



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

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Co-Editor Lin Drees Founder: Otto Schwarz

**IN MEMORIAM**

**LANSON HARRIS**  
**ROBERT WHALEY**

**Sept. 5, 2006**  
**March 8, 1990**

**Parkinsons**  
**Unknown**

**USS HOUSTON SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION**  
**AND NEXT GENERATION**

**March 2-3, 2007**

**Doubletree- Allan Center**

**400 Dallas St, Houston, TX 77002**

**Call for room reservations Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm Central Time:**

**Shanna Jackson 713 351-5757 or**

**Raymond Medina 713 351-5760**

Advise you are with the Houston group for the \$79 per night rate

If they are not in, leave a message & ask they call you back....

Have your credit card ready to provide billing information

**Contact: Val Poss 512 989-0000**

**Email: [CA30NG@aol.com](mailto:CA30NG@aol.com)**

**LOST BATTALION & USS HOUSTON REUNION**

**August 9 – 12, 2007**

**Omni Hotel – Dallas Park West**

**1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75235**

**972 869-4300**

**Contact: Gail & Mike Bialas 972 612-6768      Email: [mgbialas@verizon.net](mailto:mgbialas@verizon.net)**

**ASIATIC FLEET 2007 REUNION**

**May 2-6, 2007**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel, St. Louis Airport**

**Contact : Denver Keplinger, 79 Caesars Cir, Amherst, OH 44001**

**440-985-2044; [cykep@yahoo.com](mailto:cykep@yahoo.com)**

**Open Note to the USS Houston (CA-30) Survivor's Association and Next Generation family:**

I'd like to express some things in particular to those of you who could not make my Dad's burial in Arlington National Cemetery on September 11, 2006.

It was like no other call, that is the one I got from Mom (Trudy) at 10:50A on 08/03/06, informing me that Otto had left us. His death is taken particularly hard by me for a lot of reasons, one being that because I do not have my own immediate other family, I have had the opportunity to spend more time in my life with Dad.

I love, adore, cherish, and ultimately respect his being. The USS Houston (CA-30) is a part of that, a big part, but not the whole picture because of what a committed and all around awesome Dad Otto was, in every imaginable respect.

From the morning of his passing and beginning with the subsequent messaging that went out and was overwhelmingly responded to, I would like to thank each and every one of you. You helped greatly to console at a time when needed. My family and I have retained each and every one of your messages and cards, they are all very important to us.

The turn out for both the gathering, and burial in Arlington, VA 09/10-11/06 was just wonderful for me and my family. We thank all of you fine folks for your support, and the kind words for Otto spoken by so many of you.

My family could not be more appreciative to Val Poss, Lin Drees, and all of the others (all of you!) who have stepped up to the plate to carry-on the work of our fine organization. You allow for the perpetuation of the vision of what my Dad had in mind for all of us; never forgetting, remembering the legacy of our fine ship, maximizing opportunities for shipmates to share experiences and friendship bonds, the pursuance of deserved benefits, and the educating of folks on the ship, it's place in history, and it's contributions to the defense of America.

As Otto's second son, I am left as one of the proudest younger men in America.

What a Dad I had, what a wonderful length of time I had him, and what a wonderful group of people he left me with- all of you.

Bless you and again, thank you,  
John Keith Schwarz 10/05/06

**WHAT A SEND OFF TO OUR FRIEND AND FOUNDER** – Those of the USS HOUSTON family gathered to pay our last respects were – Fred Hekking, Sylvia & HOWARD BROOKS, Vic Campbell, Ron & Lin Drees, Cletus & DAVID FLYNN, Gene Frey & his lovely wife, NED GALLAGHER & son Brian, Linda Goetz Holmes, BILL INGRAM, Don Kehn, Audrey & HARRY KELLY plus Harry Jr., Susan & John Kruetzer, Larry & Susan Krug, Sharron Long, Patty Letze, Bridgett McMaster, Patty Martin, Matt & Jane Matthews, Pat & Jack Mintzer, Val & Max Poss, Dorthoy Rogers & her significant other Steve Daniel.

