

Now Hear This!
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USS Houston CA-30
Survivors' Association
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General or Scholarship)
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Association Founded 1947
By Otto and Trudy Schwarz

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Day of Remembrance Weekend: March 6-7, 2026



Day of Remembrance Weekend 2026

By Dana Charles

Our Association's 2026 *USS Houston* (CA-30) Day of Remembrance (DOR) weekend will be held in Houston, Texas, March 6-7, 2026, at the Doubletree Hotel and Suites, Houston Galleria, 5353 Westheimer Road, Houston, Texas 77056. A special block of hotel rooms and a meeting room have been reserved at the hotel where we will gather to mark the March 1, 1942, loss of *USS Houston* (CA-30) and *HMAS Perth* (D-29) at the WWII Battle of Sunda Strait.

(continued on the next page)

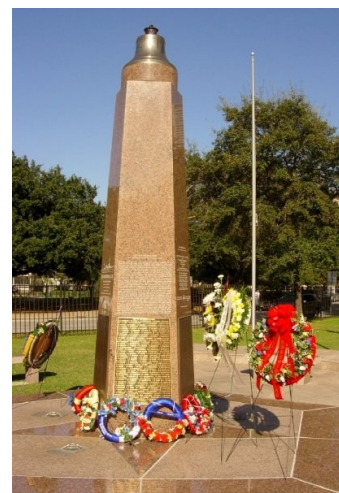
Free bus transportation, generously provided by the Harris County Precinct Three Transportation Department, will be available to and from all DOR events. On Friday, March 6, a bus will depart the hotel at 1:30 p.m. to experience a tour of the Houston Maritime Center and Museum, which contains a beautiful approximately 7-foot-long scale model of USS *Houston* (CA-30) built by Bob Ivy.

The Friday night banquet at our hotel's "USS *Houston* (CA-30) meeting room" will include a PowerPoint presentation, "The End of World War II: The Untold Story of the Surrender of Japan" written and delivered by Association member and Historian Blane Amphor.

On Saturday morning, March 7, we will gather at 9:00 a.m. for breakfast at our hotel's "USS *Houston* (CA-30) meeting room" where our Association's Historian, Donald M. Kehn, Jr., will deliver his PowerPoint presentation, "Caught in the Iron Net—Little-known Facts About the Battle of Sunda Strait." During this presentation, Don will be expanding upon the important information he provides in his article printed on pages 4-6 in this December 2025 Blue Bonnet issue.

At 12:30 p.m., March 7, buses will depart the hotel for the 2026 USS *Houston* (CA-30) annual Memorial Service that begins at 1:30 p.m. at the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument site (pictured at right) in Sam Houston Park in Houston. At 7:00 p.m., we will again gather for dinner at our hotel's "USS *Houston* (CA-30) meeting room." A Power Point featuring USS *Houston* (CA-30) crewmen will be shown. See the Tentative Schedule of Events on page 18 for more details.

Throughout the weekend, documents, photos, ship logs, maps, illustrations, and other USS *Houston* (CA-30)-related materials will be available for perusing at the hotel. Also, USS *Houston* (CA-30) Merchandise will be available for purchase!



To register for the Day of Remembrance 2025, either:

1. Print out the **Registration Form** on page 19. Fill out the form, and mail it in with your check, as indicated at the bottom of the form, as soon as possible, or...
2. Download and print out the **Registration Form**, which is available on the Association's website (Click on the following link): www.usshouston.org/news.html. Fill out the form and mail it in with your check, to the address indicated at the bottom of the form, as soon as possible.

To reserve a hotel room at the special USS *Houston* (CA-30) block rate:

Go to our Association's website (Click on the following link): www.usshouston.org/news.html, then click on the link at the website marked: "Reserve your room(s) here."

See you at the "Day of Remembrance" 2026...!

Questions?

Email: sue@usshouston.org
or call: 720-313-6770.



*From the desk of the Executive Director
John K. Schwarz*

December 2025

As usual at this time of year, we are deeply engaged in finalizing the agenda for the forthcoming “Day of Remembrance” (DOR), our annual two-day gathering, which will take place March 6-7, 2026, in Houston, TX. Extensive work is required to assemble all the components necessary to do what we do, honoring the men of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* (D-29), among others. The Association has a wonderful Board of hard-working, dedicated next generations who collectively coordinate the overall program. Please come and join us for this heartfelt gathering we hold each year to honor these deserving, brave crewmen of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* (D-29). Your support is what ultimately makes it possible.

