

Newsletter of the U.S.S. Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations

Now Hear This!

Association Address:

c/o John Schwarz, Exec. Dir.
2500 Clarendon Blvd., Apt. 121
Arlington, VA 22201

Address for Tax Deductible Contributions:

c/o Pam Foster, Treasurer
370 Lilac Lane,
Lincoln, CA 95648
(please specify which fund –
general or scholarship)

Association Email Contact:

Contact@USSHouston.org

Welcome to the new Blue Bonnet...

We've redesigned our newsletter and hope you like it. The ship on the ocean in the header is taken from the June 17, 1938, issue of the Blue Bonnet newsletter. With the addition of some graphics to spruce it up, the new header reminds us of the history of the USS Houston while giving a more updated appearance. What do you think? We welcome your thoughts.

As always, family news, birth or anniversary announcements, visits with survivors or NG's, or memories of such visits are always welcome for the Blue Bonnet. Please email your news, ideas, or suggestions to bluebonnet@USSHouston.org.

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The Big 1-0-0 for RADM Robert Fulton



RADM Robert Fulton
Age 100

RADM Robert Fulton was the first of our survivors to reach his 100th birthday. Congratulations Admiral Fulton! The family threw a big party down in Memphis and a good time was had by all.



Admiral Fulton with his son Fred Howe and his grandson

Association Websites:

- USSHouston.org**
Our primary website
- USSHouston.net**
Crew biographies
- USSHouston.blogspot.com**
Blog for current news

Reunion 2011

March 2-6, 2011

Sign up now!

Registration form on page 14

Meet your ...

Board of Managers

...here to serve you!

Executive Director: John Schwarz
Son of USN survivor Otto Schwarz
Ship models, compiler of ship memorial sites,
archives, Scholarship Committee
Email: John@usshouston.org



President: Sue Kreutzer
Daughter of USN survivor Paul Papish
Webmaster, archives, auction, membership,
Scholarship Committee
Email: Sue@usshouston.org



Vice-Pres. and Treasurer: Pam Foster
Daughter of USN survivor Eugene Crispi
Financial and IRS records, auction,
Scholarship Committee
Email: Pam@usshouston.org



Secretary: Jo Klenk
Daughter of USN survivor Joe Garrett
Blue Bonnet editor, blog master,
birthday card project, Scholarship Committee
Email: Jo@usshouston.org



Manager: Jane Matthews
Daughter of USN Survivor John Stefanek
Chair of the Scholarship Committee,
Chair of the Future Vision Committee,
Email: Jane@usshouston.org



Manager: Dana Charles
son of USMC Survivor Bob Charles
Crew and POW camp records,
media specialist, researcher, correspondent
Email: Dana@usshouston.org



Did you know ??

...that the next meeting of the members of our Association will be held during the reunion in March? All members are welcome to attend.

*From the desk of the
Executive Director*

John Schwarz



A lot has happened in this Association since my Dad, Otto Schwarz, started it in 1948. It is now quite different from what it was back then! As we hope you all know, the adoption of Bylaws (which replaced the previous charter) back in March of 2009 established a Board of Managers as the leadership team. As Executive Director and a member of the team of managers, Val Poss continued to carry the lion's share of the work which was quite a heavy load. In September, Val decided to resign and since that time, we have all experienced many challenges in transitioning to new leadership. The team of managers soon recognized a need to spread the multitude of responsibilities around so that many people could help lift the load. Thankfully, a number of people have pitched in with a variety of talents and knowledge which the Association needs to help support its mission of perpetuating the memory of the USS Houston and its crew. Even we in the "Next Generations" are beginning to get on in age, so we appreciate the help! This Association has succeeded in the past and will continue to succeed because of the large number of people who have provided this "functional" as well as financial help. The Blue Bonnet will continue to be our main avenue of communication to let you know how you can pitch it.



VIPs (VERY Important People)

Of all the many people who serve this Association, two people stand out for their specialized knowledge and willingness to help when needed. The Board of Managers is very grateful! **Matt Kreutzer** is our able "legal eagle" and **Don Kehn, Jr.** is our knowledgeable historian. Both serve with kindness and gentlemanly grace. Thank you Matt and Don!

