

USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUE BONNET "The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast"

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REUNIONS

USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS & MEMORIAL SERVICE

February 28 - March 2, 2002

Houston, Texas

ASIATIC FLEET REUNION

27 February 2002 - 2 March 2002

South Shore Harbor Resort, League City, TX

Memorial Service on March 1, 2002

contact: Jack Slaughter

3801 Canterbury Rd Unit 812

Baltimore, Maryland 21218

FROM THE SURVIVORS - We sadly begin this newsletter announcing the following have joined their shipmates still standing watch in Sunda Strait,

WISECUP, JOHN R.

GILLELAND, JESSIE P.

WISECUP passed away in a Tokyo hospital on Sept. 24, cause unknown (probably heart failure), U received a phone call from his cousin, telling me that **JOHN** had been visiting with him in Louisiana and was fit as a fiddle when he took him to the airport to return to Japan. The next morning he received a call from the US Embassy informing him that **John** had been taken off the plane and died in a Tokyo hospital. A second call informed us that **WISECUP** was cremated on Oct. 1 and his ashes were placed in a crypt in Yokohama along with his wife's. Plans are now being made to bring their ashes to the States for burial in a National Cemetery in Texas. **JOHN** was a prolific writer, and Trudy and I will miss his witty and newsy letters.

Little is know about **Gilleland's** death except that he was confined to a nursing home since January and passed away on October 23rd.

A NEW BEGINNING: Ever since I became blind in April 1997, I have burdened Trudy with all my typing. All this time family and friends have been urging me to find a "voice activated" program that would get me back on the computer and productive again. Last Christmas my son gave me a screen reading program called JAWS. Unfortunately it was not compatible with my old MAC and it, and I, remained useless until I recently purchased a IBM and installed the JAWS program. Because I cannot use a mouse I had to learn to touch type, which my good wife Trudy taught me to do. I then enrolled in a course to learn the JAWS key stroke commands to tell the computer what. So writing this column myself for the first in over four years is a little exciting to me. How blessed I am to have family and friends who did not give up but kept encouraging me until I got up the courage to tackle the challenge. I cannot thank them enough. They literally gave me new "eyes".

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION: We have received a proclamation, signed by the President, declaring March 1, 2002 as Asiatic Fleet Day. This beautiful document, measuring 10x15, is presently being matted and framed by Don Kehn for presentation to us at the reunion next March. It was decided to have the proclamation reduced in size and sent to every survivor (additional copies have been printed and will be available at the reunion).

PAY FOR PROMOTIONS: As part of the National Defense Appropriations Act of 2001, the Navy Department was instructed to pay former Navy and Marine Corps. p.o.w.'s for the promotions they received while incarcerated. Application forms finally became available (thanks to **JOHN BARTZ** who sent one to Val) and one was sent to each survivor and widow. We would appreciate hearing from anyone who gets a response from the Navy. We owe Val a good old Navy "WELL DONE" for sending out that material. If you have any questions, please call John DeNicola at 1 901 874 4311.

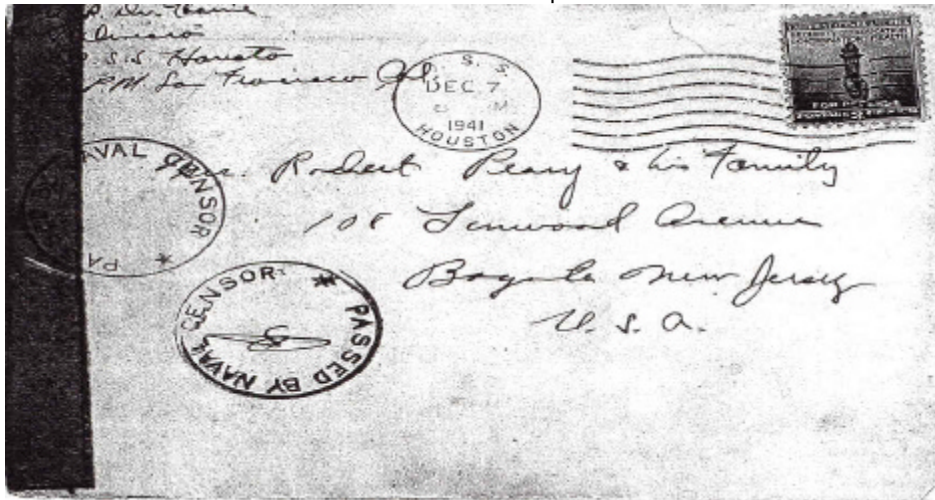
TRUE FRIENDS: During those horrible days following the terrorist attack on September 11 on New York and Washington, I received numerous phone calls of concern. Some of these were significant in that they came from Australia. The first call was from Perth Survivor Arthur "Blood" Bancroft and wife Mirla. Their call came the morning after the attack and they said that all of Australia was glued to their television sets and were deeply concerned about America. The next call was from Nick and Winsome Smith. Winsome is the sister of "Blood" Bancroft, and we met them during a couple of trips Down Under. The third call was from Sue the daughter of "Chilla" Goodchap and Ngaire. We welcomed Sue's call as we had lost track of our Perth survivor "Chilla", as he and Ngaire both have been quite ill and have moved to a retirement village further north in Queensland near their daughter. Sue proudly told me that they had an American flag flying. We also received calls from shipmates and the 131st. It was a warm humbling experience to know that friends from all over the globe care that much about America.

