



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

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GEORGE "CORKY" STODDARD	June 30, 2005	Cancer
RAYMOND "RAY" PETERSON	May 28, 2005	Unknown

USS HOUSTON CA30-CL81

Sept 28-Oct 2, 2005
KCI Airport Hilton - Kansas City, MO
Contact: Less Beigle 816 532-4130
108 W Main St, Smithville, MO 64089
email: donnakenr@cs.com

USS HOUSTON SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

February 24 – 25, 2006
Doubletree- Allan Center
400 Dallas St, Houston, TX 77002
713 759-0202
Contact: Val Poss 512 989-0000 email: CA30NG@aol.com

**ASIATIC FLEET REUNION
SCYPAF 22ND ANNUAL – USNAF 7TH ANNUAL COMBINED REUNION
May 3 – 7, 2006**

Best Western Asheville Biltmore
22 Woodfin St., Asheville, NC 28801
1 282-253-1851
Contact: Walter Ashe, 2606 River Ridge Dr., Asheville, NC 28803

THE DEADLINE IS HERE AND NOW

NOW HEAR THIS!!

All college-bound seniors, all college undergraduates, and all relatives and friends of these seniors and undergrads who have an interest in the USS *Houston* (CA-30): ***If you would like financial assistance with those overwhelming college bills,*** the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Scholarship Committee has good news for you. Requests for scholarship applications from those planning to attend college in the fall of 2006 are now being accepted. Only actual college students--or those anticipating being students--may request an application. The 2006 Scholarship requirements are that the student request a form by October 15, 2005, and submit an application along with an essay on one of three topics listed in the application packet by Nov. 1, 2005. Full details and requirements are in the packet, which may be requested by contacting Ron Drees, 14219 Wickersham Lane, Houston, TX 77077 or ron.ca30@sbcglobal.net . No telephone requests, please. Those of you who know potential or current college students should encourage them to request an application. Requests must include a return physical mailing address.

MAILBAG – CK McFarland, daughter of the late TOM MCFARLAND, sadly reported that her brother TJ McFarland died Sept. 1st . He fought trying to stay alive for a liver transplant for many years. CK was there for her mom Gwen during this difficult time. JAMES REYNOLD's son emailed to advise that his Mom, Edith passed away 1-1-05. I have no further information to report. GEORGE STODDARD died within 3 weeks after being diagnosed of lung and bladder cancer. He was surrounded by his family enveloped in love as his spirit joined his crew members of the USS Houston. Thomas Baker, son of GEORGE BAKER, sent several pictures of his dad & crew members in Hawaii '40. In one picture, there were 7 of the crew having fun on the beach. I checked it out and realized that 5 were KIA, of the two remaining, one died in the camps and the other came home. They were all so young, handsome and having a lot of fun. Thank you so very much for sharing these, Tom. Bette Fowler sent a lovely note. She and I found something in common – our father's both served in the Navy (mine WWII, hers WWI) and our husbands were also Navy (mine Vietnam, hers WWII). It must be something about those uniforms.....she has some memorabilia of JACK's that she is donating. MATT MARINOS sent some information for our archives along with a very big "THANK YOU VERY MUCH to all those Next Generation persons who took the time to send me a Birthday card." A.B. "Youngun" & Wanda Clark (131st) are proud to announce that their grandson has completed his work to become an Eagle Scout. We were not aware of RAY PETERSON's death until the Memorial Service at the Lost Battalion Reunion & have no information.

DONATIONS – Bette Fowler, Marilyn Hobbs, Fred & Liz Seiker, John Scwarz, Roy Kent (from Australia), MARVIN BAIN, Marilyn Hobbs, Marion Beardsley in memory of MARVIN BEARDSLEY, Rita Jedinak. Tax ID # 17053122009007
If you will take a moment to notice – only 9 out of several *hundred* members donated to the kitty this quarter. I will no longer give advance warning to those about to be deleted from the list via mail or email. This next coming quarter, I will be cutting the list to the bone. Enough said, you know who you are..... & you know how to contact us.

NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES REPORT: Capt. Martine Myers reported: "It is my sad duty to advise you that our Good Friend and loyal Recorder General Volunteer, Dave Austraw died Sunday, July 31, 2005.
There annual Battle of Midway celebration luncheon on June 2nd had the distinguished CAPT N.J. "Dusty" Kleiss, USN (Ret.) Captain Kleiss earned the Distinguished Flying Cross for his work in

the Marshall Islands during WWII. Soon after, Admiral Nimitz awarded him the Navy Cross for his efforts during the Battle of Midway.

RETURNED MAIL - Wow! We had a lot of returned mail this quarter. It seems a lot of people had their 6 months forwarding expire & we weren't notified. With the higher costs of paper, printing and postage PLUS the return fee, I would have thought folks would have either notified us to stop sending the newsletter to them or give the forwarding address.

WWII SURRENDER ANNIVERSARY – Sharron Long was in Kauai, Hawaii on August 15th and sent me a copy of their news coverage of the Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi's statement taken for an apology as he pledged that Japan would never forget the "terrible lessons" of war & expressed his "deep reflections and heartfelt" sorrow for the damages. This was the Prime Minister's 2nd apology this year. He stated, "Our country has caused great damages and pain to people in many countries, especially our Asian neighbors, through colonization and invasion. We will not forget the terrible lessons of the war, and will contribute to world peace and prosperity". Protesters in Hong Kong burned the Japanese flag. In the Philippines, the women who were forced to act as "comfort women" demanded compensation & apologies. China's news media covered the Japanese atrocities. In an unusual move, the North Korean and South Korean delegations joined expressed their animosity. Earlier this year, I sent everyone on my email list the Prime Minister's email address and urged one and all to send a message demanding an apology. As for myself, I was never answered.

LOST BATTALION REUNION – This August reunion was the 60th anniversary of the release of our men. We had both the Dallas TV Station (Channel 8) and the Dallas Morning News interviewing our survivors & family members. Although Max couldn't attend because of health reasons, we were the co-Presidents this year. We were honored to be "in charge" this year & a good crowd attended. Look for more details in the *Line From Lin*.

PTSD TURNS 25 By Dana Charles

Dana Charles is an Orlando, FL-based freelance writer. His father, H. Robert Charles, is a US Marine survivor of the USS HOUSTON (CA-30), whose 3 ½ years as a POW of the Japanese, included some 13-months of forced labor on the infamous Burma-Thailand Railway. H. Robert Charles described his war experiences in his book, "Last Man Out," which was published in 1988.

This year marks the 25th Anniversary of the official classification for a very old problem for some former prisoners of war: Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Today, the total number of books, articles and research papers available on PTSD and other effects of traumatic experiences is in the thousands. But, such was not the case twenty-five years ago.

Prior to 1980, people who had faced and survived emotionally and psychologically overwhelming circumstances, such as POWs, were likely to find afterward that an understanding of those with sleep-depriving nightmares, intrusive thoughts, anxiety, and other problems was not only elusive, but also that some considered such problems as faked, or as a sign of character weakness, or of insanity.

Unable to forget their traumatic experiences, some people would simply keep their nightmares to themselves. Some became isolated. Some turned to alcohol or drug abuse, or to other forms of addiction, which caused other problems.

Then, in 1980 the American Psychiatric Association's (APA) publication of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Third Edition, or "DSM-III," included the new classification called "Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD)." Here, the American Psychiatric Association formally acknowledged that traumatic experiences, including rape, battering, child abuse, and war experiences can cause certain psychological problems – later on – which, is where the word "Post" came from in the name.

The official description of PTSD made it clear that those who suffered from the disorder were not “crazy,” or “weak,” or “less than” other people; but rather, that what they were feeling was a normal reaction to extraordinarily abnormal traumatic circumstances. People suffering from certain symptoms, and those professionals who would treat them, now, at least had something to go on – an official diagnosis, PTSD.

Due to a Congressional mandate, a National Center for PTSD (NCPTSD), was created in 1989 in White River Junction, VT. Since then, as part of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the NCPTSD has served as a major resource center for information not only on war-related PTSD, but also on many kinds of traumatic experiences.

Today, a visit to the NCPTSD’S Internet website (<http://www.ncptsd.org/>) can provide a vast amount of information on PTSD, including a large collection of articles and studies on Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and other trauma-related psychological problems. (For those AXPOW members who do not have a home computer with Internet access, consider making a trip to your local public library, which may not only have free access to the Internet, but also may have a staff member willing to help.)

