

Now Hear This!

Association Address:

c/o John K. Schwarz, Executive Director
2500 Clarendon Blvd., Apt. 121
Arlington, VA 22201

Association Phone Number:

703-867-0142

Address for Tax Deductible Contributions:

USS Houston Survivors' Association
c/o Pam Foster, Treasurer
PO Box 1953, Lincoln, CA 95648
(Please specify which fund – General or Scholarship)

Association Email Contact:

Contact@USSHouston.org

Association Founded 1947

By Otto and Trudy Schwarz

2018 Day of Remembrance Honors USS Houston (CA-30) & HMAS Perth (D-29)



Houston City Councilman Greg Travis presented Teresa Reilly (widow of John Reilly); Donna Mae Flynn (widow of David Flynn); Eunell Weissinger (widow of William Weissinger); and Silvia Brooks (widow of Howard Brooks) with a Proclamation during the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Service on 3 March 2018.

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USS Houston and HMAS Perth Honored During 2018 Day of Remembrance

By Sue Kreutzer

Once again we were blessed with sunny skies, mild temperatures and around 200 people for our 2018 Memorial Service at the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument in Houston, Texas on Saturday, March 3, 2018 to remember the crews of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* (D-29), lost 76 years ago during the March 1, 1942 Battle of Sunda Strait.

(Continued on next page)





3 Mar 2018: The Association's Executive Director John K. Schwarz served as Master of Ceremonies during the 2018 USS *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Service. (Photo by Dennis Flynn)

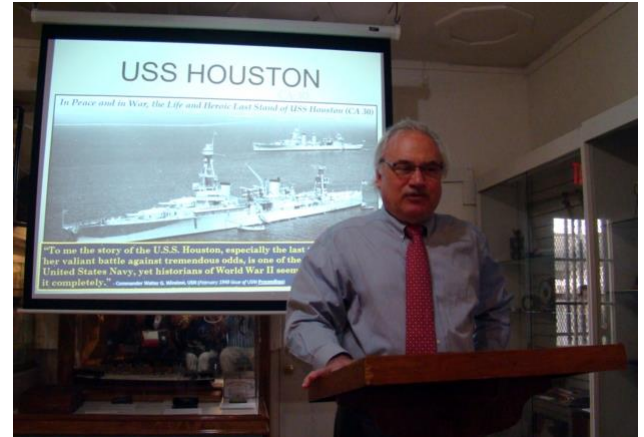
(Continued from Page 1)

The 2018 annual Memorial Service was the featured highlight of a successful "Day of Remembrance." Houston City Councilman, Greg Travis presented a proclamation from the City of Houston to Silvia Brooks, Donna Flynn, Teresa Reilly, and Eunell Weissinger—all surviving spouses of CA-30 crew members. We so missed Trudy Schwarz, our co-founder and widow of co-founder, Otto Schwarz, this year. But, we know Otto and Trudy were gathered with so many others cheering on the remembrance from above.

The Doubletree-Houston Galleria was selected this year as the main location—where each attendee enjoys a suite-sized room, and the lobby and its adjacent bar and small restaurant serve as a place to gather socially!

Included in this year's schedule were excellent speakers on Friday and Saturday: On Friday, the Houston Maritime Museum featured a presentation by Mr. Bill Withers on the story of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and her gallant crew; John Schwarz announced the 2018 Scholarship Winner, Timothy Reilly, and discussed the ongoing activities of the Association; Samuel Cox, the Director of the Navy's History and Heritage Command and Curator of the Navy updated us on the U.S. Navy's continuing work with Indonesian and Australian officials to find ways to protect the remains of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS

Perth (D-29) from salvaging and becoming victims of operations to remove steel and human remains from their final resting places. Bernice Harapat, newly-elected to the Board of Managers, shared her history and vision with the group. CAPT Carter Conlin, USN (Ret) presented the stories of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument.



2 Mar 2018: Bill Withers presented the story of USS *Houston* (CA-30) at the Houston Maritime Museum. (Photo by Dennis Flynn)



2 Mar 2018: RADM Samuel Cox, USN (Ret.) presented an update about USS *Houston* (CA-30) at the Friday Night Dinner. (Photo by Dana Charles)

On Saturday, Dana Charles shared with us his visual presentation on the Battle of Sunda Strait.

Many thanks to Tim Joseph and Dennis Flynn who were again on hand to photograph most of the weekend's events. [Take a look at Tim's photos!](#)

Please join us for the 2019 Memorial Service!

