



Now Hear This!

Association Address:

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

Association Phone Number:

703-867-0142

Address for Tax Deductible Contributions:

USS Houston Survivors Assoc.
c/o Pam Foster, Treasurer
370 Lilac Lane,
Lincoln, CA 95648
(please specify which fund –
General or Scholarship)

Association Email Contact:

Contact@USSHouston.org

Association Founded 1946:

by Otto and Trudy Schwarz

Reunion 2012 Commemorates 70th Anniversary of USS Houston CA-30's Loss



Flag and Bell Atop USS Houston CA-30 Monument in Sam Houston Park

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Survivors Howard Brooks and David Flynn at the 2012 Reunion

2012 Memorial Service

Representatives of Australia, Britain, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the Naval Order of the US, the US Marine Corps, and the City of Houston, were among those guests who honored our Association by participating in the annual Memorial Service on 3 March 2012 in Houston. We thank all of the participants for their outstanding contributions to the annual event.

Speakers

Australia



**Commander
David Wright, RAN
Assistant Naval Attaché
Embassy of Australia, Washington DC**

United States



**Captain Carter B. Conlin, USN (Ret.)
Past Commander General
Naval Order of the United States**

Great Britain



**Mr. Andy Pryce
British Deputy Consul General
Houston, Texas**

United States



**Major Jason Borovies
United States Marine Corps**

The Netherlands



**Mr. Geert Visser
Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands
Houston, Texas**

City of Houston

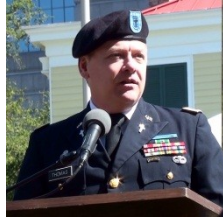


**Mr. E. A. "Buddy" Grantham,
Director, Office of Veterans' Affairs**

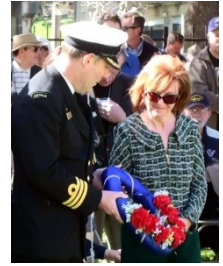
Volunteers

Our Association is also grateful for the many volunteers who participated in various ways too numerous to mention in this newsletter. However, we will highlight a few here who participated in the memorial service in special ways.

Captain James C. Thomas
Chaplain, US Army:
Invocation, Benediction



Ms. Nana Booker
Honorary Australian
Consul in Houston:
Assisted in laying wreath



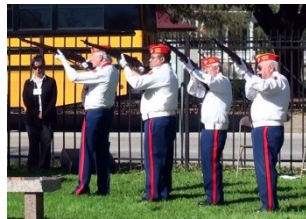
Mr. Matt Rejmaniak:
Led in singing the
National Anthem and
"God Bless America"



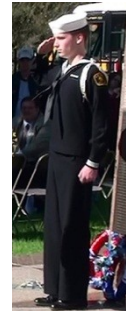
Mr. Tom Vandev eer:
Led in reciting the
Pledge of Allegiance



Marine Rifle Detail:
Rifle Salute



US Naval Sea Cadets:
Assisted with
Wreath-laying



US Naval Sea Cadets:
Color Guard



Mr. John K. Schwarz
Executive Director
USS Houston CA-30
Survivors Association:
Emcee



The Invincible Eagles Band
CMDR James B. Sterling, III,
USN (Ret.), Director



Photo by Tim Joseph

Mr. Tim Joseph:
Photographer



Many thanks to everyone who participated!

NOW HEAR THIS!

REUNION 2012

From the pen of the President Sue Kreutzer



Now hear this.....Reunion 2012, commemoration of the 70th Anniversary of the Battle of Sunda Strait was a weekend to remember in so many ways. It began with recognition long overdue. New member, Ginger Turner and Dana Charles, VP and Association communicator, put their heads together and were instrumental in getting a front page article published in the Houston Chronicle on Thursday morning. The article featured the memories of Survivors Howard Brooks and David Flynn. Well-written and informative, it was a fantastic tribute to the gallantry of the USS Houston CA-30 and its crew. The Scholarship Committee met Thursday afternoon and approved a \$3,000 award for the internal scholarship in 2013. Thursday evening a group of 21 commandeered the Hyatt's shuttle and travelled off to dinner as a group to the very nice downtown Italian establishment. The restaurant staff was so friendly and honored to be allowed to serve our own American heroes. They could see Howard Brooks needed dessert so they surprised us by sending out dessert for our entire group.