Also, at the NCPTSD website is a list of “Recommended Books on PTSD for the Non-specialist Reader,” which includes the following books:

Trauma and the Vietnam War Generation (Brunner/Mazel, 1990, \$21.95, ISBN 0-87630-573-7).

Coping with Trauma: A Guide to Self-Understanding by Jon Allen (American Psychiatric Press, 1995, \$23.95, 0-88048-720-8).

Trauma and Recovery by Harvard psychiatrist Judith Herman. (Basic Books, 1992, out of print hard, 0-465-08765-5; 1993, \$14.00 paper, 0-465-08766-3).

Traumatic Stress: The Effects of Overwhelming Experience on Mind, Body, and Society by Bessel A. Van Der Kolk, Alexander C. McFarlane, and Lars Weisaeth (Editors).

I Can’t Get Over It: A Handbook for Trauma Survivors by Aphrodite Matsakis (New Harbinger Publications, 1992, \$24.95 hard, 1-879237-26-1; \$12.95 paper, 1-879237-25-3),
Vietnam Wives: Facing the Challenges of Life with Veterans Suffering Post Traumatic Stress by Aphrodite Matsakis (Sidran Press, 1996, \$19.95 paper, 1-886968-00-4. This is a new edition of her 1988 book).

Recovering from the War: A Guide for All Veterans, Family Members, Friends and Therapists by Patience H.C. Mason. (Viking, 1990, out of print hard, 0-670-81587-X; Penguin, 1990, out of print paper, 0-14-009912-3; copies still available from Patience Press, P.O. Box 2757, High Springs FL 32643. Formerly called: Recovering from the War: A Woman’s Guide for Helping Your Vietnam Vet, Your Family, and Yourself). www.patiencepress.com.

Achilles in Vietnam: Combat Trauma and the Undoing of Character by Veterans Affairs psychiatrist Jonathan Shay (Atheneum, 1994, \$20.00 hard, 0-689-12182-2; Touchstone Books, 1995, \$12.00 paper, 0-684-81321-1).

Soul Murder: The Effects of Childhood Abuse and Deprivation by Leonard Shengold (Yale University Press, 1989, out of print hard, 0-300-04522-0; Fawcett, 1991, \$12.00 paper, 0-449-90549-7).

So, 25 years after “PTSD” first became an official diagnostic category, information on the effects of traumatic experiences seems more available than ever before.

But, as those who have gone through a healing process know, understanding PTSD is one thing, healing is another. To heal from this disorder, it takes courage, commitment, and effort on the part of the sufferer. Happily, along with 25-years of PTSD research on survivors of traumatic experiences, better ways of helping people with PTSD have been developing, too.

So, happy 25th anniversary, PTSD...!

To all who have dedicated themselves to helping those former prisoners of war with PTSD and their families: We salute you. And may all who suffer from PTSD find healing.

(If any of you need further information or help about PTSD, contact Dana at: 1209 Clouster Av, Orlando, FL 32804)

ON THE EUROPEAN FRONT – Fred & Liz Seiker & I communicate often about the news in England. There was a commemoration of the end of the war along, Prince Charles at the function, viewing of the new POW museum & the BBC giving coverage ending their segment with one of Fred's poem. He is dealing with the ailments of aging as are the other survivors. And like the others, facing it with chin up and determination.

FROM DOWN UNDER – Stephen Youll of the Pearth Assn. in Australia sent an email that PERTH III will commission in Fremantle on Saturday 6 October 2006. However, I received word from Richard Boulton, Lt. Commander RAN, Executive Officer of NUSHIP PERTH that the commissioning would be roughly around Sept 6th. We're making plans to attend if my back will hold out – anyone else??? Contact me and I'll keep you personally posted!

A GENTLE REMINDER – Our ship's namesake, the SSN-713 needs to be remembered. How about adding them to your Christmas list? I know they would enjoy mail from the CA-30 family. Send to: USS Houston SSN-713
FPO AP 96667-2393

LINE FROM LIN

The Lost Battalion reunion was recently held. As many of you know there is a tradition where the Survivors march around the dance floor as the band plays "The Col. Bogey March" which was written in 1914 by Kenneth Alford. I did not know the background of the tradition. Recently Ron and I received a letter from Theresa Papish in which she enclosed a Xerox copy of a page written and illustrated by John Wisecup who was a Marine aboard the USS *HOUSTON*. I will now give you a typed copy - no illustration - I will use John's spellings and punctuation:

To The Ancient Mariner and His "Tex-Mex" marching band. Top ten in our own "ding bat" hall of fame.