The 2018 Day of Remembrance



(L to R): MAJ Charlie Lamont, USMC; Hugo L.J. Ammerlaan, Captain, Royal Netherlands Navy, Naval and Assistant Defense Attaché to the U.S.A. and Defense Attaché to Mexico; Jos Wellink, Honorary Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands; and RADM Samuel Cox, USN (Ret.), Director of the History and Heritage Command, and Curator of the U.S. Navy (Photos by Tim Joseph).



The Color Guard, U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Houston Division at the Memorial Service.



2 Mar 2018: RADM Samuel Cox, USN (Ret.), Director of the History and Heritage Command, and Curator of the U.S. Navy and Timothy Reilly, the 2018 annual scholarship winner during the Friday Night Dinner.



3 Mar 2018 Donna Mae Flynn (front-left) stood next to the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument with members of the Naval Order of the United States, Texas Commandery.



U.S. Marine Raymond Warren, a veteran of the Battle of Iwo Jima, was introduced during the Memorial Service.



Houston-area U.S. Marines prepared to present a wreath at the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument during the 3 March 2018 Memorial Service.

Day of Remembrance 2018

Snapshots

Photos by Dana Charles



Photo by Linda Swick

(More photos on Page 13)



From the desk of the Executive Director

John K. Schwarz

Recently I reviewed the 'Correspondent's Report' prepared by our Association Correspondent Dana Charles in conjunction with the monthly Board of Managers' meeting (conference call). While doing so what came to mind was the immense amount of important work Dana does, literally, daily. Because of this internet world we now live in, we receive correspondence from vast numbers of people from virtually anywhere in the world. Often responses require added time and research effort on top of the very exercise of typing out that response. Quite often too, Dana must facilitate answering only after obtaining information (and perhaps consensus) from others involved in the stake of that response (including the other four Board of Managers). I know that you all know what a magnificent, professional job he does, but I wanted to offer you a better idea of the extent of what is behind what you see. Job Well Done, Dana!

Also, we are increasingly hearing from what had been somewhat of a traditionally neglected group, those related to, or associated with, the nearly 700 crewmen who were lost on March 1, 1942. When Otto/Trudy started the Association in 1947 it was all they could do to try to gather together and correspond/move forward with the some 290 survivors. Today, we are very pleased that relatives of all crewmen are finding us and reaching out to us. We welcome you and we are here for you.

I wrote down some thoughts as I rode home on the jet from Houston to Washington, DC just after this year's glorious "Day of Remembrance." What a wonderful experience the entire week-end was, as we commemorated the 76th anniversary of the loss of USS *Houston* CA-30/HMAS *Perth* (D-29), and we held the 24th consecutive memorial service at the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument. Being around such dedicated, loyal contributors to this service and week-end just makes one feel so honored and proud. And there is such gratification derived from taking part in what is such a fabulous tribute to the brave men of these two ships. A tremendous thank you to all who took part in the implementation of the service, the Houston Maritime Museum for so graciously hosting us on Friday afternoon, and a special shout out to Sue/Bernice/Dana/Pam for their coordination of the entire affair (from hotel to wreaths!). As for myself, let me just say that it is an honor beyond what I can describe, to be gifted by my peers to be at that podium where my beloved dad Otto stood for so many years. May he RIP along with Trudy and all of the shipmates from both ships and may they continue to offer us all the strength, inspiration and spirit to continue our work.

For those of you who shop on Amazon please see Pam's note and instructions (later in this Blue Bonnet edition) on how you can make a donation to our Association automatically while you shop at Amazonsmile!

Welcome to the Board Bernice!

John

*Son of Otto and Trudy Schwarz
Association Co-Founders*

76th Anniversary Observances Around the World

We have received reports from around the world of 76th Anniversary of the Battle of the Java Sea and the Battle of Sunda Strait observances. Below are some of these observances:

JAKARTA, INDONESIA



U.S. Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, Minister KKP, Western Fleet Commander, and U.S. Naval Attaché lay a wreath at the site of *Houston* (photo: Rakesh Surampudi, U.S. Embassy).



George Hatfield Jr. talks about his father, *Perth* Sailor, Petty Officer George Hatfield.

On 28 February in Indonesia, navy and government representatives from the U.S., Australia and Indonesia set sail together from Jakarta aboard the Australian Patrol Boat HMAS *Larrakia* to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the sinking of the USS *Houston* and HMAS *Perth*. Joining the naval ceremony and wreath-laying at sea were the Indonesian Minister of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP), Ibu Susi Pudjiastuti; Indonesian Navy Western Fleet Commander, Rear Admiral Aan Kurnia; Australian Charge d’Affaires, Mr. Allaster Cox; U.S. Acting Deputy Chief of Mission, Ms. Erin McKee, and officials from the local government and marine police in Banten.