Reunion 2011



Planning for the 2011 March Reunion is moving forward! We do hope to spend some quality time with as many members of the Houston family as possible. Please plan on joining in on the fun! The 2011 Reunion will be held in a new location. The [Hyatt Regency Houston](#) is located right next door to the Doubletree Hotel where the Reunion has been held the last few years. Please feel free to check it out! Click on this link ->www.HoustonRegency.Hyatt.com. It was able to give us a better room rate than the Doubletree and was eager to work with us to meet the special needs of our group. The Hyatt has recently been completely remodeled so the rooms are very nice. The menus have been especially designed by the chef for our group! Check them out on the **Registration Form** included on page 14 of this newsletter. Room reservations can be made by calling toll free 888-421-1442 or 402-592-6464 or online at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/USSHoustonCA30>. Then mail your registration form to Pam Foster, 370 Lilac Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.

Jane Matthews is making arrangements with Julie Grob for our annual reception at the University of Houston Library. Dana Charles is planning a fantastic Memorial Service. (If you'd like to help, email Dana@USSHouston.org). With these NG s in charge of the service, it will be amazing! Our Scholarship Auction will be in full swing on Friday night. If you have items to donate, please let John Schwarz (John@USSHouston.org) or Jane Matthews (Jane@USSHouston.org) know. On Saturday we will be pleased to have Jerry Ranger, head of the Dive Team, show us video footage never seen before of the dives on the Houston. Also on Saturday, Jim Hornfischer, author of Ship of Ghosts, will be with us to present his newest book.

There are some areas still needing volunteer helpers! We need...

- helpers on Wednesday to move items from our new storage facility in downtown Houston to our Hospitality Room at the Hyatt.
- door assistants at mealtimes.
- helpers to put the printed program together for the Memorial Service. Thanks to Val Poss's hard work over the years, the program template already exists. So, the volunteer work would be to simply make any changes needed to names and dates and then make sure the printing is done and the program is ready to go for the service.
- helpers to tidy up the wreaths we use every year. (After living in storage for a year, they usually need some TLC before the Memorial Service.)
- helpers to set up and take down chairs for the Memorial Service.
- helpers on Sunday morning to move items back to our new storage facility down the street from the Hyatt.

Remember, we are all in this together to honor the brave crew of the USS Houston CA-30. All able-bodied hands are welcome on deck! Tell us how you'd like to help! We'll be pleased to work with you! Please feel free to email your questions or offers to help to Sue Kreutzer at Sue@USSHouston.org.

The family of Harry Kelley sends thanks to everyone in the Association for the flowers they received and also for the many cards and condolences following Harry's passing.



In Memoriam

We share in the sorrow of the families of Harold McManus, Harry Kelley, and James Shearer who have passed on from this life and are now "standing watch" with their shipmates. These men served our country well and they will never be forgotten.

Harold McManus: Sept. 12, 2010

Harry Kelley: Oct. 20, 2010

James Shearer: Dec. 12, 2010

NOUS News

Navy D-Day Monument Update

The website for NOUS (Naval Order of the United States) is www.navalorder.org. In the Summer NOUS newsletter, it was reported that Phase II of the US Navy Normandy D-Day Monument on Utah Beach in France has recently been completed. This is the first and only monument to the Navy there. Five engraved granite pedestals surround the monument. Newly installed electricity illuminates the monument and at night the "site" is an impressive "sight". (Note: Captain Carter Conlin who was so instrumental in the building of the USS Houston monument in Sam Houston Park is a director of NOUS. We are grateful for his consistent participation in our annual memorial services.)



Arlington Cemetery

Thanks to John Schwarz, four of the graves of our Houston men who are interred at Arlington Cemetery look like those pictured here. Green wreaths topped off with red bows beautifully decorate each one.

Graves decorated by John Schwarz are William "Billy" Batchelor, Otto Schwarz, Phillip "Joe" Gans, and John Stefaneck.

