



Now Hear This!

Association Address:

c/o John K. Schwarz, Executive Director
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Association Phone Number:

703-867-0142

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USS Houston Survivors' Association
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 1947

By Otto and Trudy Schwarz

Coronado's Crew Lays Wreaths at the Sites of USS Houston & HMAS Perth



USS Coronado (LCS-4) crewmen BMC William Garcia, left, and BM2 Paul Coombs toss a wreath into the sea at the site of the wreckage of USS Houston (CA-30) and HMAS Perth (D-29), Sept. 16. (U.S. Navy/MC2 Kaleb R. Staples)

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USS Houston & HMAS Perth Remembered

By Greg R. Adams

On 16 September 2017 the USS *Coronado* (LCS 4), following a two-day port visit to Jakarta, proceeded west from Tanjung Priok to the north of Pulau Panjang where the crew performed a commemoration ceremony and laid two wreaths at the sites of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* (D-29).

"It is an honor to visit Jakarta to engage with our U.S. Ambassador, our Navy counterparts, and then

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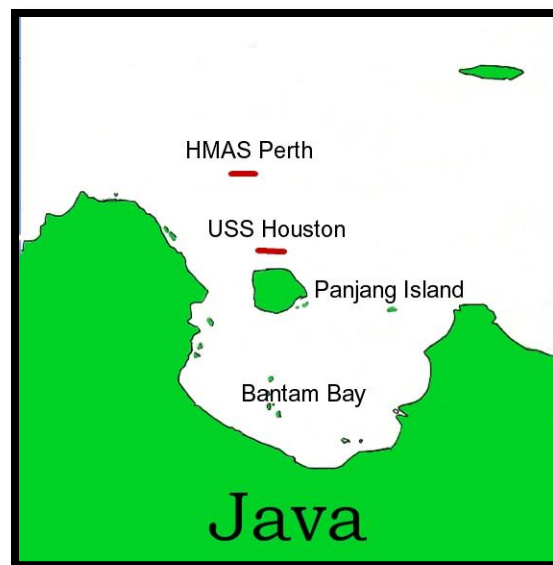
have an opportunity to remember the sacrifices of the brave Sailors aboard USS *Houston* and HMAS *Perth*,” said Commander Douglas Meagher, USN, Commanding Officer of *Coronado*. “We thank our Indonesian partners for helping us preserve this important site.”

“The heroism exhibited by the Sailors aboard USS *Houston* and HMAS *Perth* is inspiring, and their ultimate sacrifice has not been forgotten,” said Captain Lex Walker, USN, Commodore of Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 7. “As the U.S. Navy continues to operate and work with partner nations in the region, the site serves as an important symbol of remembrance and lasting tribute to those who served during World War II.”

The day before, on 15 September, ITC Josh Foss, USN and I paid a call on the head of the Provincial Maritime Affairs (KKP) Office in Banten, Mr. Suyitno. You’ll be happy to know that Mr. Suyitno’s office has already submitted a proposal to the Indonesian Ministry of Maritime Affairs to designate the area surrounding *Houston* and *Perth* as a Maritime Conservation Zone. There is still a lot of work and coordination remaining before this becomes a reality—and is anything but done—but this recommendation could result in a local law which would give law enforcement agents legal backing to prosecute salvagers, and would be a significant step towards protection of the sites.

After our meetings I accompanied members of Mr. Suyitno’s team out to the **island of Pulau Panjang** (see map). We boarded a small tourism boat at the pier in Kaprang Antu, about a 40 minute drive north of Serang. The hour-long boat ride took us past Pulau Lima, Pulau Kubur, and Pulau Kambing, and a host of bamboo fishing structures built over the sea. We were accompanied by one of the elders of the island, Mr. Machmud, who claimed to know all 7,000 (plus or minus) inhabitants of the island, and whose son was the head of the village. When we arrived at the pier on the western side of the island we were met by stares and friendly laughter, presumably at our summer white uniforms. We walked along Jalan Pelabuhan Pasir Putih (White Beach Harbor Street) and talked with the residents of the small fishing village and

took lots (and lots) of pictures.



Everyone we talked to knew of the *Houston* and had heard stories of the “*perang*” or “war”, but referred to the *Houston* as “*kapal sentigian*” or “sentigian ship”, named after a rare type of sentigi tree that used to grow on the beach nearest to *Houston*. Many recalled their time fishing near *kapal sentigian*. We walked to the end of the road where the town’s diesel generator is located and only runs for 12 hours a day, 6pm-6am, to supply light to the homes on the island.

We headed back to the dock to catch the boat back to the mainland. By this time the sun had set and there was a steady stream of men returning from the pier with small plastic bags full of the catch of the day, and dinner, I suppose. The streets were quiet, but you could still hear the gentle laughter of families congregating inside their homes on a Friday night. Next to the pier was one small fish processing plant, full of lights and activity. A group of men were bringing in buckets of small fish while another boiled them on a stove.

Apologies if I waxed on romantically about my visit to Pulau Panjang. I wanted to try and capture my experience there, as the reality of what I found on Pulau Panjang did not match my preconceived notions.

Commander Greg R. Adams, USN
Naval Attaché at the Embassy of the United States,
Jakarta, Indonesia



From the desk of the President
Sue Kreutzer

November 11, 2017

Dear Members,

On this Veterans Day, some 75+ years since USS *Houston* CA-30's final battle in Sunda Strait, I find it important to share with you recent changes within the Association. The 2014 Reunion was the last time we had any CA-30 survivors in attendance. As the late Howard Brooks (our lone attending survivor) told me at that time, "It's not much of a "reunion" with only me here, is it?" Howard's observation led to a series of discussions during our regular Board of Managers' meetings regarding the management of the Association.