Also in attendance was Mr. George Hatfield Jr, son of *Perth* Sailor, Petty Officer George Hatfield. During the *Perth* ceremony, Mr. Hatfield offered an emotional testimony about the life of his father, who died on *Perth* in the Sunda Strait just three months before George Hatfield Jr. was born in Australia. George made the comment to a tear-filled audience onboard the *Larrakia* that his arrival at the site of *Perth* “was the closest he’d ever been to his father”.

The *Larrakia* stopped first at *Perth* to lay a wreath following remarks by Australian Charge d’Affaires, Minister KKP, and Mr. George Hatfield. The Australian Naval Attaché, Captain Matt Brown offered a compelling historical account of the Battle of the Sunda Strait. The ship then repositioned to the site of the *Houston* where Acting Deputy Chief of Mission and Minister KKP made remarks. The U.S. Naval Attaché, Commander Greg Adams read the first-hand account of the sinking of *Houston* as written by Commander Walter Winslow, USN (ret), after which a wreath was laid over *Houston*.

During the *Houston* ceremony, Ms. Erin McKee offered the following sentiment:

“Tomorrow, hundreds of relatives and friends of the crew of the Houston will gather in the city of Houston, Texas—which is well over 10,000 miles from here—to commemorate the same great Battle we gather here to contemplate – the Battle of the Sunda Strait. Americans will gather to remember the fallen, will recognize the

families of the survivors, and then their thoughts will turn to Indonesia. Although many of the surviving families have never traveled to this country, they will always feel connected to Indonesia. They will try to imagine this scene of beautiful islands. They will wonder how their loved ones fought, how they died, and how they survived the challenges that faced them until their return home. Although you may never meet these families back in the United States, they recognize and appreciate your support and contribution to the protection of the final resting place of their loved ones. They will highlight the important work you all have done when they come together in the city of Houston, thousands of miles from here. They will thank you, they will encourage you, they will pray for you. Let us not forget the sacrifice of these brave warriors. Thank you."

During the ceremony onboard *Larrakia*, Minister Susi announced that she had signed a Ministerial Decree designating the site surrounding the HMAS *Perth* as an Indonesian Maritime Conservation Zone. Minister Susi expressed her intent and commitment to designate a Maritime Conservation Zone for the USS *Houston*--and for all warships sunk in Indonesia's territorial seas--once a joint diving survey of the site had been completed. The Australian National Maritime Museum completed a joint survey for *Perth* alongside Indonesia's National Archeological Center (ARKENAS) in 2017. <https://news.detik.com/berita/d-3891462/kedubes-australia-dan-menteri-susi-peringati-perang-selat-sunda>

Minister Susi added, "The hope with today's attendance by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries (KKP) is to show Indonesia's commitment and to hopefully prevent salvaging of sunken vessels, because this is not only a sunken vessel, but also the national history of a country very closely related to Indonesia's bilateral ties."

A wonderful commemorative event at sea with high-level Indonesian government and navy support.

CDR Greg Adams, USN, U.S. Naval Attaché, U.S. Embassy, Jakarta, Indonesia

AUSTRALIA



(Left) 17 Feb 2018: HMAS *Perth* and USS *Houston* were remembered at the 2018 HMAS *Perth* Memorial Regatta, Nedlands Yacht Club, Perth, WA.

25 Feb 2018 (Right): HMAS *Perth* and USS *Houston* were remembered at the Church of St John the Evangelist, Fremantle, WA.

(Far Right): Peter Jarvis, President - HMAS *Perth* National Association, WA Area Committee and Captain Brian Delamont RAN, CO of HMAS *Stirling*.



(Continued on page 18)

USS HOUSTON (CA-30) AND HMAS PERTH (D-29) REMEMBERED IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

ANNIVERSARY OF THE SINKING OF THE USS HOUSTON

HON. GENE GREEN of Texas

In the House of Representatives

Tuesday, March 13, 2018

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring your attention to a memorial ceremony for the men who served aboard the USS *Houston* (CA-30) held this month in Sam Houston Park in my hometown of Houston. Descendants of the sailors and Marines of the "Flagship" of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet that was sunk by Imperial Japanese Naval forces on March 1, 1942 which honored their bravery and determination. Seventy-six years ago, the American heavy cruiser USS *Houston* (CA-30) and Australian light cruiser HMAS *Perth*, outnumbered and outgunned by an Imperial Japanese Navy Battle Fleet, fought to the last in the Sunda Strait between Sumatra and Java. Both went down with their captains aboard and their guns still firing. Nearly 1,000 Allied servicemen perished. It marked the end of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet and the naval forces of the American-British-Dutch-Australian (ABDA) Command.

