

Now Hear This!

Association Address:

c/o John K. Schwarz, Executive Director
2500 Clarendon Blvd., Apt. 121
Arlington, VA 22201

Association Phone Number:

703-867-0142

Address for Tax Deductible Contributions:

USS Houston Survivors Association
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 2014

Commemorates 72nd Anniversary of USS *Houston* CA-30's Loss



Survivors Bill Ingram and Howard Brooks present wreath on behalf of all survivors in memory of the crew.

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From left to right, Trudy Schwarz, Teresa Reilly, and Eunell Weissinger present wreath on behalf of all spouses in memory of the crew.

City of Houston Declares March 15, 2014 USS Houston CA-30 Day



In recognition of USS Houston (CA 30)

WHEREAS, the **USS Houston (CA 30)** was campaigned for by then Mayor of Houston, Oscar Holcombe, in 1925. It was launched on September 7, 1929, and commissioned on June 17, 1930; and,

WHEREAS, in October of 1930, **USS Houston** made her first visit to our city when the Silver Service was presented to the ship. During years preceding World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt made four cruises on the ship; and,

WHEREAS, the **USS Houston** was sunk alongside the **HMAS Perth** during their allied defense of the Netherlands East Indies off the Java coast on March 1, 1942, at the Battle of the Sunda Strait. Of the Houston's 1060-man crew, only 368 survived the battle, including 33 Marines of Houston's detachment of 74 Marines; and,

WHEREAS, by October of 1942, most **USS Houston** survivors were transported from Java to Changi Prison in Singapore. From there, survivors were taken to Burma where they worked on the Burma side of the 258-mile long Burma-Thailand Railway Project. By the time Japan surrendered on August 15, 1945, only 291 **USS Houston** survivors were still alive; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Houston joins in celebration of the **USS Houston (CA 30)** as we honor and salute the survivors and service members for their selfless dedication, sacrifice, and all that they have done and continue to do for the United States of America.

Therefore, I, Annise D. Parker, Mayor of the City of Houston, hereby proclaim March 15, 2014, as

USS Houston (CA 30) Day

in Houston, Texas.



In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and have caused the Official Seal of the City of Houston to be affixed this 6th March of January, 2014.

Annise D. Parker

Annise D. Parker
Mayor of the City of Houston

USS HOUSTON CA-30 MEMORIAL SERVICE 2014

A special thank you to those who, in spite of the inclement weather, helped to honor the crew of the USS Houston CA-30

The Invincible Eagle Band

Liberty, Texas

Director: PNC Charles E Grabein, USN (Ret)

Music

John K Schwarz

Master of Ceremonies

Randal K Potter, LCDR, CHC, USN

Chaplin, US Navy

Invocation and Benediction

US Naval Sea Cadets Corps

Houston Division

Matt Rejmaniak

National Anthem and God Bless America

Tom Vandever

Pledge of Allegiance

The City of Houston, Texas

Proclamation

1st Battalion, 23rd Marines

Rifle Salute



Roy & Dorlene Gideon and

Larry & Linda Poole

Refreshments

SPEAKERS

Commander Andrew Schroder, RAN

Naval Attaché

Embassy of Australia, Washington, DC

Andrew Millar

British Consul General, Houston, Texas

Geert Visser

Consul of the Kingdom of the Netherlands

Captain David S Burr, USN (Ret)

Naval Order of the United States

Texas Commandery

Colonel Terri R Zimmermann, USMCR

Head Defense Services Branch

Reserve Legal Support

Judge Advocate Division

Carl Salazar

Director, City of Houston

Office of Veterans Affairs

Captain Carter Conlin, USN (Ret)

Past Commander General

Naval Order of the United States

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations

From the desk of the Executive Director
John Schwarz



This past memorial service really demonstrated what our men mean to us and the influence their experiences have had on our lives. As the service commenced and subsequently proceeded, I often glanced over and saw our beloved survivors, spouses and widows sitting in a pretty consistent rain storm. They persevered nonetheless as the service went on from start to finish just as planned. That took some courage and fortitude but as the survivors before us, we all drew from their spirit and 'stayed the course' which is what each and every one of them so richly deserve.

Many thanks to all participants for allowing for yet another memorial service that so wonderfully pays honor to the men of the USS Houston CA-30.

Two scholarships awarded this year and we had among us for this entire week-end, two most impressive next, next generations. Hopefully, that generation will sooner than later offer us our next generation of leadership to carry on the important mission of the Association.

One of those promising young people was this year's internal scholarship winner, Mrs. Stephanie Daigre. She so eloquently delivered a reading of her winning scholarship which impressed everyone in the room, particularly two of the men whom she talks about in her wonderfully written essay. We also announced our fourth US Naval Academy scholarship award winner, Mr. Evan Hovenden.

Heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making this reunion week-end a success, you know who you are, and also of course special thanks to survivors Bill Ingram and Howard Brooks for allowing us to honor them in person.

We are still in need of a few good men/women as your offer to assist with the operation of the Association is always welcomed.