A Friday trip is scheduled, where we will visit the new Houston Maritime Center and Museum. Two very fine speakers are lined up, and, as always, plenty of time will be set aside for socializing with everyone in our group. The tentative two-day agenda and all necessary information for registration are included in this edition of the Blue Bonnet.

We did not have any applicants for our “internal” scholarship this year. Please consider encouraging eligible candidates to take advantage of this opportunity, which helps facilitate further understanding of the story of the brave Captain and crew of USS *Houston* (CA-30).

John K. Schwarz

Caught in the Iron Net

Little-known facts about the Battle of Sunda Strait

By Donald M. Kehn, Jr.



USS *Houston* (CA-30) fighting at the 1942 Battle of Sunda Strait.

*Although we have long understood the general contours of the final battle of **USS Houston (CA-30)** and **HMAS Perth** in the engagement off Sunda Strait on the night of 28 Feb/1 March 1942, the entire episode was far more complicated and singular than is usually realized.*

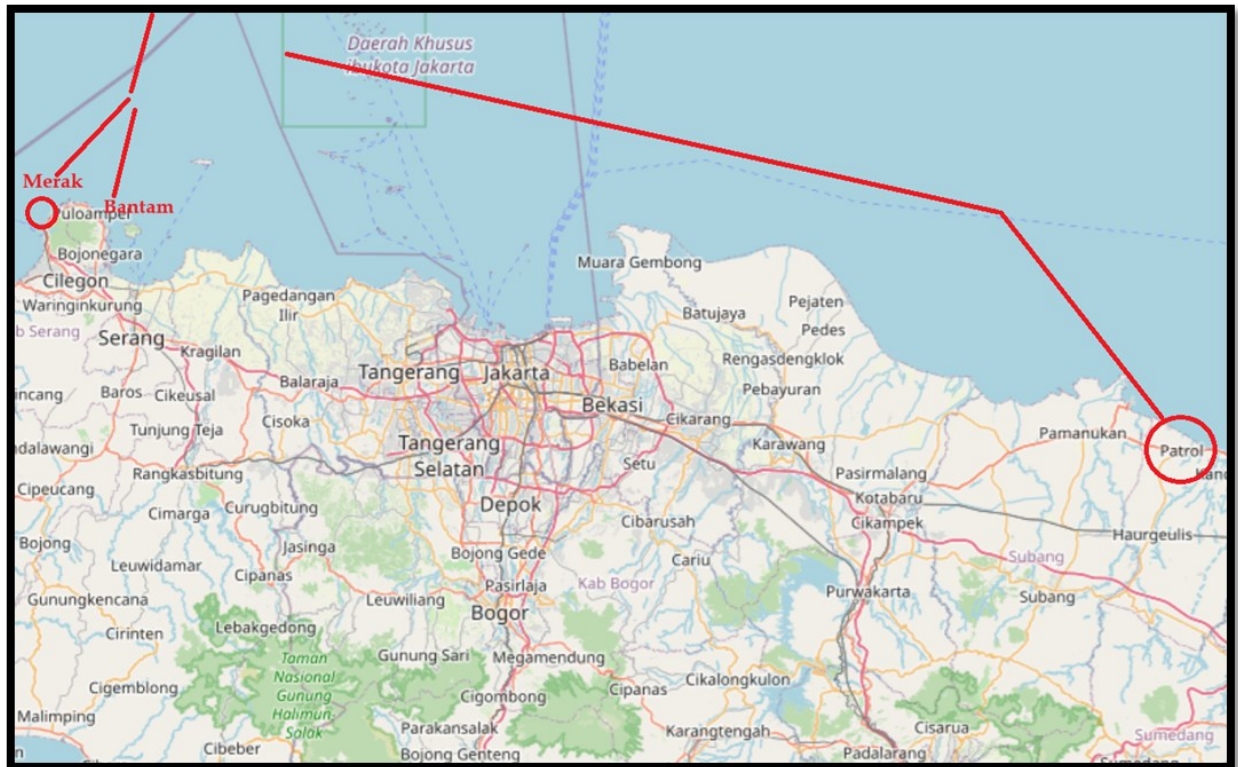
In the desire to bring greater clarity and depth to the historical record, it is worth documenting a number of the more obscure aspects to that unique engagement. And certainly not based on material in online/internet sources. Sources will include original Japanese official and first-person accounts as well as rare Allied eyewitness records.