BACK PAY FOR PROMOTIONS: My cousin in San Marcos, CA recently sent me a newspaper article describing the back pay for promotions program. This is the first public announcement that we have seen. Val was sure a step ahead with sending us an application form early in Sept. According to the article, Senator John McCain introduced legislation after being approached by retired Marine Col. Robert Bonadio of Carlsbad, NM. The Col had heard about the injustice from a former Commanding Officer who had been a POW. He had learned that the Army and Air Force had paid for such promotions but the Navy ruled that we had to be available for sea duty in order to receive an increase in pay. So, as you know, we received the promotions but no raise in pay. We owe the Col. a Navy "WELL DONE". Since writing the above, I read some further info in the AXPW Bulletin. This indicated that the Col. was further annoyed to learn that we would be paid in 1942 dollars. He again approached Senator McCain who is introducing new legislation which would make a "technical adjustment" which would have us paid in current value, which is 10 times greater. The Senator indicated that he expected Congress to agree and the President to sign it.

FROM DOWN UNDER - We have had a lot of mail from Australia. Ernie Toovey reports that his beloved wife is confined to a nursing home and cannot walk or talk. Our hearts go out to these fine people, as we have many fond memories of our times together during our visits Down Under. We have a constant exchange of correspondence and telephone conversations with Arthur "Blood" Bancroft and his charming wife Mirla. The latest word is that the 2nd HMAS Perth is going to be scuttled off the coast of Albany, West Australia on November 24, to become an artificial reef for fish and recreational diving. Arthur has been selected to represent the Perth Survivors, give an address and press the button to set off the charges to scuttle the ship. Arthur was concerned that this might become the 3rd ship he went down on, (he was one of the Aussies that left Saigon and were sunk off the coast of Formosa). I told him that he did such a good job on the 1st, that he was a logical choice to sink the 2nd one. Arthur's birthday is the same day, and his family is gathering from all over Australia for a surprise 80th party. Trudy and I were honored when asked to send a greeting and responded by recording a message on audio tape.

IT'S LATER THAN WE THINK - As I was recently working on our "living survivors list" several things crossed my mind. As I looked at the names it came to me that I haven't heard from many of you in ages, and some not at all. Not that there is any special requirement on your part to do so, but as the youngest survivor is 77, IT IS later than we think. I think that, more than ever before, we ought to respond to that strong special bond that we experienced in the past. I urge all of you seriously consider a letter or phone call.

COINCIDENCE -Shipmate, **ART DUHAIME**, has a friend, Robert Perry, whom he has known since kindergarten. While we were in Ilo Ilo waiting for the war to start, **ART** sent Robert and his family a Christmas card. Nothing unusual about that, but listen to this coincidence..... The card was postmarked on Dec. 7, 1941, the date of the Pearl Harbor attack. The card was delivered to the Perry family on March 1, 1942, the date Houston was sunk. And we complain about snail mail.



THIS 'N THAT - JACK "FERGIE" FERGUSON, according to son Wayne, is recovering from a defibrillator implant and is looking forward to getting back on the links. Thanks Wayne for pluggin us in once n a while, but sure wish you could convince the old man to start communicating with us..... If you are wondering why I use caps for some names, it's a style I adopted in the early days of the Blue Bonnet to identify a Houston Survivor..... While the response to the initial appeal for the USS Houston Scholarship fund was encouraging, we still have a long way to go to reach the goal set by **NED GALLAGHER** and his committee. I had great success with sending personal letters to members of my family who either owned or were in a position, in their company, to present the appeal. I urge all who are in a position to do so, to use that approach.... As you already know the Asiatic Fleet Association will be conducting their reunion in Houston at the same time as ours. They will be holding their memorial service on board the battleship Texas on Friday March 1..... Word from **JACK SMITH** that **LEON ROGERS** is in critical condition in the San Diego VA Hospital. Your prayers are needed had more material for this issue but Val is pressed for time and space so I am ending here.