John Keith Schwarz, Executive Director
USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations

John

Son of Otto and Trudy Schwarz



John Schwarz

An Update on USS Houston (CA-30)

On December 21, 2013 the Board of Managers reported on what was known at that time about alleged salvage operations occurring on HMAS *Perth* and USS *Houston* (CA-30). After continuing discussions with US Navy Dept. officials in Washington, DC as well as the US Naval Attaché in Jakarta, Indonesia, here is an update:

- The U.S. Naval Attaché in Jakarta is working with representatives of other nations to help ensure that shipwrecks in Indonesian waters, including HMAS *Perth*, USS *Houston* (CA-30) and others, are treated as war graves.
- Relationships are being built with local villagers as part of an over-all strategy to deal with the salvaging matter. Fishermen from local villages understand that the wreck sites are good fishing grounds since they provide safe havens for various fish species. Efforts are being made to educate these villagers as to the history and importance of these wreck sites and what they mean to the countries for which these ships served. The hope is that these villagers might remain alert for any future salvaging operations.
- Recent conversations with local villagers have revealed **no** evidence of any salvaging operations occurring on USS *Houston* (CA-30) over the period of the last 12 to 18 months.
- A small Indonesian village has been identified as the closest one to the actual USS *Houston* (CA-30) site. Efforts are being made to educate the villagers about USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* and to eventually explore the possibility of erecting a monument of some sort in this village. If a monument is erected our support would be valuable.
- On March 1, 2014 our U.S. Naval Attaché in Jakarta hosted a gathering which included representatives from: the Indonesian Navy; the Dutch Navy; the Dutch War Graves Commission; the Indian Defense Attaché; the Australian Naval Attaché and other Australian Navy personnel, all of whom raised glasses in honor of HMAS *Perth* and USS *Houston* (CA-30), and the 72nd Anniversary of the Battle of Sunda Strait.

This just in from Howard Brooks...



Howard is back home recuperating from his recent fall. Welcome home Howard!



I'm back home and in pretty good condition. I feel that in a few weeks I will be back to normal. I received an overwhelming number of cards from "our crew ". What a lovely group of people. Just how do you repay such a response? Sure is nice to be home again. Thanks for everything.

Howard and Silvia



Executive Transport Detachment Pacific Proudly Wearing Their USS Houston CA-30 T-shirts and Hats

**70th LOST BATTALION
AND
28TH USS HOUSTON CL-81 REUNIONS**

***70th Lost Battalion Reunion
July 31 thru August 2, 2014***

Omni Dallas Hotel at Park West
1590 LBJ Freeway
Dallas, Texas
Phone 972-869-4300

For further information contact Terry Shields at
940-872-8888 or 940-841-0494 or by email at
terry-shields@sbcglobal.net

***USS Houston CL-81
28th Annual Reunion 2014
October 21 – 25, 2014***

The USS Houston CL-81 reunion for 2014 will be held at the Holiday Inn in Norfolk, Virginia.

For further information, please contact Donna Rogers at
717-792-9113 or by email at dlr7110@yahoo.com

Executive Transport Detachment Pacific “Adopts” The USS Houston C-30

A few months ago The USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association was contacted by AWF1 Bryce Ricklefs who is stationed at Pearl Harbor-Hickam as part of the Executive Transport Detachment Pacific, a small squadron that flies the 4-star Commander, US Pacific Fleet on our Gulfstream V aircraft.

They run in conjunction with the local Naval Operational Support Command (NOSC) for CPO 365. CPO 365 is a year-round training that trains PO1s to become CPOs in separate phases. As part of that training, they chose to organize themselves into a "ship," to pay homage to and learn the detailed history of a particular ship in Naval history. Mr. Ricklefs personally conducted research into what ship he wanted that to be and chose the USS Houston CA-30. They have adopted The Houston as their ship for the entirety of their training this year.

We have been corresponding with Mr. Ricklefs and have sent USS Houston T-shirts and hats to the squadron which they have proudly worn. Recently the Association was pleased to receive the US Navy Commendation printed on page 7.

During the 2014 Reunion Howard Brooks, Bill Ingram, Silvia Brooks and Trudy Schwarz enjoyed a Skype session with Mr Riklefs and some of his team.



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
EXECUTIVE TRANSPORT DETACHMENT, PACIFIC
290 VICKERS AVENUE, BLDG 1050
JBPHH, HAWAII 96853-5272

IN REPLY REFER TO:
N00
25 Feb 14

From: Officer in Charge, Executive Transport Detachment,
Pacific
To: USS Houston Survivors Association
Subj: LETTER OF COMMENDATION

1. On behalf of the Chief Petty Officers and the First Class Petty Officers from Navy Operational Support Center and Executive Transport Detachment, Pacific, Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam, Hawaii. I would like to express their sincere appreciation and utter humbleness at being able to represent the USS Houston during CPO 365 training.

2. The crew of the Houston was widely recognized as some of the most experienced and professional Sailors in the fleet. You continue to inspire drive and dedication in today's Sailors by your actions so many years ago. Whether you realize it or not, you are still teaching Sailors generations later how to be exceptional, and how to exemplify greatness. Through the story of the Houston, her crew, and your fellow Prisoners of War, they learn how you embodied the core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment, through the most arduous and oppressive experiences of humankind. Their personal beliefs and understandings have been altered; their connection to our history and heritage has been strengthened; and their resolve to uphold the highest values and traditions of the United States Naval service has never been stronger.

