



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

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**IN MEMORIAM**

**John Hood      November 23, 2007      Heart failure**

**USS HOUSTON CA-30 SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION  
AND NEXT GENERATIONS REUNION**

**February 21-24, 2008**

**Doubletree- Allan Center**

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

**Call for room reservations Monday - Friday 9am - 5pm Central Time:  
713 759-0202 or 800 222-8733**

**Advise you are with the USS Houston group for the \$89 per night rate  
Have your credit card ready to provide billing information**

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

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

**CHRISTMAS IS COMING SOONER THAN YOU THINK** – Please remember to send greeting cards to our USS HOUSTON SSN 713 crew to: FPO AP 96667-2393 & the USS RENTZ FFG-46, FPO AP 96667-1500.

**ITEMS FOR SALE** – You can find our items for displayed on the internet at [www.usshouston.org](http://www.usshouston.org) under NEWS. It not only shows what we have in our inventory but the cost of mailing along with a order sheet.

**MAILBAG** – Johan Van Leer sent a copy of the letter from Gerdi Verbeet (Pres. Of the House of Representatives of the States General in the Netherlands) sent to Mr. Yohei Kono (Pres. Of the House of Representatives of the National Diet in Japan) stating their distain regarding the content of an ad in the Washington Post questioning the fate of “comfort women” forced into prostitution by the Japanese military. The Japanese denied these crimes against humanity. (Shame on the Japanese government AND the Washington Post for running the ad!) I also received an email that Edgbert Hudson, of the 131<sup>st</sup> died Oct. 20<sup>th</sup> – we send our condolences. I was also saddened to read of in the Asiatic Fleet's CHINA BOATMAN SCYPAF newsletter that Walter Ashe, Lt. SC USN (Ret) died July 26<sup>th</sup> at age 91. I was also advised that William Dower a British POW assigned as an interpreter by the Japanese in the Death Railway to an Australian force under the command of Lt.Col. C.G.W. Anderson died Aug 7<sup>th</sup> at the age of 92. Peg Parris writes she is working on a “memory” book about her brother HAROLD VINJI. She needs pictures of the sailors & I referred her to Shawn Flynn's link & offered to email her some scanned pictures if she could provide an email address. Mary Schilperoort wrote that they had a surprise 90<sup>th</sup> birthday party for CLARENCE ‘SKIP’ SCHILPEROORT on Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>. Rochelle Rogers, granddaughter of AARON M ALBERS, wrote that she gave a speech Nov 1<sup>st</sup> to a college's class (he teaches WWII history) & has a power point presentation along with it...”it's pretty intense”. She also indicated she was going to give a lecture to her psych class also! Good going, Rochelle! I received the Sept 23, 2007 Entertainment section of the Houston Chronicle's Sunday edition from a long lost friend from high school days that had a ½ page article including a large picture of the ship's crew from the '30's telling about the latest documentary *Cruiser Houston: of Pride and Purpose*. It's always a sense of pleasure to know the Houston is being remembered! Margaret Conner, wife of BOB “RED” CONNER & has Dementia & unable to respond to his war experiences. She is please his name is mentioned in SHIP OF GHOSTS. He was 1 of 9 that was sent to Singapore & was in the hospital there for some time & missed being sent to the Death Railway & ended up in the coal mines. He had his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday on Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>. They've been married 61 years as of Nov 14<sup>th</sup> – she keeps the Houston family in her prayers. I always enjoy Mattie Atterberry's, widow of CHARLES ATTERBERY, calls and letters. In her last note she commented that so many have told her as of late how old she's getting & didn't pay much attention until she noticed her 3 children were either bald or gray! She and I must be the same age! I just noticed my son's scalp is thinning and daughter has a few gray hairs!! She shared a copy of a letter DATED 9/12/88 from a Randall Sutherland, M.D. that was researching to write a book. I Googled his name & checked Amazon.com & Barnes & Noble.com but never found anything. She also shared a copy of a letter to her Charely from QUINTON MADSON recalling their swim & capture together. Those stories are cherished!