Joe Gans stood up and cried, "Let's March!"

"We'll show the world we still got starch!"

"Ole Col. Bogie? We never met -- me thinks that bums in Changi yet!"

"Although it be a limey tune - We'll add some Yankee zing right soon."

"At Sunda Strait we took a bath -- then followed months of Nippons' wrath.
Look back long years - yes! Fifty-one. And step out lads! We still ain't done!"

"Now folks let's give Joe Gans a hand -- with his "Bogie March" by a "Tex-Mex" band.
He got that party livened up -- they did not simply sit and sup."

He did this job with the tools at hand as in days of yore back in Thailand.
With a toast to Joe we end this rhyme. Let's do a repeat Next Reunion Time."

(signed) J Wise(and the drawing of a cup) ((this was his usual signature for Wisecup))

"The Accidental Occidental"

Yokohama 8/25/93 ((for those who do not know, John married a wonderful Japanese lady and lived in Japan where he passed away a few years ago))

The "March" is performed each night of the reunion - except now, some use walkers or canes - some are in wheelchairs - BUT all Survivors participate ---- AND it is the highlight of each night.

John was special to many - and especially to me because he knew my cousin who was also a Marine - and also from Louisiana. John wrote to me many times - and included notes about my cousin, James Raydell Wilson. Does anyone else remember Raydell (nickname - Goon or Goonie)? Raydell died in November of 1943 at Camp 114 before I was born so any memories are especially dear.

Attending this year's Lost Battalion reunion:

USS *Houston*: Marvin Bain, Bob Charles, Jack Feliz, Robert Hanley, Clarence "Skip" Schilperoort, including spouses and families; and Surviving Spouses: Geneva King, Jimmie Pryor, Lee Robinson, and Erma Snyder, and families.

131st: AB "Youngun" Clark, Joseph Clay, Melvin Clay, Carl Clements, Frank Ficklin, BD Fillmore, Eddie Fung, Crayton "Quaty" Gordon, Hubert Griffith, J.W. Hoover, Ed Hudson, Jack Kenner, Paul Leatherwood, W.F. "Hook" Matthews, Luther Prunty, George Ray, Eldridge Rayburn, Warren Robertson, Reuben Slone, and J.L. Summers, and spouses and families.

2006 USS *Houston* reunion / Memorial Service - When Sharron started negotiating with the hotel, she found that the hotel was locked into an expensive nightly room rate by a convention that was being held downtown and using several hotels. So Sharron wisely changed the dates of the reunion, but the Houston Rodeo parade will again be held that Saturday morning. So Sharron asks your indulgence with a time change - the **Memorial Service will be held at 3 pm on Saturday, February 25, 2006**. The 3 o'clock time will allow the streets to clear, and the bands and marching groups to complete their playing and marching - and most importantly, enable our band to arrive - the chairs to be delivered - and speakers and audience to have open streets to travel to our Service. The reunion will be Friday and Saturday - and early birds may start arriving on Wednesday and Thursday. When making reservations (\$79 per night), remember to tell them you're with the USS Houston Survivors group to get your discounted rate.

PLEASE remember the Hurricane Katrina evacuees (not refugees) who are spread all over the U.S., seeking shelter. Houstonians, and all Americans, are opening their hearts to these citizens who have lost their homes and many friends and relatives.

Please feel free to write to Ron and me @ lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net or 14219 Wickersham, Houston, TX 77077 - or phone and fax - 281.493.5171. Happy Fall to All !!!!

WEST POINT BOUND by Mark Clark (131st NG)

"As the light breeze swept over the pavement, 239 young faces stood rigidly at attention. On command they raised right hands and proudly took an oath to protect our Constitution. This is the exercise that has been repeated time and time again. Our Country had been attacked by another ruthless foe and yet another generation of patriots was formally donning the uniform to fight for the rest of us, to protect our homes and ensure our liberties.