The Board had to face reality. First, one mission of the Association was no longer needed...the reunion of our beloved men was no longer viable. Second, Member Meetings allowed for only a few of our 150+members to participate—those who could travel to Houston, TX every March. Even then, the Member Meetings held at our annual reunions were poorly attended.

The Board decided some changes were needed. First, it was decided the name of our annual gathering in Houston would be changed to "Day of Remembrance." The name change allowed our families to continue to honor all of those "still standing watch in Sunda Strait," all those who have passed since that night, as well as the living who may still be able to join us.

The change in our annual gathering's name necessitated some changes in the bylaws regarding Member Meetings. Our goal was to create opportunities to increase member participation.

During this time of transition, we consulted with our only surviving co-founder, Trudy Schwarz, and my son, Matt Kreutzer. Because it was his desire to honor his grandfather, Paul Papish, Matt agreed to serve as our attorney. Trudy's insight and guidance was incredible.

A few of our members objected to the Association using my son, Matt, as its legal counsel. Actually, Matt is no longer counsel to the Association. He resigned in July. But during the time he was our legal counsel, we found him to be very capable of working with competence on every one of the matters which we asked him to handle for us. And Matt did so *pro bono*, never...

(Continued on the next page)

Listen to "Overboard"

The Houston Grand Opera Company commissioned a song commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the loss of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* (D-29). To hear this beautiful work, click on the link below:

<http://www.uh.edu/engines/Overboard.htm> (Dr. John Lienhard's website contains audio for the HGOco song, "Overboard")

Also, here's the link to Dr. John Lienhard's radio story about the Battle of Sunda Strait:

<http://www.uh.edu/engines/epi3115.htm>

charging the Association one cent—not even for his out-of-pocket expenses.

Some of our members unfairly implied that Matt's free service to the Association was somehow insufficient because he does not focus his practice on representing nonprofit companies. Matt decided to resign in July because he had no desire to continue in a role providing *pro bono* legal services when those services were being intensely criticized.

The Association does not have legal counsel at this time. We have not been able to find an attorney who is willing to work *pro bono* as Matt did, and we are not anxious to incur the cost of hiring counsel because, frankly, we hope there will be no need for one and we do not believe the majority of our members want to see the general fund depleted by legal costs. After discussing the matter with no fewer than three other attorneys, we have concluded that this is the best course of action.

Second, a few of our members seem to be concerned about our membership meetings. As previously described, the demographics of our Association have been changing as we have lost most of our survivors and their spouses, and our remaining survivors and their wives have been unable to travel. Since they have been unable to attend our reunions, they have no longer been able to attend our members meetings. And, other members have been less interested in attending them. For example, when we were trying to get people to attend the membership meeting at a recent Day of Remembrance, only a few were willing to attend. We had to literally BEG registered members to come to the members' meeting. When we asked why, the responses were "all you guys are doing fine. We don't need to come to a members' meeting. We find out everything we need to know from emails and the Bluebonnet."

In 2012 we provided a written set of Guidelines for Becoming a Manager. Every Manager currently serving was selected by this process BEFORE these guidelines were provided. We simply wrote them down for all to see. We used the most recent changes to the bylaws to offer a new Manager for your consideration—Bernice Harapat. However, we missed an important piece in our bylaws that needed to be changed regarding member meetings. We have now corrected this oversight so **we ask you once again to please complete the ballot included in this Bluebonnet (see page 23).**

Third, we have been having excellent gatherings every year with the Next Generation and other interested parties. These gatherings have had the "one family" feeling. We have not been anxious to introduce the dissident kind of membership meeting we have sometimes experienced in the past.

We concluded we can increase membership participation in the management of the Association, make that participation more meaningful, and improve esprit de corps by voting by mail. Also, we have initiated a system by which members can have more meaningful input into the management of the Association. We offer to all members access to the Board 24/7 via email or phone call. Email addresses are published in each and every Bluebonnet. The financial status of the general fund and the scholarship fund are published in every Bluebonnet. Meanwhile, our general fund has never been healthier due to the generosity of our members and the keen, watchful eye of our treasurer. Our internal scholarship fund has outlived its original life expectancy due to member generosity.

(Continued on the next page)

We welcome any question/concern/constructive suggestion or compliment from our members. We ask you to address us with your own thoughts and refrain from involving others who may not share your views. We ask you to address us as respectfully as we promise to answer you. Dissidence, anger and resentment are not qualities our beloved men modeled for us. They have no place in our Association. If we are to preserve the memory of the USS *Houston* CA-30 and its gallant men, some of whom sacrificed their very lives for us, we must strive for harmony. When we respect each other, we honor them.

Sincerely,

Sue



Circa 1970's: USS Houston (CA-30) Survivors stand next to the bell of USS Houston (CA-30), which had recently been recovered from the remains of the ship and brought back to the USA.