FROM THE NEXT GENERATION

SEPTEMBER 11 - After 6 decades, we once again find ourselves rallied with the same Allies of WWII. I for one admit to have been complacent about the world around me. The news has showed atrocities from around the world and I would tisk and cluck, complacent that events of such things just don't happen on OUR soil. September 11th was an awakening to the fact that we will lose a few luxuries and convinces that some call rights and freedoms. However, we can not consider ourselves victims. This has been a way of life around the world and we have been cocooned longer than most. This great nation is a melting pot of European, South American, African & Asian cultures. We pride ourselves on freedom of speech and religion. We had fallen into a bad habit of bickering amongst ourselves, but no more. We are "ONE nation, UNDER God, INDIVISIBLE..." and we shall prevail over the faceless cowards that tried to attack our way of life. We have received dozens of emails and faxes from all over the world expressing concern and support for the USA and her citizens. It has been heart warming to know we Americans have such staunch friends. I have answered each thanking them for their comforting messages..... I'm so proud to be an American & to represent this group!!!

SHIP MODEL - **Gene Wilkinson** has received his new model ship - "he really did a nice job, a lot more detail than my last one, paint job is better, has the SOCs on each catapult, lifelines around the deck are good, signal halyards on forward & main mast look good". Cost: Model ship - \$300 Walnut Display Case - \$125 Air Freight: \$75=\$500 total. Builder: Jeff Wefel, 2468 S. 74 St, West Allis, WI 53219. Phone 414 328-0923 or email: welfelfam@ameritech.net

NEXT GENERATION MAILBAG - Before his death, **John Wisecup** always sent news clips with interesting information. **Lloyd Willey** writes that Dorothy has son Dwight busy putting in a new fountain with a waterfall in their garden. **OC McManus** called to say that he had a scare with the flu, although he is now 87, he continues to write his annual newsletter to his high school alumna (Class of '33), snowbirds - Audrey & **Harry Kelley** have made their way down to Hildalgo to avoid the Missouri winters. **John Hood** sent a note saying he hopes to see us in Houston. Johan VanLeer always sends interesting news articles. It's always a pleasure to hear from **Jim Ballew**, his letters are always upbeat. **Dutch Kooper** has had his 2nd hip replacement and is on the mend making plans to come to the March reunion. **David Flynn** was the guest speaker at the Everglades Council Navy League of the United States on October 18. Edith Reynolds (widow of **James "Red" Reynolds**) sent a copy of a school report written by her great nephew, Richard Hammer III -- VERY well done! Di Elliott (who's father was an Australian POW on the Death Railway) emailed that she and her husband attended a city wide prayer vigil and placed red, white and blue flowers in honor of the USA. Carol Cooper (her father was an English POW that died in the camps) wrote a wonderful editorial in support of the USA in her COFEPOW (Children of Far East POW's) newsletter. Mary Fort sent a copy of the letters of gratitude for her freedoms she sent to the survivors. **Gene Crispi** has had quite an ordeal with his eye surgery and we all wish him a speedy recovery. Fred Seiker sends his regards to all from jolly ole England & keeps me posted via regular faxes.

TRIP TO USS HOUSTON CA-30 SITE/SINGAPORE/THAILAND - Due to the tensions around the world, our trip has been postponed. It's a disappointment, but the safety of our group is our main concern. Mason Logie is rescheduling for March 2003 & I will have information to any that are interested.

DONATIONS - We deeply appreciate the donations to the kitty! Thank you's to: **Pap & Theresa Papish**, Vanessa Mehlman in memory of **Charles Atterberry**, Roy Kent (Perth survivor), **OC McManus**, **Bob Fulton**, **Audrey & Harry Kelley**, **Al Kopp**, Charles Mott, **John Hood**, Clyde Keith, **Art & Anne Duhaime**.

BIRTHDAY CARDS - Thanks to our volunteers: Jo Goff, Joanne Pryor, Nancy Morrow, Thomas Baker, Billie Johnson, Lin Drees, Dana Charles, Mary Fort and her class, Vanessa Mahlman, Kelly Long, Jan Bradley, Walter Grice, Debbie Carson, Ben Reynolds, John Echol's class, Bridget McMaster, Bill Lynch, Sue Pogue, Mary Kvam, Ted Schram, Clay Ramsey, Jo Edmondson, Marianna Goggiano & Nancy Adams. Our survivors really enjoy their cards! The volunteer name list was running a bit thin so I put out a request via email - the response was terrific! You people make this job worthwhile!!

HELL IN THE PACIFIC - This 2 hour documentary produced by Jonathan Lewis & Isoble Hinshelwood of Carlton Television (of the British Broadcasting System) is a must see. The first airing is December 7, 2001, 9 PM Eastern Standard Time on the Learning Channel. Max & I were honored to be invited to the BBC offices to view an hour of this work when we were in London. We were in awe of their powerful presentation. This documentary exposes the brutalities of the war in the Pacific presenting rare film footage, well kept secrets & blunt interviews. It gives you a glimpse of what our veterans had to endure and you will be astounded.

