



Now Hear This!

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Association Founded 1946:

by Otto and Trudy Schwarz

US, Australian, Indonesian Navies Honor USS Houston, HMAS Perth



(Oct. 14, 2014) Naval officers from Australia, Indonesia and the United States participate in a wreath-laying ceremony aboard the submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40) in honor of the crews of the U.S. Navy heavy cruiser USS *Houston* (CA 30) and the Royal Australian Navy light cruiser HMAS *Perth* (D29).

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By Mass Communication Specialist 2/c
Brian T. Glunt, USS *Frank Cable*
Public Affairs

Sailors and Military Sealift Command (MSC) civilian mariners assigned to the submarine tender USS *Frank Cable* (AS 40), along with naval officers from Australia and Indonesia, paid their respects to the crews of USS *Houston* (CA 30) and HMAS *Perth* (D 29) during a wreath-laying ceremony Oct. 14, at the site of the sunken ships.
(Continued on the next page)

"We feel it's an honor to take part in this ceremony together," said Royal Australian Navy Capt. Katja Bizilj. "We fought together and ultimately the crews of both ships paid the ultimate sacrifice together in the Indonesian territory; so, it's a great honor to pay respects to their sacrifice together."

Indonesian Navy Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Marsetio, authorized Indonesian Navy vessels and senior officers to participate in the wreath-laying ceremony.



USS Frank Cable (AS-40)

"Every navy has their own tradition in how they honor their heroes who have lost their lives at sea," said Indonesian Navy Capt. Judijanto. "This was the first time I've experienced a ceremony like this and because these ships rest in our territorial waters, it was very special for us to honor and remember the crews of these ships with the other nations."

During the ceremony, the crew of *Frank Cable* manned the rails in their dress white uniforms as salutes were rendered and wreaths were lowered from the aft quarterdeck into the water above the wreckage of each ship. *Frank Cable* conducts maintenance and support on submarines and surface vessels deployed in the U.S. 7th Fleet area of responsibility and is currently on a regularly scheduled underway period.

For more information about USS Frank Cable (AS-40), visit: www.cable.navy.mil

Vice Admiral Swift Takes a Selfie Next to CA-30 Model



Vice Admiral Scott H. Swift, USN, Director of Navy Staff, recently took this "selfie" photo while standing next to the Boucher model of USS *Houston* (CA-30) at the Museum of the U.S. Navy at the US Navy Yard in Washington, DC. VADM Swift met with Association leaders recently (see p. 9). He formerly served as Central Command, commander, Carrier Strike Group Nine, and commander, U.S. 7th Fleet. During those tours he participated in combat Operations Praying Mantis, Southern Watch, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. He became director, Navy Staff in September 2013. On 21 November 2014 VADM Swift was nominated for his fourth star and assignment as Commander, U.S. Pacific Fleet.



From the desk of the Executive Director

John K. Schwarz

*President Sue Kreutzer, Treasurer Pam Foster and the rest of the reunion team continue to work hard at organizing the upcoming gathering in Houston on 6-7 March 2015 (See p. 16-17 for more information). A reminder particularly to our newer members: reunions of one kind or another have a long standing tradition since this Association was formed some 67 years ago. Since the beginning they have been survivor-fraternal in nature. But especially since the 1995 dedication of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument in Houston, our reunions have featured the honoring of all USS *Houston* CA-30 crewmen: those who died the night of 1 March 1942; those who have left us since then; and, those who are still able to be with us in person. The honoring of the crew has become the reunion's main purpose and we must collectively ensure that tradition is respected and upheld.

*We continue to support two active scholarship programs. The "internal scholarship" program continues to need your funding support and high-quality applicants. The 2015 scholarship winner will be announced at the forthcoming reunion. We hope our members will spread the word among our younger folks that our scholarship program exists to help *them*. Fully funded, our U.S. Naval Academy scholarship continues on in sequence which is bi-annually. I'd like to ask your consideration as we come close to the end of this calendar year, to contribute monetarily to the Association whatever you might be able to as we exist solely on the good graces of your donations. Expenses are always kept to an absolute bare minimum, yet thresholds are required to distribute newsletters, conduct reunions, etc. Any questions about any funds are welcomed. We thank each of you in advance for your consideration in this area.

*We continue to pay close attention to the condition of the sunken USS *Houston* CA-30 as well as HMAS *Perth*. Recent U.S. Navy findings confirm continued damage being made to the ship has come from these known sources: weather/environmental conditions; and continued dive and/or salvaging activities. Our Association has a primary interest in protecting the condition of the ship as a war grave. Our efforts will continue to try to ensure that factors contributing to the deterioration of the *Houston* and *Perth* are minimized. Any questions regarding these matters are welcomed.