Row 1 left to right

- | | | |
|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------|
| 1. Albert Kennedy | 1. James Reynolds | 1. J.O. Burge |
| 2. Marvin E. Robinson, Jr. | 2. Charles Pryor | 2. H. Gray |
| 3. F. H. King | 3. Robert Dethloff | 3. James Smith |
| 4. George Detre | 4. Robert I. Martin | 4. Thomas Parham |
| 5. Stanley D. Woody | 5. James W. Gee | 5. Donald Brain |
| 6. Clarence N. Day | 6. Robert L. Yarbrough | 6. Griff Douglas |
| 7. Elmo A. Bush | 7. Thomas B. Payne | 7. John Ranger |



9 August 2017 Burial Service (Photo: Dennis Flynn)

THE BURIAL OF TRUDY SCHWARZ

As Trudy was living her last months, she'd often smile and make the comment; "I have a date." Those of us who were close to her fully understood that she meant she'd soon be joining Otto at Arlington National Cemetery. In retrospect I also believe she meant how dearly she missed him during those 11 precious years she had of life following his passing in 2006. We are so grateful that she lived long enough to engage in all of the many wonderful events of last March (2017) in Houston, TX, commemorating the 75th anniversary of the loss of USS *Houston* (CA-30).

Her "date" came on August 9th—a nice day here in the nation's capital. So many family members and friends stood respectfully as Trudy was laid to rest with Otto in section 12, McClellan Drive at the cemetery, just a few feet away from the permanent HMAS *Perth*/USS *Houston* (CA-30) marker.

I thought a lot about both Trudy and Otto and how their roles as association founders are the reasons we all can engage today in the collective effort to honor the men of the USS *Houston* CA-30 as we do, as members of our reputable, highly regarded association. As I watched the burial of my Mom the tears were impossible to hold back. Still, I tried my best to stay strong along with all of the fine, dedicated folks who stood by our family for this service, which was short, as burials of civilian spouses always are. Yet, even without a rifle salute and the performance of taps, the service carried the same level of dignity/respect shown to deceased veterans. I take this time to share these feelings and to thank all of you who took precious time out of your own lives to be present in support of Trudy's burial and her family; the Schwarz family thanks all of you and will be eternally grateful for your presence and support.

After the short service most attendees boarded the bus and we went where we should—right to the Navy Yard to visit our cherished original ship model of the USS *Houston* CA-30.

Otto and Trudy: may you both rest in eternal peace and know that all of us connected to the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations® will always uphold the standard you set for this association. We continue our commitment to the pursuance of our mission: perpetuating the memory of this great ship and her men.

John K. Schwarz, Grateful son of these wonderful founders of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations®

Notes From Here and There



Silvia Brooks spoke about her late husband's (USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivor Howard Brooks') experiences during an event on 23 August 2017 made possible by the Armed Forces Heritage Museum (AFHM) in Flemington, NJ. "We traveled to a Flemington NJ High School along with a Holocaust Survivor, and four Active duty Military Members to speak about our experiences. I spoke with several groups about Howard's experiences in the U.S. Navy and as a WWII P.O.W. survivor," Silvia wrote in an email. (Photo: Silvia is the third person from the left)

Houston area resident and USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors' Association and Next Generations® Historian Don Kehn, Jr. shows all the debris piled up on the sidewalks next to his street in early September following Hurricane Harvey—the first Hurricane to make landfall in the U.S. since Hurricane Charley in 2004. Hurricane Harvey caused extensive wind and flood damage in southeastern Texas. Our thoughts and prayers are with all our USS *Houston* family members who experienced this terrible storm and its aftereffects.



On 9 August 2017 next to the National Museum of the U.S. Navy (Washington Navy Yard) the Association's executive director John K. Schwarz (at right) presented RADM Samuel Cox, USN (Retired), Director of the Navy's History and Heritage Command (at left), with a gift of a print of a painting depicting the Battle of Sunda Strait. Looking on (center) was Jim Bruns, Former Director, Museum Operations Division, Naval History and Heritage Command; Former Director, National Museum of the U.S. Navy.

...NOW HEAR THIS...!

INTERNAL ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Applications for next year's scholarship program competition are being accepted beginning June 1 with the deadline for submission extending to November 1.

To apply for the scholarship applicants can go to www.usshouston.org and click on the scholarship tab, scroll down to bottom of the page and click to download the application packet.

Application packets can also be obtained by writing to John Keith Schwarz, 2500 Clarendon Blvd. Apt. 121, Arlington, VA 22201.

Each year the amount our Association can award to the Internal Scholarship recipient depends on your generosity. The scholarship award available for 2018 will be \$3,000. Donations are always accepted and appreciated, and are necessary to perpetuate this program.

You can also remember the USS *Houston* CA-30 Scholarship Fund in your will, estate planning, or beneficiary designations. All donations are tax deductible.

Donations should be made out to: USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association. Please note on your check: "Scholarship Donation."

Mail Donations to: Pam Crispi Foster, 370 Lilac Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648

To-date and after approximately 18 years of program implementation, we have awarded **14** scholarships totaling **\$31,250.00**. This is an extremely successful program outcome by any measure.

We thank everyone who has donated and participated in this worthwhile endeavor.

Past Internal Annual Scholarship Recipients

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 Reilly and Maggie Tuttle, great niece of Howard Brooks
2014 – Stephanie Daigre, granddaughter-in-law of Gene Crispi
2015 – Stephen Reilly, grandson of John Reilly
2016 – Emily L. Kovacs, great niece of John Stefanek
2017 – Chris Karcher, great grandson of Richard H. Gingras

Past U.S. Naval Academy Foundation Scholarship Recipients

2010 – Stephen Scales
2011 – Lenue Gilchrist
2013 – Robert Z. Sutherland
2014 – Evan S. Hovenden
2015 – Megan Cessna
2016 – Anthony R. Powers, Jr.
2017 – Alana N. Stern

U. S. Naval Academy Foundation Scholarship Program

Due to the generosity of our Association members and friends, and since its inception in 2008, this permanent scholarship—the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Scholarship—has been awarded seven times. This scholarship award enables a year of preparatory military school education, which helps these candidates enter the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA). We are pleased to report that so far three scholarship recipients are currently serving in the US Navy as officers. The four other recipients are progressing satisfactorily towards graduation. What a lasting tribute to the legacy of the men of USS *Houston* (CA-30)!