THE FIRST USS HOUSTON - Many NG's don't know there was a *Houston* before the CA-30. The first *Houston* (AK-1) was the former German freighter *Liebenfels*, built by Bremer Vulcan, Vagesack, Germany, in 1903. Operated by the Hansa Line, she arrived Charleston, S.C. in August 1914, and remained there until 1 February 1917, when her crew scuttled her. Finding her sunk and abandoned, U.S. authorities set about to raise the ship and took her to Charleston Navy Yard for refitting 20 March 1917. She was commissioned as *Houston* (AK-1) 3 July 1917, Lt. Cmdr. W. H. Lee, USNRF commanding. Assigned to transport services, *Houston* departed Charleston 11 July, loaded coal and oil at Hamton Roads and joined a convoy sailing from New York 7 August 1917. She arrived in Brest 25 August and subsequently made four voyages to and from New York transporting such valuable cargoes as radio equipment, trucks, airplanes, and general supplies. Returning to New York 18 November, the ship was assigned to the Naval Overseas Transportation Service, and made four more voyages between the East and West coasts of the US, departing on the first of these 15 December 1918 from New York. Until her return to New York 14 April 1921 *Houston* carried coal, ordnance, lumber and general supplies between the coasts in support of the Navy's two-ocean operations. She was next assigned to trans-Pacific duty. She sailed from New York 4 May, took cargo at Philadelphia and Norfolk, and steamed by way of San Francisco, Pearl Harbor and Guam to Manila, arriving 22 October 1921. The ship departed Cavit 16 November, and arrived San Francisco 11 January 1922. *Houston* decommissioned 23 March 1922 and was sold 27 September 1922 to Frank M. Warren of Portland, OR.

PAGES OF TIME- 1941 - "Nazis rejoice when pictures are printed in the German press showing Americans who should be working shoulder-to-shoulder against a common foe fighting each other instead. Since January 20 strikes have been called at four International Harvester plants. The all important fact for both Americans and Germans is that Harvester has orders for \$3,000,000 worth of Army tractors and \$1,000,000 worth of ammunition components, and the strikes have held up their production".
Life Magazine - April 7, 1941 issue (cost 10 cents)

“HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE ASIA PACIFIC 1931 - 1945: SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY AND GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP”

is a teachers' guide to support the high school curriculums of History, Social Studies and Law that is now available on the internet. It directly addresses issues related to the atrocities that occurred during the Asia-Pacific war.

VETERANS & PRESCRIPTIONS - Free or low-cost prescription drugs are available through the Department of Veterans Affairs. To take advantage, a vet must enroll with the VA & must be seen by a VA doctor. Once enrolled, vets can receive their prescription drugs at VA clinics, hospitals or through the VA mail-order pharmacy. The toll free VA Health Benefits Service Center is 1 877 222-8387. Vets can also look on the internet at www.va.gov/health.

NOTICE - WILLIAM DAVIS MILLER S2C "I have some personal papers, pictures of his ship, and a letter stating that he will receive the Purple Heart, that belonged to William. I have pictures of him and his sister. There is a letter to his sister Mrs. Gwendolyn Kein of Cicero, IL. I would like to get these papers to his relations if at all possible. If you know where I can find any of these people, please have them write to me or they can call me at 254 518-3437. I have an answering machine and will bet back to them if I miss them. If there is no one to contact, I will try other options. If I can not find anyone then I would be very glad to give these papers to you. Thank you, Jody Thayne, 3535 FV 1113, Copperas Cove, TX 76522 email ed82847@aol.com

CHRISTMAS LETTER

By Mrytle Vorst Sheppard (date unknown)

Dear son, I'm sure you will
Be glad to know
We have hung holly wreaths
And trimmed a tree as though
This Christmas were no different
From all others.

Mary has baked a raisin
Cake, and brother's
Small stocking hangs before
The fireplace, wide
The snow lies deep and white outside.

Dad's roasting nuts and polishing
Red apples. War or no war,
Until that joyous day when I look out
And see you coming up the hill,
We'll still have Christmas
As you'd want it were you were here;

For while you are away, ours is the task
to keep alive all things that you hold dear!