Friday's Member Meeting was attended by several of our newest members. Executive Director, John Schwarz presented "Becoming a Board Member" to the members. You will find this information in this edition of the Blue Bonnet. Anyone who is interested in a deeper participation in the Association is invited to contact any manager. A one-time amendment to the Bylaws was passed to allow terms of Managers to be staggered. It is important that Managers terms be set to expire at different times to avoid turnover of managers all at the same time. Jo Klenk was elected to a one-year term, Jane Matthews was elected to a two-year term, and Pam Foster was elected to a three-year term. This is a one-time only amendment to the Bylaws.

During the November, 2011 Model Unveiling Ceremony in Washington, D.C. several of our survivors expressed a desire to hold the annual Reunion in a location other than Houston. Several cited the ease of travel and liked the options for other sightseeing the nation's capital would provide. Our Association, of course, has a duty to our survivors to listen and take seriously any requests they may make. John Schwarz wanted the members to know of this impending Board discussion and invited input.

Since the Board meets monthly by teleconference, the meeting in Houston was very short.

After lunch, the Harris County busses whisked us off to the University of Houston Library. This year's excursion was quite different. After a short presentation by Julie Grob on how to search the collections, we toured the stacks in groups of 10 while the rest of the group visited and enjoyed refreshments.

Friday evening's dinner featured our 2012 Scholarship winner, Cody Karcher. Cody is the great-grandson of LCDR Richard Hermes Gingras who was lost during the Battle of Sunda Strait. Cody's proud grandparents, Nancy Gingras Karcher and Vic Karcher, were in attendance! Cody's essay was moving! Also joining us for Friday evening's dinner was Capt. Ed Wallace, director of the USNA

Foundation. Capt. Wallace presented survivors Brooks and Flynn with special mementos from the US Naval Academy and reported on the progress of Midshipmen, Scales and Gilchrist.

Saturday morning dawned sunny and less windy than last year! Beautiful weather for our 70th Anniversary Memorial Service! After brunch, Jerry Ranger, leader of the Dive Team, shared a special presentation with the group...footage of his 2011 Houston Dive.

The Memorial Service , thanks to Dana Charles, John Schwarz and their supporting cast of several dozen, was beautiful. See more info about it elsewhere in this Blue Bonnet and be sure to check out the slide show at <http://www.usshouston.org/news.html> for a wonderful overview.

Saturday evening's dinner program included a Round Table discussion with survivors, including a video greeting sent by Admiral Fulton, spouses, widows, one NG, and one volunteer from the 1,000 men recruited in Houston after the CA-30 was sunk. What marvelous stories they shared with all of us!

2013 Reunion Information

Due to requests from some of our survivors, there was some discussion about changing the location of the Annual Reunion. After much consideration of many factors, it was decided to remain in Houston for the 2013 Reunion. However, the 2013 Reunion weekend will be shortened. It will begin Thursday, 6PM and end Saturday, 6 PM. Costs continue to rise. While attendance has not decreased drastically over the last two years, due to increasing numbers of new members, the incoming revenue still doesn't cover the expenses of the Reunion. For example, this year several members attended Reunion hotel events, but did not register for the Reunion at all. Had all of those attendees been paid registrants, the Association's income would have covered the cost of printing the Programs for the Memorial Service.

The registration fee for 2013 may need to be increased. The Board will be considering this topic as planning moves forward. Please know your registration fee covers the cost of printing programs for the Memorial Service, rental of chairs and tents for the Memorial Service, snacks throughout the week-end for the Hospitality Room, audio-visual needs for hotel event speakers and subsidizes a portion of the meals. So, if you choose not to register, please consider the shortfall you are creating for the Association's kitty.

Correction to the January Blue Bonnet: We would like to thank John Moore, nephew of Charley (Jimmie) Pryor, for taking time from his work week to attend the November, 2011 Model Unveiling Ceremony in Washington, D.C. We apologize for omitting his name when reporting attendees in our January, 2012 Blue Bonnet.

From the desk of the Executive Director

John Schwarz



On the heels of yet another, glorious reunion weekend where we all experienced such a wonderful gathering of survivors/spouses, widows, NG's and friends, what comes to mind for me is the FUTURE. Time is marching on certainly for our WWII heroes and the other "Greatest Generation" folks. To summarize, the future is upon us quicker than I think we ever thought.

It is often asked, what is our future? First, I hope we never lose sight of what has been handed down to us by those that started this whole thing, and the total group of CA-30 Survivors/spouses who faithfully have supported this Association for all of the years between 1946 and now. As I have lived this thing my whole life, I can say that I have never heard any end date attached to any mention of what we are all about - perpetuating the memory of the USS Houston CA-30, the ship, her Captain, crew and what they meant to America. The future has been, is, and will always be what **we** make of it. I clearly recall how delighted my dad was when the Next Generations was added to the Association's title.