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

- 8/26/2017: Received the following email: "My name is **Sheryl Stevens Benbrook**. I am the daughter of **Norman Eugene Stevens**, who served on the USS *Houston*. Dad passed away in 1987 at the age of 65, but my mother, **Laura Evalyn Stevens**, continued to keep in touch and support the USS *Houston* group and a local POW group until her death in January of 2016. My folks were able to take the trip in the early 80's with the *Houston* group that retraced some of their path during the war. It was a life changing experience for both of them. I had always relied on mom to keep a connection with the *Houston* group, but with her death, I would now like to step in, pay dues and receive information. I am assuming by your last name, that you may be related to Otto Schwarz. I had the distinct pleasure of working with Otto back in 1987, as dad's health was failing and dad was trying to get his disability straightened out for my mom's benefit. Otto fielded my phone calls patiently and helped put me in touch with others who could help me with records, etc. I am forever grateful for his assistance. Thanks for your help in keeping this organization going. Please let me know how I would sign up with the Next Generation group. Sincerely, Sheryl S. Benbrook."
- 8/31/2017: Wrote email to **Christain Kelleher**, Head of Special Collections; University of Houston Libraries as follows: Mr. Kelleher, We have been following the terrible flooding in Houston, and we want to know if you and the University of Houston Library's staff are all Okay... Also, is the Cruiser Houston Collection okay...? You are in our thoughts and prayers..."
- 9/2/2017: Received the following email reply: "Hi, Dana. Thanks for reaching out to check on everything here at UH. I am happy to report that our staff made it through the unprecedented storm safely and relatively unscathed. And our Special Collections storage, work, and exhibit spaces have been walked through with no ill effects reported. Campus saw a good amount of water, but the library building had only a small amount in the basement. Special Collections are located on the 2nd floor and neither flooding nor roof leaks were any problem. Thank goodness. Thanks again for your concern. It is much appreciated. Best regards, Christian, **Christian Kelleher**, Head of Special Collections, University of Houston Libraries."
- 9/2/2017: Received the following email from Steve Youll: "All, **David Manning (HMAS Perth survivor)** moved into a nursing home in early June, just after his 94th birthday, and subsequently suffered a setback requiring hospitalization but is now back in the home and enjoys a daily chat with Audrey. The birthday was a fabulous two day family event at Werribee Mansion."
- 9/28/2017: Received the following email from **Silvia Brooks**: "Hello everyone, Just wanted to share a link to a video made by the Armed Forces Heritage Museum that has a short clip of Howard and his experience. The part with Howard is toward the end, the link is below:
<https://www.dropbox.com/s/78x3zz9c0wpahfp/AFHM%20compilation%20for%20multi%20media%20trailer%20final.mp4.mp4?dl=0>."
- 11/13/2017: Received the following email: "My Grandfather's brother **Harold V Lyons** lost his life on the USS *Houston*. My grandfather was a man of few words, but from time to time he would talk about his brother, and even at a young age I was fascinated with his story. Only recently have I uncovered details and came to fully understand what happened. I have found some general information, but am hoping maybe you can provide me with more. I know there are few survivors living today, so it's a long shot, but wondering if any of them may have known Harold Lyons? I would also like to know what his role was on the USS *Houston*, and if a specific cause of his death is known. I have attached a picture of Harold V Lyons. Any information is welcome! Thank you so much for any help." [NOTE TO SURVIVORS: If you remember Mr. Lyons, please let me know (contact@usshouston.org) and I will pass the word to Jessica. Thank you! -- Dana Charles



REMEMBERING BILL

BY JOSEPH L. MCCAIN

Several years ago we found the front page from a May 15, 1942 Chicago Daily Tribune listing missing servicemen from the Midwestern states. Many *USS Houston* men were on this list, including my father-in-law (Ralph Edgar Morris, Mus1/c). Also named were William Ingram, Jr. and his brother, Robert, of Springfield, Illinois. We had this page photocopied and sent to Bill in Florida, and he called one morning to say thanks. We had an hour and a half's very interesting conversation while Bill told of his early Navy days, life aboard the *USS Houston* and being a Japanese prisoner. He completely forgot about the toasted cheese sandwich he had been making for lunch. Suffice to say, the poor sandwich was toasted into a smoldering charcoal ruin! The following is based on our phone conversation, as well as memories Bill talked about at *USS Houston* Reunions and a transcript he later sent us of an interview he did for the Oral History Program/National Museum of the Pacific War.

"The hungry five" was the name given to Bill and his two brothers and two sisters by their dad. They were poor in the Depression-era 1930s, as were many of their neighbors. Beans and homemade bread were "about the menu" according to Bill. The family was living in an apartment above a grocery store when Bill quit school at age 16 to join the Navy. He was just 17 when he entered training at Great Lakes in June 1941. His older brother was already serving aboard the *Houston* and Bill's ambition was to be on the same ship. When he did finally report to the *Houston*, he found that his brother had been transferred to Corregidor in the Philippines.