**SICK BAY** – Forgive me if I miss someone or fail to note what the illness was..... Nancy Morrow, NG continues her fight with cancer & hubby has had some major dental work. SKIP SCHILPEROORT has to often depend on a wheelchair these days. Dorothy & LLOYD WILLEY along with Christy & Ron (daughter & son in law) report that Lloyd's stroke has left him with limited communication ability, difficulty writing & speaking. However his mind is still sharp! JOE GARRETT has had his ups and downs – we wish him well. Margaret Wampler, widow of CARL WAMPLER, is doing better after 3 strokes however faces cancer surgery on her leg in mid-December. STANLEY WOODY has been in the hospital, but I don't have details.

**COMMEMORATIVE PLAQUE** - I was contacted by Lionel Olmer (ex-Navy) after his visit to Kanchanaburi, Thailand and the museum there housing memorabilia of the Death Railway. He has also recently read SHIP OF GHOSTS & has become interested in the story of the *Houston*. He has inquired why there is no commemorative plaque of the *Houston* on the wall that contains plaques from all of the military units that were present in the Bridge project during WWII. Ahhhh Otto, as I look heaven wards, where are you when I need you? Am I dreaming or is the reason there's no plaque is because the *Houston* group wasn't directly involved with that particular bridge? Does anyone know the answer? The director of the museum there states he'd be delighted and proud to put one up alongside the others. What say you readers? Will anyone take on this project? If you will, please contact me and I'll give you the director's contact information.

**SCHOLARSHIP UPDATE** by Chairman Keith Schwarz –

"Your Scholarship Program is Alive and Well" - What a monumental year it has been for your scholarship program. With this year's \$3,000.00 award, we have had 11 applications filed by the deadline. Unfortunately, three applications had to be rejected as incomplete, and the Committee faces the challenge as we speak, of trying to determine a winner(s) from the remaining 8 candidates. And I can tell you, they are all good! Remember, previous applicants may re-apply for next year's award.

Looking forward to the huge announcement of the winner(s) in Houston in February, '08.

Our financial picture is encouraging, yet not quite at the level of the first financial benchmark of \$50,000.00. After this year's award, we will have approximately \$30,000.00 in the account leaving us some \$20,000.00 short of the initial goal.

Why is the initial goal \$50,000.00? That amount was the scholarship program initial goal since the formulation of the Committee. The reason is that an amount such as that enables the freezing of the capital amount to allow for a scholarship award from the interest earned.

When that benchmark is reached, we will have yet another permanent element that perpetuates the memory of our great ship and her proud, brave men.

**DONATIONS** – (Tax **PLEASE** make checks out to the USS Houston Survivors Assn to claim your tax deduction) Please remember - we are set up as a non profit organization and depend solely upon your donations to get out the newsletter (paper, printing, postage), pay for the web site, etc. There are no dues. However, complimentary editions are **not** unlimited (including those emailed because we have expenses to maintain the web site) Note: for either the organization and/or the scholarship fund, please consider arranging to have an amount to be added in your will to be gifted or request donations to be made in your memory. Larry Martin, Don Rooks, BASIL BUNYARD, Peg Parris, Mary & SKIIP SCHILPEROORT, STANLEY WOODY, Mattie Atterberry, Peg Parris, Jimmie Pryor in memory of Charley, J.B. & Chuck Pryor. **Dive Donations:** Sharron Long, Bill Ingram, John Schwarz, Trudy Schwarz, Max & Val Poss, Martha Loggins, John Waller, Eugene Frey, USS Houston Survivors Assn. Please remember – it's not too late to donate for the dive! Send your check to USS Houston Survivors Assn., 2501 Amen Corner, Pflugerville, TX 78660 & note "dive" in the remarks section. Please note any donation received after Dec.1 will appear in the next newsletter.

**I NEED YOUR EMAIL ADDRESS** – Please oh please, if you have one, it would be so much easier to keep y'all updated if you'd provide me with your email address!

Also, please remember to give me your change of email or snail mail address.