I experienced a great example of what the future is and how it gets there on a weekend in early February. A next, next generation individual was in Washington, DC for a quick work-related lay-over. I had opportunity to take this young man down to the CA-30 ship model at the Navy Yard which he had not yet seen. As a next generation, he's half my age but the passion, interest and enthusiasm at seeing the model was equal between us. He was understandably, overwhelmed with what he saw. This man is accomplished in his own right but again, his relation to the ship is a grandfather as opposed to in my case, a father. The reason this young man is who and what he is comes from the orientation to all of this given to him in this case, by a next generation set of parents. I can think of not much better an example of what the future is, can be, and how that happens.

I have no children, so I must be the future from yet another context. That context is to spread the gospel whenever, wherever the opportunity presents itself. Better, try to make for those opportunities. I can't tell you how many times, for example, I have taken folks down to the original ship model, or gone down there on my own and seized the chance to tell whomever, what this ship was all about.

No matter where we end up physically and with whatever number of folks that includes, we hold the responsibility to carry on the tradition of attending to our mission which has been given to us. That we owe our heroes whom we admire so greatly no matter what our connection to them is. You can count on me being there as long as the good Lord allows for that.

Back to this past month's reunion; special thanks to the unbelievably hard work put in by Board members Sue Kreutzer, Dana Charles, Jo Klenk and Pam Foster who all worked tirelessly throughout the weekend orchestrating this year's festivities. These dedicated sons/daughters of survivors are the why we can experience once again, such a wonderful tribute to the men. Thanks too, to our friends at the Houston Chronicle who wrote up such a wonderful article in Thursday's paper preceding the Saturday memorial service. We rent 225 chairs for that service; granted 20 go to the band but I saw what appeared to be at least 40 or so folks standing for the entire service so to say the least, we had one great level of attendance in honor of the memory of all the men of the CA-30.

John

Reunion Photos

Here are a few pictures from the reunion. For additional pictures, see Shawn Flynn's website here: <http://www.usshouston.net/70th%20reunion/Page.htm> and for a slide show of the memorial service, courtesy of Tim Joseph, see this online link: <http://timjoseph.com/USSHouston2012>



Survivor David and Donna Flynn



Survivor Howard and Sylvia Brooks



Admiral Bob Fulton
(who made an appearance by video!)



Sylvia Brooks, Jimmie Pryor, Howard Brooks, Lee Robinson
(from left to right)



Howard Brooks, David Flynn,
Cody Karcher (scholarship winner)
(from left to right)



Trudy and John Schwarz
(Association co-founder and Executive Director respectively)

An Anniversary Remembered

It's seventy years we commemorate,
That fateful night in Sunda Strait.
It's not meant to be a gala affair,
But a joining together to show we still care.

We honor not only our Houston crew,
But Australians, Dutch and British too.
For together were they on foreign lands,
Enduring the wrath of enemy hands.

Some we know only through tales of yore,
Their families and friends always searching for more.
Those who survived and finally came home,
Over the years let their stories be known.

Because of what happened seventy years ago,
New family and friends we have come to know.
Through the years and across many miles,
Though we grieve we also share smiles.

As we honor these men so very brave,
We thank them all for sacrifices they gave.
Lest we forget Lord, please hear our plea,
Let them all know in our hearts they're still key.

We ask the Lords' blessing upon us all,
Please help us should we begin to fall.
For those defending us around the world today,
We pray they stay safe and out of harms way.

Though we're told God has a master plan,
Our hearts still ache when we lose a man.
Thank you Lord for your help along the way,
Of honoring our loved ones of that fateful day.

Seventy years may have come and gone,
But in our hearts these men still live on.



Written by Nancy Schilperoort Greenwald
Daughter of the late Clarence Schilperoort
USS Houston CA-30 Survivor



**Poem by Nancy Schilperoort Greenwald
Read as the prayer before Saturday night dinner at
Reunion 2012**

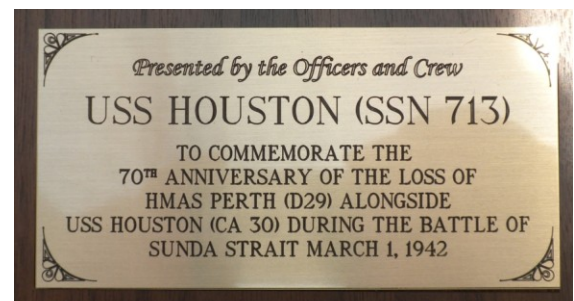
THANKS, Nancy!