THE ORGANIZATION'S PROJECTS - The Scholarship Program is making good headway. We are still in our infancy stages but on sound footing. Susan Krug, treasurer of the committee reports donations totaling \$9,521.18 at this time. I have a nibble on someone with some pull out there in the film world that is VERY interested in doing a documentary on the USS Houston & her crew. He came to our home and reviewed the materials Otto had sent me and is intrigued....however, since the September attacks, Los Angeles has put their work on hold. This doesn't mean we're throwing in the towel & giving up. I NEVER retreat --- I only re-group after a setback. We'll give the LA people some time, then go after them again. That's a promise! Now, about the March reunion. I want you to pay CLOSE attention! The Allen Park Inn had us very spoiled and were extraordinarily flexible with us. We are dealing with a corporation now and they are much more demanding. Memorize and KNOW this date --- JANUARY 23RD --- Read the info at the end of the newsletter VERY CAREFULLY, fill out the form attached, return it right away & you won't have to worry about it later, okay? The Changi Prison Museum is remodeling. With the help of OC McManus donating a spike from the railway, Otto Schwarz with booklets & an USS Houston patch, Paul Papish giving helpful input and Admiral Steve Loeffler, USN Ret. preparing a plaque and a display of the medals the crew of the Houston were entitled to, there will be an excellent display.

IN SEARCH OF - JOSEPH BENEDICT BIENERT: Contact his grand daughter, Andrea Young at 322 Sierra Madre Wy, Corona, CA 92881 or email JYoungres@aol.com

SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS - To our surprise and some disappointment, we have not received any scholarship applications at this time. By the time you receive this, the deadline will have passed. I find it very difficult to believe that in our readership there wasn't a senior due to graduate in May of 2002. I know of a few students that will be eligible in the next few years to come. In the mean time, we continue to strive to build a solid foundation so that this fund will continue to perpetuate in the future.

SCHOLARSHIP FUND FINANCIAL REPORT -

Starting Balance	\$6000.00
Ship and Crew	1400.00
In Honor of Crew Member	1050.00
In Memory of Crew Member	830.00
Interest	41.18
Aug-Oct Sub-total	\$3521.18
TOTAL	\$9521.18

FOR SALE - Bumper Sticker \$1, Post Cards \$1.50/doz, Caps \$15, Shirts \$25, Note Pads \$1.00, Set of Monument Pictures \$5.00, "Death Becomes the Ghost" video \$15, Monument & Bell pins @ \$2 each, "Avenge the Houston" posters \$10, schematic of the Houston \$7.50 for small, \$10 for large, Bluebonnet Christmas ornament \$5 --- plus postage (no charge for handling...)

Building a First Rate Cruiser Houston Collection

by Julie Grobe

A menu from Thanksgiving dinner, 1934. Handwritten notes describing the ships sinking in Sunda Strait. A metal spike from the Burma-Thai Railway. Original materials like these form the foundation of the Cruiser Houston Collection, which includes more than fifty boxes of material documenting the history of the U.S.S. *Houston* (CA 30) and her crew. In recent years, it has become the most heavily used collection in Special Collections and Archives at the University of Houston Libraries, being sought out by the families of crew members, historians, and documentary filmmakers.

What makes the Cruiser Houston Collection such a wonderful resource for its users? In part, it's the authenticity of the collection. Users feel the thrill of holding a piece of history in their hands - knowing that they are touching the same liberty passes that were used by sailors on the ship, or looking at a real postcard sent from a POW camp during World War II. Seeing or handling something related to a historical event somehow makes it seem more real to people who weren't there.

For historians, much of the value of the Cruiser Houston Collection comes from the large number of historically significant documents, photographs and artifacts that have been brought together in one place. They are primarily interested in the original materials from the 1930's and 1940's that tell the story of the ship and its role in World War II without any kind of outside interpretation. These kinds of materials are said to have enduring value, and need to be protected both for the type of information they hold, and their authenticity.

In recent years, the widespread availability of scanners and photocopiers has meant that more materials are being donated to the Cruiser Houston Collection which are copies. While photocopies and scans contain valuable information and are important for research purposes, they lack the historical importance or original documents. As the Curator of the Cruiser Houston Collection, I have grown concerned in the last few years that the number of copies being added to the collection could dilute its integrity.

While I would like to continue to accept photocopies and scans from donors, in the future these items will probably form an accompanying Cruiser Houston Research Collection rather than being added to the main Cruiser Houston Collection. I urge family members and potential donors to consider donating their original items to the collection, where they can be properly preserved, and made available to the public. I believe it is important that the Cruiser Houston Collection remain a collection of integrity and importance, made up primarily of original documents from the ship and the prison camps. The Cruiser Houston Collection should be worthy of the events it documents.

For more information about the Cruiser Houston Collection, please contact Julie Grob, Special Collections Librarian, University of Houston Libraries, at jgrob@uh.edu or 713 743-9744.