Bill was assigned to *Houston's* turret one as a powder handler. He slept in the turret because they were at general quarters almost constantly and it was necessary to be near his assigned battle station. The night battle in Sunda Strait saw the last of the ship's ammunition. The *Houston* was sinking and Bill was under the turret with a mattress over him as protection from falling shrapnel when ordered to abandon ship. He left from the portside bow.

The next day, Bill was picked up in the strait by a Japanese motorized patrol boat and taken to a large transport ship. It seemed to Bill to be several stories high. Once on deck, he was marched over to big table where two Japanese officers were seated. His two guards stood just in back of him and the questions started. Every time that Bill gave an answer the officers didn't like, one of the guards would slug him from behind. At age 17 and being a recent addition to *Houston's* crew, Bill didn't know any answers so finally he was taken to the railing and thrown back into the ocean. He fell so far that he didn't think he would ever reach the water. When he did, the Japanese stood on the stern and shot at him with rifles!

Later, a native fishing boat came out and began picking up sailors – but only those who could pay something. All Bill had was a small pocket knife on a lanyard around his neck but it was enough to be taken aboard. After the native refused help to a wounded shipmate with nothing to give, the sailors mutinied. Seizing the boat, they threw the mercenary native over the side. Soon the boat was filled to capacity and they made a run for the dangerous rocky shores of Java. They managed to get on the beach but the boat was badly smashed.

Bill and his buddies started walking with a plan to reach Batavia where they might be helped to escape by the Dutch. After traveling some distance, they saw a building which was flying a Red Cross flag. Once inside, they were given food and a place to sleep for the night. The next morning they woke up to find the Japanese had arrived and that they were now prisoners. A Japanese sergeant questioned him. This time, wrong answers brought blows from rifles and sabers. Bill was asked if Roosevelt or Tojo was the greatest man. Having never heard of Tojo, Bill gave an answer that resulted in being knocked down with a rifle butt, then kicked. He said that was the first lesson he learned - "Tojo comes number one" when you are asked. A few days later the prisoners were taken by truck to Serang (Movie) Theater where they were tied up with baling wire, one man to another.

The prisoners were becoming desperate for water so the Japanese finally relented. Bill was untied, given an armband and a “yo-ho pole” with a five-gallon bucket at each end and told to start carrying water from a well located behind a native grocery store across the street. No guards! – Bill didn’t understand, but it worked to his advantage. The well was out of sight of the Japanese at the theater so the grocer’s young daughter would bring Bill cake and fruit to eat while he was filling the buckets. He still was wearing the armband with its Japanese characters when the prisoners were moved to the so-called “Bicycle Camp” in Batavia. Later it was somehow lost and he often wished he could have kept it as a souvenir.

Bicycle Camp was a better situation than Serang. The barracks were not crowded and the labor demanded of the prisoners mostly consisted of working on the docks or sorting scrap metal from derelict automobiles. Extra food could be purchased at a Japanese-run camp canteen (PX) and water was readily available. When the soldiers of the 131st Field Artillery arrived at the camp, they brought extra uniforms and mess (eating) equipment which was shared with the *Houston* men who had reached Java with little more than a few scraps of clothing.

From Bicycle Camp to Changi Prison in Singapore, Bill’s story was much the same as his shipmates. After a short stay at Changi, Bill was taken with a large group of Allied prisoners (including Australian, British and Dutch) to Moulmein, Burma to labor on the Burma-Thailand “Death Railway”. Bill was reunited with the now familiar “yo-ho pole” and put to work moving dirt in wicker baskets fastened to each end. Weather made no difference; intense heat or cold pouring rain, the Japanese insisted on so many meters of dirt being moved and so many feet of railroad track being laid every day. The workday was from dawn to dusk - often longer. The Japanese gave beatings to prisoners who fell out from illness or exhaustion. Rations were almost always some form of poor quality rice - very little else. Death and jungle burials were constant occurrences.

Somehow Bill managed to survive although gravely ill with dysentery and malaria. “Out of it”, as he described it, he regained consciousness as a litter patient in a Bangkok warehouse. He was so sick that he had no memory of leaving his last railway work camp. Later, somewhat recovered, Bill made the acquaintance of Dr. Henri Hekking (Dutch East Indian Army Medical Corps). Bill remembered Dr. Hekking as “the most wonderful – the greatest man in the world” for his life-saving work among the Allied prisoners. Bill began to help by serving as an orderly, mostly cleaning mess gear. Once, while washing these items in a nearby stream, Bill was able to buy some medicine from a native, with money provided by the officers. This was taken to Dr. Hekking and used in treating seriously ill prisoners.

Still very sick with recurring bouts of malaria, Bill’s memory of the war’s ending was confused. He remembered being flown to the evacuation hospital in Calcutta but little else until arriving in New York. “I was completely out of it”, he said. In New York, a friendly bartender helped Bill purchase a ticket for a passenger train journey to Illinois.

Once back in Springfield, Bill took a taxi to the apartment above the grocery store and found that his family had moved! The clerks in the grocery told Bill they thought his folks now lived “out on Commerce Street somewhere”. When Bill finally walked in the door, his mother “almost had a heart attack”. Bill wanted to surprise her but later admitted it would have been better to have telephoned first.

Bill’s brother got home to Springfield a few weeks later. He told Bill, “You ought to be glad you didn’t get messed up like I did” (captured on Corregidor and a made prisoner of the Japanese). “What do you mean?” Bill replied and began to tell the story related here.