Of course, this doesn't include the family, neighbors, friends, etc. The dinner Sunday evening had a bigger turn out than first expected. In true form, son John took care of making additional space for everyone that arrived. Everyone wanting to participate stood and said a few words to honor Otto & share memories of him. At the service itself, the survivors formed a column for the USN sailors assigned to the detail to walk through DAVID FLYNN & NED GALLAGHER along with BILL INGRAM, HARRY KELLEY & HOWARD BROOKS in uniform. Those sailors were perfect in their performance & flag folding --- ahhh, the Navy/Marines have such a command of the pomp and circumstance. Our official USS HOUSTON organization Chaplain Robert Warren flew in from California to preside, friend CMDR Dave Kenney helped the family with the arrangements to have Otto buried near our tree and his close friend JOE GANS. He presented the flag to Trudy. CDR Craig Pritchard AM, RAN of the Australian Embassy said a few words on behalf of our alliance with the HMAS PERTH. What an elegant and grand way to say goodbye. To top it off, Otto's son Ed's children's nanny, Anita sang a couple of hymns to Otto. Some people had already walked away when she stepped up. She has such a deep and beautiful voice. Those of us fortunate enough to witness it were mesmerized. I can only speak for myself, but had a melt down on Max's shoulder in the bus. We had met the day before and she spoke of Otto's helping her to become a citizen. What a wonderful, loving woman.... have you ever met someone that radiated grace and love? Well, this lady is one such person! Speaking of a great lady - Trudy was always full of her poise and loving grace setting the mood for the occasion & giving us all strength. What more can I say other than, it was a wonderful send off to an incredible man.

**WOUNDED 4 FEB '42** – We recently received a message on our blog site from Marion Whaley (sister in law) that ROBERT WHALEY, wounded in action 2 Feb '42 and transferred to the Dutch Army Hospital in Tjilatjap, Java died 8 March 90 in California.

**MAILBAG** - Again, with sad heart, I must report the loss of another crew member. LANSON HARRIS died Sept 5th of complications from Parkinsons disease. As some of you know, he and RED HUFFMAN escaped with the late JOHN REAS' roster of crew members just two weeks before the war ended (ending up with the Aussie "underground" in the mountains). Also, you may have heard of his story when he returned home. He couldn't find a bus, train, plane, bum a ride on a 18 wheeler, freight plane, find a used car to buy or ANY form of transportation to get home from NY to LA, Calif. As the story goes, he was lamenting his sorrow in a bar (probably restaurant or cafe since he didn't imbibe) however, a fellow overheard him and touched base with a buddy - a cabbie. Lanson made a deal for a cabbie to drive him to LA for \$300 plus gas and meals, etc. to get Lanson to his beloved wife ASAP and another \$200 to drive back to NY. Imagine what \$500 would get you those days! Imagine taking a taxi across country!!!! Another piece of news that is also very sad. When we saw BILL INGRAM at the hotel gathering for Otto's funeral, he told us his oldest son had died the week before - he was mowing the yard and dropped dead. When BILL heard of OTTO's death, he was returning to FL from Canada to have to go to CA to come to DC...

We all send our heartfelt love and prayers to both families. Frank Ficklin of the 131<sup>st</sup> has had a tough time getting well since he broke his hip at August reunion.....his intestinal tract literally shut down on him. Just as the doctors were about to say there wasn't any more that they could do for him, his bowels started functioning. He's now on solids and each day he's a little bit better. Now he needs to gain back some of the 40 lbs he lost! It is always a pleasure to hear from Nancy Morrow – she has been fighting breast cancer & seems to be getting the best of it. She had her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday in August and hubby 83 in Sept. Her one 6' peach tree produced enough for 14 batches of jam before the triple digit heat literally baked the peaches on the tree. On Oct. 13, BD Fillmore of the 131<sup>st</sup> died after a long illness and Jimmie Pryor's son, Chuck, from a car accident the same day. Paul Leatherwood (131<sup>st</sup> at Lost Battalion) died Oct. 24<sup>th</sup> of heart failure. Again, the HOUSTON family sends our sincere condolences to the families. BILL STEWART reports he received a new pacemaker in August.....I spoke with him and he sounds terrific! The Sept. '06 "China Gunboatman" newsletter for the Asiatic Fleet had an article written by NG Vic Campbell covering a speech given May '06 entitled "Why are You Forgotten?" There was a picture of Vic and OTTO SCHWARZ. What eerie timing. I'll be glad to furnish a copy of the speech if you contact me (see first page for contact info). On Veteran's Day, Joann Wychopen & brother David Pryor, Lee & Judy Robinson, Gwen McFarland and daughter CK, Joe & Melisse Kollmyer & son, plus Max and I arrived at the Barnes & Noble in Round Rock, TX for Jim Hornfisher's signing of his book SHIP OF GHOSTS. It was like a mini reunion! We missed 131<sup>st</sup> survivor, Dan Buzzo because he attended the book signing the day before. Don Rooks reports his dad is slowly fading from Alzheimers.