As the crews abandoned the sinking ships, Japanese sailors machine-gunned the decks and the men in the oil-soaked sea. Only 368 sailors and Marines, including four Chinese stewards and mess attendants from the *Houston*, made it to shore where they were taken as POWs of Japan. Some were held in a POW camp on Java, eight officers were sent to Japan to corporate POW camps, and others to the infamous Changi Prison in Singapore. Most, 220 of the survivors were shipped to Burma to be slave laborers constructing the Thai-Burma Death Railway.

For the next three and one-half years, the surviving men of the *Houston* and *Perth* suffered together through humiliation, degradation, physical and mental torture, starvation and horrible tropical diseases. Only 291 men from the *Houston's* complement of 1008, and 214 of the *Perth's* complement of 681, returned home after the War. This shared history speaks to the American spirit and grit as well as to our enduring alliance with Australia.

Back in Houston, Texas, news of the destruction of the warship hit the city hard. The result was a mass recruiting drive for volunteers to replace the lost crew. On Memorial Day 1942, a crowd of nearly 200,000 witnessed 1,000 "Houston Volunteers" inducted into the Navy. An accompanying bond drive raised over \$85 million, enough to pay for a new cruiser and an aircraft carrier, the USS *San Jacinto*.

According to a 1949 Houston Chronicle article commemorating the event, word of the ship's fate "aroused a fever pitch of patriotism" in the city. "Her loss made the war something more of a personal conflict to more than half a million people," the article reads. "Official news of her destruction . . . slapped the city squarely between the eyes, and set off a series of events that stands unequalled in the nation."

So this week, we pause to remember the brave men of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) who inspired their country and who gave so much to fight tyranny in the Pacific. They who "Still Stand Watch Over Sunda Strait" represent our enduring commitment to liberty. And I thank the American Defenders of Bataan and Corregidor Memorial Society and the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations for ensuring that the sacrifice and lessons of this greatest generation are remembered and honored.



Meet our 2018 Scholarship Recipient

USS Houston (CA-30) Annual Scholarship Recipient



Timothy Reilly

Announced at the 2018 Day of Remembrance gathering in Houston, TX was the 2018 scholarship winner **Timothy Reilly**, grandson of USS *Houston* CA-30 survivor John David Reilly, and Teresa Reilly. Timothy is a High School senior who will be attending the University of Southern California (USC) in the Fall as a Biological Sciences major to prepare for his goal of pursuing graduate studies to become a veterinarian. Timothy offered a tremendous and varied list of extra-curricular activities, including sports and community service. He produced a wonderful essay on “what the memory of the ship means to me.” If that were not enough, those in attendance at the Friday night dinner were overwhelmed with his live vocal version of “Danny Boy,” in honor of his grandfather and the men of the USS *Houston* CA-30.

John K. Schwarz

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

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMS

The USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations® sponsors two scholarship programs:

USS HOUSTON (CA-30) ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP

This is an "internal program" in that it is administered by the Association's Scholarship Committee. It is funded through the generosity of our group's constituency and other associated donors and is targeted to be awarded annually given sufficient funding and applications from eligible candidates. The program's window to apply extends from **June 1** through **November 1**. Candidates are then evaluated and a deserving applicant is awarded based on a documented grading system. Funding comes through donations to our Association's Treasurer, Pam Foster, P.O. Box 1953, Lincoln, CA 95648. For any donations please annotate that it is for the scholarship 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. Since its inception in the year **2000**, **15** scholarships have been awarded totaling **\$34, 250.00** dedicated to the further educational pursuits of winning candidates. For a complete listing of all scholarship winners and applications visit our Association's website, www.usshouston.org (scholarship page). Applications can also be obtained by making request to the Association's Executive Director at the address for the Association listed on page one of the Blue Bonnet newsletter.

USS HOUSTON CA-30 MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

In 2008, and again due to the generosity of our group's constituency and other associated donors, the Association made a one-time purchase for a permanent scholarship with the United States Naval Academy Foundation, Inc. This program, targeted for an every-other-year scholarship award, is named the **USS Houston CA-30 Memorial Scholarship**. This scholarship affords the U.S. Naval Academy candidate a year of preparatory school education prior to entering the Academy. This contributes to an improved success rate for awardees. Since it was obtained we have had **seven** awardees which has already produced **four** Naval Officers with the remaining three designees progressing satisfactorily toward graduation. For a full listing of all U.S. Naval Academy scholarship winners please visit our Association's website, www.usshouston.org (scholarship page). What a tribute to the men of the USS *Houston* CA-30!

For both programs: a huge **Thank You** to all who contribute to these important scholarships in honor of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and her crewmen.

