Volume 71, Issue 2 • August 2013

"Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast"

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

#### Now Hear This!

#### **Association Address:**

c/o John Schwarz, Exec. Dir. 2500 Clarendon Blvd., Apt. 121 Arlington, VA 22201

**Association Phone Number:** 703-867-0142

## Address for Tax Deductible Contributions:

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

#### Association Email Contact:

Contact@USSHouston.org

## **Association Founded 1946:** by Otto and Trudy Schwarz

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#### Bill Ingram Speaks to 4th Fleet

# Discusses Experiences as USS *Houston* CA-30 Crewman & POW



(Photo by MC1 Sean Allen, USN) Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris, Commander U.S. Naval Forces Southern Command/Commander U.S. 4th Fleet presents a command coin to USS *Houston* CA-30 survivor Chief Boatswain Mate (Ret.) Bill Ingram.

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USS Houston survivor Bill Ingram spoke about his Pacific War experiences to some 80 people in the auditorium at the US 4<sup>th</sup> Fleet HQ base in Mayport, FL on June 10. Bill was a featured speaker at a promotion ceremony for some 5 sailors who were receiving new rates, he explained during a recent phone interview. "They played 15 to 20 minutes of (the movie) To End All Wars," Bill said. Then he heard somebody say, "You're on, Bill!" and he began a talk which lasted some 40 minutes. When he finished speaking, the audience gave him a standing ovation. (Continued on page 10)



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

- Received an email from **JOHAN VANLEER** regarding a recent <u>Ex-POW Bulletin</u> article. Johan wrote: "I read with more than normal interest the article by David Aquila concerning the *Nissyo Maru*. Some years ago I sent to the AXPOW <u>Bulletin</u> a copy of my father's article as he was one of the few survivors of the infamous Jap hellship *Junyo Maru*, which they printed. For your information, in his book <u>Ships From Hell</u> author Raymond Lamont-Brown lists the names of 158 hell-ships with "human cargo" varying from 3 (*Seiko Maru*) to 6,520 POW's + Indonesian slave labourers (*Junyo Maru*). The latter was torpedoed by the HRMS *Tradewinds* where 5,620 drowned (September 18th, 1944 off Padang, Western Sumatra). The survivors were further decimated working on the Pakanbaroe Death Railroad. My father was one of the 125 Dutch POW's that survived; he died in the early 60's due to this ordeal. There is now just 1 survivor, Mr. William Punt (92), who lives in the Netherlands." [EDITOR'S NOTE: David Aquila's article, "A Deeper Level of Hell, One Man's Ordeal on the Hellship *Nissyo Maru*" appears online on page 27 in the May—June issue of AXPOW's <u>Ex-POW Bulletin</u> (Vol. 70; no. 5/6): http://www.axpow.org/files/bulletins/bullcur.pdf]
- Received from DEBBIE REBERNICK a request for the POW record of her CA-30 Survivor father JOSEPH
   W. SCHERTZ, JR., S1/c, USNR. I emailed back to Debbie with a report on her father's POW record.
- Received a request from LUCY BURKE for the POW record of her CA-30 Survivor father CARL N.
  BURGARD. Mr. Burgard passed away on 20 Mar. 1999. Lucy wrote: "I saw that you posted on the USS
  Houston CA30 Facebook page if we would like get any records to contact you. Any information or
  records would be greatly appreciated." I emailed back to Lucy with a report on Carl Burgard's POW
  record.
- Survivor BILL INGRAM notified me that an article about him appeared recently in <u>The Quan</u> (newsletter
  of the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor). Written by Jane Kraina, the article can be found
  online at: http://philippine-defenders.lib.wv.us/html/ingram\_william\_bio.html
- TERRY SHIELDS, 2013 Lost Battalion Association (LBA) Reunion Co-chair emailed regarding plans for the upcoming Aug 8 11, 2013 reunion of the LBA in Dallas, TX. Terry wrote that reunion plans include a trip to Decatur, TX on Thursday, August 8<sup>th</sup> to visit the Veterans' Memorial Park and the "Lost Battalion Room." For more information about the LBA reunion, contact Terry at: <a href="terry-shields@sbcglobal.net">terry-shields@sbcglobal.net</a>; (940) 872-8888, or (940) 841-0494.
- **NG DAVID FRUIT** emailed an inquiry about **SGT DWIGHT BARNEY, USMC** who was KIA aboard the *Houston* at the Battle of Sunda Strait on 1 Mar 1942. Mr. Fruit, who said he was a relative of SGT Barney's, wanted information about the *Houston's* Marine Detachment. I emailed a 1941 group photo of the detachment and some basic information about USS *Houston's* Marines.
- JAN THOMPSON (president of the ADBC Memorial Society) emailed, announcing an August 15, 2013 screening in Los Angeles of her new documentary, *Never the Same*, about POWS-J captured in the Philippines in 1942. Information on Jan Thompson and the LA screening of Jan's new documentary film appears at: <a href="www.nts-pow.com">www.nts-pow.com</a> (Also, see the article on page 10). For tickets, call: (310) 553-8403.