More Sad News to Report *by Dana Charles*

- Stanley James Galbraith, a member of the "Lost Battalion", died Oct. 11, 2010, in Virginia, MN.
- Roger Mansell, died Oct. 25, 2010, in Palo Alto, CA. He gathered an important collection of materials related to allied POWs of the Japanese and attended a reunion several years ago. He donated his valuable collection to Stanford University's Hoover Institute.
- Geneva King (widow of survivor "Pinky" King, USMC) has been diagnosed with serious tumors.
- Sue Bumpass, widow of Jesse Frank Bumpass of the Lost Battalion, died Sept. 26, 2010. She met the love of her life as a young woman while Jesse was recovering from injuries sustained while he was a POW. They married within a week after meeting and spent 56 years together until Jesse's death in 2001.

QUESTION for Survivors...

My wife's grandfather, Frank Macumber, gave his life in the final battle of the USSHouston. Does anyone have any memories of him? Thanks.

Russell and Sherry Lincoln

(Ed. Note: email contact@usshouston.org if you have any information.)

NOW HEAR THIS!

Scholarship News

Update:

by John Schwarz

Applications for the USS Houston Scholarship are accepted between **June 1 - November 1**, so we are outside that window now. However, we would like to remind you of our program and ask you to think about someone(s) you could encourage to apply next year. Anyone who is currently in college or will be in college during the school year following the scholarship award is eligible to apply. Do you have a son, daughter, grandchild, niece, or nephew who will be in college? If so, please let them know about the scholarship (usually about \$2,500) and ask them to consider taking the time to apply. Grades, extra-curricular activities, work, and an original essay are considered in choosing a winner. Go to the website at www.ushouston.org/news.htm or contact Jane Matthews, chair of the Scholarship Committee, for an application. The 2011 Scholarship award will be announced in the April, 2011, Blue Bonnet.

Scholarship Committee:

We congratulate Jane Matthews on being chosen to serve as the chair of the Scholarship Committee. She has been a valuable member of the committee for many years and has been particularly helpful in the fundraising area. We look forward to working together under her leadership. The other committee members are Pam Foster, Scott Ingram, Jo Klenk, John Kreutzer, Sue Kreutzer and John Schwarz

Donations:

We always need donations to the Scholarship Fund in order to continue offering an annual scholarship. Would you consider a donation now? Whatever amount you can give would be greatly appreciated (e.g. \$1,000, \$100, \$75, \$50). You can also designate the Association as a beneficiary in your will or trust and designate the Scholarship Fund to receive the money. All contributions are tax deductible. It is most important that every member participate, because there is strength in numbers. Together, we can really make a big difference. However, don't forget that the Association's General Fund also needs your support to remain financially viable, so just remember to specify the amount you are contributing to each fund (General or Scholarship). Make your check payable to: **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association** and send it to Pam Foster, Treasurer, 370 Lilac Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648.

Auction:

We will again conduct our annual auction at the 2011 reunion to benefit the Scholarship Fund. We appreciate all of you wonderful folks who donate items for the auction and it is not too soon to be thinking of what you may want to donate. The kinds of things that sell well are framed art and Houston memorabilia. Flea-market-type items are not a good fit for this event. If you will be shipping sale items to Houston prior to the reunion, be sure to retain the packaging in case the person who purchases the item would like to use the materials to ship it to his/her home. Bring items you want to donate to the auction room at least an hour prior to the dinner on Friday night. That will make it possible to have the items catalogued and available for viewing before the dinner so potential bidders can check out all the wonderful items and prepare to bid. And of course, we really appreciate all of you who bring your checkbooks and bid on the donated items!

External Fundraising:

If anyone has a lead to an "outside" person, company, or other entity who may be a possible donor, we can either provide you with a fund raising letter and brochure for your own use or a Scholarship Committee member can follow-up the lead, whichever you prefer. Please present leads to chair Jane Matthews (Jane@USSHouston.org). Thanks!

Open Letter to the U.S.S. Houston Family

from the pen of Trudy Schwarz

I am very moved to offer these few words as the co-founder of our organization. I was happily at the side of my beloved husband Otto Schwarz, since the day this family began, back in 1946. God has blessed me by letting me still be here to make this offering to you, although not a day passes, nor an organizational event occur, which does not have me wonder what he would think.