3. I am eternally grateful to the Houston and her crew for allowing my Chiefs and First Class Petty Officers to learn from you, and for showing all of us how to apply the core values in our personal and professional life as Sailors of the world's grandest and greatest Navy. Through you, we become better Sailors and leaders for tomorrow's force. The fighting spirit of the USS Houston lives and breathes in all of us, and in that way, the Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast continues to steam into battle as strong today as she ever did.

K. L. Thomas

K. L. THOMAS

USS Houston CA-30 Survivor, Basil Bunyard turned 100 on February 16, 2014



Bart Odom, Basil Bunyard's grandson-in-law, reported that Basil is doing quite well and he was looking forward to celebrating his 100th birthday on February 16th, 2014! He recalls quite often the trips to Houston and the joy he received from visiting with everyone. He would still attend if at all possible and asked that you give a warm welcome to everyone down there and his heart felt apologies that he is unable to attend.

Happy Birthday Basil

Luther Prunty Turns 102

On Facebook, Mike Bialas posted:

Luther Prunty, my much admired father-in-law turned 102 this week. As he requested, we went to his ranch where he was born in 1912 in a log cabin during a snowstorm. We talked of the spring calves and water



levels in the tanks. I showed him the work I've been doing clearing brush and also showed him my garlic patch of more than 4,000 plants.

He also enjoyed a big lunch at home which included barbeque from Dairyland BBQ in Jacksboro and birthday cake. Luther is one of the last survivors of the famed Lost Battalion, a group held as POWs by the Japanese during World War II for 3 1/2 years. He's my hero!

Remembering....

In addition to remembering those of our USS *Houston* family who have passed on from this life, we also remember those from the HMAS *Perth* and the "Lost Battalion" who forged such close bonds with our *Houston* crewmen while enduring the same treatment as prisoners. They too will never be forgotten.

In Memoriam

USS Houston NG

Melinda Bunyard

Daughter in Law of Basil Bunyard

Our sincerest condolences to the Bunyard family

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

"Lost Battalion"

131st Field Artillery, E Battery

U.S. Army

Our sincere condolences to the families of

Carl Clements

131st Field Artillery, 2nd Battalion

U.S. Army

Our sincere condolences to the families of

Jack W Kenner

11/13/20 – 2/12/14

Blg Spring, TX



Scholarship Update

Please consider a tax deductible donation directly to the Scholarship Fund in the amount of \$100, \$50, or any amount you can afford. Please remember that every dollar you give (100 %) goes directly to the Fund. Please mail your check payable to: **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association**. Also, please indicate "Scholarship" in the memo portion of your check.

Please mail your donation to:

Mrs. Pam Foster
370 Lilac Lane
Lincoln, CA 95648

Next year's Scholarship Award will be \$3,000.00. Please remember that the window of opportunity begins on June 1 and ends on November 1, 2014. Please encourage your family members to apply for this award.

To apply for the scholarship, please go to:

www.usshouston.org

- Click on Scholarship
- Scroll to bottom of page and “Click here to download the Application Packet.”

If you do not use the internet, please call me at 703-867-0142 to request an Application Packet.

Or, you can write to me at:

John K. Schwarz
2500 Clarendon Blvd, Apt 121
Arlington, VA 22201

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,

John K Schwarz, Scholarship Chairman

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Past “In House” Scholarship Winners

- 2004 – Gene Bankhead, grandson of Gene Crispi
- 2005 – Katy Fort, granddaughter of Cecil Chambliss
- 2006 – Gerald Agin, grandson of Gerald Agin
- 2007 – Jenny Garrett, granddaughter of Joe Garrett
- 2008 – Raymond Davis, great nephew of George Davis, Jr.
- 2009 – Alex James, great nephew of John Stefanek
- 2010 – Kevin Swick, grandson of John Reilly
- 2012 – Cody Karcher, great grandson of Richard H. Gingras
- 2013 – Laura Reilly, granddaughter of John Reilly
and Maggie Tuttle, great niece of Howard Brooks

Past US Naval Academy Foundation Scholarship Winners

2010 – Stephen Scales
2011 – Lenue Gilchrist,
2013 – Robert Z. Sutherland

[illegible]

ANNOUNCING

Two Scholarship Winners!

John Schwarz, chair of the Scholarship Committee of the USS *Houston* Survivors Association, announced the 2014 scholarship winners at the reunion in Houston, TX. This year's "in-house" scholarship award was given to Stephanie Daigre, granddaughter in-law of Eugene (and Dorothy) Crispi. A second scholarship was awarded to Evan S. Hovenden by the U.S. Naval Academy Foundation from the perpetual fund established by this Association in memory of the USS *Houston* and her crew.

Internal winner, Stephanie Daigre attended the reunion and read her essay to the audience at the Friday night dinner.



EVAN S. HOVENDEN

The 2014 US Naval Academy Foundation Scholarship winner is Evan S. Hovenden. This permanent memorial scholarship was established by the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association in memory of the ship and her men.