Gift from the Officers and Crew of the Submarine *USS Houston SSN 713*



Plaque commemorating the 70th
anniversary of the Battle of Sunda Strait

The *USS Houston CA-30* Survivors Association and Next Generations (the "Association") was recently honored and touched by a gift from the officers and crew of the *USS Houston SSN 713*. A beautiful plaque, measuring 12" x 12.5", was presented to Executive Director John Schwarz in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the Battle of Sunda Strait and the sinking of the *HMAS Perth* and the *USS Houston CA-30*. The Board expressed its deep appreciation for this wonderful gift.



Identification plate on the gift plaque

NOTE: the Board is searching for a special place for this beautiful and historical plaque to be appropriately displayed. If you have a good idea, contact Executive Director John Schwarz at John@USSHouston.org.

AXPOW Features *USS Houston CA-30*

The *USS Houston CA-30* is featured on the cover page of the EX-POW Bulletin newsletter of the AXPOW (American Ex-Prisoners of War) February issue. See <http://www.axpow.org/files/bulletins/jan-feb12.pdf>

Do You Know...

...how to reach any family member of Vincent Polidoro? An inquirer would like to locate his great nephew, PO3c Ryan Cleary, or someone in the family who could help to locate him. Cleary recently graduated from Nuclear Power Training Command. Contact Bluebonnet@USSHouston.org if you can help.

In Memoriam

USS Houston

Our sincere condolences to the family
of Mildred L. Morris.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Mildred L. Morris

11/4/1919 – 12/18/11

West Union, Illinois

Widow of USS Houston survivor

R. Edgar Morris, USN





Naval Order of the United States (NOUS)

The Texas Commandery participated in the annual memorial service held in conjunction with the reunion. CAPT Carter B. Conlin, USN (Ret.) spoke representing the United States. He related the interesting story about the bombing of two ships, one of which was carrying American POWs from the *USS Houston*. The small convoy with a corvette escort was traveling north from Penang, Malaya to Rangoon, Burma in January 1943. A flight of six American B-24 Liberator bombers attacked the small convoy and were unaware that American POWs were on board one of the ships. Fortunately, the bombs missed that ship. As a special surprise, CAPT Conlin introduced to the audience the bombardier who was present in his blue Air Force uniform and had recently celebrated his 90th birthday. He was very happy that his bombs missed hitting the ship with the American POWs from *USS Houston* and was warmly received by all present. His name is COL Thomas E. Sledge, USAF (Ret.). Companion CDR James B. Sterling, III, USN (Ret.) led the Invincible Eagles Band that played the music for the ceremony that included the well-known Navy Hymn to which CAPT Conlin recited the words. CDR Sterling also treated those assembled to a genuine Navy boatswain's call and eight bells.

Article courtesy of
Carter B. Conlin, Captain, USN (Ret.)
Past Commander General
Naval Order of the U. S.



CAPT Carter Conlin with survivors Howard Brooks and David Flynn

NOW HEAR THIS!
Scholarship Update

For many years we have held our annual Scholarship Auction at the Friday dinner at the reunion. This has been our main fundraising event for our internal Scholarship. Through your generosity, we were able to raise several thousand dollars to pay for eight internal scholarship awards. However, it appears that this method of fundraising has run its course.

We are making a special appeal to you for donations to the Internal Scholarship Fund. Please consider a tax deductible donation directly to the Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$100, \$50, or any amount you can afford. Remember that every dollar you give (100 %) goes directly to the Fund. Make your check payable to: **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association** and indicate "Scholarship" in the memo portion of your check.

Mail your donation to:

Mrs. Pam Foster, Treasurer
370 Lilac Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648

Next year's scholarship award will be \$3,000.00. The window of opportunity for submitting an application begins on June 1 and ends on November 1, 2012. Please encourage your family members to apply!

To apply for the scholarship, go to:

www.ushouston.org

Click on "Scholarship"

Scroll to bottom of the page

Click on "Click here to download the 2013 Application Packet."