*During the time that has passed, I have been part of our organization's original leadership and have been through one prior transition. For any and all organizations, transitions of leadership present challenges. Ours is no exception. Over the last several months, I have kept up to date on the current leadership transition, which is still a work in progress. I am aware of the six dedicated Next Generation sons and daughters, who are working very hard at assuming that responsibility. There are others as well helping to enable our organization to continue its mission—a vital task for which we are truly grateful. I appeal to each and every member of this unique and wonderful Family, to show support to our new leadership Team, as they and you continue on with the reason that brings us together: **perpetuating the memory of the USS Houston CA-30 and her precious crew.** May we never take our focus away from honoring the men who served our country so gallantly. Thank you for "listening". My hope is you will accept these thoughts in the spirit of concern with which they are given.*

Blessings, Trudy

Ship Model at Bethesda, Maryland

The 14-foot model of the USS Houston which was previously onboard the battleship Texas is currently in Bethesda, MD, undergoing restoration by the Navy. John Schwarz is diligently working toward finding an appropriate home for this beautiful model. It was built by the original USS Houston shipbuilders so is very valuable.

Ship Model at US Naval Academy

A model of the USS Houston is on display at the Engineering and Propulsion Departments main office lobby in Rickover Hall at the US Naval Academy.

Model Kit by Yankee Modelworks

One of our "NGs" has discovered that a plastic model kit of the USS HOUSTON (CA-30) made by Yankee Modelworks is available on the internet on at least two sites, including EBay (for \$197.99) and Megahobby (for \$216). The websites are www.ebay.com and www.megahobby.com respectively. Anyone who enjoys assembling, gluing, and painting resin ship models might find this kit well worth checking out.



DVDs For Sale

You can purchase the following 2-DVD sets at \$14.95 each from BuzzCreek.com. Clicking on each title will take you directly to the website for ordering.

[The Last Stand of the USS Houston](#)

[The Battle of the Java Sea](#)



Storage Space Needed

The Association currently rents a storage facility near the reunion location primarily for storage of items needed for the annual Memorial Service such as wreaths and also for materials displayed in the hospitality room. In order to reduce expenses, the Board is looking for anyone living in or near the Houston area who might be willing to help with storage of some or all of these items. Do you live in the Houston area? Would you be willing to help? If so, please contact John at John@USSHouston.org or Dana at Dana@USSHouston.org. THANKS!

Did you know...

*... it's been 68
years since the
USS Houston
sank on
March 1, 1942?*

Future Vision Committee



At the reunion last March, the Board of Managers began a discussion concerning the future direction of the Association especially in view of the number of remaining survivors. The Board constituted the new Future Vision Committee, an advisory committee, which was directed to begin asking questions, compiling information, and getting your input and eventually making some recommendations to the Board. As we look toward the future, we want to ensure that the Association continues so that its mission—"to perpetuate the memory of the USS Houston and its crew"—is carried out as effectively as possible.

Do you have suggestions, ideas, thoughts, recommendations? Please pass them along to someone on the committee by email, postal mail, or a phone call. The committee includes Dana Charles, John Schwarz and myself (Jane Matthews). Our contact information is listed below.

The following categories are suggestions for areas in which you may want to offer input, but you are not limited only to these categories.

Memorial Service
Reunion
Scholarship
Organization

(setting future goals,
gaining more involvement from the
next generations and their children,
improving decision making and planning)

Educational programs
Communications
Involvement with other Ex-POW Organizations
Miscellaneous



If your last name begins with A – H
please respond to:

Mr. Dana Charles
205 Fifth Avenue South, Unit 5
Kirkland, WA 98033
425-896-8012

Dana@USSHouston.org

If your last name begins with I – Q
please respond to

Jane Matthews
836 Kendal Drive
Broadview Heights, OH 44147
440-736-7233

Jane@USSHouston.org

If your last name begins with R – Z
please respond to

John Keith Schwarz
2500 Clarendon Blvd., Apt. 121
Arlington, VA 22201
703-867-0142

John@USSHouston.org

We thank you for your time and responses.