Sixty-four some odd years ago, you Lost Battalion Survivors gave that same oath. This time, the date was only last month, and one of those young faces belonged to 19 year old Timothy Clark, grandson of Arthur B. "Youngun" Clark. Timothy has joined the Army, and after a lengthy selection process entered the US Military Academy's Preparatory School. He's completed basic training and over the next 9 months will further hone his military, academic,

athletic, and leadership skills. From there, he will go on to West Point as a Cadet, Class of 2010. He will graduate with a degree and be commissioned a 2nd Lieutenant. He plans to attend Airborne, Ranger, and Special Forces schools. Eventually he would like to become a member of the Army's secretive Delta Force - the group that rooted Saddam Hussein out of his spider hole, the group that will find Bin Laden, and completes other missions that never get to the media.

So, what causes a young man like Timothy to want to serve in the Armed Forces? Well, he grew up with images of an unfinished Desert Storm engrained in his mind. He learned of Terrorist attacks on the USS Cole, Marine barracks blown up, and other events world wide in which Terrorists hit US targets and killed the innocent. He came of age after 9-11 and when a new President said enough is enough and declared war on those intending to kill us. He had served as Senior Patrol Leader over 50 boys in the Boy Scouts and earned Eagle Scout rank. He lettered in Football and Track, and as a youth leader in church helped a number of his friends get baptized. So when it came to college choices he considered a few, but only completed the one application to West Point.

After competitive interviews with several Military Officers that included a Major General, Timothy won a nomination from his local Congressman, Dr. Michael Burgess. He was subsequently offered and accepted the appointment to the US Military Academy Preparatory School at Fort Monmouth, NJ.

These were not the only factors that influenced him to serve our Country. He knew his Papa had been a POW. He had come to some reunions and met many of you. He remembered many of your stories and knows the collective history of the Lost Battalion. When applying to West Point last year he even consulted with Susan Ficklin, then a Naval Commander. She helped Timothy put his most relevant thoughts and emotions on paper for review by West Point's Admissions Committee.

As part of his application Timothy wrote "My grandfather...was in the US Army during WWII and Prisoner of War to the Japanese... He lost 3 ½ years of his life defending this great nation in the Lost Battalion. I realize I have a debt to pay. Not just to my country, which I hold so dear. Not just to the veterans of other wars, and the valiant firefighters and police officers who lost their lives on 9/11, but to my Papa. I owe him loyal service.

I owe it to him to keep the names of freedom alive, so they will never have to be whispered in fear, but shouted loudly for those less fortunate to hear and have hope. That is why I want to go to West Point. To honor my grandfather for the sacrifices he made and to ensure the freedoms he defended so honorably endure."

So, for all of you Survivors, as Timothy's Dad I want to say thank you. Thank you for your service and thank you for whatever influences you heroes had on Timothy and all those that came after you. You all helped save the world, and your legacy lives on in this newest generation coming of age. In reflecting on his military experience so far, Timothy wrote "I am walking the path God put me on, and now realize I have been walking it for some time."

Should anyone wish to write Timothy here is his address:

CC Clark, Timothy
P.O. Box 34
Bldg 1205, Abbey Rd.
Ft. Monmouth, New Jersey 07703

OUR WEB SITE – I want to strongly urge all of you that have internet or access to it via a friend or family member to check out our website at www.usshouston.org. The Guest Book entries are very interesting & I answer each one per quarter. Our NG, Shawn Flynn has been working on a site (<http://home.pon.net/shawnf>). You folks MUST take a few moments to write a short bio and send pictures of your loved one. This is a BIG project Shawn has volunteered to undertake. Your participation can only make it even better!

ITEMS FOR SALE - We have USS Houston T shirts sizes medium to 2X, great looking Next Generation coffee cups, Monument pins, Bell pins, bumper stickers and more for sale! Please note that we have run out of caps. I won't be ordering any more until the next reunion. Contact me for further information...

A HUGE THANK YOU – We thank Pam Foster, Sue Krutzer & Vic Campbell for working on the website. Jo Klenks running the Birthday Card project (which consists of about a dozen volunteers), Sharron Long for working with the Doubletree to arrange the reunion, Lin Drees for her work on the Memorial Service & her editorials, the Scholarship Committee (Ron Drees is the chairperson). I've mentioned the hard work Shawn Flynn is doing to create the lasting memorial to our crew members via internet. Another member has given her time and energy to help me make great strides in getting our archives..... **Susan Krug** flew in from Washington and stayed with us for a week. She and I teamed up, put together a game plan and began to scan our archived files. We worked morning to night. In one week we were able to scan 75% of the paper files!!! We all owe her a huge thank you!