**BUSY SURVIVORS-** BILL STEWART & LLOYD WILLEY both had great news articles written about them. Unfortunately, we're short on space. I'll be glad to send a copy of the article if you contact me (see name, address, fax, email on front page). As a matter of fact LLOYD had two articles in the paper this quarter! HOWARD BROOKS & sweet Silvia have been busy. In September, they were honored guests along with 131<sup>st</sup> survivor Jay Summers at the Nimitz Museum symposium in Fredricksburg, TX. Lin and Ron Drees also attended. Jim Hornfisher did an excellent historical coverage. In November, they were guests of Jim Hornfisher in New York at a dinner where Jim spoke. Howard claims Jim has a photographic memory and Jim claims he was saved by Howard answering so many questions. Trudy & John Schwarz attended the Cruiser Sailor's gathering on the USS Massachusetts in mid-November. John reports that CMDR Dave Kenney & his wife were there in addition to many of the Cruiser Sailors. John reports that Jim Hornfisher's presentations "add immensely to the real vision of our fore-fathers in perpetuating the memory of the USS HOUSTON CA-30. He acknowledged Trudy & John as did the Cruiser Sailor's honoring Otto."

**FROM DOWN UNDER -** PERTH survivor, David Manning wrote that our NG, Allen Crispi, represented the HOUSTON very well meeting VADM Russ Shalders (Chief of Navy) along with their Chief of Defense, Air Chief Marshall Angus Houston. (Notice the last name?) David made mention of he and his wife going to Tokyo for the first time. He visited a museum with the original locomotive used for the opening ceremony of the Burma/Thailand railway. It sits in the foyer of the museum looking polished and new dedicated to "Recent Japanese Military History".

**DALE ROGERS COOPER REPORT** – Joe and Melisse Kollmyer sent a binder about DALE with a cover sheet explaining that Joe's grandmother corresponded with COOPER'S mother. What a moving presentation and project including pictures, copies of the letters, news articles, etc..... thank you so very much. This information will be added to our archives. I tells of a mother's hope and heartbreak. The family had received word March 11, '42 their son was MIA. During Christmas dinner 1944, they received a postcard from their son buoying their hopes not knowing that their son had died 3 months earlier. Their hopes were further escalated when reading the paper on August 29, '45 of the discovery of the HOUSTON survivors. Two days later they received the dreaded telegram from the Dept. of the Navy their son had died in the camps. Joe has offered copies of those interested. You can contact me (see contact info on front page) and I'll get the info to him.

**FOLLOW UP ON VISIT TO NAVAL MUSEUM** – Half a dozen of us were greeted by the director, Dr. Neyland & were introduced to a couple of employees. What can I say? No one brushed up on the history of the HOUSTON & her crew. He is now aware who we are (not a fan club) and our goals. I've emailed 3 times since the visit inquiring about a mystery ring on display --- there is no reply. Our tax dollars at work.....By the way, as of today we've still not received a reply on the permit we requested to be pushed through (normally taking 90 days) back on August 13<sup>th</sup>. Makes you wonder just what these folks are getting paid for.....

**LEARN THE HISTORY!** -To learn more about USS HOUSTON's nearly non-stop daily battles from December 8, 1941 to March 1, 1942, DVD documentaries of "***The Last Stand of USS HOUSTON,***" and "***The Battle of the Java Sea,***" are available at the USS HOUSTON website [usshouston.org](http://usshouston.org)

**DONATIONS** - (Tax ID # 17053122009007 **PLEASE** make checks out to the USS Houston Survivors Assn to get your tax deduction) Thank you all for your generosity – YOU are the people keeping us going! Galloping Hill Civic Assn (Sandra Patterson) in memory of OTTO SCHWARZ, Ella Harris in memory of LANSON HARRIS, Sylvia and HOWARD BROOKS in memory of OTTO SCHWARZ, Jean Fischer in memory of OTTO SCHWARZ, George Sipars in memory of OTTO SCHWARZ, Beryle Edwards in memory of OTTO SCHWARZ, Jimmie Pryor in memory of OTTO SCHWARZ and her husband CHARLEY PRYOR, Connie Suomi in memory of OTTO SCHWARZ, Don Rooks, STANLEY WOODY, & BASIL BUNYARD.

**SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE** – Just an FYI, Susan Krug (Treas.) & hubby Larry have gone to their place in Hawaii but will be back in plenty of time for the reunion. She want's you to know that sending donations to the address USS HOUSTON Scholarship Fund, 3031 Loop Rd, Stevenson, WA 98648 is just fine, however, please know your check will deposited but will take a little longer than usual. However she will be able to send you a receipt and acknowledgement so you will know your check has not been lost in the mail. Those wishing to donate to the scholarship fund two things: ) Make all checks out to USS Houston Scholarship Fund - NOT TO SUSAN KRUG  
2) **DO NOT SEND MONEY ORDERS OR CASH**

**CHANGE OF ADDRESSES** – Be it snail mail or email, please extend the courtesy with a change of address. If you no longer wish to receive a newsletter, please extend the courtesy to let us know (no feelings hurt). If we have not heard from you in 1 ½ years (6 issues) your name will automatically be dropped from either the snail mail or email list – not to hurt feelings but save myself some time & headache. We've got more complimentary newsletters going out than donors sending in. A widow or survivor will NOT be removed from the list. PLEASE – if you get a new email address or change the old, let us know.

**NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES** – ADM Vernon Clark joined the NOUS Companions at this year's Distinguished Sea Service Award recipient Oct. 21. Former SECNAV, the Honorable Gordon R. England, Deputy Secretary of Defense received the Admiral of the Navy George Dewey Award the day before. These events took place at the Annual Congress meeting in Washington DC thanks to the Commander General's hard work.....our very own Capt. Carter Conlin. All are urged to participate to donate towards the Normandy D-Day Monument Campaign! Please send your tax deductible donation to: "Naval Order Normandy Monument Project", Capt. Michele Lockwood, Treasurer General 2222 Alameda D Las Pulgas, San Mateo, CA 94403.

**NOW HEAR THIS!**

All *USS Houston* (CA-30) Survivors Association and Next Generation family:  
Spread the Word! To all blood relations of the ship's crew, descendants, those associated through marriage, or any known persons with a keen interest in the *USS Houston*....

The Scholarship Program is announced! Applications are accepted beginning June 1, 2007 with the deadline for submission extending to November 1, 2007. Applications and specific information about applying may be obtained anytime by writing a request to:

John Keith Schwarz  
2500 Clarendon Blvd Apt 121  
Arlington, VA 22201

Those eligible to apply include students entering the final year of high school with anticipation of going to college, as well as all college under-graduates up through the final year of study. Previous applicants and winners can re-apply.

Applicants are required to present grades & evidence of other personal attributes, and are also required to write an essay.

*Please remember that donations are appreciated* – It would be an extraordinarily loving act to donate in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Make your checks out to USS Houston Scholarship Fund & send %Susan Krug, 3031 Loop Rd, Stevenson, WA 98648.

**NOTE** – Our 2007 Scholarship Recipient will be announced at the March reunion!!

**FYI** – The Next Generation voted to auction WWII era goods at the Scholarship Fund in March – bring your wallet!!

## LINE FROM LIN

PLEASE START MAKING YOUR PLANS FOR MARCH, 2007 - The DoubleTree has again contracted rooms at this past year's rate of \$79 dollars, plus our meal prices are also at this past year's rate. We encourage you to arrive Thursday - or very early Friday; we will have an important NG meeting at 11 a.m. on Friday. Be sure to mark on the registration form if you will need a ticket for the bus to UH. The reception at UH to view the USS *HOUSTON* display will be Friday afternoon, 2 p.m. Ron and I were at the UH Library recently for Jim's book reception and found exhibit items that we had not noticed previously - I think that this will be everyone's experience because there is so much to see in the exhibit. After the Friday night dinner, we will have our annual Scholarship auction and, also, announce the Scholarship winner.