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

- 12/29/2017: Received the following email: "Hello, I was doing some genealogy and ran across a cousin who was a crew member of the USS *Houston*. His name was **Clarence Bolt**, was a survivor of the sinking and the POW camps. I would like to know more of the *Houston's* sailors POW experience. I do know that they worked on the Burma Railroad, would like to know more like any particular camps, sections of the railroad that were built, and where they dispersed. Of course any of this that is related to Clarence. I hope you could point in the right direction. Thank you, **Dave Spence**."
- 12/29/2017: Replied to Mr. Spence as follows: "Dear Mr. Spence, Thank you for your interest in your cousin, **USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor Clarence L. Bolt**. Attached is a scan of a copy of Mr. Bolt's "POW service record," which was started early on during his captivity in March 1942. Clearly, his fellow crewmen and the keepers of this record lost contact with Mr. Bolt in October, 1942 when he was among a small group of American POWs transported by "hell ship" to POW labor camps in Japan. The whereabouts of those taken to Japan were unknown to the rest of the USS *Houston* CA-30 survivors until after the war ended. If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to let me know. Sincerely, RDC." (I included a copy of Mr. Bolt's POW record in this email).
- 1/14/2018: Received the following email: "Hello Dana, I am in the throes of researching and writing a book that will include a crew member of the USS *Houston* CA30 that came under fire from the Japanese in the Sunda Strait and sunk during WW2. The crew member was **Lt. Bruce Delbert Skidmore # 0-078844**. He lived in Lansing, Michigan with his parents (Mr. and Mrs. Ralph K Skidmore). His memorial site is the Memorial Manila American Cemetery.... I managed to find a reference to Lt. Skidmore in your Blue Bonnet Newsletter under some information revealed by your association's historian Don Kehn, Jr. as follows: CDR Maher was in the Primary Control Station on the foremast. Above him in **Spotting Top (Spot One)** was **LT Bruce Skidmore in the MK24 Main Battery director itself**. Are you able to explain what is meant by Spotting Top and what did the MK24 Main Battery consist of and where on/in the ship was this location...? I am hoping you might be able to provide some additional information including a date of birth and possibly a crew member photo of Lt. Bruce D. Skidmore and if the USS *Houston* was in Shanghai any time prior to Manila and Singapore. Are there any records of dates of shore leave in Shanghai or Manila? I realize this may be a long shot but hopefully your association may have some additional information. Many thanks in advance and best wishes for 2018. **David Clutterbuck**."
- (1/15/2018: I forwarded Mr. Clutterbuck's email to **Don Kehn, Jr.**, who answered my email with some information for Mr. Clutterbuck....)
- 1/15/2018: I replied to Mr. Clutterbuck as follows: "Dear David, Thank you for contacting us regarding your interest in USS *Houston* (CA-30) crewman **LT Bruce D. Skidmore, USN**, who was killed in action at the Battle of Sunda Strait on 1 March 1942. Unfortunately, personnel records pertaining to the crew were destroyed when the ship was sunk on 1 March 1942. Today our Association has virtually no information on those crewmen who perished in battle, including LT Skidmore... We also have no photos of him. However, I contacted our Association's historian, Don Kehn, Jr. who provided as much information as he has managed to research re: LT Skidmore and his battle station (see attachment). Don and I hope this information may help you. Also, you may find some information on LT Skidmore at the National Archives (NARA-II) located in College Park, Maryland. The web address: www.archives.com/military. Again, thank you for your interest in USS *Houston* (CA-30) and LT Skidmore. Best wishes on your writing. Sincerely, Dana."

(Continued on page 12)