“GHOSTS OF HIROSHIMA” by Marianna Torgovnick (Saturday Viewpoints)

Over the years there has been a lot of rhetoric about whether or not the US should have dropped bombs on Japan. Generations of both Americans of both Americans and Japanese who were not even alive then struggle to understand why the US would do such a thing. For those generations, and others that may have forgotten there were definite reasons for dropping those 2 bombs.

First, Japan attacked the US with no warning. Secondly, Japan was overpowering sovereign countries, stealing their resources, and murdering civilians all over the Pacific Rim. Thirdly, along with Germany, Japan had plans for world domination including the US. Forth, the US alone had been loosing thousands of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines as we sought to stop Japan's fanatical aggression. Fifth, Japan did not subscribe to the Geneva Convention and treated the tens of thousands of allied soldiers and indigenous natives of lands they conquered as slaves. My own father, who was in the US Army was one such POW. During his 3 ½ years as a POW he was forced to work on the railroad made famous in the movie “Bridge over the River Kwai”. The tortures, back breaking slave labor, tropical diseases, lack of medications, and starvation diet he endured make what went on in Abu Ghraib prison insignificant by comparison. Sixth, the US was well aware that the planned invasion of Japan by the Allies would have resulted in hundreds of thousands of fatalities on both sides. Japanese POW camp guards make no secret of the fact that all POWs were to be executed if Japan was invaded. This fact was documented after WWII when Japanese Atrocities were investigated.

I feel sorrow for the innocent who get caught up in any wary, but decisively ending Japan's will to fight any longer was the right thing to do. Had it not been done many of us reading this would not be here and history of the world would be far different than we know it today. So, next time you hear about the loss of life in Hiroshima or Nagasaki, just remember that Japan was the cause of its own loss.

Submitted by Mark Clark, son of A. B. Clark, 131st survivor

CREWMEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Robert B. Fulton

Born in Burlington, VT, he grew up in Washington, DC, attending the public schools there. He then entered the US Naval Academy and upon graduation in 1932 received a commission as an Ensign. During the early years of his career he served on the cruisers USS Raleigh and USS Indianapolis, on the destroyer USS Dickerson and on other ships.

In 1936 he married Frances McCarley of Charleston, SC. They had two children, Larry and Frances Anne.

In 1938 he began a graduate course in naval engineering and in 1941 received an MS degree in that field from MIT. He was then ordered to the Asiatic Fleet to report to USS Houston. He served on that ship through the early months of WWII. When Houston was sunk in the early hours of 1 March 1942 he managed to swim ashore to the island of Java. That afternoon he was captured by a Japanese army unit. He was forced to work on their landing beaches unloading supplies; and then was marched to the town of Serang to be imprisoned first in a movie theater and then in the local jail.



In April, 1942 He became part of a group of 8 Houston officers who were taken to Japan to an interrogation camp there. Then in September he was moved to the POW camp in the town of Zentsuji. From there, in June 1945, he was moved to a remote camp site, termed Rokuroshi, in the mountains of Honshu. It was here that units of the American First Cavalry came to recover him at the end of the war. After the war he returned to active duty in the Navy. He was designated for engineering duty and served in that capacity in various naval stations, including the Norfolk and Boston Naval Shipyards, the Navy Department in Washington, and as Supervisor of Shipbuilding in New York.

In 1957 he joined the staff of the Commander in Chief, US Atlantic Fleet as Deputy Chief of Staff for Logistics.



Then in 1959 he assumed command of the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard where he directed the work of that industrial facility in the building and repair of naval ships. While stationed here he was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.

His next and final tour of duty was in the Naval Ships Systems Command in Washington, DC where he directed all ship engineering activities (except nuclear) throughout the Navy. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal for his work here.

After retiring from active duty in 1968 he came to Memphis TN to participate in the startup of the State Technical Institute, an institution offering 2 year college level programs. He headed a division offering degrees in seven engineering disciplines. These engineering technology programs all received professional accreditation and have attracted widespread interest from corporate employers. After retiring from that position he has remained active in community affairs in

Memphis. He is an elder in the Presbyterian Church and serves on the Boards of charitable and civic organizations.