- On **Houston** a considerable number of men—exhausted by several days at Action Stations & the Battle of the Java Sea—are flaked out on the upper deck. Some sleep right next to their gun positions; some (like the teenaged Bill Ingram, powder monkey in No. 1 eight-inch gunhouse) never slept anywhere but at their battle stations & did not go below to their bunks at all. Others, like Red May, a senior warrant officer, are reluctant to use their bunks...In May's case a Japanese 20cm (8") shell fired from very long range had gone directly through his bunk's pillow during the Battle of the Java Sea. Even a few men from the black gang were on the upper deck, as it was much cooler topside. Assistant engineer officer LT Bob Fulton (USNA 1932) slept on a blanket laid out on the quarterdeck as did water tender Jack L. Smith, also Griff Douglas. They are all utterly worn out and not expecting to encounter more enemy warships ...
- Japanese cruisers attached to the Western Invasion force flew many air patrols over the Batavia area prior to the landings. Most are from RADM Kurita's *Sentai 7* (7th Cruiser Division: **Kumano**, **Suzuya**, **Mikuma** and **Mogami**). But on 28 February at noon a floatplane from the light cruiser **Yura** first sights an enemy cruiser and destroyer bearing 280° 45 miles from Boomtjes Island, heading west at 20 kts on a course of 250°...This is undoubtedly **Houston** and **Perth** heading to Batavia's Tandjong Priok, but not recognized as such. Half an hour later two planes from cruisers **Kumano** and **Suzuya** track the same two enemy ships, both moving at high speed (~28 kts), and less than fifty miles distant. RADM Kurita begins to steam at speed to intercept, but...

- ...At about 1400 hrs. (JST) the floatplane from ***Kumano*** (Kurita's flagship of CruDiv 7) finds the two allied ships—misidentified as one *Glasgow*-class and one light cruiser—stationary about 10 miles NNE of Tandjong Priok. Kurita then decides against trying to intercept, as he believes they will have soon reached the harbor with other warships.
- At about 1530 hrs. the Japanese minesweeping unit completes its operations of clearing mines in the North Watcher passage & reports "*no loose mines.*" The invasion convoy Army transports will be allowed to approach the coast...
- Japanese landings are divided into several different areas...Two at Merak (Area No. 1), one at Bantam Bay (Area No. 2), and one (Area No. 3) at Patrol/Eretan.
- The 34 transports at Bantam Bay go in at roughly the same time, about midnight; at Eretan/Patrol—to the east—the 7 transports do not finish entering their anchorage area until ~0140 hrs. on 1 March. The 14 transports at Merak had successfully landed their troops by 0145 hrs.



Imperial Japanese sailors prepare to fire torpedoes at USS *Houston* (CA-30) during the Battle of Sunda Strait.



***Main landing areas for the Western Java invasion convoys at Merak, Bantam & Patrol/Eretan.
The landings at Patrol/Eretan were made to facilitate quick seizure of the Kalijati air field.***

- At Bantam Bay, Japan's 5dg (5th Destroyer Division) ships are widely separated due to unexpectedly strong currents that night. Internal IJN messages refer to the problems this creates. As they enter the anchorage, they chase off small Dutch patrol boat (**Reiger**) and cause it to ground itself at 2253 hrs. (JST). Destroyers **Harukaze** (5dg) and **Hatsuyuki** (11dg) are involved, the latter firing 12 rounds of 5" at the little patrol boat. The Dutch crew abandon their vessel and swim to shore, most to be captured. (One **Reiger** officer ends up later with **CA-30** survivors at Serang.)
- Around the same time, another small Dutch patrol boat, the **Sirius**, suffers a similar fate. After attempting to flee eastwards to Tandjong Priok, she is driven back toward Bantam Bay again, and there is shelled by another Japanese destroyer. Her skipper also decides to run his boat aground; **Sirius** ends up on a mudbank less than 100 yards from shore. There the crew clambered out and struggled in the heavy mud for nearly two hours before getting to solid ground...By then they could see the sea battle in full swing off Bantam Bay, with searchlights and flares briefly illuminating the darkness, the night punctuated by the heavy booms of gunfire.
- Unfortunately, no information about these actions ever reach **Perth** or **Houston** who are then approaching from the east...
- Within an hour **Perth** spots a strange ship (moving too fast for a Dutch patrol vessel) as she approaches Bantam Bay & signals are exchanged, but **Perth** receives no correct response. Knowing better than to delay, Waller opens fire as the Australians quickly recognize the profile of an enemy destroyer. After firing a reddish-colored flare, the IJN ship has turned away at speed making smoke. **Harukaze's** captain recalls this, believing their smokescreen may have helped conceal the Army transports for a while.