**USS HOUSTON (CA-30) SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION
AND NEXT GENERATIONS®**

Day of Remembrance 2018
76th Anniversary of the loss of USS *Houston* (CA-30)

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Houston by the Galleria
5353 Westheimer Road, Houston, TX 77056
(713) 961-9000

Tentative Schedule of Events
March 2-3, 2018

FRIDAY (March 2)

Tour 12:30 – 4:00 p.m.

Note: A Bus will leave from the hotel at 12:30 p.m. to take guests to the exhibit.

Registration & Hospitality Room 6:00 – 10:00 p.m. Hospitality

Dinner 6:30 p.m. Hotel

- Executive Director's Year-end Report-Special Video Presentation
- Announcement of Scholarship Winner
- Keynote Speaker: TBD

SATURDAY (March 3)

Breakfast 10:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. Hotel

- Keynote Speaker: TBD

Note: Busses will depart from the DoubleTree promptly at 1:15 p.m. for the Memorial Service. Please be aboard by 1:00 p.m.

2018 Memorial Service 2:30 p.m. Sam Houston Park

Dinner 7:00 p.m. Hotel

REGISTRATION FORM
76TH ANNIVERSARY USS HOUSTON CA-30 DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

March 2-3, 2018

DoubleTree Suites by Hilton Houston by the Galleria

5353 Westheimer Road Houston TX, 77056

(713) 961-9000

For hotel reservations, please [click here](#)

DEADLINE – MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 21, 2018

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LIST THE NAME OF EACH PERSON INCLUDED IN THIS REGISTRATION (Use the back of this form if necessary)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of crew member you are honoring and relationship (or state you are a friend). Please include branch of service: _____

Anticipated date and time of arrival: _____

Friday Dinner - 6:30 PM

Eggplant Lasagna # _____ X \$33.00 = \$ _____

Boursin Chicken # _____ X \$33.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Breakfast – 8:00 AM # _____ X \$33.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Dinner – 7:00 PM

Pasta Alfredo with Grilled Chicken # _____ X \$33.00 = \$ _____

or with Grilled Shrimp # _____ X \$33.00 = \$ _____

Pan Fried Gulf Shrimp Flounder # _____ X \$33.00 = \$ _____

Registration # _____ X \$40 per person = \$ _____

Late Registration # _____ X \$15 per person = \$ _____

(Received after February 21, 2018)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Please include a check for the total cost made payable to: USS Houston-Next Generations (your check is your receipt). Payment is non-refundable.

Mail registration to: Pam Foster, 370 Lilac Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648

PERMANENT MUSEUM DISPLAY REMEMBERS CA-30 CREWMAN HENRY TESAR

By John Schwarz and Dana Charles

During a 2015 visit to the Cheyenne County Historical Association Museum in Sidney, Nebraska, Michael 'the Cowboy' Stevenson spotted a permanent exhibit (pictured) which memorializes one of the USS *Houston* CA-30's crewmen who perished during the 4 February 1942 air attack at the Battle of the Flores Sea—Henry Tesar, GM3/c, USN. Stevenson, founder of the "Drag School" located in Lewisberry, PA immediately understood the significance of the display. In fact, earlier that year, Stevenson had written a piece on the USS *Houston* (CA-30) in his school's annual newsletter, [Searchlight](#).



"I was so taken back and moved when I came upon a display of Henry from the *Houston*," Stevenson emailed recently. "First, because I knew the story so well [I] even wrote about it in high school, 1968,...but also because Henry was from that little "speck of a town" I just went through!"

Also, Stevenson's school utilizes the experiences of World War II teenagers, such as USS *Houston*'s crewmen, as positive role models for his students, which include youth on probation for offenses including: DUI; eluding police; reckless driving, including drag racing; poor public conduct; and vehicular manslaughter. The over-all mission of the Drag School program of intervention/rehabilitation is to point individuals toward maturity, responsibility, good citizenship and fatherhood. The school uses military veterans as examples not only of how to display those key personal virtues, but also as examples of how to persevere through the kinds of hardships veterans face. His school has featured the story of the survivors of USS *Houston* CA-30 as an example of bravery and perseverance in the worst of situations.

"Our country's educational system has failed to utilize the experiences of World War II teenagers as a positive role model tool," Stevenson wrote. "Our successes prove that it can work," he said.

It is good to know that in yet another place of our great nation the USS *Houston* CA-30 and her crewmen continue to inspire. Our thanks to 'the Cowboy' for sharing his story with us and for all the work he and his team do to better develop a portion of our youth population into responsible adults.

More information about the Drag School can be found at: dragschoolusa@aol.com



Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr. delivers remarks at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Menteng Pulo

UPDATE FROM JAKARTA

We were very fortunate to have the U.S. PACOM Commander, Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., USN visit Jakarta August 6-7. Admiral Harris met with Coordinating Minister for Politics, Law, and Security Wiranto and the Chief of the Indonesian Armed Forces General Gatot Nurmantyo. He also met with Indonesian Alumni from the Asia Pacific Center for Strategic Studies (APCSS) in Hawaii, toured the largest Mosque in Southeast Asia, Istiqlal Mosque, delivered remarks to United States and Indonesian business and security professionals at an American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM) and USINDO co-hosted event, and laid a wreath at the Commonwealth War Cemetery in Menteng Pulo.