#### From the desk of the Executive Director

#### John Schwarz



Two things experienced recently really 'hit home' with regards to the importance of 'the Association'. That is, having a collective group who yield so much more energy, intellect, dedication and commitment to getting things done than can any individual.

Shortly after the 2013 reunion we loaned our Association banner to our fine folks in Australia, the HMAS *Perth* Association. What they did with it was something to behold and we will have more on that at our next reunion, March 2014.

I had occasion to once again review and update 'the book' that my Dad Otto produced back in the early 90's. That book, <u>Artifacts and Memorials</u>, chronicles all of the things that have been accomplished over the years which stand as permanent remembrances of the USS *Houston* CA-30, the ship and her men. What strikes me is the thought that those things became possible because the group pooled together their collective resources and as they say, 'got the job done'. That job is of course our Association's principle mission of perpetuating the memory of the ship.

Yes, there is so much to be said for what WE can do when we put our minds, souls and hearts together in collective reverence for the brave men of both HMAS *Perth* and USS *Houston* CA-30.

Think about your involvement with this Association. Contribution comes through monetary donation and/or the offering of some service to the many things that need to get done to meet our mission.

The door for contributing is always open and this is to say 'thanks' to all of you who have, do, or will make that contribution.

**John**Son of Otto and Trudy Schwarz



John Schwarz

#### Howard Brooks Honored Twice on the Same Day

By Dana Charles

Congressman Jon Runyan of the New Jersey 3rd District read a statement honoring USS *Houston* CA-30 survivor Howard Brooks into the U. S. Congressional Record and on May 18, 2013, the congressman presented Howard with a printed copy of it at a special event at "Johnson's Farm" in Mt. Laurel, NJ. The presentation took place before a crowd of some 600 people during an event organized to raise funds for a new Armed Forces Heritage House Museum. This presentation was not to be the only honor Howard would receive at this event, however...



USS Houston CA-30 survivor Howard Brooks (center), flanked by two USAF generals (on the left) and his wife, Silvia Brooks (on the right), accepts an award at an Armed Forces Heritage House Museum fund-raiser on May 18, 2013. US Congressman Jon Runyan stands behind Howard.

Later in the day, two Air Force generals arrived in the middle of Johnson's Farm in their helicopter, took to the speaker's platform and presented Howard with a framed certificate from the Warriors' Watch—a group of some 50 motorcycle riders that honors U.S. veterans, Howard explained.

According to Howard, the money raised at the Johnson's Farm event will help fund the Armed Forces Heritage House Museum which will be constructed on the same land in New Jersey that currently contains Lakehurst Naval Base, McGuire Air Force Base, and Fort Dix (US Army base).

During a phone interview with Howard, I asked him what he felt about his experiences on this special day. "I enjoyed it!" he said.