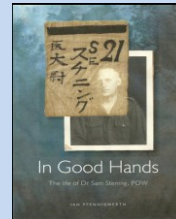
If you do not use the internet, please call me at 440-736-7233 to request an Application Packet. Or, you can write to me at:

Jane Matthews
836 Kendal Drive
Broadview Heights, OH 44147

Please remember the purpose of this Scholarship is to perpetuate and honor the memory of the USS Houston (CA-30,) her extraordinary men, and their contribution to securing our freedom. We very much need your donations in order to continue to award internal scholarships in the future.

Thank you,

Jane Matthews, Scholarship Committee Chairman



**In Good Hands:
The Life of
Dr. Sam Stening, POW**

Author: Ian Pfennigwerth

In Good Hands tells the remarkable story of Sam Stening – Royal Australian Navy doctor – who, as a prisoner of the Japanese, saved the lives of countless Allied servicemen. Blown from the sinking HMAS *Perth* at the height of the March 1942 Battle of Sunda Strait, Sam spent more than three years caring for fellow POWs, improvising and stretching limited medical supplies in the harshest of conditions in several camps in Japan.

Sam's POW patients came from many countries. In Java he joined US Navy doctors tending the survivors from *Perth* and *USS Houston*, and in Japan he worked with other American medical personnel striving to cut the POW death toll. His work attracted the respect of his fellows and led to lifetime friendships, as well as recommendations for US Government awards. In his final camp at Takefu, Sam discovered himself the commanding officer of a group of Americans, and was delighted to have a US Navy chief yeoman as his executive officer. And the ship which took him to freedom from Japan was *USS Goodhue*. The post-liberation accounts of US POWs in the US National Archives at College Park Md. were important research sources for *In Good Hands*, as was the assistance of the US Navy Bureau of Medicine and Surgery.

Sam's story is also a true romance. In his darkest hours, Sam drew strength from memories of his glamorous wife Olivia. Her unstinting support helped re-establish his post-war career and steady rise to the top of his profession.

"The book fittingly marks the 70th anniversary of the Battles of the Java Sea", says author Ian Pfennigwerth. "Australian, American, British and Dutch ships engaged vastly superior Japanese invasion fleets bound for Java. Over 2,000 Allied sailors were killed and hundreds taken prisoner. Sam's conduct from capture to liberation exemplifies the finest qualities expected of an Australian naval officer and medical practitioner".

Published Feb. 2012; may be purchased at
<http://www.nautilushistory.com.au/books/>

Serang: Then and Now

By Jerry Ranger

as told to Dana Charles



The theater building in Serang in the 1980's.

In March 1942, after USS *Houston* and HMAS *Perth* survivors were captured by Japanese forces on Java, most were held as POWs in Serang, a town 50-miles west of Batavia (Jakarta). Some survivors were among the approximately 1,500 British, Dutch, Australian and American POWs who were crowded into Serang's local jail. Others were forced inside Serang's local theater where the theater's seats had all been removed. In a theater designed for perhaps 500 patrons, some 1,500 allied POWs were crammed together on the filthy stone floor, forced to sit cross-legged and in silence during the day, allowed at night to stretch out, lying virtually on top of one another.¹

In early April, eight officers of USS *Houston* were transferred from Serang to Japan. The remaining USS *Houston* survivors were transferred in mid-April out of the Serang to Bicycle Camp in Batavia, Java. By then, most *Houston* survivors had lost between 20 to 60 pounds. Many were sick with malaria or dysentery.²

Recently, Jerry Ranger recalled what he observed in Serang in 2008—some 66 years after USS *Houston* and HMAS *Perth* survivors were incarcerated there:



2008 construction: re-facing the old theater building

“On March 1, 2008, on the way out to Merek, Java for the start of a 9-day dive on the USS *Houston* CA-30, the dive team stopped by Serang to see the theater and the jail in which allied POWs were held. Survivor Bill Ingram had asked me to check out the theater and to take some pictures of the building. I'm glad we made the visit at the start of our trip to Java. If we had waited until the last part of the trip to visit the theater we probably would not have found the front of the old building still intact. For, when we arrived in Serang on March 1st,

we found that the old theater building was

under construction. Much of the old building was being covered up.

Part of the building was being converted into an office facility, using the front of the old theater as part of the new construction. Another section of the building—the area in which USS *Houston* survivors were held—had already been transformed into a bird nesting site, which was closed to the



The letters “T-H-E-A-” of the word theatre were still visible in 2008. Birds would enter through the window holes located above a water container.

¹ The Last Battle Station by Duane Schultz, p. 219.

² Sources: The Last Battle Station by Duane Schultz and Ship of Ghosts by James Hornfischer.

public. While we were there, birds were entering this part of the building using old window holes located just above a concrete water container. Birds were also entering their space using the old square air vents, which were part of the original building.