During the ceremony at the Commonwealth War Cemetery, Admiral Harris made special mention of the USS *Houston* and the more than 2,000 soldiers, sailors, and airman still remaining throughout the Indonesian archipelago. “Just as this cemetery is hallowed ground and a place to remember those that gave their lives, so are the final resting places of the Sailors from the USS *Houston*, HMAS *Perth*, HNLMS *De Ruyter*, HMS *Exeter*, and the Japanese Destroyer *Murasame*. We appreciate all of the work done by our friends here today, both from the Commonwealth Nations, Japan, and by the Indonesian Military, to account for and protect the final resting place of our fallen heroes.” During his office with General Gatot, Admiral Harris thanked the Indonesian military (TNI) for their support in protecting the USS *Houston* from salvagers encouraged greater legal protection for the site.

I also had the opportunity to bring Admiral Harris to the USS *Houston* display located at the U.S. Embassy to give a quick brief on the status the site and our progress with the Government of Indonesia in providing legal protection to the sites of both USS *Houston* and HMAS *Perth*.

Commander Greg R. Adams, USN
Naval Attaché
Embassy of the United States, Jakarta, Indonesia



call
and
of

(L to R): Ambassador Joseph R. Donovan, Jr., Admiral Harry B. Harris, Jr., and Commander Greg Adams in front of the USS Houston & HMAS Perth Memorial at the U.S. Embassy, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Notes from Down-under



4 Oct 2017: HMAS Perth (D-29) Survivors Frank McGovern (98) (Left) and David Manning (94) (Right) attended the Guardians of Sunda Strait exhibit at the Australian National Maritime Museum in Sydney, Australia. Also in attendance: Foreign Minister Julie Bishop (Center). The exhibit will be at the museum until 17 November, and then will travel to Perth. (Photo: the Australian National Maritime

18 September 2017: The Australian Sailor Monument was unveiled by West Australian Premier Hon. Mark McGowan MLA on the Perth foreshore at Elizabeth Quay, acknowledging the role of sailors in the discovery, settlement, development and defense of Australia.



You Shop, Amazon Gives

By Pam Crispi Foster, Treasurer

Many of us already shop online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Did you know that Amazon has a program where they will donate a portion of your purchase price to the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations®? There is no additional cost to you or to the association and the proceeds help to perpetuate the memory of our ship and the sacrifices made by her crew. Visit our website: www.usshouston.org and click on the AmazonSmile link or go to the website shown below. This is a win-win situation for all of us.

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations®** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support the **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations®** by starting your shopping at <http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2814051>.



WASHINGTON, D.C. – THE FIRST TIME

By Marlene Morris McCain

It was 6:40 a.m. on an October morning, and we were back on the bus again. It was still dark, and we were headed from our hotel in Chantilly, VA, toward the Nation's Capital. I had never been to Washington D.C. before and was excited about our early morning appointment to tour inside the White House. I had been feeling a little sleepy, but suddenly I was wide awake. There in the distance, backlit against the night sky was the Washington Monument – so tall, so majestic, and so indicative of what we were there for. It was awesome! I couldn't wait to see all of the things that were on our itinerary for the next 3 days.

I had booked this bus trip more than nine months before; our church arranges trips for their "seniors" to go places at a reasonable price and with a group already known to them. I had never gone on one of these excursions before, but this time I wanted to go. This one was for my Dad, a US Navy musician who was aboard USS *Houston* CA-30 when she was sunk off the coast of Java on March 1, 1942. He passed away in 1993, long before the World War II Memorial was built, and I wanted to see it for him.

Touring the White House was amazing to me. Being inside the State Dining Room, the East Room, the Blue Room – all of these places mentioned so often on the news were now a part of my experience. The security was tight – 3 checkpoints with airport-style screening. I didn't mind a bit!

Our next stop was the World War II Memorial. It is laid out in a very particular manner. Each state is honored for the men and women it sent to serve during the war. The Pacific theater and the Atlantic theater are each recognized for the contributions made toward winning the war. All branches of the

service are honored – “Victory at Sea, Victory on Land, Victory in the Air.” The high point for me was that there was an Honor Flight at the memorial that day. Bringing the vets to see “their” memorials is an ongoing, and to my thinking a very worthy, program to honor the men and women who served for our country! There were vets from the Vietnam era, the Korean War, and World War II. And yes, there were some WWII Navy vets in the group. What a pleasure and an honor to be there at the same time that they were there!

That same day we also visited the Korean War Memorial, the Lincoln Memorial, the US Navy Memorial, and the Kennedy Center. We also saw (from the bus) the Jefferson Memorial, the National Cathedral, and Embassy Row. The last stop of the day was the US Air Force Memorial. I was pleased to see this one because my husband served in the USAF in the late 60s and early 70s. This site is very unusual because it sits atop a hill overlooking Washington D.C., and it portrays the favorite maneuver of the USAF aerial stunt team.

The next day began with a visit to Arlington National Cemetery. It’s so quiet there; no one speaks



loudly. The cemetery covers 640 acres, so a quiet electric tram is the means to tour the grounds. The screening was the same as the day before; it seemed a shame to me that was necessary in this place. We watched the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. The Honor Flight vets were once again in attendance; their bright red jackets and shirts made them stand out, and they were “honored guests” at the Changing of the Guard ceremony. My eyes welled up thinking about the stories that collective group could have told about their time in the military.