(The statement in the Congressional Record which honors Howard Brooks appears on p. 5)

# August Issue Available Now RETTLE OF THE BULGE: A SHIPETY'S STORY "> RUMBA RING AMERICA IN HAMPETON HANDE FRANCE FOR THE BULGE A SHIPETY STORY "> RUMBA RING AMERICA IN HARINE FILOT FATOR SALVEPRADET. IN FATOR SALVEPRADET.

Contains an article by USS *Houston* Historian Don Kehn, Jr. with Anthony Tully...

#### "Drowned in Mystery"

"The US destroyer *Pillsbury* disappeared off Java in March 1942. 70 years later, the story is finally told here"

Buy your copy of <u>America in WWII</u> magazine today at: http://www.americainwwii.com/back-issues/august-2013/

# Statement in the Congressional Record Honoring Howard Brooks:



#### House of Representatives

Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a true American hero, Mr. Howard Brooks. Mr. Brooks is a constituent of New Jersey's Third Congressional District, and I thank him for his courageous and dedicated service to our nation.

Howard Brooks, born and raised in Eastern Tennessee, joined the Navy on September 3, 1939, the very same day Hitler invaded Poland. Mr. Brooks was serving as a 3<sup>rd</sup> class electrician's mate on the heavy cruiser USS Houston when it was sunk by a Japanese battle fleet in the Battle of Sunda Strait.

After receiving orders to abandon ship, he spent three days in the water before his life raft washed ashore, where he and fellow survivors were captured by the Japanese. Mr. Brooks spent 3 ½ years as a prisoner of war, and was among those forced to build the Burma Railway. Of the 1,068 crewmen, he was among just 291 sailors who survived the sinking of the USS Houston and the years of brutal captivity that followed.

After the war ended and Mr. Brooks returned home, he graduated from the University of Rhode Island in 1952. He retired from his career as an electrical engineer in 1981. He has been married for over forty years, and has two sons. Just last year, on the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the sinking of the USS Houston, Mr. Brooks attended a memorial service in Sam Houston Park, Houston, Texas.

At 93 years old, Mr. Howard Brooks continues to serve our nation by sharing his life's story, and ensuring that this time in our country's history is never forgotten. His valiant and courageous service to our country deserves our nation's deepest gratitude.

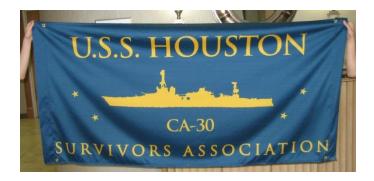
It is my honor to represent Mr. Howard Brooks in the House of Representatives. It is an even greater honor to have this opportunity to publicly thank him for his dedicated and courageous service to our nation.

Date

Jon Runyan Member of Congress

Congratulations, Howard!

#### New Association Banner Arrives in Australia



The duplicate "USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors Association" banner which was created and gifted to the HMAS *Perth* National Association.

As reported in the last issue of the <u>Blue Bonnet</u> (May 2013), our Association's original banner— hand-made by Otto and Trudy Schwarz—was sent to Melbourne, Australia where a group of HMAS *Perth* families and friends carried it in that city's annual ANZAC Day parade on April 25. After the parade, the banner was shipped back to the USA and carefully placed into Association storage, but the experience was certainly not forgotten.

In fact, it inspired John Schwarz to arrange for the creation of a new, duplicate banner—a gift for our HMAS *Perth* friends down under.

"Ever since the moment I saw the ANZAC parade coverage and what those Aussie's did with our loaned banner, what it obviously meant to them, then add the touch of having our own servicemen parade that banner, I was blown away, as I trust were you," John explained in an email. "It also reenergized my consciousness as to the bond with the Australians that had been started by our Dads' experiences and subsequently passed on down to

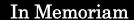
us to do what we will with it. I knew we had to do something further here," John said.