**SHAWN FLYNN'S PROJECT** - Every issue I remind y'all to send Shawn pictures of your loved one with a one page bio. We have stated that we want to put a face & some personal essence to the name so that family or friends can find them. **We DO NOT want this crew to be forgotten!** It's my job to beg & nag & plead for what we once called a "CREW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT". When you read the following, you will realize why it is so important.....please don't let **your** loved one be forgotten because you won't take the time.... Send it to Shawn Flynn, 5240 Tenino Way, Kelseyville CA 95451 (707.277.7693)

**HOUSTON TELEVISION STATION FILMS CRUISER HOUSTON DOCUMENTARY** - This fall millions watched the new PBS documentary *The War*, directed and produced by Ken Burns and Lynn Novick. This seven-part series on World War II will air nationally beginning on September 23, 2007. Here in Houston, the local PBS affiliate KUHT is creating a companion piece about one of the most dramatic stories from that war – the tale of the USS *Houston* (CA-30).

Entitled *Cruiser Houston: Of Pride and Purpose*, this hour-long documentary aired in the Houston area & hopefully nation wide "around the end of the year". The documentary includes interviews with survivors David Flynn, Howard Brooks, William "Bill" Ingram, Harold McManus, and Clarence "Skip" Schilperoort; family members Val Roberts-Poss, Jerry Ranger, and Fred Hekking; USS *Houston* historian Don Kehn, and Cruiser Houston Collection curator Julie Grob. Archival materials from the Cruiser Houston Collection at the University of Houston Libraries will feature prominently in the film.

Senior Producer and Writer Jim Fisher and primary photographer and editor Matt Brawley have shown tremendous dedication in putting together this work. **We will be showing this documentary in the hospitality room during the reunion!**

**NAVAL ORDER OF THE UNITED STATES** - Please remember to donate to the Normandy Monument Project honoring the 1068 sailors killed in action on D-Day. This is a tax deductible donation. Please make check payable to "**Naval Order Foundation**" and write "**Normandy**" on the memo line. Mail to **Naval Order Foundation, P.O. Box 583, Glenview, IL 60025-0583**. Ensure your address is included so that your donation can be fully documented and properly acknowledged.

**FROM DOWN UNDER** – The West Australian newspaper highlighted Arthur Bancroft (HMAS Perth survivor) in their August 25<sup>th</sup> edition. Arthur departed Changi prison & was sent by river & rail through Malaya to Singapore. He was then loaded aboard a Japanese ship headed for Japan when that ship was torpedoed by Americans. Although the Japanese picked up their survivors and a few POW's, Arthur was left behind. After 6 days and a typhoon looming, two US submarines, the *Barb* and *Queenfish* were able to pick up some of the survivors, but rough weather prevented them from rescuing all. Arthur was one of the lucky ones retrieved by the *Queenfish*. He was one of the first POW's to return from Japan. His sweetheart was at his parents' home when he arrived. Within a week they were engaged. The navy shipped him off to the HMAS Cerberus where his commanding officer suggested he could join a party re-ballasting a railway track at the base. Arthur firmly advised his CO he had no intention on working on a railway ever again. Shortly thereafter, he resumed his prewar job now known as the ANZ Bank where he retired after 42 years. Mr. Bancroft's diary of his time on the Death Railway was left behind but was later returned to him after the war. He eventually gave it to the Royal Australian Navy Heritage Center at Sidney's Garden Island.

## Changes to Donations to the Cruiser Houston Collection

The University of Houston Libraries is very proud of one of its “flagship” collections, the Cruiser Houston Collection. The USS Houston Survivors Association made the original gift of archival materials in 1981, and additional items have been added over the past twenty-six years. In 2006, the Library unveiled a permanent USS *Houston* exhibit open to the public, and recent projects such as the book *Ship of Ghosts: The Story of The USS Houston, FDR's Legendary Lost Cruiser, and The Epic Saga of Her Survivors* and the KUHT documentary *The Cruiser Houston: Of Pride and Purpose* have made excellent use of the research materials in the collection.

Much has changed over the past quarter century, and several factors make this the right time to reevaluate our Cruiser Houston Collection Development Policy. The successful completion of the permanent, non-rotating USS *Houston* Exhibit means that the Library will no longer be adding new pieces of memorabilia for display. The Library will focus on research materials such as papers and photographs which more closely reflect the teaching and research mission of a university.

We hope that survivors and their families will consider donating important pieces of historic memorabilia to appropriate museums for display to future generations. The Libraries hope that you will continue to honor us with your larger donations of photographs, letters, and other papers that document the period from 1929 to 1945. This will allow us to continue keeping the collection open to significant new additions that may still be in private hands. However, we will no longer be able to accept single item donations, photocopies and scans, or post-1945 materials. This will allow us to be more efficient in processing the collection and enable us to spend more time making the collection available for research.