SCHOLARSHIP - YES! I want to help perpetuate the memory of the USS Houston and her crew by donating to the USS Houston Scholarship Fund. I enclose my tax-deductible contribution of \$

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

I would like this gift

_____ IN HONOR OF _____ IN MEMORY OF

Please acknowledge my gift to:

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Matching Contributions:

Does your employer match charitable contributions:
If so, please include a matching contribution form.

mail to:
USS HOUSTON SCHOLARSHIP FUND
%Susan Krug,Treas.
3031 Loops Rd
Stevenson, WA 98648

ATTENTION - If you see a red @ next to your name on the envelope when you receive this newsletter, this will be your last due to monies due, returned mail or aging off the mailing list (no response in the last 6 issues). If you have an e-mail address, please notify me! I can keep you posted on the latest happenings right away, plus e-mail the newsletter to you.

LAWSUIT FOR FORMER POW'S - Judge Wm. F. McDonald (California Superior Court) has rejected all the "courts, not the executive branch, that will ultimately determine the meaning or applicability of a treaty, the political question doctrine does not prevent the rights of the private party plaintiffs against private companies". For a copy of the decision, or form more information, contact Elisabeth Rutledge at 202 661 6318 or erutledge@policyimpact.com.

FINANCIAL REPORT

DEBITS		CREDITS	
Print Newsletter	\$344.51	Previous Balance	\$5381.93
Postage Newsletter	114.00	Donations/sales	768.20
Telephone	195.56		
Postage	39.00	TOTAL	\$6150.13
Supplies	189.96		
Deposit for Hilton	1500.00		
TOTAL	\$2383.03	BALANCE	\$3767.10

IN REVIEW - This past quarter has been truly exciting. With each query I research, I learn more about the *Houston* and her crew. It's a honor and privilege to do this work. We are escaping the high tax rates and maddening traffic of the Austin area and moving north of Austin to Georgetown. We are building our retirement home and should be ready by February or March. (Yes, we're quite aware that we will be moving just about the time Lin and I will be in a faxing frenzy preparing for the reunion). I have 2 compressed discs, but therapy is really helping. I will be staying at our daughter's to help take care of the 4 grandsons as our son in law has been sent to Kuwait. She's going to nursing school full time & must leave the house by 6am to get to the hospital. I will be there to get the 3 oldest boys off to school, then take the baby to the sitter. If I don't respond to your mail right away, please be patient. I'll still swing by the house a couple of times a week to pick up mail, etc. Max is dashing off in another direction once a week to travel & take care of his ailing uncle. Retirement is so busy that I just might have to go back to work to get some rest!! Max and I wish you all a very happy holiday season!

YOU ARE INVITED - 2002 USS HOUSTON Memorial Service/Reunion Week-end -
Houston, Texas - March 1 - 2, 2002

A Line from Lin - The first official event will be dinner on Friday night. Dinner will be served at the University Hilton, starting at 7:30, to allow for late arrivals at the hotel Friday afternoon. The last scheduled event will be dinner on Saturday night, again at the University Hilton, starting at 6:30. A limited number of bus seats will be available Saturday to take registrants to the Memorial Service - be sure to mark if you will need a bus ticket - the bus will be available for those without their own transportation (volunteers with extra seats in their vehicle will be appreciated). Lunch will be a box lunch at the UH Hilton before the reception at the Library. The bus will be available for the trip across the street and down the block to the Library at the University of Houston where we will attend a reception and view the USS HOUSTON exhibit in the Brown Room (this is always a highlight of the week-end -- the library staff loves having us visit and view their USS HOUSTON exhibits -- they are planning a special reception in honor of the 60th anniversary).

At the University Hilton we will be provided with 2 areas: a hospitality room and a special room for display of memorabilia, books, and photo albums. There will be nibbles and drinks available in the hospitality room, but the nibbles and food may not be taken into the display room (hotel rules). There may be an opportunity to view the special collections area where the USS HOUSTON archives are housed -- please indicate on your registration form if you would be interested in touring the Special Collections on Thursday or Friday. Please see the separate article with hotel information. For Friday and Saturday nights, there are 65 rooms available at the University Hilton -- first come, first reserved.

The second hotel is for ones interested in being closer into town and for overflow for late registration. At this point of time there are about 25 rooms already reserved for Friday and Saturday nights at the University Hilton. About 5 rooms are reserved at the Doubletree.

This is the 60th anniversary of the sinking of the HOUSTON -- Val and I are planning a special Memorial Service - special speakers, special music, special everything!

March 1, 2002, is Asiatic Fleet Memorial Day. The Asiatic Fleet will be having their reunion at the same time as ours -- it will be in South Shore Harbor -- southeast of Houston. They have a Memorial Service planned for Friday - it will be held at the Battleship TEXAS - East of downtown. You may make arrangements with them for bus transportation - I do not at this time have the cost of the bus. Also I will have a place to mark on the registration form if you are interested in attending the Asiatic Fleet Memorial Service Friday morning (the HOUSTON was a part of the Asiatic Fleet).