Jane Matthews,

Chair, Future Vision Committee

***“Victoria Cross for Australia”
for Perth’s Captain Waller - Maybe***

The Australian government is considering a posthumous “Victoria Cross for Australia” (the highest award available to Australian military personnel) for HMAS Perth Captain Hector M.L. Waller in recognition of his heroism during the Battles of the Java Sea and Sunda Strait. This medal is equivalent to the American Medal of Honor which was awarded posthumously to USS Houston’s Captain Rooks. Only the British government awarded the Victoria Cross until 1991 when Australia created the “Victoria Cross for Australia”. Since its creation, the medal has only been awarded once.

In order for the medal to be awarded, there must be three eyewitnesses to the heroic actions of HMAS PERTH at Sunda Strait. At the time of this writing, two Perth survivors and one Houston survivor (David Flynn) have written in support of the award. Additional support would be helpful and welcome. Anyone (especially survivors who were eyewitnesses) who is interested in supporting the effort to honor Captain Waller may write a letter of support to:

Vice Admiral R.H. Crane, AO, CSM, RAN
Chief of Navy, Naval Headquarters
Russell Offices, R1-4-C001
Canberra, Australia ACT 2600

***Happy Birthday
US Marine Corps***



The 235th “birthday” of the Marine Corps was on November 10, 2010. On behalf of the Association, Dana Charles emailed a birthday message to all in the “Marine detachment family”. Dana included photos of CA-30’s Marines which he has collected over the years. This resulted in “Pinky” King’s daughter, Denise King, sending two pictures of her father. Dana has added them to his photo album which he expects to eventually make a part of the Association’s archives.

A Piece of History

by Skip Schilperoort’s Niece Connie

In 2006 Uncle Clarence and Aunt Mary visited Gary and me. It happened to be Aunt Mary’s birthday, so I invited a couple over to help celebrate. I told Barbara and George ahead of time that my uncle had been a POW.

That evening George told us that he still has vivid memories from his childhood of his best friend’s father putting together a ‘shrine’ of sorts in their house. It was to help them keep their hopes alive for the well being of his older son who was missing after the sinking of USS Houston.

We were suddenly all riveted to the story, but George ended by saying he and his family moved from that little town in California and he didn’t know the outcome. He did remember his friend’s family name was Smith but didn’t know the older brother’s name.

Very quietly, Uncle Clarence, said, “I can tell you his name. We called him by his initials (I believe J.D.) but his name was James and he was my cellmate when we were transferred to French Indo-China.” You could have heard a pin drop – it was so amazing to have such a small world story right in our living room between total strangers.

Uncle Clarence went on to say that James was the one responsible for sewing a US flag out of scrap material and then stood guard after he coerced Uncle Clarence to sew on the stars. Somehow that flag survived and is on display at the University of Houston with other memorabilia with the USS Houston story.

(Editor’s note: The shipmate referred to in this story was James A. Smith of Morgan City, CA. He passed away in 1991.)

Book Briefs

(Editor's Note: if you are not reading this newsletter electronically, then you will not be able to click on the links given below. You will need to go to individual websites such as Amazon.com or BarnesandNoble.com and search for the book.)