Illustration No. 48 — The Position of [the Japanese Naval] Forces Immediately After the Appearance of the Enemy Ships, and the Latter's Movements

- **Perth & Houston** steam toward anchorage off Bantam, although largely unaware of the transports at that point. As they do so, all heck breaks loose on the bridge of **Natori**. RADM Hara (CinC of 3rd Escort Force & 5th DesRon) gives orders to DesDiv Five (5dg) to attack with torpedoes while others try to reach him and form up.

Editor's Note: During the "Day of Remembrance" Breakfast on Saturday, March 7, 2026, at the "USS Houston (CA-30) Room" at the Doubletree Hotel and Suites, Houston Galleria in Houston, Texas, Donald M. Kehn, Jr. will expand upon this article's information as he delivers his PowerPoint presentation, "Caught in the Iron Net—Little-Known Facts About the Battle of Sunda Strait."



AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL

ART 27557

HMAS Perth (D-29) fighting during the March 1, 1942 Battle of Sunda Strait.

Team Interviews Veterans in the Washington, D.C Area

By John K. Schwarz



Pictured- John K. Schwarz (front row- second from the left) and Blane Ampthor (back row- first on the left) with the crew of USS *Little Rock* (CL-92/CG-4), Annapolis, MD 08/23/2025

On August 21-23, 2025, Association member Dr. Matt Fash, National Coordinator of the Stories of Service Program and Student Interview Program with the U.S. Navy Memorial in Washington, DC, assembled his veteran interview team, which included Association members Blane Ampthor and John K. Schwarz, in addition to Matt & Jeff Fash, Brian Sarris and Lieutenant David Jacoby (USN, ret).

The team's mission was to conduct interviews with two military veteran groups gathered in the area, and to work on producing a video intended to tie together elements that exist in Washington, DC related to the USS *Houston* (CA-30).

The interview team divided as the veteran group representing the USS *Ranger* (CV-61) was gathered near Dulles Airport in northern Virginia while the USS *Little Rock* (CL-92/CG-4) group was in Annapolis, MD. Both gatherings included a significant number of willing veterans who provided their individual military service stories, which will be added to both the U.S. Navy Memorial and the Library of Congress archives for permanent, historical purposes.

Production on the video commenced in the Asiatic Fleet Room located in the U.S. Navy Memorial on Pennsylvania Ave, Washington, DC. The room contains a collection of information about the Asiatic Fleet including books, paintings, pictures, and models of some of the fleet's ships. The room can be visited upon request and is otherwise utilized for gatherings and various meetings. The USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association has made significant contributions to the content of the room dating back to 1997.

In 2009 the room was re-modeled and upgraded due to a generous bequest from Sylvia Gooding Gross. Her late husband, CWO George B. Gooding served in the Asiatic Fleet as a crewman aboard the USS *Bittern* (AM-36). Held during WWII as a prisoner of war of Imperial Japanese forces, Gooding was killed as the result of the sinking of the hell ship *Arisan Maru* on October 24, 1944. Such information is preserved and displayed in the Asiatic Fleet Room honoring the memory of this fleet which made such abundant sacrifices in service to our country's military effort during the early months of WWII in the Pacific Theater.

When finished, the video will feature the inter-relationship of all the various elements located in and around our nation's capital which are dedicated to the memory of the USS *Houston* (CA-30). Among the elements is the relationship between the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors' Association & Next Generations and the U.S. Navy Memorial with the U.S. Navy through its History and Heritage Command (NHHC) group. NHHC headquarters in Washington, DC houses the original ship builder's model of USS *Houston* (CA-30) as well as a *Houston* display in the NHHC-HQ lobby, which contains a display of a recovered trumpet and the bell clapper from the ship.

Also to be covered in the video is the USS *Houston* (CA-30)/HMAS *Perth* I marker, which resides on McLellan Drive in Arlington National Cemetery. Close by and in that same section 12 of the cemetery lies at rest five crewmen from *Houston*: Joseph Gans (and spouse Isabelle), Otto C. Schwarz (and spouse Trudy), John Stefanek (and spouse Irma), David Flynn, and William Batchelor. Several other CA-30 crewmen lie at rest in other sections of Arlington National Cemetery.