2008: The red tile roof on the section of what was the old theater building.

So, the section of the old theater building with the red tile roof—a roof that once covered the area in which hundreds of POWs were crammed—is now inhabited by hundreds of birds. And apparently, where starving POWs were once contained, the makings of ‘Bird’s nest soup’ are now prepared.

We also went to the Serang prison and took pictures of it. There, nothing much has changed. Since it was still

in use as a prison, the general public was not allowed inside while we were visiting.”



The Serang jail in 2008.



S1/c Joseph Grady “JG” Black, Jr.

Joseph Grady Black, Jr.

S1/c Joseph Grady “JG” Black, Jr. was killed in action on March 1, 1942, when USS Houston was sunk. American Legion Post 433 in Midland, North Carolina, was named in honor of the two Midland servicemen who were killed in WWII of which Black was one.

Recently, Post 433 had Mr. William B. “Bill” Derugen, a US Army veteran, speak about his military service. He left the Army with the rank of Sergeant in 1989. Bill and his wife are antique collectors and last September visited the Webb Road Flea Market in Salisbury, NC, where he discovered many artifacts pertaining to JG Black! He purchased the artifacts and then he and his son Nathan (an Eagle Scout) built a shadow box to house the collection which contains old letters, War Department (Dept. of the Navy) telegram, news clippings, photographs, Purple Heart and other service ribbons and medals. He donated the collection to Post 433 which now has it on display for the membership to see. This patriotic gesture was quite a surprise to everyone!

From email of Jim Kelly, historian of Post 433 in Midland , NC

USS HOUSTON ITEMS FOR SALE

Acrylic Paper Weight (10 oz.) \$20.00

Bumper Sticker (1-3 is 1 oz.) \$2.00

Challenge Coin (3 oz.) \$10.00

Bell or Monument Lapel Pin (specify type) (1-6 pins is 1 oz.) \$3.00

New! Brown & Black Ball Cap ("USS Houston CA-30 2nd Generation", 10 oz) \$5.00

New! Ship Lapel Pin (specify silver or gold highlights)

(1 - 3 pins are 1 oz) \$4.00



Ball Cap (Blue) (10 oz.) \$15.00

Ball Cap (Brown) (10 oz.) \$5.00

DVD "Last Stand" (8 oz.) \$20.00



Brown & Black Ball Cap

New! Polo Shirts - Short Sleeve, Navy Blue
with Gold Embroidery of the USS Houston:

Men's - sizes M-2XL-\$25.00

Women's - sizes S-XL-\$25.00

(Shipping Weight-10oz.)



Women's Polo Shirt



Men's Polo Shirt

T-Shirts (size Small to X-Large) (9 oz.) \$20.00

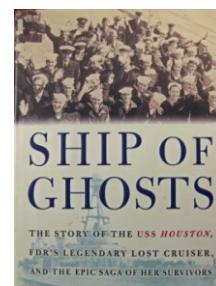
T-Shirts (size 2XL or 3 XL) (9 oz.) \$25.00



T-Shirt

Note Cards of the USS Houston Ship (pack of 10) (5 oz.) \$10.00

Ship of Ghosts book (about the USS Houston),
autographed by author James Hornfischer (2.2 lb) \$30.00



Ship of Ghosts
autographed by author
James Hornfischer

Shipping Costs:

1 oz. – 6 oz.= \$4.00

7 oz. – 12 oz.= \$7.50

13 oz. – 5 lb.= \$10.50

Note: USPS Ground Service Only

Make checks payable to:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association

Mail checks to:

Jane Matthews

836 Kendal Drive

Broadview Heights

Ohio 44147

Include the following information
(please print clearly):

Name

Address

City, State and Zip Code

Phone Number

Items Ordered, Size and Quantity

Questions? Email: Jane@USSHouston.org

Memorials Around the World

Here is another “roundup” of several memorials which include the USS Houston and/or her crew.



Perth survivor David Manning in 2001 at a memorial to sister ships HMAS Perth and *USS Houston CA-30* at the **Naval Memorial Park in Rockingham, Australia**, just south of Perth.



Burma-Siam Death Railway Memorial in Bronbeek, Netherlands, commemorates the prisoners of war who perished while working on the ‘Death Railway’ in Burma and Thailand (Siam) and on the Pakan Baroe railway on Sumatra. The three pagodas in the memorial refer to the Three Pagodas Pass, one of the two locations where the railway crosses the border.