A Scholarship meeting will be held 10-11 a.m. on Saturday morning. Lunch will be at 11:30, before the Memorial Service which will held at 2 p.m. After the Memorial Service, please return to the DoubleTree for Jerry Ranger's presentation, relating to his dive over the USS *HOUSTON* this past summer.

The reunion will be Friday and Saturday, March 2 and 3, but early birds are encouraged to start arriving on Wednesday, February 28, or Thursday, March 1. All are encouraged to stay until Sunday, March 4. The hospitality suite set-up will start at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, and it be open until late on Saturday night. Please consider volunteering to help with set-up or take-down of the hospitality suite, and be sure to visit Wednesday evening, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday.

HOTEL RESERVATIONS - To reserve your hotel rooms, please ask to speak with Shanna Jackson, 713.351.5757, or Raymond Medina, 713.351.5760. This will connect you directly with the Houston DoubleTree USS *HOUSTON* registry (and not the 800 number hotel registry which is not in Houston). Shanna and Raymond work weekdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Central Standard Time. **The \$79 rate is guaranteed until February 7th** for doubles and kings. Be sure to mention that you are with the USS *HOUSTON* group - and be sure to mention anything special that you wish, e.g., handicapped room or close to an elevator. Please do not make your reservations with a discount, internet site as we need all reservations made with the hotel in order to meet our contracted quotas. Please make your room reservations early to make certain that you do have a room as the hotel almost ran out of rooms this past year.

INDIVIDUAL SPECIAL BOUQUETS FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICE - If you would like to bring any special bouquets to leave at the Memorial Monument after the Memorial Service, you are welcome to bring bouquets or even single flowers.

PLEASE COME IN 2007 - Please mark March 2 and 3 on your 2007 calendar, and plan to come. Make plans to be an early bird and arrive on February 28 or March 1. This year (as every year) we had MANY new faces - please join us in 2007.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2007 - We wish everyone a very blessed Christmas and a very healthy New Year. Ron and Lin Drees - [lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net) - 14219 Wickersham, Houston, TX 77077, phone and fax, 281.493.5171.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

Debits		Credits	
Print Newsletter	165.18	Previous Balance	3046.71
Postage Newsletter	94.28	Deposits	1964.44
Storage	278.82	Total	5011.15
Postage	98.05	Note: Reserve for '07 \$3000.00	
Phone	155.63		
Supplies	479.82		
Wreath	299.25		
Total	1569.93		
		BALANCE	\$3441.22

**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 acrylic paper weights with the silhouette of the CA-30. ITEM: T-Shirt \$20, Cups \$15, Caps \$15, Pins \$3, Bumper Stickers \$2, Paper weight \$20, CD (crew pictures) \$18, DVD \$18 "The Last Stand of USS Houston (CA-30) Death Becomes The Ghost", DVD \$18 Interviews of the survivors. NOTE: THESE PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING HANDLING – If purchasing both DVD's the cost will be \$30 total. Sorry for the increase however the packaging and pricing has soared. There just a few caps available – no more will be ordered until we can sell off inventory.

## IN CONCLUSION

We sure do need to hear from our survivors more often. Please drop a line now and then....if you can't, please have someone do it for you. We care. As a matter of fact, when Otto died, I tried to call each survivor and realized that I hadn't keep phone numbers up to date. I sent out notes and included stamped cards to return. Many thanks to you that have promptly replied although a couple of you still didn't remember to include your phone number! I'd REALLY like to hear from GUY ROSE, JOHN STANCZAK AND LEON GALSKE!

Should I admit that I have had moments of panic realizing that how well we continue is entirely on my shoulders? However, let me reassure you survivors..... I have a dozen devoted Next Generation people that have volunteered to help continue in perpetuating the organization. It's in good hands --- not just mine but many. Otto had the foresight to mentor me for many years in preparation for this exact edition of the newsletter. This is our first without his input, however, it's far from being the last!

We wish that one and all have a blessed Christmas!



**REUNION INFORMATION:** Please read this carefully.....

First and foremost ---- plan to arrive **Thursday** because we start our activities first thing Friday morning!