The USS HOUSTON CA-30 Memorial Scholar, recipient of a scholarship established by the USS HOUSTON CA-30 Survivors Association in memory of the ship and her men, "Still Standing Watch Over Sunda Strait," is Evan S. Hovenden, a graduate of John Horn High School in Mesquite, TX. Evan lettered all four years with the swim team and was captain his junior and senior years. He also participated in the school orchestra and was a member of National Honor Society and a group leader for freshman orientation. Outside of school, he swam on the RACE club team and participated in his youth group at Lakeside Baptist Church. With the church youth group, he took part in World Changers mission trips. Under Foundation sponsorship this year, Evan attended Greystone Preparatory School at Schreiner University in Kerrville, TX.

Our sincere congratulations go out to Evan Hovenden, our 4th scholarship recipient from the US Naval Academy!



STEPHANIE DAIGRE

2014 USS Houston CA-30 Scholarship Winner

Stephanie is connected to this association through marriage to her husband, Mark Daigre. Mark is the grandson of Survivor Eugene Crispi and Dorothy Crispi. Although Gene Crispi is no longer with us, he left behind a legacy which will never die. Stephanie will always remember him as a loyal husband, devoted father, gentle loving grandfather, and a humble, honorable man. She has always held him in the highest regard.

As she learned more about the history of the Houston's crew, her respect and admiration for him and his shipmates grew exponentially.

Stephanie and her husband, Mark, have two daughters, Taylor age 15 and Lauren age 10. Stephanie attended Modesto Junior College in Modesto, California. She plans to apply to California State University Stanislaus in Turlock, California, in 2014 to obtain a degree in nursing.

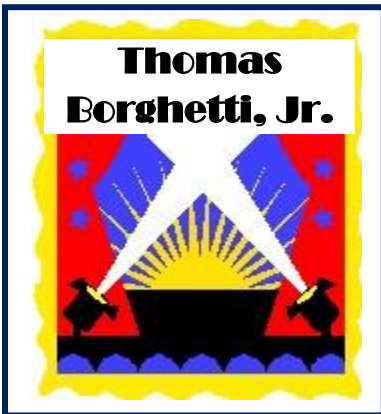
Stephanie works as a volunteer with the Anatomy Club to assist with projects and jobs that benefit the Science Department at Modesto Junior College. She helped set up the classrooms in the new Science Building. She currently spends 2 – 6 hours a week working on projects for the college. Stephanie also volunteers for the Ripon Sea Lions Swim Team as a parent volunteer. Every weekend during the summer she worked at least two hours by timing swimmers, made ribbons, or helped passing out refreshments to other workers.

We congratulate Stephanie as the 2014 Internal Scholarship Winner!

**An update from Captain Ed Wallace,
US Naval Academy Foundation
Regarding our Four Naval Academy Scholarship Recipients**

- Stephen Scales our first designated scholarship winner- recently graduated from the Naval Academy and is currently serving in our US Navy.
- Lenue Gilchrist is currently a senior and on track.
- Robert Sutherland is doing great. He is playing water polo player and is in his sophomore year.
- Evan Hovenden did really well academically coming out of the prep school in Texas and is currently a plebe.

Crew Spotlight



THOMAS BORGHETTI, JR., FC1/c

by Marlene Morris McCain and Joseph McCain

Thomas Borghetti, Jr. enlisted in the Navy in January 1929. Having lived in Illinois, he was probably hoping to travel and to see new places, as did so many young men of that generation. He couldn't have imagined then that by 1942 the world would be at war, and that his wartime experiences aboard USS *Houston* (CA-30) would lead to meeting the President of the United States and being portrayed in a movie. But that's exactly what happened.

After basic training, Thomas first served aboard the USS *Salt Lake City* and the USS *Colorado* before his transfer in the mid-1930's to USS *Houston* (CA-30). During the Battle of the Flores Sea on February 4, 1942, a Japanese bomber released a 500-pound bomb that hit the ship's mainmast, passed through the searchlight platform, and grazed the radio shack before exploding beside the rear (No. 3) turret. Nearly four dozen crewmen were killed. Many others were badly wounded, including Thomas Borghetti. The *Houston* made its way to Tjilatjap on the south coast of Java where the wounded were transferred to the Dutch Army Hospital inland and placed in the care of a US Navy physician, LCDR (MC) Corydon Wassell, USNR.

For the next three weeks, Dr. Wassell did his best for these men and then, following orders, was able to get most of them (the ambulatory ones) aboard ships for evacuation. But lacking onboard medical facilities, no

ship would take the stretcher cases which were forced to return to the hospital, Borghetti among them. Determined to get his men off the island, a few days later the doctor again took his men to Tjilatjap in the company of a British Army convoy. Thomas Borghetti, with a shattered elbow and leg, was assigned to ride in the British captain's car. They arrived ahead of the rest of the convoy, and Borghetti was given transport on the USS *Tulsa* (PG-22), which had medical facilities aboard. On the morning of March 1, 1942, *Tulsa*, *Asheville*, *Lark*, and *Isabel* crept out of Tjilatjap Harbor, bound for Australia. Of this group only *Asheville* did not make it to Fremantle.

The last of the Army convoy arrived late at night, many hours after the lead car, and the next day Dr. Wassell was able to get the rest of his patients aboard a small, crowded Dutch inter-island steamer, which left the harbor at dusk. Despite Japanese air attacks, the trip was made successfully to Australia.

