve greater recognition." Captain Hector Waller is one of those thirteen servicemen! This is very positive news.

Senator Feeney continued, "I encourage former service members, historians, family of the thirteen military personnel and members of the general public to take advantage of this opportunity and make a submission to the Tribunal," in support of this recognition. "However, it is important that these submissions are supported by appropriate documentation, not just anecdotal evidence," Senator Feeney said. All submissions will be recorded, acknowledged, analyzed and referred to the Gillard Government for decision concerning possible future action. Submissions to the Inquiry will close on June 30, 2011. Refer to www.defence-honours-tribunal.gov.au for more information.

The Tribunal can be contacted at:
Defence Honours and Awards Appeals Tribunal
Locked Bag 7765
Canberra Business Centre ACT 2610
or via email to DHA.Tribunal@defence.gov.au

Perth Survivor's Grave Located

Able Seaman John Miniken, a pre-war reservist in the Royal Australian Navy ("RAN"), was mobilized on February, 9, 1939, and served on HMAS Manoora I until he joined HMAS Perth I in November 1941. He survived the sinking of the Perth in the Battle of Sunda Strait on March 1, 1942, albeit with a smashed ankle and other shrapnel wounds, and became a prisoner of war of the Japanese, initially in Java and then in the notorious Pakan Baroe camp in Sumatra.



Perth Survivor, John Miniken

After the war he returned to Perth, Western Australia, and following some work and brief periods at the University of Western Australia and then England, he ended up in Kitimat, British Columbia, Canada working for an aluminum processing plant.



Grave Stone of John Miniken

On May 22, 1956 there was a fire in the plant and John was fatally asphyxiated. John had married a local woman (Barbara Patton) a year or so before his death. She went to Perth just after his death but nothing has been heard from her since then. All of John's immediate family have passed away.

TOMBS OF THE UNKNOWNNS

There are a number of USS Houston survivors who are presumed dead but about whom no information is known. Their date, place, and cause of death is listed on our website as "unknown". Would you be interested in helping to track down the "unknownns"? If so, let us know! Write contact@usshouston.org.

With the invaluable assistance of a local person in Kitimat, his nephew, Peter White, was able to determine how he died and receive pictures of his grave and related information.

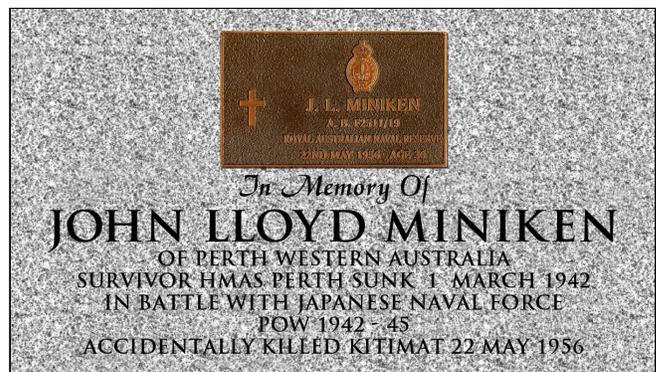
Members of his extended family were upset to see that the grave is only marked with a simple concrete nameplate which says nothing about his service in the RAN, his survival of the Perth sinking, or his years as a POW under the Japanese. In addition, it is a long way from his home in Australia. So his family has asked the

HMAS Perth National Association to assist with having a plaque

placed in the Garden of Remembrance adjacent to the Perth War Cemetery. Peter White is also working on having a more appropriate headstone and plaque placed on his grave in Kitimat.

The Perth Association will contribute to the headstone and its installation which will hopefully take place in June

accompanied by a ceremony to re-lay John Miniken to rest.



New Headstone to be installed

Information provided by Stephen Youll
Commander RAN Retired
Treasurer, HMAS Perth National Association

**50th HMAS Perth Memorial Regatta
February 21, 2011
Perth, Australia**



HMAS Perth



Front Row (left to right): Perth Survivors
Robby Roberts, Fred Skeels, Norm Fuller, Arthur Bancroft
Back Row (left to right): NYC Commodore Juliann Lloyd Smith,
NYC Patron Richard Court, Lt. Commander Glen Price from
HMAS Perth III



Photos courtesy of Shauna Kinney



say what???