**Wednesday:** hospitality opens at 4PM

**Thursday:** arrival and registrations

**Friday:**

Next Generation meeting 11 am

**NG'S please come – it's important you attend!**

We will be guests of the University of Houston from 2 - 3:30 PM. The new display area has many USS HOUSTON items on display! We urge everyone to have a late breakfast or early lunch to be ready to board the buses on time. Be sure to request a bus ticket if you wish to board the bus for the trip to UH - one bus ticket per person in your party.

Dinner 6:30 – 9 PM - Scholarship recipient announced – auction for scholarship fund

Hospitality room – 9:30 pm – midnight, enjoy each other, look at exhibits & entertainment by Dana Charles at the “CA-30 Lounge” (in the hospitality: Nautile room)

**Saturday:**

Registration 9 – 11:30 PM (if you arrive late, look for Val Poss for your packet)

Scholarship meeting 10 – 11 AM **(This is not restricted to committee members only) NG'S please come – it's important you attend!**

Lunch 11:30

MEMORIAL SERVICE 2 PM

Hospitality room will re-open following the Memorial Service until midnight  
(CA-30 Lounge/hospitality/exhibit)

JERRY RANGER'S DIVE PRESENTATION & DAVID PHILLIPS (VIDOERAY)

4-6 PM hospitality room

**Hotel –**

Doubletree-Allen Center (downtown), 400 Dallas St., Houston, TX 77002

Make your reservations through the hotel only & advise you are with the USS Houston for your discounted rate of \$79 per night **Call for room reservations Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm Central Time: Shanna Jackson 713 351-5757 or Raymond Medina 713 351-5760 by Feb. 7, 2007**

Also, remember to ask for your USS HOUSTON parking discount when you arrive.

If you have walking difficulties, tell the hotel & ask for a room near the elevator  
Handicapped rooms are available – please advise the hotel if you need one.

**Area restaurants** – A list of restaurants in the nearby area will be provided to you. Please call before going to be sure they are open when you want to go. Also, check with the hotel shuttle service to see if they can accommodate you getting to and from the restaurant of your choice. Taxi fees are approximately \$6 for the downtown area.

By the way, there will be a piano “bar” starring our own NG, Dana Charles each evening in the CA-30 Lounge (aka hospitality room).

Please remember to bring something yummy for the hospitality room – liquid or solid/sweet or salty would be appreciated!

Be aware that the hotel is doing their best to keep the cost down for us – Per the internet their weekday rates are \$249/night / weekend \$129 so \$79 is good. Also know that the fewer folks show up the less they can comp for us – the hospitality room has a daily rate, there's the projection screen, microphone, podium, etc. We all know that hotel food is notoriously high and historically under par. We are NOT going to get anything cheaper and this close to the monument. Most importantly --- if y'all don't show up, those \$79 rates won't be available next time around nor will some of the discounts (parking, etc). We want a bigger turn out than last year.....register EARLY!

### **DIRECTIONS TO THE DOUBLETREE**

#### **From Airport Directions**

12 Miles Hobby Airport. Take I-45 north and take the Houston Ave exit. Turn right onto West Capital. Turn right onto Bagby St. Turn left onto Dallas St. The hotel is on the corner of Dallas and Bagby. 21 Miles Houston Intercontinental Take I-45 south from the airport. Follow the signs to downtown. Exit at McKinney which is to the left. Turn right at the first light (Bagby) and then turn left onto Dallas St. The hotel will be on the right. Transportation Airport Express, Taxi, Car Rental services in baggage claim. A one day car rental can be less expensive than a round trip cab fare. If Taxi, ask for fixed zone rate General Arrival Directions

#### **From North Houston**

Take I-45 south to McKinney Street exit, downtown. At the first light (Bagby), turn right. Follow Bagby to Dallas and turn left the hotel is immediately on the right.

From 59 North - Take Hwy 59 south to the Capital St. exit. Capital St. Follow to Bagby, turn left, follow to Dallas, turn left. Hotel is on the right hand side.

#### **From South Houston**

Take I-45 north to the Memorial Drive/Houston Ave. Exit take Memorial Drive exit and follow to the first light. Turn right on Rusk and follow, under freeway, to Bagby. Turn right on Bagby and then left on Dallas. Hotel is immediately on the right.