John K. Schwarz, Executive Director of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations, offers the story of the 'USS *Houston* CA-30/POW Experience' to 74 attendees of the USS *Little Rock* Association reunion, Annapolis, MD 08/23/2025

On Saturday night, August 23rd, due to a last-minute speaker cancellation with the USS *Little Rock* Group in Annapolis, an opportunity came about for John Schwarz to fill that gap and present his PowerPoint story—the “USS *Houston* CA-30/POW Experience”—to some 74 attendees.

It was a wonderful and productive two-days with the team in pursuit of honoring our country's veterans.

Proclamation Presentation

On August 23, 2025, John K. Schwarz presented a proclamation to the leadership of the USS *Little Rock* Association on behalf of the U.S. Navy Memorial. Issued by John B. Nowell Jr., Vice Admiral, USN (ret.), President and CEO of the U.S. Navy Memorial, Washington, DC., the proclamation was awarded for stellar service in helping to capture so many sea service stories for historical reference in cooperation with the U.S. Navy Memorial.

Pictured at right: (L to R): CPO Don Elliot, USN (ret.), current President of the USS *Little Rock* Association; Jim Kay- co-founder of the USS *Little Rock* Association; John K. Schwarz; Donald W. Schuld, Past Commander of the Naval Order of the United States, New York Commandery and co-founder of the USS *Little Rock* Association (founded June 28, 1991).





Matt Rejmaniak, Cousin of USS *Houston* (CA-30) crewman Edwin Dombrowski, aboard USS *Missouri*, September 2, 2025.

Commemorating the 80th Anniversary of the Japanese Surrender Aboard USS *Missouri*

By Matt Rejmaniak

September 2nd, 2025, marked the 80th Anniversary of the formal end of WWII, a moment when hope for lasting peace reemerged after the most devastating war in history. The surrender ended with the stroke of a pen and words of reconciliation. As General Douglas MacArthur proclaimed, "...from this solemn occasion, a better world shall emerge... founded upon faith and understanding, dedicated to dignity, freedom, tolerance, and justice." Japanese delegate Toshikazu Kase echoed this, calling that day on the USS *Missouri* a "bright point" in the march toward enduring peace.

I had the privilege of attending commemoration events, museums, and guided tours held at Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, in conjunction with the Anniversary. Sites I visited included:

- Pearl Harbor Visitor Center - Containing exhibits on the lead up to Dec 7, 1941, and the WWII years.
- Battleship USS *Arizona* (BB-39) Memorial - The ship was tragically sunk during the Japanese attack at Pearl Harbor, with the loss of 1,177 crewmembers. Now a permanent memorial, with "Black Tears" of fuel oil still leaking from her hull.
- Pacific Fleet Submarine Museum - Special exhibits on WWII, The Cold war, and The Silent Service Today
World War Two Submarine Memorial – An outdoor shrine paying tribute to the over 3,000 submariners who never returned from the War. The memorial includes plaques for each of the 52 U.S. submarines lost in that conflict, as well as additional plaques representing submarines lost in accidents during the Cold War.
- Submarine USS *Bowfin* (SS-287) - Launched 1 year to the day after the attack on Pearl Harbor, she was nicknamed the "Pearl Harbor Avenger". The Bowfin earned her name conducting nine war patrols during WWII, resulting in the sinking of 34 large vessels, plus 10 more under 500 tons, for a total of 213,580 tons sunk or damaged.
- Pearl Harbor Aviation Museum - Situated on the actual battlefield and containing WWII hangars with restored aircraft.
- Ford Island Control Tower - This Tower bears witness to the attack on Pearl Harbor and provides an elevated overlook of the Ford Island aviation battlefield.
- Hangar 79 - Used for aircraft maintenance, it is a sacred space. It still bears the scars of bullet holes from the December 7th attack. The hangar stands as a silent sentinel of resistance.
- Battleship USS *Missouri* (BB-63) Museum – Host of the formal signing of Japan's unconditional surrender on September 2, 1945, in Tokyo Bay, officially ending World War II. Numerous museum exhibits tell stories from her service in WWII, Korea, Vietnam, and The First Gulf War. I toured special exhibits including one on Japanese Kamikaze Pilots, and another with artifacts from the dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima.
- The National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, located in the Punchbowl crater, honors military service in WWII, Korean War, and Vietnam War. I paid visits to the Memorial Chapel and various gravesites including the WWII journalist Ernie Pyle, and Ellison S. Onizuka, the first Asian astronaut to fly in space, who died in the Space Shuttle Challenger disaster.