Thomas Borghetti was eventually transported to Mare Island Naval Hospital in California for surgery and recuperation. In September 1942, thirty-three men sat in wheelchairs alongside a driveway through the hospital grounds. The occasion was an important one, for they were waiting there to greet their Commander in Chief, President Franklin D. Roosevelt. After speaking to and shaking hands with several men, President



Roosevelt recognized a familiar face when a sailor in dress blue walked up to his car.

"I've seen you before", said the President to Thomas Borghetti, Jr.

"Yes, Mr. President, I made three cruises with you on the *Houston*", replied Borghetti.

"It was too bad about the *Houston*", said the President.

"Yes, she was a fine cruiser and a great crew," answered Borghetti. "She gave the Japs all she had as long as she lasted, which was plenty."

The Associated Press shared the story of the President's visit to Mare Island with newspapers across the country, and a few weeks later it appeared in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch (October 3, 1942). In the small farming community of Marshall, Illinois, the mother of a young sailor serving aboard the *Houston* as a member of the ship's band, saw it. By this time she knew all too well that the *Houston* was reported lost with no record of any survivors, and she had received no letters from her son since mid-November 1941.

She wrote to Thomas Borghetti to ask if he knew anything about her son. He wrote back to her from Mare Island Hospital and they exchanged letters at least twice more. In gratitude, she sent boxes of homemade cookies and candy to him (her Divinity candy was legendary). The authors would like to share a few excerpts from these letters from a kind man to a worried mother, thinking that they give an insight to some of the last days of the *Houston*.

The first letter (late 1942): "I did know your son. In fact, I knew all the boys in the band because I was so interested in their music. They had a swell orchestra; they were the best in the Islands and they played at the Manila Hotel which was the best place in Manila."

"Your son was not killed Feb. 4th; you see that was the day I was injured, and though several were killed, he wasn't one of them. I did see him after (the battle). He was on the *Houston* when I left her Feb. 7th."

April 1943 letter: "I received your letter and swell box of candy and many thanks for them. I will try and answer your questions; there's some things I can't tell you, but you'll understand. I think your son had a swell chance of getting off the ship before she sank. His battle station was on the top deck and the life rafts were close by. Also, land was near where the *Houston* went down."

"I can't tell you exactly where we were when war broke out, but we were called to our battle stations at 3 a.m. on Monday, Dec. 8, 1941. We spent a lot of time on convoy duty from Australia to Java. We always had good meals. In fact, for Christmas and New Year's we had turkey and all the trimmings - and all we wanted!"

"We didn't have any picture shows (aboard ship) after war (started), but we did have church services and the band did play once in a while. I can remember they went ashore in Java and played for the funeral services of the men the *Houston* buried there, and that was the last I saw of them because I was wounded and taken ashore in Java."

"One of the *Houston* officers spoke over the Jap short wave radio from Java and said there was a large number of the *Houston's* crew there as prisoners, so you can look forward in hopes - and I'm hoping with you and many other *Houston* mothers."

May 1943 letter: "(I) received your swell box and I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart . . . Yes, I knew Musician (Albert M.) Kelley very well. I think he was the boy who wrote a song that the band played so much ("Tutu Bay").

I was sorry to hear that Captain Rooks went down with the ship. He was a grand skipper and well loved by the whole crew . . . I also heard that the Chief Band Master of the *Houston* (Galyean) is now reported a prisoner in Java so there's a good chance all the musicians are there too. Let's hope."

Thomas Borghetti was eventually able to return to duty and stayed in the Navy until 1953. At the time he passed away (March 1997) his home was in California.

Dr. Wassell was awarded the Navy Cross for his heroic care of his wounded patients, and the story of their 1942 escape from Java became the subject of not only a book written by James Hilton, but also the film ***The Story of Dr. Wassell*** produced by Cecil B. DeMille.

Sources for this article:

1. Correspondence and documents in the personal collection of the authors pertaining to the WW2 service of R. Edgar Morris, Mus2C, USS *Houston*.
2. The Story of Dr. Wassell by James Hilton, 1943.
3. Internet Wikipedia re: USS *Tulsa* (PG-22).
4. Our Navy Magazine, Mid-January 1945 article: "Dr. Wassell's Boys" by Edward Pinkowski.
5. Ancestry.com (from Sue Kruetzer).
6. St. Louis Post-Dispatch article dated October 3, 1942, "Roosevelt Saw Sub That Sank Nine Ships".
7. Image of FDR & Borghetti at Mare Island from FDR Presidential Library, Video 306, Public Domain.
8. <http://navy.togetherweserved.com/usn/servlet/tws.webapp.WebApp?cmd=ShadowBoxProfile&type=Person&ID=523745>

USS HOUSTON ITEMS FOR SALE

DVD "Last Stand" (8 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
 Ship Lapel Pin (specify silver or gold highlights)
 (1 - 3 pins are 1 oz.) \$4.00



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 - 10 oz.)