From Southwest Houston - Take Hwy 59 north to the Louisiana/Downtown exit, follow Louisiana to Lamar and turn left. Follow 2 blocks to Bagby and turn left. Follow 1 block to Dallas, turn left. The hotel is on the right.

#### **From I-10 East**

Heading eastbound on I-10 to the Smith Street exit. Take Smith to Lamar and turn right and follow to Bagby. Turn left and follow 1 block to Dallas and turn left. The hotel is immediately on the right.

#### **From I-10 West**

Traveling west on I-10, take I-45 south and exit on McKinney. Turn right on Bagby and then left on Dallas. Hotel is on the right.

#### **NOTE:**

Transportation Airport Express, Taxi, Car Rental services in baggage claim. A one day car rental can be less expensive than a round trip cab fare. If Taxi, ask for fixed zone rate General Arrival

Directions  
**LAST MINUTE NEWS**

**MAILING THE NEWSLETTER** – This will be the last newsletter via snail mail or email for about ¼ of the folks on my list due to lack of participation. Again, I repeat, this does NOT include the survivors or widows. There are as many “complimentary” newsletters being sent out as there are participants. You will not be contacted personally. There are costs involved – we are a non-profit organization – enough said.

**HOTEL PARKING DISCOUNT** – The Doubletree offers discount parking ONLY for those with hotel reservations for overnight stays. There is a parking lot to the right just before (and across the street) from the hotel.

• ***Ship of Ghosts Book Talk to Air on C-SPAN***

An enthusiastic crowd attended James D. Hornfischer's discussion of his new book *Ship of Ghosts: The Story of the USS Houston, FDR's Legendary Lost Cruiser, and the Epic Saga of her Survivors* at M.D Anderson Library, University of Houston on November 15<sup>th</sup>. Author Hornfischer described the saga of the USS *Houston* and her crew in front of a backdrop of projected images of the ship, individual crew members, and the POW camps. The audience remained rapt throughout, clearly captivated by Hornfischer's depictions of the Battle of Sunda Strait and the acts of resistance carried out by the POWs against their captors. Following the reading, Hornfischer took questions from audience members, and then signed copies of his book for fans. Those who attended the event also had the opportunity to visit the library's USS *Houston* Exhibition.

To the delight of all involved, C-SPAN chose to film the event for future airing on the cable network's popular *Book TV* program. We are told that the *Ship of Ghosts* segment will probably air in December or January, so please check the *Book TV* online schedule at <http://www.booktv.org/schedule/> for the air date.

-Julie Grob

**HEADS UP** – I checked the booktv.org site & it only gives a few days at a time. I emailed asking for the date the scheduling of SHIP OF GHOSTS. I received a lengthy reply --- bottom line is they don't know yet. I'll email folks as soon as I know.

**EMAIL** – Speaking of email – if you've recently got a new one, please keep me advised so I can keep YOU advised!

SEE Y'ALL AT THE REUNION!!

**REGISTRATION FORM**

USS HOUSTON Memorial Service/Reunion  
March 1 - 3, 2007  
Room reservations MUST be made by YOU  
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Name (s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of crew member you are honoring and relationship (or state you are a friend): \_\_\_\_\_

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FEEL FREE TO USE BACK IF NECESSARY - DID YOU PRINT CLEARLY?

Dinner Friday: \$ 28.00 x # eating	(6:30 PM	_____ = \$ _____
Saturday Lunch \$22 x # eating	(11:30 AM)	_____ = \$ _____
Registration \$ 20 per person x #		_____ = \$ _____
<b>Late registrations/per person and per meal</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$ _____</b>

**NOTE: LATE MEAL REGISTRATION – AFTER FEBRUARY 7**  
**\$5.00 per person for registration and \$5.00 per meal**  
**Hotel will not be able to guarantee the same entrée as prompt registrations**

Reception at University of Houston \_\_\_\_\_ #  
Bus seat needed to U of H \_\_\_\_\_ #

Please include a check for the total cost (your check is your receipt)

Make Payable to: USS Houston – Next Generation

Send to: Val Poss  
2501 Amen Corner  
Pflugerville, TX 78660

PLEASE INDICATE ANY FOOD ALLERGIES (nuts, blue cheese, shellfish, eggs, etc.)