*Membership: What is membership to you? That is a question I pose to you for consideration. I like to believe that membership is synonymous with 'contribution'. Without contributing members no organization can be successful. There is good reason this beloved Association has been around for 67 years; it has always had any number of folks that go beyond "the call of duty" in contributing to what makes all of the positive outcomes a reality. I am the proud son of one such living individual who has made countless contributions for that entire time span. I also have the honor of working with three other peers that contribute day in and day out, as we speak. Remember: we are here to honor each and every crewmember of the USS *Houston* CA-30 be they one's Dad, uncle, grandfather or whatever. Any and all of you who contribute something: be it a monetary donation; helping out functionally; showing support for the ideals of the Association; or taking part in a reunion activity—all of these things make this Association prosper. To those who contribute something—our many thanks.

*Many members of the *Houston* Family were able to attend the burial of survivor David Flynn at Arlington National Cemetery on October 9, 2014. Five USS *Houston* CA-30 shipmates have now been brought together and laid to rest together, all in section 12 of the cemetery. We are grateful to those who helped in the effort to bring these men together in that manner to 'still stand watch over Sunda Strait' in relatively close proximity, as shipmates, in this most prestigious veterans' cemetery in our nation's capital.

John

Son of Otto and Trudy Schwarz

Ellis B. Hostick Memorial Service

By John K. Schwarz

I had the honor of attending the full military honors ceremony on 4 September 2014 at Arlington National Cemetery for USS *Houston* (CA-30) crewman Ellis B. Hostick, GM3/c, USN. This memorial service included: a caisson parade; military band; three shot gun salute; Taps; unveiling of Mr. Hostick's headstone and flag presentation to the next of kin, Deborah Clark- great niece of Mr. Hostick. Also in attendance was Jackie Perrino, great, great niece of Mr. Hostick (daughter of Ms. Clark). Joining for portions of the service by phone was Mr. Donald Clark, nephew of Mr. Hostick (Deborah's father and Jackie's grandfather).



Ellis B. Hostick, GM3, was among those CA-30 crewmen who literally 'manned the guns' and fought until they could fight no more at the Battle of Sunda Strait on 1 March 1942. According to the best available accounts, Mr. Hostick successfully got off the ship and, presumably, was among those men who were fired upon and killed while in the water shortly after the USS *Houston* (CA-30) was sunk.



USS Houston (CL-81) Reunion Report

We received an email message from Donna Rogers who reported that on 21 – 25 October 2014 the CL-81 group had a “super, super reunion” in Norfolk, VA. “We had 55 attending,” Donna wrote. “A VET Post loaned us wheel chairs, gave our bus a motor cycle escort (15) riders from the hotel to USS *Wisconsin* and I think nearly everyone was weepy. They came aboard the *Wisconsin* with us and formed an Honor Guard around our officers for the Memorial Service. Four of their officers plus “Rosie the Riveter” came to our dinner on Saturday night. This was one great reunion, better than most and we were all inspired, this being the 70th year of the torpedo hits on the ship. One of our members, (96) was at Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941. Everyone was in a great mood. This hotel was a real winner; they truly rolled out the red carpet for us. They host many, many reunions and if groups return, no wonder. We are in Green Bay next August.”

Bill Ingram Honored



To: Bill Ingram, BMC (Ret.)
Sent: Monday, November 03, 2014
Subject: You are our Hero!!

Dear Bill, You knocked the socks off the Col. Samuel Elbert Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution today!! Wonderful Program, Bill. You are a gifted speaker and my wish is that every American could hear your story. Thank you for bringing Johnette. What a fun and delightful lady. After you left a WWII veteran came looking for you and was quite disappointed to have missed you. He insisted I send you his contact info as the Starke City Hall wants a picture of you to hang in the lobby of City Hall. We love Bill in the Lake Region!!! Thank you my friend. Chip and I have a real Hero in you. Love and Blessings, Konnie

Basil Bunyard Shows Off His New CA-30 Jacket



USS *Houston* Survivor Basil Bunyard shows off his new USS *Houston* (CA-30) jacket as his son, Jim Bunyard, looks on. Bart Odom writes: "Basil was very happy receiving the jacket and wanted to tell everyone hello. He still wishes he could come down to the reunion, but he is not physically able to make the trip any more. He is keeping busy and just moved to a new facility about two weeks ago..."