-Shirts (size Medium) (9 oz.) \$10.00
 T-Shirts (size Small, large, and X-Large) (9 oz.) \$20.00
 T-Shirts (size 2XL or 3 XL) (9 oz.) \$25.00

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

Shipping Costs:

1 oz. - 6 oz. = \$4.00
 7 oz. - 12 oz. = \$7.50
 13 oz. - 5 lb. = \$10.50

Make checks payable to:
USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association

Mail checks to:
 Sue Kreutzer
 43156 Meadowbrook Cir
 Parker, CO 80138

Blue Ball Cap ("USS Houston CA-30", 10 oz.) \$15.00
 Brown Ball Cap ("USS Houston CA-30", 10 oz.) \$5.00
 Brown & Black Ball Cap
 ("USS Houston CA-30 2nd Generation", 10 oz.) \$5.00



Blue Ball Cap



Brown & Black Ball Cap



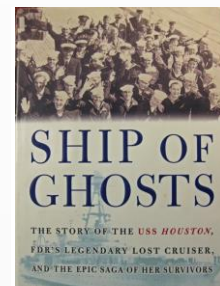
Women's Polo Shirt



Men's Polo Shirt



T-Shirt



Ship of Ghosts
 autographed by author
 James Hornfischer

Include the following information
 (please print clearly):

Name
 Address
 City, State and Zip Code
 Phone Number
 Items Ordered, Size and Quantity

Questions? Email: Sue@USSHouston.org

Meet your ...

Board of Managers

...here to serve you!

Executive Director: John Schwarz
Son of USN survivor Otto Schwarz
Association strategy/outreach, Special Projects,
Scholarship Committee, Membership liaison
Email: John@usshouston.org



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



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



Association Website:

www.USSHouston.org

Membership

Our USS *Houston* "family" continues to grow weekly as more and more folks want to know about the gallant crew of USS *Houston* CA-30. Members do not have yearly dues. However we do operate based on the generosity of our membership. Annual donations are gratefully accepted. We invite you to join with us. Click on:

<http://www.usshouston.org/memberform.pdf>,
fill it out and send it in.

Welcome Aboard!

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



- Deborah Clark, great niece of Ellis B. Hostick, USN
- Jackie Lynn Perrino, of great, great niece Ellis B. Hostick, USN
- Donald D. Clark, nephew of Ellis B. Hostick, USN



Jerry Ranger provided this photo of a plaque honoring the USS Houston CA-30 on the wall of the US Embassy in Jakarta

- 1/16/14: In an email **NG Bruce DeWald** alerted us to the January 2014 US Naval Institute Monthly Newsletter article [Return of USS HOUSTON Artifacts to NHHC](#): "Last week, the **Naval History & Heritage Command (NHHC) Underwater Archaeology Branch (UAB)** received a trumpet and ceramic cup and saucer from World War II cruiser USS *Houston*. The artifacts were returned to the US Naval Attaché in Canberra, Australia after their unsanctioned removal from the wreck site and made a journey of more than 10,000 miles to reach NHHC headquarters in Washington, DC. The artifacts will undergo documentation, research and conservation treatment at the UAB Archaeology & Conservation Laboratory."
- 2/4/14: Received from **Shawn Flynn** some correspondence from **David DuBois** regarding blueprints of USS *Houston* (CA-30) which David had posted at two websites. Shawn emailed David that Shawn would post these PDF files at his website.
- In a Facebook posting Australian author **Pattie Wright** updated the salvaging situation in Sunda Strait: "Hi all. As an update ex the **Save Perth Foundation**. We have had notification from Canberra that there has been a lot of furious work on the *Perth* issue. We have all had a say that has registered. Without being given any specifics it seems as if the Indonesians have acknowledged that the wreck is there and they are 'caring for it'. Yep....broad strokes on that description, but it's something!"
- 2/28/14: Received from **Stephen Youll** the following: "Dear Dana, Images of our (HMAS *Perth*) ceremony are at: <https://www.flickr.com/photos/australianwarmemorial/with/12828424943/>

It was a great commemoration, organised to perfection by **Jack Aaron** and blessed by **Christine's** personal address, **Gavin Campbell's** presence, the attendance of the US Defense and Naval Attaché, **Captain Stewart Holbrook USN** and Rear Admiral **Mike van Balen RAN** and the welcome by the Director of the AWM, **Dr Brendan Nelson**. Best wishes for your commemorations. Yours, Steve Youll, Stephen Youll OAM, Commander RAN Retd, Treasurer, HMAS *Perth* National Association Inc.



HMAS *Perth* commemoration at the Australian War Memorial in Melbourne, Australia, 28 Feb 2014

- 3/1/14: Received from the speaker at the HMAS *Perth* commemoration (at the Australian War Memorial in Melbourne, Australia), NG **Christine Courtenay**, the following email: "Dear Dana, I had the honour of delivering the commemorative address at The AWM yesterday, on behalf of the 'shipmates' of my Father's (AB Able seaman Alan Howard GEE) ship HMAS *Perth 1*. It was wonderful to also meet with the U.S. Naval Attaché, and to have so many dignitaries and descendants, friends and also a couple of the brave survivors of *Perth 1* in attendance. It was their day, and I know how much it must of meant to them to have had such a special and moving ceremony. On Sunday, I will also attend the remembrance service at Garden Island in Sydney. I thought you may wish to see a copy of my address which is attached. My late Father and late Mother Kath attended some of the USS *Houston* reunion events, and they cherished such a warm welcome and the friends that they had in the States, our greatest friend on earth."
- 3/18/14: Received from **Survivor Howard Brooks** the following email: "Dear Dana, We enjoyed a wonderful reunion, and Skyping with you was a wonderful contribution to it... We had to endure a little rain at the