- 1/17/2018: Received the following email from **David Clutterbuck**: "Hello Dana, Many thanks for your prompt and informative reply . . . *much appreciated*. Earlier today I dug a little deeper in my research and found the following information which also may be of interest to you and the association. I found this on the website [https://usnamemorialhall.org/index.php/BRUCE D. SKIDMORE, LT, USN#Bruce Skidmore .2737](https://usnamemorialhall.org/index.php/BRUCE_D._SKIDMORE,_LT,_USN#Bruce_Skidmore_.2737) . It gives an insight into his personality according to his mates which I find most interesting. He certainly was a good looking !!! **BRUCE DELBERT SKIDMORE**, Class of 1937, Date of birth: unknown; Date of death: March 1, 1942; Age: unknown; Lansing, Michigan; "*Skid*;" Quiet, cool, and unhurried, Skid gains just about what he desires, whether it be a seat in the crew or a pretty girl's affections. Although a first section man, Skid gives Colliers and Cosmo more weight than Nav and Steam. He likes good music, good companions, and a good time. Don't argue with him politically, because you can't win. Skid hopes to become a naval attaché, and has all the natural requisites for the duty. Not entirely intellectual, he has developed through naval training a fast left jab, a strong pipe, and an undue discrimination in rating the fair sex. *Crew 4, 3, 2, 1. Star 2. Two Stripes*. Thank you again for your detailed reply. Best regards, David Clutterbuck."
- 1/17/2018: Replied to Mr. Clutterbuck as follows: "David, Thank you very much for the information and photo of LT Skidmore...! We appreciate it very much... Best wishes on your writing project. Please keep us informed of your progress...! Regards, Dana Charles."
- 1/16/2018: Received the following email: "Re: **F1C Roger Barnett** - my father's brother. Greetings from Idaho! I have recently discovered your website - and have begun viewing videos on line about the USS Houston (CA30). I have a copy of *The Ghost That Died at Sunda Strait*. While briefly stationed at the Pentagon in the early 1990's, I covered a lot of territory inside the rings - and came across a painting hanging on one of the bulkheads. It was an oil painting of the battle with the USS *Houston* as the primary subject. As a result of trying to locate a print of that painting, I became a volunteer at the US Navy Museum at the Navy Yard photo archives. I am trying to migrate to Texas from Idaho and hope to visit the museum and the memorial this year. My sister and her family already live in Texas. Unfortunately I will not be able to attend the ceremony in March. This is my initial contact with the organization and I am looking forward to getting more information. Sincerely, **LCDR Robert Barnett USNR, retired**."
- 1/16/2018: Replied to **LCDR Barnett** as follows: "Dear Lcdr Barnett, Thank you for contacting us regarding your interest in USS *Houston* (CA-30) and in your father's brother, USS *Houston* (CA-30) crewman **Roger L. Barnett, F1/c, USN**, who was killed in action at the Battle of Sunda Strait on 1 March 1942. I am very sorry for your loss. Unfortunately, personnel records pertaining to the *Houston's* crew went down with the ship when it was sunk on 1 March 1942, so our Association does not have any information about your father's brother... I'm sorry to hear that you won't be able to attend our upcoming 2 – 3 March 2018 "Day of Remembrance" in Houston, Texas. On 3 March we will hold our annual Memorial Service at the site of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument where we will honor all crewmen aboard USS *Houston* (CA-30). For your information, I am attaching a copy of our Association's newsletter, *The Blue Bonnet*, which discusses our "Day of Remembrance" event in 2017. I hope you will be available to attend our "Day of Remembrance" in 2019...! You mentioned the Washington Navy Yard... I don't know if you are aware that a 15-foot-long scale model of USS *Houston* (CA-30) was installed at the Washington Navy Yard in 2011. It is a beautiful model... Our Association raised funds to pay the cost of the model's large wooden case. If you ever return for a visit to Washington, DC, please check out the model at the Navy Yard... Again, thank you for your interest in USS *Houston* (CA-30). I look forward to meeting you at the "Day of Remembrance" 2019...! Sincerely, Dana."



(Continued on page 17)

(Photos: continued from page 4)



U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps, Houston Division.



Carl Salazar, Director, City of Houston's Office of Veterans Affairs.



Southeast Texas Patriot Guard Riders



Fred Hoffman and CAPT Carter B. Conlin, USN, (Retired).



Don Kehn, Jr.; Pam Foster; Linda Swick; and Teresa Reilly.



Donna Mae Flynn; Dennis Flynn; and Laura Flynn.

Photos by Tim Joseph

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) (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



Blue Ball Cap



Women's Polo Shirt



Men's Polo Shirt



T-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!*

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



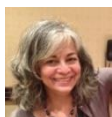
Vice-President: Dana Charles
Son of USMC Survivor Bob Charles
Crew and POW camp records,
Blue Bonnet Editor, researcher, correspondent
Email: Dana@usshouston.org



Treasurer: Pam Foster
Daughter of USN survivor Eugene Crisp
Financial and IRS records,
Scholarship Committee
Email: Pam@usshouston.org



Secretary: Bernice Harapat
Daughter of KNIL POW Survivor Willem Terluin
Special projects
Email: Bernice@usshouston.org



* 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®!