ASIATIC FLEET REUNION – Walter Ashe of the Asiatic Fleet group sent me details of their 22nd Annual SCYPAF reunion & 7th Annual reunion of the USNAFLT (combined) for '06. Lodging at the Best Western Asheville Biltmore (1 828-253-1851) in Asheville, NC is total \$77.64 per day (taxes included). The registration charge of \$30 per person includes hospitality room drinks, snacks and Complimentary Breakfast. The dates are May 3 – 7, 2006 with tour to the Cherokee museum, trip to a casino, tour of the city, Biltmore Estate plus golf & more! Walter sends his hello to the USS Houston shipmates and warmly invites them to the reunion!

Bicycle Camp by JOHN REAS

After we had been in Serang three or four weeks, we were taken by truck to the Bicycle Camp in Batavia.

Harris, Bush, and I moved to an unoccupied, non-com quarters outside the main barracks (an extension of the actual barracks). The Dutch officers' quarters were separated from us by a barbed wire fence. The Dutch had many of their belongings still with them. After several weeks, the three of us talked about laundering the Dutch officers' clothes for money.

One evening I went through the barbed wire when no guards were around. I talked to some of the officers, and they took us up on our offer. I gathered the dirty uniforms from each of the Dutch officers who were in separate rooms. This exchange went on for several weeks---until a Japanese guard spotted me delivering the clothes on the other side of the fence. He screamed at me. I ran into one of the officer's room and hid there until the guard left. That ended our laundry service!

~~ Please note our new address, fax and phone numbers!! The "P" is silent (flew-grrr-ville) The founding fathers were the friendly farmin' Pfluger's.... yaaa, say THAT 5 times fast..... ~~

FINANCIAL REPORT:**DEBITS**

Newsletter Postage	71.47
Newsletter printing	148.80
8x11 printed envelopes	232.32
Phone	306.63
Postage	259.53
Domain name	35.00 (usshouston.org)
Bulk rate fees	300.00
Supplies	568.41
Total	1922.10

CREDITS

Previous Balance	2667.22
Donations	1235.04
Interest	1.26
TOTAL	3903.52

BALANCE \$1981.42

Note: \$3000 is being held in reserve towards costs of the next reunion

IN CONCLUSION – Again, please note on the front page header of our change of address and phone numbers. We moved out of our home July 7th. It was a smooth process but getting into the little fixer upper became an adventure. We attempted moving in 3 times before we were successful (updated the kitchen, painted walls, replaced carpet, refinished hardwood floors, new lighting fixtures). I had labeled the boxes so I could easily recognize the contents, however the movers stacked them with the labels facing the wall. (heavy sigh) It will get done sooner or later... Our daughter and son in law opened their door to us and we kept moving in and out of their place! To take a break from the madness, we drove to San Antonio for my class reunion & Max became violently ill & collapsed. He was rushed by ambulance to the hospital & we were there for 5 days. Max and I were pleasantly surprised to see Sean & Wendy's smiling faces the day after Max's episode. For my part, I was overwhelmingly relieved to see my daughter. Wendy is a RN and helped tremendously with asking the right questions & making suggestions about Max's condition, tests, etc. Bottom line, without her, I would have been a basket case. Although she was out of vacation time, she stayed with us the entire time --- giving me emotional support and keeping her daddy in line. Sean went home to be Mr. Mom with the 4 boys. They kept a hotel room for me during that time so I could sneak off and sleep. However, Max wanted me nearby and I slept on a cot in his room. Wendy would bring me meals or announce to Max that I needed a break & take me to dinner. We are very blessed to have her and Sean close by now. When we decided to move, their selling point was to move near them so they could take care of us when we began to fail in our old age. Now I see what they were talking about ---- we were in good, capable and loving hands. We want to thank all of you for your calls, cards, and prayers. The immediate response to the news was heart lifting. We want to thank you all so very much. Max is on medications that seem to be helping considerably.

Isn't it heart warming to see the general population work shoulder to shoulder helping the displaced people caused by Katrina? Let's give a helping hand where we can.....

**SEND IN THAT SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION
BEFORE IT'S TOO LATE!!**