Please register - we hated to have to go to registration - BUT we want to have the VERY BEST for you, and in order to do that, we have to know how many to plan for: meals, bus seats, seating for the Memorial Service, refreshments for the hospitality room, etc. Also UH has to know how many to expect for seating and refreshments at the reception that will be held at UH Library Saturday afternoon.

Please register even if you will only be attending the Memorial Service (11a.m.-Saturday-Sam Houston Park, downtown) - we have to order and pay for the chairs in advance. Registrants will receive maps and additional information. PLUS we want to honor ALL of our survivors and surviving spouses. And, OF COURSE, we want to acknowledge ALL our next-of-kin who represent a HOUSTON man who has passed away (whether it be the night of March 1st, the POW camps, or since liberation).

If you have attended one of our Memorial Service/Reunion week-ends, we hope to see you again. If you have not attended, please consider attending this year. Please do not let the fact that you do not know anyone else deter you from attending. The first event that Ron and I attended we did not know anyone, but came home with friends world-wide -- we cannot imagine our lives without the USS HOUSTON men, their families, their friends, and the USS HOUSTON Next Generation family and friends. Your life will be greatly enriched by the friendships and "new family members."

Enough said, please register - and please register early (and don't forget to reserve your room(s) - the special USS HOUSTON room rates are not held forever).

Please send in your registration form and check by **January 23rd**. We will not have the flexibility that we had in the past - there will be a fee for set-up of extra dinners ordered late. If you find out after January 23rd that you will be able to attend, please go ahead and register - **WE WANT YOU TO BE WITH US IN HOUSTON ON MARCH 1 - 2, 2002**, as we remember the men who went down with the ship that fateful night, the men who were not able to come home from the POW camps, the men who have since passed away - and as we also honor the Survivors and the Surviving Spouses. If you have an item (something that you brought home from the POW camps, any letters, etc., or a monetary donation) that you would like to donate to UH while at the reception, please let me know or advise the UH Library Special Collections so that your donation may be recognized that Saturday. The Nimitz in Fredericksburg, Texas, will be sending some volunteers to Houston to record Oral Histories - please sign up on the registration form if you would volunteer to an oral history. On the back of the Registration Form you will find a Volunteer Form; Val and I have been told by attendees that they would have volunteered had they known of any needs. Select a place where you feel comfortable in volunteering - or fill in the blank with a suggestion of additional needs.

A CHANGE OF SUBJECT - Ron and I take a bluebonnet to the Monument with the name of the recently departed, plus bluebonnets in memory of those whom we have been asked to remember in the past. Special bouquets were made for Veterans Day, also we took a broom to sweep off the dead grass that had accumulated from grass cuttings. Poinsettia garlands have also been purchased to place around the base of the Monument for Christmas. Please let me know if you would like a special person remembered - and the date of the occasion.

NEXT YEAR WILL BE HERE SOONER THAN YOU THINK - that reminds me - PLEASE take the time to fill in your registration, write out a check, put it into an envelope and mail to me -- WE ARE REALLY LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING ALL OF YOU - and HAVING A FANTASTIC REUNION - and AN INSPIRING MEMORIAL SERVICE.

IN CLOSING - Ron and I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year, and we are both anxious to hear from you and to see you in Houston in March, 2002.

our e-mail address ronlindrees@juno.com

our home address for almost 25 years: 14219 Wickersham, Houston, Tx. 77077

our home phone and fax number - 1 281 493 5171

A Place at the Inn (by Lin)

For this reunion I have 2 hotels from which you may choose. The first choice is the University of Houston Hilton. They have beautiful areas for our banquets, our hospitality room, and a special room for display of our USS HOUSTON sales table, books, albums, photographs, etc. They will offer rooms for 1-2 people for \$79. To reserve a room, please call 1 800 468 3584 or 1 713 743 2471 and ask for the USS HOUSTON discount rate. *This USS HOUSTON rate is guaranteed until Sunday, January 27 - after that date the room rates may back up to the regular rate.*

As a 2nd choice I am offering you rooms closer into town (just a few blocks North of the Flynn family's favorite barbeque restaurant in Houston and 2 blocks South of one of my favorite restaurants). This is the DoubleTree Club Hotel at Greenway Plaza. To get to UH you would get on Alabama (or freeway) and take it East to the University of Houston -- or to arrive at the monument you would take Kirby North which becomes Allen Parkway which takes you directly to the Monument. The DoubleTree provides a beautiful exercise room and has a French bakery in the lobby. An excellent location (in the middle of everything) for those with a car and wanting to sightsee. To reserve a room at the DoubleTree, please call 1 713 942 2111 and ask for the USS HOUSTON rate. The rooms for Friday and Saturday are \$69 for a king and \$79 for 2 double beds (\$99 and \$109 for Thursday night). *The last date that they will accept reservations at the USS HOUSTON rate is Friday, February 15th.*