For me, the highlights of the weekend were events held aboard, and in the pavilion alongside, the USS *Missouri*. The 80th Anniversary Commemoration Gala was held on Sunday, August 31, 2025. The *Missouri* was open for guided tours. A formal dinner and Presentation were held. The Gala's Speakers included: Linda Hope - The daughter of Bob Hope and Dolores Hope carries on her parents' legacy through the Hope Foundation, focusing on supporting Gold Star military families, veterans, and caregivers, while also leading efforts to honor the memory of her parents; U.S. Admiral Stephen T. Koehler - U.S. Pacific Fleet; and Clifton Truman Daniel - Grandson of President Harry S. Truman.

The 80th Commemoration Service on Tuesday, September 2, 2025, included 8 surviving WWII crew members of USS *Missouri*, all of whom were present at the surrender in Tokyo Bay and shared their experiences. Among the speakers were:

- U.S. Admiral Samuel J. Paparo - U.S. Indo-Pacific Command, who delivered the keynote address.
- Gunner's Mate Second Class (GM2c) Ed Buffman - From Newport, Rhode Island, Ed served aboard USS *Missouri* from 1944 to 1946 and witnessed the surrender signing.
- Emma Baksic – Student Speech Contest Winner, “What Can I Do for Peace?”

Others in attendance were numerous WWII veterans from all branches of the military, A “Rosie” (female war worker), and Dorinda Makanaonalani Nicholson. She was born in Hawaii to a Hawaiian mother and Caucasian father. As civilians, they were living in Pearl Harbor at the time of the attack and stayed until forced to give up their home after the end of the war. The “Nanea Mitchell” *American Doll* was created in her honor to recognize the entry of the US into World War II after the Pearl Harbor attack and Hawaii's role in the conflict.

It was an incredibly moving experience to be present at the USS *Missouri* at the exact time 80 years after the formal surrender. Each year, the anniversary of the end of WWII reminds us of war's cost and the courage to believe in humanity, even in the darkest times. It is a reminder of our duty to remember, learn, and share with future generations the lessons of war and peace.



Above: General Douglas MacArthur signs the Japanese surrender documents on September 2, 1945 aboard USS *Missouri*. At Right: Matt Rejmaniak stands next to the brass marker installed on the exact spot aboard USS *Missouri* where the Japanese Surrender documents were signed 80 years ago.





Pictured: the first of five classes of students at Tohickon Middle School who were addressed on November 7, 2025, by John Schwarz, Blane Ampthor, and area veterans. Dr. Matt Fash is seated in the front row, 1st seat on the right; John K. Schwarz stands 6th from the right, Blane Ampthor stands 10th from the right.

Tohickon Middle School's Veterans Day 2025 Observance

By John K. Schwarz

On November 7, 2025, Association members John K. Schwarz and Blane Ampthor were once again given an opportunity to address students at Tohickon Middle School of Doylestown, PA as part of the school's Veterans Day honoring. John and Blane joined local veterans in presenting stories of military service to the students in this honoring program conducted by Tohickon's Vice Principal, and Association member, Dr. Matt Fash. John delivered his "USS *Houston* CA-30/POW Experience" story while Blane offered the events leading to the conclusion of WWII, which included the surrender ceremony aboard the USS *Missouri* where his late Dad, Francis J. Ampthor was an officer. Over 100 students heard both John and Blane's presentations throughout the day. This was John's fourth consecutive year delivering a presentation to the students at Tohickon Middle School; Blane's 3rd.

Presentation in Florida

By John K. Schwarz

On Monday, December 8th, I presented my PowerPoint, "USS *Houston* CA-30/POW Experience," at the Vi in Aventura, FL. This opportunity was sponsored by the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute of Florida International University. As is most often the case with Osher groups, there was a wonderful audience of 42 folks who fully embraced the entire story and were left



with an understanding of the true account of what so many of our survivors endured. The group asked many very pertinent questions, and within the audience, there was one couple who had been to the Burma-Thailand Death Railway and the museum at the Bridge on the River Kwai. As is also customary, many in the audience came because they were so fond of the 1957 movie "The Bridge on the River Kwai," starring Alec Guinness and William Holden, so it was a pleasure to point out the reality behind the Hollywood portrayal.

It was extra special to have our own Donna Flynn in attendance (Pictured above, holding photo). Her late husband, USS *Houston* (CA-30) survivor David Flynn, was given a special honor during the PowerPoint presentation, including the beautiful blown-up photo of him as provided by his son Dennis, on display throughout. It was a great day and a chance to further spread the word of what our men did in service to America.