- Neptune's Inferno: The U.S. Navy at Guadalcanal by James Hornfischer (who also wrote Ship of Ghosts about the USS Houston) will be released in January. The book tells the epic story of the U.S. Navy's bloodiest campaign of WWII: the four-month struggle for Guadalcanal, and the seven major naval battles that broke Imperial Japan's will to fight. Amazon is now taking preorders for \$16.92 which is a deeply discounted price. If you click on [this link](#) to place your order, then Jim will get a small commission which will help support the craft of writing naval history! Jim is planning to be at the reunion in March and will be glad to autograph your book.
- Peril on the Sea by Jonathan D. VerHoeven has recently been released. It is a historical fiction novel set in the Asia-Pacific Theater of WWII with the USS Houston a prominent "character". If you click on [this link](#) you can purchase the book from Barnes & Noble for \$22.49. If you click on [this link](#), you can purchase the book from Amazon for \$22.95.
- A Postal History of the Prisoners of War and Civilian Internees in East Asia During the Second World War, Volume 6, Hellships to Slavery, by David Tett will be released this month. This is the last volume in a series of books covering all countries where Allied prisoners were held and allowed to send and receive mail. This volume covers Japan, Korea, Manchuria, and Borneo, 1942-1945. The cost of the book is \$75 which includes a pre-publication discount if checks are received by December 31, 2010. Checks should be made out to D. F. Tett and sent to J. T. Slemmons, 1410 Timber Trail, Greenwood, IN 46142-1143. Volumes 1-5 have been awarded Gold Medals and special prizes in the UK, the USA, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Singapore. Click on fepowmail.org for more information.
- The Men of the Line, Stories of the Thai-Burma Railway Survivors by Pattie Wright in Australia. The author interviewed former POWs and has 68 first-person accounts of their experiences working on the Burma-Thai Railroad. Each one provides the reader with a look at POW life in a particular section of the railway line beginning with the terminus in Thailand and ending with the end of the line in Burma. For a full book review by Dana Charles, see page 12. Click on [this link](#) to purchase the book from Amazon for \$32.95.

Japan's Foreign Minister Gives Informal "Apology" to POWs

On September 13, 2010, the Japanese Foreign Minister Katsuya Okada met with a group of former US POWs led by Lester Tenney who survived the Bataan Death March. The POWs were invited by the Japanese government as part of the Japanese-American POW friendship program in Tokyo. Mr. Okada informally apologized to the group saying "I offer my deep heartfelt apology for the inhuman treatment you suffered." Mr. Tenney said he welcomed the government's apology but still seeks recognition from the private companies that used and abused prisoners. For more information, click [this link](#).



Dive Team News



Jerry Ranger, leader of the Dive Team which expects to dive on the USS Houston and the HMAS Perth, writes that the dive will tentatively take place in June 2011. Due to the deteriorating condition of the ships, Jerry expects this to be the team's last dive. The dive could provide historical information which may be useful and interesting to members of our Association and the video can be used for educational purposes by the [VideoRay](#) company which is sending a Remote Operator Vehicle (ROV) to help with surveying the inside of the ship. Since the mission of our Association is to perpetuate the memory of the USS Houston, the members appreciate what the dive team is doing in support of this mission.

Jerry is currently working on securing a boat to rent to take the team out to the ship each day which is, of course, very expensive. Other costs include getting the dive team's equipment to Java and oxygen tanks and compressors. The boat must be secured by January 2011. Corporate or personal sponsors are welcome to help with costs by sending checks to:

Jerry Ranger, 6478 Kennington Circle, Milton, FL 32570

For a donation of \$100 or above, you will get a free Navy blue tee-shirt with sponsor's names on the back, and on the front, there will be an underwater design including part of the Houston, a small VideoRay and a diver. You can also purchase tee-shirts for \$25 (S to XL) or \$28 (2XL-4XL) for pickup at the reunion or add \$3 for shipping. Jerry says the team is grateful for all donations.



Survivor David Flynn

Still "Perpetuating the Memory of the CA-30 and Her Men"

By John K. Schwarz

I had the pleasure recently of being able to spend the better part of a day while vacationing in Florida with this beloved survivor and his fabulous wife, Donna Mae. When greeting them, I was offered a little gift in the form of the book [Allan McElhiney: One Man's Vision](#) by John and Minerva Bloom, the story of the founder of the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Historical Association (NASFLHA).

Within a couple of days I began to read this book and couldn't put it down. Turns out that the airport down there serving Fort Lauderdale and Hollywood, Florida, an airport I have flown in and out of for over 15 years, was a major training base during WWII for Naval aviators and enlisted Naval airmen of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps. Among its notables who trained there was President George Bush Sr. He went on to fly off the aircraft carrier San Jacinto which ties it into the USS Houston CA-30 through fund raising following the CA-30's sinking. This air station was also notable in being the base from which was flown the memorable Flight 19 which disappeared without a trace while on a training mission over what has been characterized as the "Bermuda Triangle". All fourteen crew members were lost and nothing has ever been found of the plane or crew.