Communication

com·mu·ni·ca·tion

[kuh-myoo-ni-key-shuh n]

the imparting or interchange of thoughts, opinions, or information by speech, writing, or signs. (the Random House Dictionary)

Communication is very important, isn't it? Without good communication, information may not be given to those who need to know or even worse, lost entirely. The Association's Board members are striving to communicate with you, our members, in any and every way that we can to keep you informed of what is "going on". We also appreciate information from you which others would like to hear.

Currently, we provide the following avenues of communication:

- Annual reunions, usually about March 1st
- three Blue Bonnet newsletters (such as this one) each year, typically in April, August, and December
- email "special alert" announcements from contact@usshouston.org which is also the address you should use to contact the Association with questions or information
- the Association's primary website www.usshouston.org
- crew biographies, reunion photos, and much more at www.usshouston.net (administered by Shawn Flynn, son of survivor David Flynn)
- the Association's blog at www.usshouston.blogspot.org
- the Facebook group [USSHouston CA-30](https://www.facebook.com/USSHoustonCA30) (administered by Sheila Lein)

In addition to these methods, we are exploring the possible use of Skype for some specific needs or situations.

As in the past, we encourage anyone within the Houston family who has news to share (e.g. hospitalizations, death, anniversary celebrations, births of grandchildren) to send their news to the Blue Bonnet editor at bluebonnet@usshouston.org. If the information needs to be shared quickly with the membership (e.g. emergencies, time-sensitive info), it should be sent to the primary email address for the Association which is contact@usshouston.org for email distribution. To the best of our ability, messages that are released from this address will be vetted for accuracy and/or will include sources of information. Thanks!



Be a good listener!



Meet your ...

Board of Managers

...here to serve you!

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



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



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



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



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



Membership

Our USS Houston "family" continues to grow weekly as more and more folks are wanting to know about the gallant crew of USS Houston CA-30 including our first next, next, next generation! If you wish to be a **voting** member of the Association, there are **no dues**, but we will need a signed Membership Form from you. You can download the membership form at the following address: <http://www.usshouston.org/news.html>. Under the section entitled "**USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations**", there is a link to the [Membership Form](#). All members are encouraged to provide a current email address as well as physical address and to attend the Annual Membership Meeting held during the Reunion weekend. Your voice is important!

Website

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

From the minutes of the

Annual Membership Meeting

March 4, 2001...

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



Correction!

The editor apologizes for misidentifying the men on either side of RADM Fulton in this picture taken at his 100th birthday party which appeared in the December Blue Bonnet. On the left is Fred N. Howe Jr., Godson of RADM Fulton. On the right is Fred N. Howe III.

Fred Jr.'s father was a classmate of RADM Fulton at the Naval Academy in the class of 1932 and they were later shipmates on the Raleigh, their first ship. RADM Fulton served as a groomsman in Fred Jr.'s parents' wedding in 1934.

Don't Forget ...

Memorial Day, May 30, 2011

Memorial Day, originally known as Decoration Day, is a day of remembrance for all U.S. soldiers who have died in the military service. The official holiday (usually last Monday in May, but varies in some states) was first enacted to honor Union and Confederate soldiers following the Civil War and was extended after WW I to honor Americans who have died in all wars. Every year in Andersonville GA, the National Historical Site that serves as a memorial to all American Prisoners of War, an impressive ceremony is held paying tribute to our Country's men and women who paid for our freedom with theirs.

Association Websites:

USSHouston.org
Our primary website

USSHouston.net
Crew biographies

USSHouston.blogspot.com
Blog for current news



Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

November 11, 2010 to April 29, 2011

Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 10,556.53
Receipts	<u>2,190.78</u>
Ending Balance	\$12,747.31

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 8,526.95
Receipts	11,189.17
Expenses	9,050.62
Ending Balance	\$ 10,665.50

Donation in memory of **Matthew Marinos** by: Melissa Ellsworth

At the reunion, \$1,221.00 was raised for the General Fund through donations (\$525) and sale items available in the hospitality room(\$696); \$1,938.00 was raised for the Scholarship Fund through donations and the Friday night auction. Thank you for your generosity. General Fund receipts also include \$1,700 for the model display case.



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Bluebonnet@USSHouston.org

All articles submitted are subject to editing.

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

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