Hellship memorial in Bronbeek, Netherlands, commemorates those who died aboard the Japanese transport ships enroute to Burma.

Perth's David and Audrey Manning wrote that they attended several memorial services commemorating the 70th anniversary of the sinking of *Perth* and *Houston* which were held in Melbourne, Ballarat, and Canberra, Australia.

HMAS Perth

Notes from "down under"



David Manning laying *Houston* wreath at memorial service in Ballarat, Australia.



HMAS *Perth* survivor Arthur Bancroft celebrating his 90th birthday with daughter Dianne and granddaughter Kirsten from Perth, Australia.



Memorial service at the monument at Ballarat, Victoria, Australia.

See the following link for information on the memorial service in Canberra:
<http://www.thecourier.com.au/news/local/news/general/ballarats-david-manning-marks-battle-of-sundra-strait-in-canberra/2471207.aspx>



Australian coin minted to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the loss of the *Houston* and *Perth*. It was sent to Executive Director John Schwarz by Nicole Kirchlechner, International Relations Officer of the City of Perth, Australia.

HMAS Perth
Notes from "down under"
(continued)



Colin Bancroft
(Perth NG)

Colin Bancroft wrote that the 63rd memorial church service was held at St John's in Fremantle Western Australia on February 26th to remember the 70th anniversary of the sinking of the *HMAS Perth* & the *USS Houston* CA-30. It was well attended with many dignitaries from around Australia, including the Ambassador of the United States to Australia, Jeffrey L. Bleich, who laid a wreath to the crew of the *USS Houston* CA-30.

On February 16th, a cocktail party was held on the *HMAS Perth* 3 to remember those events 70 years ago with the loss of the *HMAS Perth* I and the *USS Houston* CA-30. Three *Perth* survivors - Fred Skeels, Arthur Bancroft, and Norm Fuller - were present. The USA was represented by the US Naval attaché based in Fremantle.



Perth Survivors at cocktail party
from left: Fred Skeels, Arthur Bancroft, and
Norm Fuller



HMAS Perth survivors at the annual
Perth memorial and regatta.
From left: Fred Skeels, Norm Fuller, Arthur Bancroft

Shauna McGee Kinney writes that the 52nd *HMAS Perth* Memorial and Regatta was held in Perth, Australia on Sunday, February 19th. Survivors who attended were Fred Skeels, Norm Fuller, and Arthur Bancroft.

Night Order Book Purchased from eBay

The Night Order Book of the USS HOUSTON (CA-30) covering the time from April 1939 to October 1940 was purchased recently from eBay and contributed to the University of Houston Special Collections Department to be added to the Cruiser Houston Collection. The book caught the attention of CPO Kendall Palmer, who, in turn, contacted Companion Lin Drees of the Texas Commandery. Drees worked with Palmer to put together a group of about a dozen volunteers who agreed to participate in the purchase of the valuable artifact. The group's winning bid in the auction was \$1,257. Companions Drees and Captain Carter Conlin participated in the group that contributed the book to the University of Houston. Drees' cousin had served on USS Houston, but died later as a prisoner of war. The book was turned over to Julie Grob, coordinator for digital projects and instruction in the Special Collections Department.

The book recorded the detailed instructions to the bridge watch standers written by the ship's captain before retiring for the night. One of the ship's captains during this period was Captain Jesse B. Oldendorf, who later became famous for his victory in the Battle of Surigao Strait on the night of October 24-25, 1944. The ship's captain was Captain Albert H. Rooks at the time of its sinking in the Battle of Sunda Strait near Java on March 1, 1942.



From left: Lin Drees, CAPT Carter Conlin, CPO Kendall Palmer and Julie Grob.

Article courtesy of
Carter B. Conlin, Captain, USN (Ret.)
Past Commander General
Naval Order of the U. S.



James Hornfischer Speaks at WWII Museum

In December, 2011, James Hornfischer, author of Ship of Ghosts about the *USS Houston*, spoke at the National World War II Museum's International Conference on WWII which had as its theme "From Pearl Harbor to Guadalcanal". Jim's talk was entitled "Ship of Ghosts: *USS Houston* at the Battle of Java Sea". To see and hear his talk, click on this link:

Jim Hornfischer at WWII Museum

Becoming a Member of the Board of Managers of the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations

The mission of the Association is to perpetuate the memory of the USS Houston CA-30. This mission has no particular end date, the hope being that this mission will be continued and carried forward through the generations to come. Accordingly, there is an ongoing need to have members functioning as Board members. As with any organization of volunteers, the Association can only function when members are willing to increase their level of participation and devote more time and effort.