Larry Kimbel
Bonnie Kimbel
Randy Clark

Association Website:
www.usshouston.org

Facebook Group Site:
USS Houston CA-30

In Memoriam

Jimmie Pryor



October 17, 1925 - March 7, 2018
Dallas, Texas
Widow of USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor
Charley L. Pryor, Jr. (USMC)

Eddie Fung

131st Field Artillery/2nd Battalion



San Francisco, California

See story at: <https://www.sfchronicle.com/bayarea/nativeson/article/April-Fool-s-Day-a-backdrop-for-love-story-to-12795364.php#photo-15317323>

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- 1/29/2018: Received the following email re: the Asiatic Fleet: “Below is an email that I sent to the WWII Museum in New Orleans. I wanted to share it with any survivors from the sinking of the USS *Houston* and their families/legacies. In this email I included the obituary of **William “Bill” Robert Penninger** who died Sunday, January 21, 2018 at the age of 98. Although he and my father, **Andrew Delos Eaton**, deceased May 4, 1981 at 64, did not serve aboard the USS *Houston*, they were crew members of the USS *Pope* (DD225) when it was sunk on March 1, 1942. They also were survivors of the Japanese POW Camp on Makassar Celebes. I would hope that those responsible for the USS *Houston* website would find the appropriate location on the website. There are few survivors still living. Thank you, **Druann Eaton Andrecht**.

Subject: Asiatic Fleet:

The National WWII Museum in New Orleans is truly a tribute to all that served and were imprisoned and gave their lives to insure freedom not only for America but all of her Allies. Our visit was special but I have to admit I came away very disappointed and saddened. Except for mention of the USS *Houston* and the profile of a crew member, there was such a void on anything pertaining to the Asiatic Fleet and all of the battles they fought between December 7, 1941 and April 1942. Their heroic stand slowed down the progress of the Japanese Navy, to give the allies time to regroup and improve strategies. Even the bookstore was void of books regarding this very important period of WWII. Is that because there wasn't a “true victory” but instead the destruction of so many American, British, Dutch and Australian ships (ABDA), not to mention the number of lives lost at sea, the number of Americans and allies sent to Japanese POW Camps, the lives lost there, and the lives forever changed for those that managed to survive... It has been mentioned that there was a documentary made regarding the Asiatic Fleet but I did not see it nor have I been able to find a copy to purchase. If I am incorrect in my assessment of the lack of information on the Tin Can Sailors, I apologize. If I am correct, I plead on the behalf of my father, Andrew Delos Eaton and all those with ABDA that this over-site be corrected...My father was only 64 when he died. Recently one of his crew mates passed at 98. How many are left. Will their stories be forgotten? Please do not let that happen. A proud daughter of a true American Hero that died before his time, Adrienne Druann (Eaton) Andrecht... We have lost another true American Hero from WWII and the Korean War. **William “Bill” Robert Penninger** served on USS *Pope* (DD225) during WWII, and was a crew member when the *Pope* was sunk by the Japanese on March 1, 1941. He and my father, **Andrew Delos Eaton** (deceased 5-18-1981) were shipmates on the *Pope* and spent from March 3, 1942 to late August 1945 in a Japanese POW Camp in Makassar Celebes. How many “Tin Can Soldiers” are still living? You hear so little of the heroic activities from December 7, 1941 till April, 1942 when the Asiatic Fleet was destroyed. Such a shame more of their stories have not been told. Sharing with those that still care. May these men and their actions and service NEVER be forgotten.”

- 1/29/2018: I replied to Druann's email as follows: “Dear Ms. Andrecht, Thank you for your email regarding the Asiatic Fleet, your late father, and Mr. Penninger. I am the son of a US Marine survivor of USS *Houston* (CA-30), vice president of our USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors' Association and Next Generations®, and it is my honor to reply to your email. I am sorry for your loss of your father. My father was also a survivor of the POW camps of the Japanese. I know these men suffered greatly during captivity and continued to suffer afterward... Their experiences during WWII must never be forgotten... I agree that not enough attention has been placed on the Asiatic Fleet. With your permission I would like to publish your letter to the WWII Museum in the next issue of our Association's newsletter (April 2018) so that our remaining 2 survivors and the families of all the other late survivors may read it... I am happy to report that **Don Kehn, Jr.**, our Association's historian, has written a new book (published in August, 2017) which tells the WWII story of the Asiatic Fleet. It is called: [In the Highest Degree Tragic: The Sacrifice of the U.S. Asiatic Fleet in the East Indies during World War II](#). I've read it. It's an excellent book—an exhaustively researched work. Other books about the Pacific War, the Asiatic Fleet, USS *Houston* (CA-30), Japanese POW camps, etc. can be found at our website (<http://www.usshouston.org/library>) under “Other Books of Interest.” Thank you for including information regarding Mr. Penninger and your father in your email. I wish I had had the opportunity to meet them. We will never forget them. FYI: On 3 March 2018 at 2:30 p.m. our Association

will again host our annual USS *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Service in the City of Houston at the site of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument. Representatives of Britain, Australia, the Netherlands, the U.S. Navy and the U.S. Marine Corps will speak about the sacrifices made by the naval forces of ABDA during WWII, including the loss of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* during the “Battle of Sunda Strait.” We will remember and honor all of the courageous men who defended the Netherlands East Indies against the Imperial Japanese Navy during the dark early days of the Pacific War. The sacrifices made by the warships of ABDA, including the Asiatic Fleet, will never be forgotten... Thank you for writing the World War Two Museum about the lack of attention that has been paid to the Asiatic Fleet. I hope the book by Mr. Kehn will help bring about a greater interest in these brave American sailors. Sincerely, Dana.”