You Shop, Amazon Gives

By Pam Crispi Foster, Treasurer

Many of us already shop online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Did you know that Amazon has a program where they will donate a portion of your purchase price to the USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations? There is no additional cost to you or to the association and the proceeds help to perpetuate the memory of our ship and the sacrifices made by her crew. Visit our website: www.usshouston.org and click on the AmazonSmile link or go to the website shown below. This is a win-win situation for all of us.

- Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to the **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.
- AmazonSmile is the same Amazon you know. Same products, same prices, same service.
- Support the **USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations** by starting your shopping at [http://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2814051](https://smile.amazon.com/ch/74-2814051).



The Flynn Family gathers at Arlington National Cemetery on 9 October 2014 for the funeral service of USS *Houston* Survivor David C. Flynn. (L to R): Ellen Flynn; Emily Flynn; Mary Flynn; Laura Flynn; Donna Flynn; Sandi Flynn; Shawn Flynn; Dennis Flynn; Fulton Flynn; Justin Flynn (Cletus's son); Cletus Flynn; Sandy Flynn; Charlie Lukes (Fulton's son-in-law); Charlie is holding: Quentin Lukes (Charlie's son); Katie Lukes (Fulton's daughter) with Carlisle Likes (the baby—son of Charlie and Katie); Erin Johnson (Shawn's daughter in front of Katie Lukes).

The Funeral Service of CA-30 Survivor David C. Flynn At Arlington National Cemetery

Many members of David Flynn's family as well as USS *Houston* (CA-30) family members attended the funeral service for USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor David C. Flynn at Arlington National Cemetery, Section 12, on 9 October 2014. Also in attendance were two Royal Australian Naval officers: CAPT Raymond Saad, RAN and CMDR Andrew Schroder, RAN. USS *Houston* Survivors buried (or have markers) at Arlington National Cemetery include: Joe and Isabelle Gans; Otto Schwarz; John and Irma Stefanek; William Batchelor; David Flynn; Ellis Hostick; John Harrell; Jerry Bunch; Marvin Beardsley; and Al Maher.



(L to R): CMDR Andrew Schroder, RAN; Silvia Brooks; Howard Brooks; Donna Flynn; CAPT Raymond Saad, RAN attended the service for David Flynn at Arlington National Cemetery.

MY FIRST THREE DAYS BACK WITH AMERICANS

By R. Edgar Morris, Mus2/c, USS Houston (CA-30)

(It was still a dangerous situation when American planes approached Singapore on September 7th, 1945. Approaching the airport tower, the planes were denied permission to land. One pilot responded, "I've got machine guns; I'm coming in!")

We had about ten minutes' notice to get on the plane and we all kept asking, 'How much can we eat?' C-rations hadn't been invented when we were taken prisoners. We ate all that was on the plane. Those dry C-rations seemed like caviar to us.

I arrived in Calcutta at 10 o'clock on the night of September 7th, after a more than enjoyable air trip of nine hours from that place I had been dreaming about getting away from for months - Singapore. We flew a course either in sight of land or directly over the mainland. We arrived over the Burmese city of Rangoon at about 6:00 PM. During the entire trip the doctor who was in charge of us was not only very attentive to those who became ill on the journey, but exceptionally nice to us all. The pilot remarked that although he had flown many thousands of miles in this war theater, the job of flying us 'out of it' was the most patriotic and enjoyable service he had done as yet.

From the start we all kept saying to each other that we felt as if something would happen which would wake us up and we'd find ourselves under conditions that we were so used to by now. Upon landing in Calcutta, we were happy to find sufficient number of Army ambulances standing by to take us to our destination, the 142nd General Hospital. We were off the airfield before twenty minutes had passed.

Immediately on arrival at the hospital, we were all gathered in the reception office and some of the first particulars were taken after our incarceration. As soon as this was completed, we were asked if we could stand a feed. Needless to say, it was certainly greeted with approval amounting to joy that the Captain smiled very broadly at. What utter ecstasy

we felt at sitting down at a table complete with tablecloth and all the rest of the trimmings.

After finishing the meal, we were taken to our hospital ward. With lovely soft beds, clean sheets, clean pajamas, a good shave and shower with no restrictions on the amount of water used, we again felt as though we would wake up back in Changi. I, as well as quite a few of the others, got little sleep that night because of the excitement and luxury of it all. We all soon found a notice posted on the door stating that cold pineapple juice, tomato juice and chocolate drinks were in a cold box especially for our use. Also, there was an abundance of candy, choice canned goods, and piles of newspapers, magazines and books.