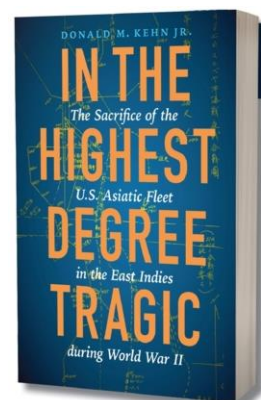
(Photos: Marlene Morris McCain)

That afternoon included a whirlwind tour of some of the Smithsonian. The next day we saw the U.S. Capitol building in the morning and George Washington’s Mt. Vernon in the afternoon. It had been a very busy three days! I was definitely weary, but I loved being in the Nation’s Capital.



RECOMMENDED BOOK

Don Kehn, Jr. describes the WWII sacrifice of *USS Houston (CA-30)* and the rest of the Asiatic Fleet in stunning detail in this excellent, exhaustively researched, new book; highly recommended. We’re proud to say that Don serves as the *USS Houston (CA-30) Survivors’ Association and Next Generations’® Historian*. – RDC



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-10 oz.)



T-Shirts (size Medium) (9 oz.) \$10.00
 T-Shirts (size Small, large, and X-Large) (9 oz.) \$20.00
 T-Shirts (size 2XL or 3 XL) (9 oz.) \$25.00

Blue Ball Cap ("USS Houston CA-30", 10 oz.) \$15.00
 Brown Ball Cap ("USS Houston CA-30", 10 oz.) \$5.00
 Brown & Black Ball Cap
 ("U.S.S. Houston CA-30 2nd Generation", 10 oz.) \$5.00



Blue Ball
Cap



Brown & Black
Ball Cap



T-Shirt



Women's Polo Shirt



Men's Polo Shirt

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

Shipping Costs:

1 oz. – 6 oz. = \$4.00
 7 oz. – 12 oz. = \$7.50
 13 oz. – 5 lb. = \$10.50

Make checks payable to:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association

Mail checks to:

Sue Kreutzer
 43156 Meadowbrook Cir.
 Parker, CO 80138

Include the following information
 (please print clearly):

Name
 Address
 City, State and Zip Code
 Phone Number
 Items Ordered, Size and Quantity

Questions? Email: Sue@USSHouston.org

Meet your...

Board of Managers

...here to serve you!*

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Association strategy/outreach, Special Projects,
Scholarship Committee, Membership liaison
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* The Board of Managers is available to members for questions, concerns, input, or to clarify any matter regarding the Association via email (to contact@usshouston.org), phone, or regular mail.

Membership

Our "USS *Houston* family" continues to grow weekly as more and more folks want to know about the gallant crew of USS *Houston* CA-30. If you have relatives and friends who have not yet joined our Association, please encourage them to join us! Members do not have yearly dues. However we do operate based on the generosity of our membership. All donations are gratefully accepted. For more information and a membership form, click on: <http://www.usshouston.org/memberform.pdf>, fill out the form and send it in!

Welcome Aboard!

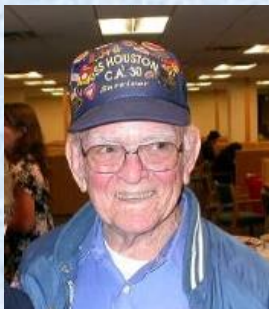
We would like to extend a hearty welcome to everyone who has recently joined our USS Houston (CA-30) Survivors' Association and Next Generations®!



Association Website:
www.usshouston.org

Facebook Group Site:
[USS Houston CA-30](#)

In Memoriam



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In Memoriam



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In Memoriam



★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Thank you!

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

Donations

July 18 – November 16, 2017

In Memory of Bill Ingram:

Matt & Jane Matthews

In Memory of Phillip & Isabelle Gans,

Phil Gans and Otto & Trudy Schwarz:

Richard Gans

In Memory of Trudy Schwarz:

Mr & Mrs Juan Arroyo

Nana Booker

Don Kehn

Mary Ann & John Keller

Jack & Pat Mintzer

Leslie Tash

Other Donations

Bernice Harapat

2017 Amazon Smile Donations Earned: \$98.09 YTD

Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

FY 2017

January 1, - November 16, 2017

General Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$20,593.63
Receipts:	+12,126.21
Expenses:	-10,006.15
Ending Balance:	\$22,713.69



Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$15,780.46
Receipts:	+5,955.37
Expenses:	-3,000.00
Ending Balance:	\$18,735.83



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Articles or information may be sent to:

contact@usshouston.org or 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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Happy Holidays!



**Ballot for Voting for Board of Manager
of the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations®**

The Association's Nominating Committee presents the nomination of Bernice Harapat for Manager.

YES _____, I hereby vote affirmative to elect Bernice Harapat for Manager:

OR

NO _____, I oppose this election for the following reason(s): _____

Name: _____

Date: _____

On or before _____ please email the above completed ballot to: john@usshouston.org or mail the completed ballot via USPS to:

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

Please submit your ballot no later than January 14, 2018 by either mail, email or by messaging your vote by phone to the Association number (703-867-0142).

A Special Meeting of the members, for the sole purpose of casting vote on the proposed Board of Manager candidate, will be hosted at the Association address, 2500 Clarendon Blvd., Arlington, VA 22201 on **January 14th, 2018 at 2:00 p.m.** Any member may attend but **there is no requirement to attend this meeting** in order to cast your ballot for the Board of Manager candidate (the aforementioned mail, email or phone option is available for voting).

The announcement of the new Board of Manager, if voted in, will occur at the Friday night dinner during the 2018 Day of Remembrance, Friday, March 2, 2018 in Houston, TX.