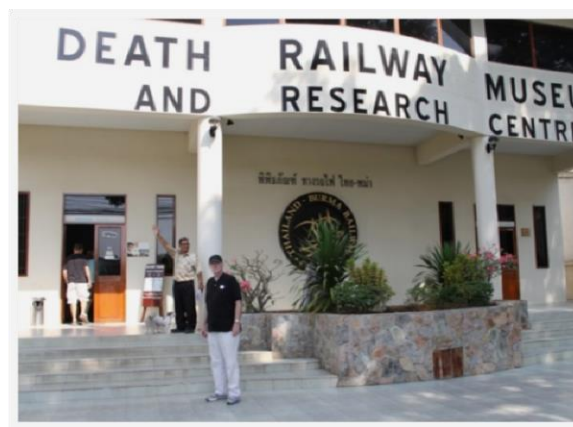
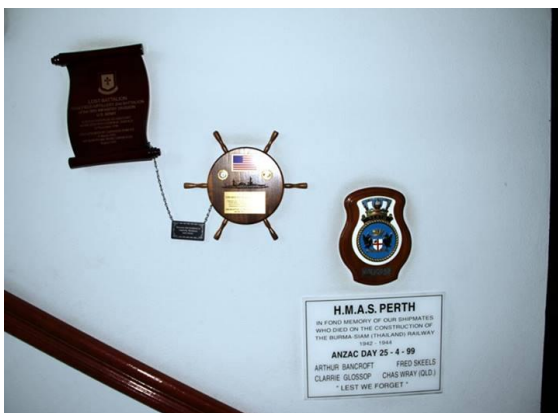
beginning of the Saturday ceremony but it didn't last too long, so we were able to enjoy the best part in sunshine. Silvia and I enjoyed a nice flight back to Phila, near our home. As we were entering the plane the flight attendant told me that the plane Captain wanted to see me and asked me to go into the Captain's cabin. They said he knew I had been to a reunion and he asked me to tell him all about it. He said he knew about the USS *Houston* from reading about it in "The Ship Of Ghosts" book. So he had all the usual questions about the whole episode, from our ships battles with the Nip ships, our sinking and being captured and all of our POW experience. After being seated and just before the plane took off, the Captain announced on the plane's PA system that he was proud to have as a passenger a WWII veteran and Japanese POW survivor. Of course that helped to make our day..."

- 3/29/14: Received from NG **Ron Callahan** the following email: I have been studying my father's time in Burma, Thailand and French Indo-China and have put together the timeline of his movements by following the "Group 5" POW labor force. My father did not speak of his time as a Japanese prisoner of war but over the years I picked up snippets of information from my brothers with whom my father was more open to (I was the baby of the family and probably sheltered). He spoke of working on the docks (most likely in Saigon French Indo-China) and visiting an opium den in India (most likely immediately after "liberation" in Calcutta India). Are there any specific mentions of **Myron James Callahan** that would be available for me to study?" I emailed to **Ron Callahan** a scanned copy of his father's POW record.
- 3/4/14: Received from USS *Houston* CA-30 Facebook member NG **Susan Kay Huebler Schoneman** a request for the POW record of her father **Eugene A. Huebler, Jr, Bug.1/c, USN** who was a bugler aboard CA-30. I emailed Susan the POW record of her late father.
- 3/6/14: I emailed to NG **Cassandra Dixon** the POW record of her grandfather, **Perlie M. George, S2/c, USN**. Cassandra's great uncle perished on the *Houston* when she was sunk.
- 3/11/14: Received from NG **Deborah Clark** the following email: "I am interested in membership and in any information and/or photos that anyone may have of **Ellis B. Hostick, GM3c**. He is my great uncle and I am working to get his information together for family records and the generations to come... I am looking forward to next year's reunion. Anything anyone can share with me would be fantastic. Thank you, **Deborah Clark, Great Niece of Ellis B. Hostick, GM3c**, USS *Houston* (CA-30), (killed when ship went down)..." I replied to **Deborah Clark**'s email with links to: our Association's membership form; U of Houston Library's "Cruiser Houston Collection," and a link to our Association's website. I also told her we would certainly welcome her to the 2015 reunion.
- 3/17/14: Received an email from **Shawn Flynn** re: the status of his father, survivor **David Flynn**. **Shawn** wrote: "Hi Everyone, I hope you all and your families are doing well... So much is happening I thought I bring the *Houston* family up on the Flynn's. The patriarch of the family **David Flynn** is and has been declining this past year. His last outing was the Lost Battalion August Reunion. Unless by some miracle, most likely his last. He has fallen over and over again, and his shrapnel wound received during the sinking of the USS *Houston*, BTW the same shell the killed Captain Rooks, continues to give him trouble. It has not healed in all this time. Trouble to the point where he can no longer walk. Coupled with his diabetes his condition is such that my mother can no longer care for him. My mom, bless her heart, has done all she can. To the point of utter exhaustion. But his continued falling, has finally become too much. No one in the neighborhood can lift him, he's like dead weight. And because he has prison camp skin; skin cancer and paper thin, his falls result in further injuring his leg wound. While adding more cuts and bruises. And the bleeding is quite sever, with each new fall. So mom has been forced to call 911...often. Bottom line is Dad is in an extended care home. It's called: Whitehall, David Flynn, Rm 205, 7300 Del Prado South, Boca Raton FL 33433, Tel: 561-237-3684. My mom and brothers tell it's quite the place like a 4 star hotel. Course dad hates it. Says "it's like prison camp, with better food". Course he still has the prison camp mentality. At home he would fall, lay there all night bleeding. Mom would find him the next day! He won't call and ask for any help! Try's to do everything w/out help. The place has so many amenities but he's yet to avail himself of them. So he's handful. So if you 'all have a spare moment of two he'd probably appreciate a card or note or just a shout hi! I call most days, and he seems ok, most days...but I am sure he'd like to hear from someone other than me. Thank you, Shawn Flynn"