### Items still collected:

- sets of original letters
- sets of original photographs
- sets of original documents
- diaries
- scrapbooks
- POW camp records
- *Blue Bonnets* that we don't already have

### No longer accepting:

- memorabilia (including menus, invitations, stamps, coins, medals, flags, three-dimensional items from the POW camps)
- framed artwork and framed photographs
- large items salvaged from the ship
- photocopies
- scans
- post-1945 materials

The University of Houston Libraries are grateful for your support in the creation and building of this important collection. We are honored by your presence each year in the Libraries. We hope you

will continue to help us tell the story of the USS *Houston* to countless generations of students and scholars in the future.

- Dana Rooks, Dean of Libraries, University of Houston

### **LINE FROM LIN**

**PLEASE START MAKING YOUR PLANS FOR FEBRUARY, 2008** - Elsewhere Val will give you details as to what is happening when, plus see that attached registration form - fill in, write out your check, mail in, arrive in Houston. You will find a very gracious hospitality room, filled with new friends, books, brochures, personal albums (bring your own album, relating to the USS *HOUSTON*), and lots of snacks. Added will be a very educational trip to The University of Houston to view the USS *HOUSTON* display of Special Collections, plus a reception in the Library. The Memorial Service will be awe-inspiring.

The reunion will be Friday and Saturday, February 22 and 23, but early birds are encouraged to start arriving on Wednesday, February 20, or Thursday, the 21st. All are encouraged to stay until Sunday, February 24. 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.

**USS HOUSTON (SSN-713) COMES TO HOUSTON** - Actually it was only 3 men: CDR Mike Lewis, Commanding Officer, along with LT Mark Riebel and ETCS Paul Sweeney. Don Kehn was with them most of the day, Thursday, October 18, and I asked him to send me a report. Here is Don's Report: I met with the three men from SSN-713 (C.O., Communications Officer, & Chief of the Boat) with two Rice University Naval ROTC officers for breakfast at 0900 hrs at the Black Walnut in Rice Village. Had an excellent breakfast there, and a good introductory visit. From there we proceeded to UH's M.D. Anderson Library, and the Cruiser *HOUSTON* Collection, displayed on the second floor. Julie Grob met us and showed the SSN-713 guys around. They presented her & the Collection with a plaque and cap on behalf of the ship. We took several photos. After a very pleasant time there we decided to drive to the Monument at Sam Houston Park. We met Lin & Ron Drees there and spent almost an hour viewing the Memorial Monument, pointing out names and relaying stories about various men, and taking more pictures. The men from SSN-713 then presented the CA30 Survivors Assoc./Next Generation with a plaque to commemorate their visit to Houston and viewing of the USS *HOUSTON* Memorial Monument and a baseball cap with the submarine's logo.

Don, Ron, and I invited them to come back to Houston for the reunion. Unfortunately the submarine is now based at Okinawa - so the flight is much longer and more expensive. BUT we are still hoping that some sailors will be able to make the trip. We enjoyed the friendliness and professionalism of these men. It was a very good visit and renewing of our friendship w/ the newest USS *HOUSTON*. I gave them a pin from the USS *HOUSTON* - a miniature monument.

**Dear Friend, Survivor John Hood** - As many of you know, John passed away Friday, November 23 - I wrote the following to his sister, Carol, via email: "If ya'll reminisce, please tell (or have your sister, Alberta, tell) the hair dryer story. One year John forgot to get reservations for the reunion;

he arrived @ the hotel; it was full, but they had some small apartments next door - and offered John an apartment. Well, on Sunday, as everyone was leaving, John came up to me - and said - 'Wonderful wk-end, but I have one complaint.' Shocked, I said, 'yes, John, what was wrong?' He said 'the hair dryer in my room did not work!' - and, knowing his hair status, we both started laughing. That became a joke each year - with me, always asking John if the hair dryer in his room was working this year! I loved him!!!! Thanks for sharing him w/ us, Next Generationers"

Carol responded with "Lin, Oh, we do know that story, John told us about that, and he always laughed."