Within a few weeks after the original banner returned to the States, the new, duplicate banner was manufactured and shipped to Australia.

On June 26<sup>th</sup>, John received a warm email response from Pete Johnston, Secretary/Treasurer, HMAS Perth National Association, Victoria Area. "What a great surprise to receive a USS Houston Banner," Pete wrote. "This banner will be treasured by the HMAS Perth National Association. We will be having a Perth National meeting in the next month where we will decide how we display this gift. My thinking is we will rotate the banner to different state ANZAC Day parades, and the Battle of Sunda Strait Memorial Days, thus all *Perth* groups will get to display it. I am sure the US Navy's Lt. Billy Wright & Major Melvin Davis, who represented the US defense forces on ANZAC Day here, were astounded by the crowd's reaction to both banners being paraded together. I will notify them of your generous gift... Once again thank you for keeping the strong bond we both have," Pete said.

John emailed back to Pete: "We are thrilled that the banner has gotten safely to you. Our Association was so humbled by how you handled the loaned banner; we knew you had to have your own. I think your recommendations for its usage sound outstanding... We are very proud to be paraded in Australia in conjunction with the honoring of the HMAS *Perth*."

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USS Houston CA-30

Our sincere condolences to the family of Jessie Dethloff.

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**Jessie Dethloff** 



5/14/23 - 6/6/13 Brandon, MS Widow of USS *Houston* survivor Robert Dethloff, USN

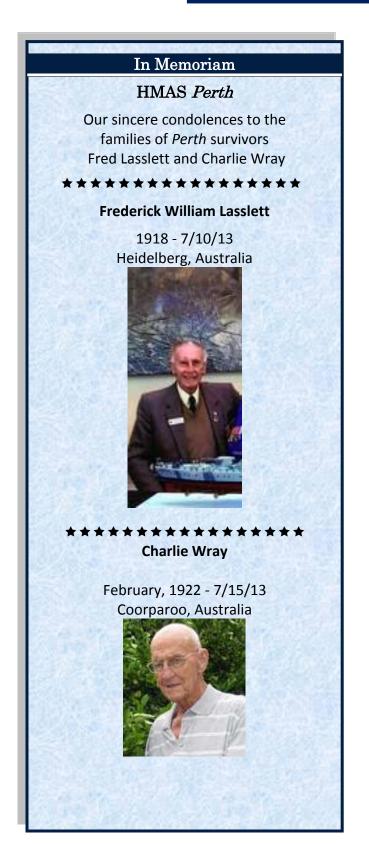
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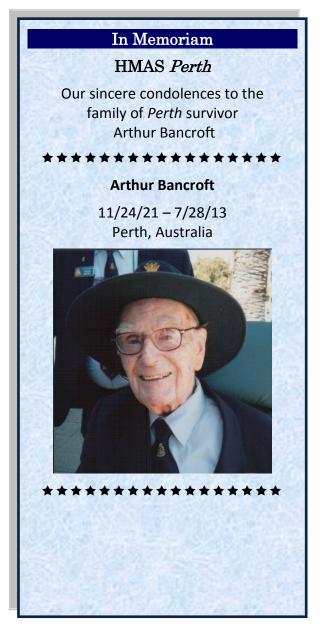
#### In Memorium

The USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* Marker at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, Virginia on Independence Day, July 4, 2013. John Schwarz placed flags of the USA and Australia here at the marker on that day to honor the crews of both ships. (Photo by John Schwarz)



#### HMAS *Perth* Notes from "down under"





#### NOW HEAR THIS! Scholarship Update

Please remember that November 1, 2013, is the cutoff date for all applications and essays to be submitted for the USS *Houston* CA-30 Scholarship Program. All information must be submitted by the applicant.

Information on the 2014 USS *Houston* CA-30 Scholarship and an application can be downloaded at: http://www.usshouston.org/ScholarshipApPckt/Appl09.pdf

We have received \$2,250.00 in donations as of July 8, 2013. We are paying \$3,000.00 in a scholarship award. It is our goal to raise an additional \$750.00 this calendar year.