New Navy Museum Site Announced

On October 18, 2024, the then Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro formally announced the site for the new National Museum of the United States Navy during a ceremony at the new museum location—just outside of the historic Washington Navy Yard, at Tingey Street and M Street. “This ceremony marks a significant step forward in our journey to reimagine the Navy Museum,” said Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro. “This is a testament to our unwavering commitment to preserving and honoring the rich history of our Navy, and to ensuring that its legacy continues to inspire and educate future generations.”

“The new National Museum of the U.S. Navy will provide a dramatically improved opportunity for the American public to be inspired by the long history of valor and sacrifice of American sailors in the defense of our country, and to learn the vital importance of Seapower to our way of life,” said Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) Director Samuel J. Cox, U.S. Navy rear admiral (retired). “It will showcase not only the legacy of the past, but also the global operations of the Navy today, upholding the freedom of the seas, upon which our freedom depends.”



Former Secretary of the Navy Carlos Del Toro (April 13, 2023 photo).

According to a press release published in September 2025, “the vision for the new Navy Museum expands the traditional museum concept to a campus layout that combines the Navy Museum, a high-tech conference center, and retail space with dining options. It is intended to be a self-funded tourist destination that aims to intrigue, inform and inspire generations of visitors...The Navy has partnered with the Navy Museum Development Foundation (NMDF), a non-profit organization that seeks to help preserve, commemorate and share the history of the U.S. Navy. The Foundation will support the museum’s construction efforts and, once complete, its ongoing operation.”

The Association has been informed that when completed, the new museum will display the original 14-foot-long shipbuilder’s model of USS *Houston* (CA-30), which has been on display at the current Museum at the Washington Navy Yard since 2011.

To read the full press release, click here: [2024: Land Secured](#)



SUNDA STRAIT

The USS Houston's Final Hour

By USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor Corporal Lloyd V. Willey, USMC
Bicycle Camp, Batavia, Java, 1942

The *Houston* weighed anchor right at dusk and headed for Sunda Strait
With the Aussie cruiser *Perth*, a courageous running mate.
We had no suspicion then that danger lay ahead,
Or that the skies would soon be filled with the shriek of screaming lead.
If we had known beforehand of that Japanese planned attack
Not a man aboard our ship would have thought of turning back.

When we heard the roar of cannon signaling we had met the foe,
We knew every single shot must count—ammunition was so low.
So, grim and silent we fought on, loading and firing without delay
When a phosphorescent wake showed a torpedo on the way.
But still the *Houston* carried on, a gallant ship in a desperate plight
Until two more torpedoes struck her, steel fangs out of the night.

As time goes on we will recall that night in our far distant past,
A vivid memory of our ship and how she fired until the last.
I know that I could not forget, when in the light of a falling shell,
We saw waving proudly in the breeze, the flag we loved so well.
So, to our Commander up above let's send a heart-felt prayer
That when our final cruise is o'er, we'll meet our shipmates there.

Now See This!

USS *Houston* (CA-30) Merchandise! Wear with pride!

Email john@usshouston.org to place an order.

- USS *Houston* CA-30 Challenge Coins – (\$10.00 ea.)
- USS *Houston* CA-30 Hats – (\$25.00 ea.)
- USS *Houston* CA-30 Polos Shirts— Limited sizes & quantity in Black and Navy Blue – (\$24.00 ea.)
- USS *Houston* CA-30 T-Shirts - Navy Blue — (\$18.00 ea.) **NEW!**

Visit our website's [Ship's Store](#) and see all USS *Houston* CA-30 items!

(All Items: Plus Shipping)

USS *Houston* CA-30 Challenge Coin



Front

Back



USS *Houston* CA-30 Hats



USS *Houston* CA-30 Men's Polo Shirts



New!
USS *Houston* CA-30 T-Shirts

Meet your...

Board of Managers

...here to serve you!*



Executive Director: John Schwarz
Son of USN survivor Otto Schwarz and Trudy Schwarz
Association strategy/outreach, Special Projects,
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President: Sue Kreutzer
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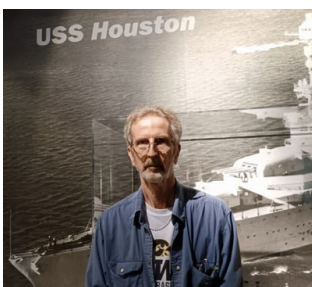
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Our Association's Historian,
Donald M. Kehn, Jr. is the
author of two U.S. Naval
History books: [A Blue Sea of
Blood](#) and [In the Highest
Degree Tragic](#).