John will be missed as are all our loved USS *HOUSTON* men who are now standing watch at Sunda Strait. We also miss the men who cannot now attend the reunions - and remember, fondly, when they were able to attend.

**BUGLER** - With Internet, Val receives many questions - one recently related to the ship's bugler - I asked David Flynn what he remembered. Here is what he said: "The ship's bugler was Joseph G. Alleva. He was killed on a Japanese prison ship 24 June 1944 in the South China Sea. Aboard ship (the Houston) he'd occasionally hit a wrong note, blowing taps, etc. When criticized, he'd say, 'for 32 bucks a month you don't get Benny Goodman.' Prior to entering the Navy, he worked in a bank as a sort of doorman, director, etc. He and Gene Crispi were great friends and would argue at length. ....'and that's all I have to say about that'....."

I remember Jim Ballew, Navy, telling me that he and my cousin, James Raydell Wilson, Marine, aboard the *HOUSTON*, would spend some of their POW time arguing, just to pass the time of day. Once, he said that the argument led to fighting - he said, "here we were 2 'skinny' POWs, trying to fight!" Sadly my cousin passed away as a POW before I was born - but with reminiscing with Jim, I came to know some about my cousin.

**HOTEL RESERVATIONS** - When making your hotel reservations, 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 to be 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 always has other events.

**REUNION REGISTRATION** - As always, we will have buses to provide transportation to the UH Library for the reception and to view the USS *HOUSTON* collection on display. One bus will have a lift - please write on your registration form if you would like to be on the bus w/ the lift - or have special needs in regards to transportation on the bus.

**INDIVIDUAL WREATHS OR SPECIAL BOUQUETS FOR THE MEMORIAL SERVICE** - In years past some families have brought a wreath to leave at the Monument after the Service - BUT this year we would like to invite you to bring a wreath to leave DURING the Service. **Please contact me (contact info is listed below) if you would like to leave your own wreath or special bouquet as part of the Service.** We will need to know in advance in order to plan the Service.

If you would like to bring any special bouquets to leave at the Memorial Monument after the Memorial Service, you are still welcome to bring wreath, bouquets, or even single flowers.

**PLEASE COME IN 2008** - Please mark February 22 and 23 on your 2008 calendar, and plan to come. Make plans to be an early bird and arrive on February 20 or 21. This past year (as every year) we had MANY new faces - please join us in 2008.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR, 2008** - 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.

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**NOW HEAR THIS** – Start making plans **now** --- the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generation (ALL OF US) have been invited to attend the Veteran's Day Service aboard the USS Missouri in Pearl Harbor, HI on Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> (possibly the 10<sup>th</sup>) 2008! I will be working with them to arrange discounted air fares & accommodations (hotel or condo) there in Honolulu. I'll keep y'all posted with details. I've bragged about the "Houston family" being one of a kind. We realize that most of our men aren't able to travel but it sure would be wonderful if the NG's, wives & widows could show up in force.

**IN CONCLUSION** – It took a while but we are now up to date with both the state and federal levels with our tax-exempt, non-profit status effective or original year of '97! We were put in a limbo status for a time there as our amendments, etc. were reviewed but we're back in business..... My surgery in late September was a tad more complicated than anticipated. The surgeon advised I'd need a 3 month recovery period. I'm not quite 100% but healing much faster & feeling MUCH better! Just two more months of steroids and I can get off those nasty things!