(continued on page 12)

**Report from the USS Houston CA-30 & CL-81 Annual Reunion
Sandstrom, Virginia
September 14 – 19, 2010**

By John K. Schwarz

I had a very interesting visit to a portion of the CL-81 Houston Association reunion in Richmond which is about 100 miles south of where I reside in Arlington, VA. I was only able to make the final afternoon leading into their final banquet dinner. Here is a summary of what I think are the most interesting observations from this experience.

There were 80-100 people at the dinner and quite a few shipmates from the CL-81 although the majority of attendees were from the next generations. The CL-81 men are generally in a younger age group than our survivors. The event was well organized. They conducted business (installed officers), presented awards to key workers, and interacted socially over dinner.

Like the Asiatic Fleet group and unlike ours, this group rotates reunion locations from year to year. They do not have a fixed memorial as we do in Houston, TX. As an example, the Asiatic Fleet group met last year in Branson, MO, and the CL-81 group in Long Beach, CA. Next year CL-81 will meet in Nashville, TN.

I got a chance to talk to quite a few people including Mr. Potter, an organizational leader and CL-81 crewman, and Donna Rogers who was highly instrumental in organizing this reunion. I extended an invitation for them to join our group in Houston in March, 2011.

Finally, I'd like to talk about a CA-30 shipmate in attendance in Richmond. Ray Kester, better known from the Asiatic Fleet group, was actually at one time on the CA-30. He got transferred off the ship well before the events leading up to her sinking in 1942, so he was not among the survivors of the sinking or the prison camps. Ray ended up serving on the USS Marblehead (CL-12) and is a remarkable fellow. He helped establish the Asiatic Fleet Room that is part of the US Navy Memorial in Washington, D.C. in which the CA-30 is prominently displayed. He is on the verge of obtaining an additional remembrance for the Asiatic Fleet out in the exhibit area of the Navy Memorial. Ray has given much of his life in service to the Asiatic Fleet group. I believe we will be joined by Ray in Houston in March and eagerly look forward to sharing our reunion with him and honoring yet another CA-30 shipmate.

It was a very enjoyable evening, great event, and **job well done** to the CL-81 group!



Asiatic-Pacific Campaign ribbon and medal

Survivor David Flynn

(continued from page 10)

Allan McElhiney was a Navy man who served during WWII aboard the second USS Asheville Patrol Frigate (PF-1), and was stationed in Newport, R.I., during the Korean War. Coincidentally, the first USS Asheville (PG 21), was part of the Asiatic Fleet! Anyhow, just like the spirit of my late beloved Dad, Otto Schwarz, Allan set about and has devoted his entire life to preserving the memory and legacy of the contributions and sacrifices made by so many of the servicemen who served at NASFL. He established the historical association which has been able to retain an original building from the WWII air station which now sits on the airport grounds as a Navy Museum. I had the pleasure of spending an afternoon at this museum and with this great WWII American hero. There he was, 86 years old, suffering from Parkinsons Disease, and staffing this museum on his own, continuing his life's work through this museum packed with artifacts. What a man! He is a true example of the "greatest generation".

Low and behold, commencing on page 94 of the book, is "A Survivors Story" which turned out to be a six-page depiction of David Flynn's experience as a CA-30 shipmate! I have to tell you that it made me so proud to read and see such a fabulous job David and the authors did in condensing David's story into these six pages. What a testament to the CA-30 ship and her crew. This is such a great example of one of our own beloved men having the courage and talent to tell the story so that the mission of "perpetuating the memory of the USS Houston CA-30 and her men" gets accomplished.

David, hat's off to you, JOB WELL DONE, and God bless you!

The book is available for \$15.00 through the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Historical Association, 4000 West Perimeter Road, Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315, 954-359-4400, www.nasfilmuseum.com. To read David Flynn's story, click on [this link](#).

Book Review

by Dana Charles

The Men of the Line: Stories of the Thai-Burma Railway Survivors.