Thank you for your generosity,

Jane Matthews
Chairperson,
Scholarship Committee

\*\*\*\*\*\*

#### Past "In House" Scholarship Winners

2004 - Gene Bankhead, grandson of Gene Crispi

2005 - Katy Fort, granddaughter of Cecil Chambliss

2006 - Gerald Agin, grandson of Gerald Agin

2007 - Jenny Garrett, granddaughter of Joe Garrett

2008 - Raymond Davis, great nephew of George Davis, Jr.

2009 - Alex James, great nephew of John Stefanek

2010 - Kevin Swick, grandson of John Reilly

2012 - Cody Karcher, great grandson of Richard H. Gingras

2013 - Laura Reilly, granddaughter of John & Teresa Reilly and Maggie Tuttle, great-niece of Howard & Silvia Brooks

#### Past US Naval Academy Foundation Scholarship Winners

2010 - Stephen Scales

2011 - Lenue Gilchrist, III

2013 - Robert Z. Sutherland

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#### USS *Houston* (CL-81) Reunion 2013 August 20-24, 2013

The USS *Houston* (CL-81) reunion for 2013 will be held in Chicago. Planned activities include an architectural boat ride to see sights of Chicago with a guide to tell us the story of Chicago and its architecture, a stop at a pizza restaurant for some famous "Chicago pizza", a "windshield tour" of Great Lakes Naval Base, a buffet lunch and Memorial Service.

The hotel is the Holiday Inn and Suites in Rosemont (suburb of Chicago) which has parking available, an airport shuttle and a great restaurant.

For more information, contact Donna Rogers at: 717-792-9113.

# "Never the Same" Screening in Los Angeles

There will be a screening on August 15, 2013 at 7:30 p.m. at the Museum of Tolerance in Los Angeles of a new documentary film about American POWS of the Japanese entitled: *Never the Same: The Prisoner of War Experience*. Actor Loretta Swit narrates the film, which also features the voices of Ed Asner, Alec Baldwin, Jamie Farr, and other well-known actors. For tickets, call: (310) 553-8403. To read more about the film and its creator Jan Thompson, the daughter of a former American POW of the Japanese, go to the website at:

www.nts-pow.com



#### **Bill Ingram (Continued from page 1)**

According to Bill, the 4<sup>th</sup> Fleet headquarters in Mayport, Florida is located about 50 miles from Jacksonville. "The 4<sup>th</sup> Fleet covers all of South America," he said.

The night before Bill gave his talk the Navy put him up in the barracks at the base. "It was more like a hotel with telephones in each room," Bill explained. On the day of Bill's talk, Bill was introduced to Rear Adm. Sinclair Harris, USN, Commander, U. S. Naval Forces Southern Command/Commander U. S. 4th Fleet. "The Admiral gave me a hat and a coin," Bill said. In return, Bill presented the admiral with two USS Houston CA-30 challenge coins mounted on a small wooden stand.

Next month, Bill plans to attend the National POW/MIA Recognition Day activities in Americus, Georgia. About 125 ex-POWS attended last year, Bill said.

To read more about Bill's visit to the 4<sup>th</sup> Fleet, go to: <a href="http://jacksonville.com/military/mayport-mirror/2013-07-10/story/navy-wwii-pow-visits-4th-fleet-sailors#ixzz2ZOzGVoHR">http://jacksonville.com/military/mayport-mirror/2013-07-10/story/navy-wwii-pow-visits-4th-fleet-sailors#ixzz2ZOzGVoHR</a>

#### Save the Date...!



#### Reunion 2014

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations

March 13 - 15, 2014

In Houston, Texas

For more information go to: www.usshouston.org

#### USS HOUSTON (CA-30) ITEMS FOR SALE

DVD "Last Stand" (8 oz.) \$20.00 Bumper Sticker (1-3 is 1 oz.) \$2.00

Challenge Coin (3 oz.) \$10.00

Bell or Monument Lapel Pin (specify type)