I was invited to speak aboard the *USS Missouri* in Pearl Harbor, HI for their Veteran's Day Sunset Ceremony. I literally informed my surgeon was going – not asking permission! The more I practiced my speech, the worse I got & wondered what possessed me to even think I could do justice to the story of the *Houston* & crew. When I walked up to the podium, all doubts left me. It was as if the souls of the crew & spirit of those that couldn't be there enveloped me. I don't recall much but DO remember looking directly at the Japanese Consulate General when I spoke briefly of my father's condition after being released from the camps. NG's Sharron Long, Larry & Susan Krug, & Judy Robinson were there along with Lee Robinson, widow of MARVIN ROBINSON, plus Marie & JACK FELIZ. Jack & Marie surprised us by meeting us at the airport greeting us with fragrant leis. After we got settled in our rooms, we all went to their lovely condo on Waikiki Beach for appetizers and wine, then we went to the Hale Koa Hotel for a delightful dinner sitting outdoors. It just happened to be the night of the Marine Corps Ball – they looked sooo handsome! What a wonderful opportunity to get the story told – what an honor! The next day Max, Larry & I were given a private tour of Adml. Bull Halsey's stateroom by the Admiral's own steward (Toby) that is now a tour guide aboard the *USS Missouri*! WOW!! We were dreading the long flight there, the quick ceremony then the flight back but Sharron Long insisted we visit at her condo in Kauai for a few days to relax. Max & I did some serious relaxing at Sharron's – she's the perfect hostess! And yes --- the *USS Missouri* people asked us back ! (see above) They are so fascinated by our story that they want to dedicate the ENTIRE Veteran's Day Ceremony to the history of the *USS Houston* & her crew! Again – I stressed the point that we NG's have vowed to continue their story & of our bond. Y'all can't make a liar out of me.....start saving NOW to go in '08! I've already received input from several people & I'm taking it upon myself to start searching for accommodations. Some



folks want kitchenettes (condo/suites) & others prefer a hotel. I'll be advising of what I find reasonable – not an easy task for Waikiki beach! Plus I'll work with those folks for some discounted air fares! The ole computer had to have some repair & more memory added. The get advised that with the scanning, it's eating up memory & the next step would be a new hard drive! YIKES!

**LAST MINUTE NEWS** – On August 2, 2007, The Des Moines Register featured our JOHN HOOD in a long story about him – almost a short bio of him! I'm so glad he received such wonderful recognition before we lost him!

**THERE ARE NOW 30 LEFT** – It's our pledge as the Next Generations to continue your story. If there is any possible way a friend or family member can bring you to the reunion, PLEASE come. You are our honoree and we want to spoil you!

**DID YOU KNOW** – the USS Houston baseball team was named the Houston Ramblers?

**OH, HOW I HATE TO HARP** - As I've said over and over again. I can't continue complimentary newsletters to the friends & NG's. For many of you, this will be your last newsletter – we're non profit & can't afford to have a few carry the load. Rule of thumb: No donation after 1 ½ years, your name is removed. I had to do it last quarter too.....please be aware that when your crew member loved one dies, we won't continue newsletters to the NG's that do not participate. Remember – there are no dues & we depend on YOU for your generosity to continue. Thank you for understanding.

**AUGUST REUNION IN DALLAS** – I've not received their newsletter to include their reunion information. It will be in Dallas at the Omni Hotel – Dallas Park West, 1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75235 as it has been the past several years. Please email editors Mike & Gail Bailais for information: [mgbialas@verizon.net](mailto:mgbialas@verizon.net)

#### **FINANCIAL REPORT:**

| DEBITS                                                   |        | CREDITS          |        |
|----------------------------------------------------------|--------|------------------|--------|
| Print newsletter                                         | \$ 207 | Previous balance | \$8145 |
| Postage newsletter                                       | 101    | Donations        | 1659   |
| Phone                                                    | 147    | Sales            | 50     |
| Postage                                                  | 260    | Bank interest    | 1      |
| Storage                                                  | 191    | Total            | 9855   |
| Computer repair                                          | 150    |                  |        |
| Supplies                                                 | 1134   |                  |        |
| Total                                                    | 2190   | Total Balance    | \$7665 |
| Note: \$3,000 is in reserve for reunion – Actual Balance |        |                  | \$4665 |

#### **REUNION INFO RMATION –**

Last year there were comments made about running out of food/drink in the hospitality room. The refreshments have been provided gratis NG Sharron Long these past years. When we run out of items guests have previously pitched in to supplement what we have run out of. This year ('08), the registration fee has increased by \$5 to cover the additional costs. However, if we still run out, please feel free to donate. We are not asking you to bring anything but be aware of the expenses involved. We would also appreciate it if everyone would dispose of their plates, etc. in the trash cans provided & to volunteer to help with the clean up and help with the overall maintenance of the room.