- 4/1/14: Received a request for POW information on USS Houston survivor **George McCandless** from his son-in-law, NG **Ken Rue**. I emailed **George McCandless's** POW record to **Ken Rue**, who emailed back thanking me. Mr. McCandless still lives in Idaho, Ken wrote. I replied to Mr. Rue's email, asking him to please forward on to us any information he may receive from Mr. McCandless about his time in the POW camps in Japan. I included a 1945 photo of survivors standing in front of a POW-J camp in Ohasi, Japan. Ken emailed back that his family had this photo, and indicated on the picture which man was George McCandless.
- 4/1/14: **Julie Grob** emailed a link to an article in the University of Houston Library's Blog about the recent visit by USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors and their families to the library's Cruiser Houston Collection (photo on the right: L to R: Fred Hekking, Bryan B, Jerry Ranger, Bill Ingram.) <http://weblogs.lib.uh.edu/speccol/2014/03/26/uh-libraries-welcome-world-war-ii-veterans/>
- Received from **David DuBois** a synopsis of his new Master's Thesis: **Admiral Thomas C. Hart and the Demise of the Asiatic Fleet 1941 – 1942**. David has granted permission to include a link to his thesis, which is: <http://dc.etsu.edu/etd/2331> David writes: "Any feedback from the survivors or others would be welcome. *[It] is a chronicle of the opening days of World War II in the Southern Pacific and the demise of the U.S. Navy's Asiatic Fleet. Beginning with the background of one of the most highly qualified U.S. Admirals, Four Star Admiral Thomas C. Hart, this chronicle shows the composition of his fleet of nearly obsolete World War I ships and the circumstances of a fleet assembled during the Great Depression who fought in the early days of World War II. The reader will come to realize how and why this fleet ceased to exist within ninety days from the start of the war. This chronicle will examine some of the agendas of the key players within the ABDA (American, British, Dutch, and Australian) command structure, in their futile effort to stop the Japanese advance into Java and Southern Asia. Historical evidence will show that although a third of all Allied warships in the Asiatic Fleet were destroyed, the damage inflicted on the Japanese was much greater than what was recorded in popular history. Although Admiral Hart was relieved of his command due to political considerations and British arrogance, in reality, not a single ship was lost while he was in command of the Asiatic Fleet. Hart fulfilled his orders to preserve the integrity and safety of the American Asiatic Fleet.* [Anyone wishing to comment on the book is welcome to email comments to me at contact@usshouston.org](mailto:contact@usshouston.org) and I will pass them on to David.



★★★★



Dana Charles submitted these photos from his recent visit to the Thai Burma Railway Center in Kanchanaburi, Thailand. The memorial plaques honor the Lost Battalion, USS Houston CA-30 and the HMAS Perth

Thank you

...on behalf of the Association to those who have made donations, as follows:

Michael Reilly and Linda Swick
In memory of John Reilly
Rich & Pam Foster
In memory of Eugene Crispi
Melissa Ellsworth
In memory of Matthew M Marinos

Pete and Nancy Adams
Howard and Silvia Brooks
Carter Conlin
Lin Drees
Fred Hekking
Earl Hooper
Tim & Jo Klenk
Joe Kollmyer
Sue Kreutzer
Joe and Marlene McCain
Michael and Jo Marie Reilly
Matthew Rejmaniak
John Schwarz
Trudy Schwarz
Eunell Weissinger
Australian American Chamber of Commerce

Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

Fiscal Year 2013

January 1 – December 2013

Scholarship Fund

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$13,656.08 |
| Receipts | +2,866.35 |
| Expenses | <u>-3,000.00</u> |
| Ending Balance | \$13,522.43 |

General Fund

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$10,153.55 |
| Receipts | +10,845.60 |
| Expenses | <u>-7,726.25</u> |
| Ending Balance | \$13,272.90 |

Fiscal Year 2014

January 1 – April 3, 2014

Scholarship Fund

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$13,522.43 |
| Receipts | +1,675.27 |
| Expenses | <u>-3,000.00</u> |
| Ending Balance | \$12,197.70 |

General Fund

| | |
|-------------------|--------------------|
| Beginning Balance | \$13,272.90 |
| Receipts | +4,055.57 |
| Expenses | <u>-3,785.64</u> |
| Ending Balance | \$13,542.83 |



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