G O D

B L E S S

A M E R I C A

USS HOUSTON Memorial Service/Reunion - March 1-2, 2002 - Houston, Texas

Room reservations MUST be made by YOU - see separate article for hotel info.

name _____
relationship to the HOUSTON (survivor) (surviving spouse)
(relative-please indicate relationship on lines provided) (friend-please indicate how you found out
about the HOUSTON on lines provided) (131st survivor) (131st surviving spouse)

home address _____

home phone no. _____ office phone no. _____

fax (home) _____ fax (office) _____

e-mail (home) _____ e-mail (office) _____

Arrive(date) _____ (a.m.)(p.m.) Leave(date) _____ (a.m.)(p.m.)

Hotel location _____
Friday night dinner choices ___(no.eating-stuffed flounder) ___(no.eating-roast strip
sirloin) - each dinner comes w/ salad, potato, vegetable, rolls, butter, dessert, beverage
(total eating dinner - _____)
Saturday Box Lunch choices ___(no.eating-turkey&cheese) ___(no.eating-tuna)
___(no.eating-vegetarian) - cookie&beverage (total eating lunch-_____)
Saturday night dinner choices ___(no.eating-grilled ribeye) ___(no.eating-stuffed
boneless chicken breast) - each dinner comes w/ salad, potato, vegetable,rolls, butter,
dessert, beverage (total eating dinner - _____)

Late Registration/after Jan.23

Dinner - Friday \$25.50 x no. eating (___) = \$_____ \$27.50 x ___ = \$_____
Lunch - Saturday \$11 x no. eating (___) = \$_____ \$13 x _____ = \$_____
Dinner - Saturday \$25.50 x no. eating (___) = \$_____ \$27.50 x ___ = \$_____
Registration - \$10 per person x no. (___) = \$_____ \$14 x _____ = \$_____

(your check is your receipt)
TOTAL -----\$_____ LateRegistration = \$_____

Need a seat on the bus to the Memorial Service _____ (no. of persons in party) _____

Need a seat on the bus to the Library _____ (no. of persons in party) _____

I am interested in attending the Asiatic Fleet Memorial Service ___ (no.in party) _____

I am interested in a tour of USS HOUSTON archives -Thursday - (no. in party) _____ or Friday - (no. in party) _____

I am interested in participating in the Oral History program through the
Nimitz, please set up a time for my interview _____

Please include a check for the total cost - make your check payable to
USS HOUSTON - Next Generation. Please send your check and registration
to USS HOUSTON - Lin Drees - 14219 Wickersham - Houston, TX 77077.
Add'l.info and VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITIES - please see other side of page

If you will attend only the Memorial Service, please register so that we can recognize you at the Memorial Service. (fill in name, addr., etc. information on the reverse side)

Memorial Service only no. attending - _____

Memorial Service and the Hospitality Room only no. attending - _____

Memorial Service and UH reception only no. attending - _____

For each event above, please indicate the no. of persons attending.

WE LOVE VOLUNTEERS - all gratefully accepted !!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Name(s)

Please fill in address, phone, e-mail, and fax information on the reverse side.

If more than one person is filling in the form below, write in your name beside the applicable volunteer opportunity. Otherwise if only one person, write YES where you will be able to help us.

We need your help with any of the items listed below. Please indicate your choice and return to USS HOUSTON, Lin Drees, 14219 Wickersham, Houston, TX 77077.

Appetizers or dip with chips _____ Cookies _____ (homemade or purchased)

Bottled water (individual size) _____ Canned sodas _____ (no. of 6 packs - _____)

Other canned drinks _____ (no. of 6 packs - _____) Igloo _____

Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____

Other opportunities to volunteer :

Registration Desk - Thursday (for Early Birds) _____(am)(pm) Friday _____(am)(pm)

At Site Registration - Saturday a.m. _____

Sale table for USS HOUSTON items - Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____

Display Room / set-up - Thursday afternoon _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____

Display Room / clean-up - Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____

Hospitality Room / set-up - Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____

_____ Hospitality Room / clean-up - Thursday _____ Friday _____ Saturday _____

_____ Help at Memorial Service - _____

Help co-ordinate scheduled events at Memorial Service - _____

Help at meals (take tickets) - Fri. _____ Sat./lunch _____ Sat./dinner _____

Bus monitor / Saturday _____

Vehicle with extra seats - Fri. / Asiatic Fleet Memorial Serv. - number of spaces _____

Saturday / Memorial Service - number of spaces _____

Saturday afternoon / reception at UH - number of spaces _____

Anything that we have forgotten? _____