Parking – the discounted rate of \$5 (vs \$23) to visitors as well as overnight guest will per on a space available basis. Rates for parking have increased due to the new parking lot construction project across the street that will not be completed until '09. Demand is extremely high & this section of downtown has become limited. Currently there is additional parking available in the Allen Center garage next door to the hotel however they are in the process of reevaluating times of operations, parking fees, etc.

Due to the decrease in the number of people committing to attend, the hotel can not comp as much as they have in the past. We are *not* receiving the comped hospitality room this reunion (but will be able to claim it as an expense when I file the annual tax form). However, in the mean time, we've got to fork over \$200/day..... The \$25 registration fee is to help cover expenses of printing of the program, renting the chairs for the Memorial Service, replacement of food/beverages, paper & ink for the copy machines, tipping the staff for helping us unload & re-load for the hospital room, rental of the hospitality room, etc.

If you wish to see the archives at the University of Houston, please contact Julie Grob (713 743-9744) at least 3 weeks in advance. Advance notice is required by filling out a form requesting exactly what items you wish to review. Please remember, archives are not museums **or** libraries.

**HAVE A BLESSED CHRISTMAS AND WONDERFUL NEW YEAR!**

**AGENDA**  
**Wednesday Feb. 20 – Saturday Feb. 23, 2008**

**WEDNESDAY** – 3 pm – Set up hospitality room (Nautila-ground floor)  
Helping hands are appreciated!

**THURSDAY**

Registration & hospitality from 9am – 5 pm in Nautila room

**FRIDAY**

**Registration** 9 am – noon & 4 – 6 pm in Nautila room

**Scholarship Meeting** - 9-11 am in Lamar room

**Lunch on your own**

**University of Houston Reception**

12:45 Gather in Lobby to check-in prior to boarding bus

1:15 **SHARP** bus departs

15 m in to get off bus and arrive upstairs

1:30 – 2:30 Reception & visit permanent display

15 minutes to get to bus

2:45 **SHARP** bus departs for hotel

Note: One shuttle has a lift for those having difficulty climbing steps,  
please advise Lin so you will have priority access.

**Dinner** 6:30 – 8:30 PM in Dezavala room – Scholarship recipient  
announced – auction for scholarship fund

8:30 – midnight - enjoy each other, look at exhibits & entertainment  
by Dana Charles at the “CA-30 Lounge” (in the hospitality Nautila  
room)

**Please be aware that we will be running three items back to back to back  
from Wednesday through Saturday: the DVD of Jerry Ranger’s latest dive,  
the new PBS documentary: USS *Houston* of Pride & Purpose and  
Shawn Flynn’s latest updates on his project preparing an album of our  
crew members.**

**SATURDAY**

**Registration 9 – 11:30 PM**

**Next Generation Meeting – 9:30 – 10:30 AM**

Hospitality room **(We welcome everyone!)**

**Luncheon 11:30 Travis Rooms I & II**

Special presentation: to be announced

**Memorial Service**

1 PM music by The Houston Brass Band

Service begins promptly at 2 PM

**Note:** If the weather is bad, we will have the Memorial Service at the hotel

**Dinner** on your own

**Note:** the hospitality room will be open from 9am – midnight with the exceptions of being closed during meals and the Memorial Service. Saturday evening entertainment by Dana Charles at the CA-30 Lounge (hospitality room) as you enjoy looking through the albums & exhibits.

**Please know schedules are subject to change due to behind the scene last minute needs that will have to be addressed immediately.**

**Be prepared to be flexible.....**

**If you have an urgent request, (ie: flat tire, etc) please go to the hotel concierge desk for help.**

**REGISTRATION FORM**

USS HOUSTON Memorial Service/Reunion

February 21 – 24, 2008

Room reservations MUST be made by YOU  
PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY & RETURN PROMPTLY

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?**

**Friday Dinner** 6:30 PM (2 options)

Roasted Pork Loin \$28.00 x # eating \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Grilled Tilapia \$28.00 x # eating \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Saturday Lunch** 11:30 am

Chicken Quattro Formaggi \$22.00 x # eating \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration** \$ 25 per person x # \_\_\_\_\_ = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Late registrations/per person and per meal** \* \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**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 (Friday) \_\_\_\_\_ #

Bus seat needed to U of H \_\_\_\_\_ # Handicapped access \_\_\_\_\_ #

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.)