The Association's day-to-day conduct of business is performed by its Board of Managers. Each Board member (3 to 7), is a volunteer assuming responsibilities in the many elements of work necessary to be done. Currently defined responsibilities include:

- Website maintenance
- Reunion coordination
- Special projects/initiatives management
- Member roster maintenance
- Association correspondence
- Maintenance, storage and utilization of Association archives for research
- Blue Bonnet production
- Blue Bonnet distribution
- Communication with other organizations
- Management of two scholarship programs
- Retail marketing and storage of Association merchandise
- Other duties as needed or assigned

As the members of the Board reside in various parts of the country, the principal means of communication is via monthly teleconferences, at least 90 minutes in length. The Board expects its members to function within team parameters; consensus decision-making, collaboration on assignments, support of each other's work are just a few characteristics.

If you would like to accept the challenge of becoming a Board member in the Association, let any of the Board members know of your interest and availability. Please share your interests, special skills or expertise including identifying the particular responsibility you would consider assuming. Assisting a current Board member prior to assuming full responsibility is required.

Requirements for eligibility to stand for election to the Board of Managers:

- membership in the Association
- proven track record after application is made in completion of one of the duties outlined above

The mission of the Association has been passed down to the Next Generations by our very Survivors and it is up to us to continue fulfilling their original dreams and aspirations.

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, membership,
Scholarship Committee
Email: Sue@usshouston.org



Treasurer: Pam Foster
Daughter of USN survivor Eugene Crispi
Financial and IRS records,
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,
Sales Items
Email: Jane@usshouston.org



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



Welcome Aboard!



*We extend a hearty
welcome to those who
have recently joined the
Association.*

David Haskell, nephew of Bill Haskell
Ginger Turner, friend
Marlene Morris McCain,
daughter of R. Edgar Morris
Joe McCain, son-in-law of R. Edgar Morris
Phil Gans, son of Joe Gans, USN
Lois Myer, niece of William Stewart, USN
Milo Erdmann, cousin of Roy Wenholtz
Nancy Gingras Karcher,
daughter of LCDR Richard Gingras
Vic Karcher, son-in-law of LCDR Richard Gingras
CDR John Valadez, friend

Membership

Our USS Houston "family" continues to grow weekly as more and more folks are wanting to know about the gallant crew of USS Houston CA-30. **Membership is free** and we invite you to join with us. Click on the [Membership Form](#), fill it out and send it in.

Association

Websites:

USSHouston.org

Our primary website

USSHouston.blogspot.com

Blog for current news

Website

We are currently working on a "facelift" for our website. If you cannot find what you are looking for, please feel free to contact Sue Kreutzer by phone at 303-840-5362 or email at sue@usshouston.org.

Trudy Schwarz received a Christmas card from Ian Jagger, son of Perth survivor Max and Marie Jagger, saying: "I do appreciate being left on the Houston mailing list and being kept up to date with your goings on over there." Ian maintains the family accounting business in Sydney, Australia. Dad Max has passed away.



Mary Schilperoort and nephew Gert
(from Holland)

Nancy Greenwald (daughter of survivor Clarence and Mary Schilperoort forwarded an excerpt from a letter that her Dutch cousin Gert wrote her: "Yesterday a special service in a church in The Hague commemorated the battle at the Java Sea 70 years ago. My thoughts were with your father and the *USS Houston*. On Feb. 28 after that battle your grandparents in Sunnyside received the message that your father was missing. This memorial service got more attention than usual because our queen Beatrix was supposed to be there as well, but she had to stay in Austria because of her son Friso ...who was hit by an avalanche while skiing ... and has been unconscious for more than a week."



Johan VanLeer writes from Santa Monica, CA, that he was 14 years old and living in Surabaya, Java, at the time of the Battle of Java Sea. He sent the pictures of the Dutch memorials included in this Blue Bonnet.

[illegible]

Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

December 8, 2011 – March 31, 2012

Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 12,801.06
Receipts	2,002.05
Expenses	<u>3,000.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$11,803.11

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$ 11,565.69
Receipts	8,258.96
Expenses	<u>12,260.06</u>
Ending Balance	\$ 7,564.59

Total Cash on Hand \$19,365.70



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All articles submitted are subject to editing.

Views expressed by contributors are not necessarily those of this Association, its members, or its Board of Managers.

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