(1-6 pins is 1 oz.) \$3.00

Ship Lapel Pin (specify silver or gold highlights)

(1 - 3 pins are 1 oz) \$4.00





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

Brown Ball Cap ("USS Houston CA-30", 10 oz) \$5.00 Brown & Black Ball Cap ("USS Houston CA-30 2<sup>nd</sup> Generation", 10 oz) \$5.00

Blue Ball Cap ("USS Houston CA-30", 10 oz) \$15.00



Blue Ball Cap



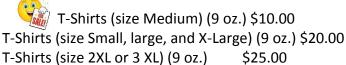
Brown & Black Ball Cap





Women's Polo Shirt

Men's Polo Shirt



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



T-Shirt

Ship of Ghosts book (about the USS Houston), Autographed by author James Hornfischer (2.2 lb) \$30.00

**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

SHIP OF JAMES D. HORNFISCHER

Ship of Ghosts Autographed by author James Hornfischer

Make checks payable to:

**USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association** 

Mail checks to: Jane Matthews 836 Kendal Drive **Broadview Heights** Ohio 44147

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

Meet your ...

#### **Board of Managers**

...here to serve

Executive Director: John Schwarz Son of USN survivor Otto Schwarz

Association strategy/outreach, Special Projects, Scholarship

Committee, Membership liaison Email: John@usshouston.org

President: Sue Kreutzer

Daughter of USN survivor Paul Papish Webmaster, archives, membership,

Scholarship Committee Email: Sue@usshouston.org



Vice-President: Dana Charles Son of USMC Survivor Bob Charles Crew and POW camp records,

Media specialist, researcher, correspondent

Email: Dana@usshouston.org



Treasurer: Pam Foster

Daughter of USN survivor Eugene Crispi

Financial and IRS records, Scholarship Committee Email: <a href="mailto:Pam@usshouston.org">Pam@usshouston.org</a>



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

#### Welcome Aboard!

We extend a hearty welcome to those who have recently joined the Association:



Pattie Wright

Australian author of the books: Men of the Line and Ray Parkin's Odyssey.

#### Membership

Our USS Houston "family" continues to grow weekly as more and more folks are interested in perpetuating the memory of the gallant crew of USS Houston CA-30. Members do not have yearly dues. However, we do operate based on the generosity of our membership. Annual donations are gratefully accepted. We invite you to join us!

Click on:

http://www.usshouston.org/memberform.pdf then fill out the membership form & send it in.

# Association Websites:

**USSHouston.org**Our primary website

USSHouston.blogspot.com

Also... check out our Facebook group page at

**USS Houston CA30** 

#### Thank You

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

Fred Hekking
In memory of Dorothy Hekking

Melissa Ellsworth
Don Kehn, Jr.
Sue Kreutzer
Henry & Jane Matthews
John Schwarz



# The Lost Battalion Association's Annual Reunion

August 8 - 11, 2013

Omni Dallas Hotel at Park West

For Information, contact:
Terry Shields at: terry-shields@sbcglobal.net
(940) 872-8888, or (940) 841-0494

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#### Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

**April 22 – July 12, 2013** 

#### **Scholarship Fund**

 Beginning Balance
 \$13,756.41

 Receipts
 +650.34

 Ending Balance
 \$14,406.75

#### **General Fund**

 Beginning Balance
 \$12,309.41

 Receipts
 +989.61

 Expenses
 -1,019.65

 Ending Balance
 \$12,279.37



#### Published by:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations

(May, August, December) **Editor:** *Dana Charles* 

Proofreaders: Jane Matthews, Pam Foster, John Schwarz,

Sue Kreutzer

**Distribution:** Sue Kreutzer, Pam Foster
Articles or information may be sent to:

Contact@USSHouston.org

#### All articles submitted are subject to editing.

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