[Blue Bonnet](#) Staff Photographer:
Dennis Flynn,
Son of USN Survivor David C. Flynn.

Membership

Our Association continues to grow as more folks reach us—through such avenues as our websites—and want to know more about the *Houston*, or just simply seek to contribute to the perpetuation of the memory of this gallant warship. To those interested in taking it further and joining our Association: go to www.usshouston.org, click on the “news tab,” scroll to the bottom and review the Association's bylaws, then click on the link to membership form (<http://www.usshouston.org/memberform.pdf>). After filling out the form, send it in as directed on the form. Our Association is funded through voluntary donations rather than mandatory annual dues. To make a donation, please refer to page one of this newsletter, or review the instructions on the “news tab” of our website.

Association Communication Channels

- Association information, including current and archived newsletter editions, is available at the Association's official website: www.usshouston.org.
- All email correspondence for the Association is directed through: contact@usshouston.org
- The Association's regular mailing address and phone number is listed on the first page of each issue of the [Blue Bonnet](#) newsletter.
- Our Association's only social media presence is on Facebook at: **USS Houston CA-30**.

* The Board of Managers is available to members for questions, concerns, input, or to clarify any matter regarding the Association via email contact@usshouston.org, phone, or regular mail.

Thank you!

Donations

In Memory of Otto & Trudy Schwarz

Scott Ingram

Other Donations

Blane Amphor

Bernice Harapat

Erin Johnson

Tim & Jo Klenk

Pam Moura

Sue Schoneman

John Signorin

Financial Report

July 25, to December 9, 2025

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$34,407.71
Receipts	\$9,592.99
Expenses	<u>-\$6,318.63</u>
Ending Balance	\$37,682.07



Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance	\$26,117.86
Receipts	\$3,726.28
Expenses	<u>\$0.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$29,844.14



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Articles or information may be sent to:

contact@usshouston.org or bluebonnet@usshouston.org.

All submitted articles are subject to editing.

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



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

U.S.S. HOUSTON (CA-30) SURVIVORS' ASSOCIATION
AND NEXT GENERATIONS®

Day of Remembrance 2026

84th Anniversary of the Loss of
U.S.S. *Houston* (CA-30) and H.M.A.S. *Perth* (D-29)

Doubletree Hotel and Suites Houston Galleria
5353 Westheimer Rd, Houston, TX, 77056

Tentative Schedule of Events

March 6-7, 2026

FRIDAY (March 6)

Visit to the Houston Maritime Center & Museum, new location

2:00 p.m.

A Bus will leave from the hotel promptly at 1:30 p.m. to take guests to the Maritime Center. Please be on board by 1:15 p.m.

Registration/Hospitality

6:00 – 10:00 p.m.

Hospitality

Dinner

6:30 p.m.

Hotel

- Executive Director's Year-end Report Presentation
- Scholarship Announcements
- Naval History and Heritage Command Update
- Keynote Speaker: Blane Amphor: "The End of World War II: The Untold Story of the Surrender of Japan."

SATURDAY (March 7)

Breakfast

9:00 – 11 a.m.

Hotel

- Guest Speaker: Don Kehn: "Caught in the Iron Net"-- *'Little-known Facts about the Battle of Sunda Strait'*.

Buses will leave from the hotel promptly at 12:30 p.m. to take guests to Sam Houston Park. Please be on board by 12:15 p.m.

2026 Memorial Service

1:30 p.m.

Sam Houston Park

Dinner

7:00 p.m.

Hotel

- Presenter: Dana Charles, USS Houston CA-30 Crew Power Point

REGISTRATION FORM

84th Anniversary USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association & Next Generations(R)
Day of Remembrance
March 6-7, 2026
Doubletree Hotel and Suites Houston Galleria
5353 Westheimer Rd
Houston, TX 77056
[Click Here to Reserve a Room](#)

DEADLINE – MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 24, 2026

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

Grilled Chicken Alfredo # _____ X \$35.00 = \$ _____

or

Pan Roasted Salmon # _____ X \$35.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Breakfast – 9:00 AM # _____ X \$33.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Dinner – 7:00 PM

Pesto Pasta # _____ X \$35.00 = \$ _____

or

Asian Chicken Salad # _____ X \$35.00 = \$ _____

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

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

(Received after February 24, 2026)

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 Moura, 2065 Sutter View Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648