Author: Pattie Wright

Australian author Pattie Wright interviewed 55 former POWs for her book which contains stories of 68 former POW railway laborers, of whom 66 were Australian servicemen during WWII and 2 were other ex-POWs who settled in Australia after WWII. Part of the great strength of this book lies in Wright's organization of these 68 first-person accounts. Each provides the reader with a look at POW life in a particular section of the railway line, beginning with an account by an ex-POW survivor of the railway's terminus camp in Thailand. Each succeeding ex-POW account reveals what prisoners experienced in a camp located further on down the line—until eventually, stories from 68 camps are told, covering the entire 250-mile-length of the railroad, ending with an account which describes the POW camp at the Burma end of the line.

Through the voices of these ex-POW survivors, readers encounter not only anecdotal "Aussie stories" which range from disturbing to humorous, but also perspectives on death and survival, on inhumanity and brotherhood—honest, straightforward views which are often as intensely personal as they are informative.

(continued on page 13)

Book Review

(continued from page 12)

The stories are enhanced masterfully by prewar and wartime photographs, by detailed maps, as well as by sketches, drawings, and paintings created by various POW survivors. All of this, combined throughout with a carefully planned and executed wartime-themed graphic treatment creates a certain special quality that most other books about WWII prisoners of war of the Japanese have not had.

Included at the end of the book is a glossary of "Aussie" terms and expressions which, at times, American readers are likely to find very helpful. (Suggestion: For more information check out the book's listing at www.Amazon.com). It was published in 2008 by Miegunyah Press, Victoria, Australia and is available in both hardback and paperback.

Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

Scholarship Fund – July 23, to November 11, 2010

Beginning Balance	\$12,313.65
Receipts	+742.88
Expenses (Scholarship Award - Kevin Swick)	-2,500.00
Ending Balance	\$10,556.53

In memory of **Clarence Schilperoort** by: Anmaree McDaniel & Mark Schilperoort, John & Sue Kreutzer, Diane Hall, Phyllis Kowaluk and Mary Graham

In memory of **Harry Kelley** by: Henry & Jane Matthews

In memory of **Leon Galske** by: Timothy & Monica Brophy

In memory of **Lloyd Willey** by: Robert & Eileen Hanley

General Fund – August 1, to November 11, 2010

Beginning Balance	\$8,874.63
Receipts	+2390.50
Expenses	-2,738.18
Ending Balance	\$8,526.95

In memory of **Clarence Schilperoort** by: Phyllis Kowaluk and Verne & Phyllis Snuggs

Editor's Note: only memorial donations will be explicitly noted. A more detailed treasurer's report may be obtained by emailing Pam@USSHouston.org.



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*Happy Holidays
to you all!*

REGISTRATION FORM

USS Houston Memorial Service/Reunion

March 2 - 6, 2011

Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown

Hotel room reservations MUST be made by YOU either by calling 888-421-1442 or 402-592-6464 or online at <https://resweb.passkey.com/go/USSHoustonCA30>

Reservation Line: 888-421-1442 or 402-592-6464

Cost: \$90 per night

DEADLINE – MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 7, 2011

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY AND LIST THE NAME OF EACH PERSON INCLUDED IN THIS REGISTRATION (Use the back of this form if necessary)

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Name of crew member you are honoring and relationship (or state you are a friend). Please include branch of service _____

Anticipated date and time of arrival: _____

Friday Dinner – 6:30 PM (please select your choice of entrée)

Spiced Rubbed Chicken Breast # _____ X \$33.00 = \$ _____
Vegetable Lasagna # _____ X \$33.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Brunch – 10:30 AM # _____ X \$22.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Dinner – 6:30 PM # _____ X \$29.00 = \$ _____
Pasta Primavera in Alfredo Sauce

Registration # _____ X \$35 per person = \$ _____

Add. Late Registration Fee # _____ X \$15 per person = \$ _____

(Received after February 7, 2011)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Reception at the University of Houston (Friday) # _____
Bus seat need to U of H # _____ Handicapped Access # _____

Please include a check for the total cost made payable to: USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association
(your check is your receipt)

Mail registration to: Pam Foster, 370 Lilac Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648