- 12/13/2017: Received the following email from **NG Jo Klenk**: “I thought you’d like to know that I called and left a message for **USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor Robert (Bob) Hanley** a couple of days ago and he called me back today. So we had a nice conversation just a couple of hours ago. He sounded great! He and his wife are still living in their townhouse independently. She is 96 and he will be 96 in February, 2018. I asked him to tell me briefly about his experience, so I’ll share with you what he said. I hope I got it down correctly. He was very articulate and interesting. Here is what he told me: *When the [Houston] sank, he jumped in with just his skivvies on and no life jacket. He swam around for about 12 hours and was able to swim to a life raft. He was then picked up by a Japanese troop ship. He was made to unload the ships and was eventually sent to the Serang Theater and got dysentery (as many others did). As a POW, he was a pharmacist’s mate and helped Dr. Hekking a lot. He was in Captain Fitzsimmons’ group. He was about 80 k south of Bangkok when he was liberated on August 17, 1945.*

(Continued from page 7)



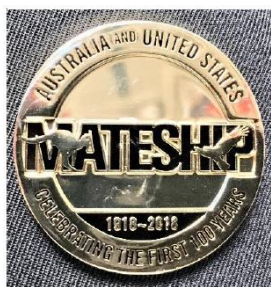
The traditional Last Post ceremony was conducted on 28 February at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra. Commodore Michele Miller AM RAN, a former Commanding Officer of HMAS *Perth III*, represented the Chief of Navy and the US Naval Attaché, Captain Tony Defrias USN, represented the USN. The recovered *Perth 1* bell, left, was struck at the ceremony.

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 to 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>.



BROTHERS

Nothing in common have the Kangaroo or the Eagle,
It is like comparing a Lion and a Beagle.
A Kangaroo leans on its tail and launches a Dingo into another Province,
With little effort, a hop and a bound goes over a fence.
They move about with a purpose, not merely a whim,
Did you know a Kangaroo can swim?
High in the sky an Eagle spots a target,
If you watch an aerial assault, you will never forget.
Both are formidable, rarely if ever do they yield,
Both coexist, living in the same field.
These magnificent animals have been around for ages,
Both admired and revered by the Sages.
These unique images are used by unique people,
One a prison colony, the other just wanted their own church steeple.
Both oppressed and banished by the same Crown,
I am quite certain both colonies hung their heads with a frown.
But, never looking back these colonies thrived,
100 years ago they depended on each other to survive.
Enemies have tried to take both apart,
They underestimated the size of our heart.
Side by side they left little doubt,
We will stay right here and slug it out.
Punch my brother you punch me,
We tried peace but you wouldn't see.
Australia and America with each other have never been at war,
Maybe gripe and irritate each other but that is what brothers are for.
Sea, Air or Land we will take up the fight,
Enemies should tremble at the sight.
USS Houston and HMAS Perth with purpose sailed into harm's way,
Sailed into the fight and gave all they were worth that day.
Eagle or Kangaroo, watching them can be fun,
But when push comes to shove, Australian and American Forces get it done.

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Thank you!

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

November 16, 2017 to March 23, 2018.

In Memory of David Flynn
Donna Mae Flynn

In Memory of Bill Ingram
Scott & Terri Ingram

In Memory of Trudy Schwarz
Donna Mae Flynn
Joe & Marlene McCain

In Memory of Joe Hoyt Whaley
Tony Whaley

Other Donations
Pete & Nancy Adams
Sheryl Benbrook
Carter Conlin
Bernice Harapat
Tim & Jo Klenk
Joe & Melissa Kollmyer
Sue Kreutzer
Bridget McMaster
Michael & Jo Marie Reilly
RJMJR Consultants of Texas, Inc.
Chuck & Linda Swick

Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

January 1 – March 23, 2018

General Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$24,553.04
Receipts:	+7,640.36
Expenses:	<u>-935.47</u>
Ending Balance:	\$31,257.93



Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$19,086.13
Receipts:	+3,600.32
Expenses:	<u>-0.00</u>
Ending Balance:	\$22,686.45



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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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Wreaths placed at the base of the USS Houston (CA-30) Monument on 3 Mar 2018. (Photo: Dennis Flynn)