On the morning of September 8th, the ward doctor came around asking us how we felt and gave us a quick physical examination. During the morning, I began to feel the same old feeling which by now I was most accustomed to - that malarial feeling. I told the nurse that I had just acquired malaria for the twelfth time. She seemed quite surprised and yet doubtful; probably she thought I was seeking extra attention and sympathy. But an orderly came immediately and took my temperature, pulse, and blood for a slide. Soon the nurse was back with a handful of pills including Atabrine which I had needed and never got at Changi. I told her I had had twelve attacks since the first one on February 14th, and she gave me a queer look full of sympathy and understanding. The doctor noticed my thinness (as bad, or worse than the average of the Singapore crowd) and told me he was going to keep me as long as he could to fatten me up before I would be sent home to the glorious old USA.

On the morning of September 9th, the doctor started his usual round of visits and remarked that every time he saw me now, I was up running around and it seemed as if I was making it pretty good for a sick man. A few minutes after he left, a Red Cross nurse came in to take names and addresses for sending a cable home for us. We had quite an enjoyable chat for a few minutes and I was really up in the clouds because I had not had a long talk with a white woman for nearly four years. Very soon after dinner, a couple of US War Correspondents stopped at my bed and told me and the other fellows off the *Houston* some glad tidings concerning our reception upon our return

to the good old USA. One of the boys told me that the CO of the camp (Lt. General R.A. Wheeler) was making an informal visit to the ward. I was certainly very surprised when he and a couple of his staff plus about umpteen others including photographers, reporters and nurses came up to my bed. I really felt bashful, but the General asked me what state I was from. When I proudly told him 'Illinois' he said with a laugh, "A lot of good people come from there, including myself." With that I was certainly put more at ease and before I realized it, we were talking just as if we were old buddies.

September 19, 1945

Dear Folks,

Was overwhelmingly thankful to receive the cable from you and happy to learn that you are enjoying good health, and also to find out that Harold (his brother) is O.K. One of my constant worries as a P.O.W. was having not heard from you since November 1941. No news seemed at all forthcoming! As you readily can imagine I have lots to tell you. I hope to be able to make an interesting story out of this when I get back. Will not be bringing home many souvenirs, but I am coming home in one piece...

(By September 20th): I guess you realize that quite a few days are missing since I started writing this, but I have been terribly busy. During this interval of a few days, one of my big moments was a verbal message from downtown Calcutta that a serviceman thought he knew a guy by the name of Morris from Illinois and would I get in contact with him. That afternoon I went and inquired at Military Police Headquarters as instructed and about fifteen seconds later was very heartily shaking hands like a long lost brother with Bob Eaton from Marshall, Illinois. Boy! What a feeling we both experienced! I really pumped him dry about all I could think of back in the hometown and surrounding community. Was very glad to find out all that I did and from then on have really felt that blue feeling of homesickness. Last night I received my flying orders and was told that I would soon be on my way home. Here's hoping to see you soon...

By the evening of September 20, 1945 Edgar Morris was headed home...

(Many thanks to Marlene McCain for sharing her father's story with us. – Editor).

We Shall Remember Them

By

Eugene E. Lehnhoff, S1/c
USS Houston (CA-30) Survivor

We shall remember them
Where Sunda sweeps his way
And old Krakatoa stands watch.
They disappeared into a dark night
And into a larger reality
Oh shipmates mine!
Time shall not erase
Or ocean wash away
Our remembrance of you.
There in the troubled night
Anger startled the sea
And men's discontent rubbed off
The sword of hate was drawn!
An organized evil that puny men
Invent, and many pay with blood
The sad account.
Oh shipmates mine!
We shall remember them
Where Sunda sweeps his way
And old Krakatoa stands watch;
Where the Southern Cross sprinkles the sea
With silver.

*This poem was originally published in the
December 1980 issue of the Blue Bonnet, p. 8.*

On 29 August 2014 Next Generationers Joel Earl Snyder and Stacey Davidson, and Association officers John Schwarz and Sue Kreutzer met with U.S. Navy officials in Washington, DC regarding the recent alleged salvaging of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth*. John Schwarz reports on the meeting:



WASHINGTON (Aug. 29, 2014) Vice Adm. Scott Swift, Director of the Navy Staff, poses for a photo during a meeting with family members of the USS Houston Survivors Association. Pictured are, from left to right: Jay Thomas, PhD; Joel Earl Snyder, Ms. Davidson's father; the son of a Houston survivor; Stacey Davidson, a Military Sealift Command employee who is a Houston survivor's granddaughter; Vice Adm. Swift; Ms. Sue Kreutzer, President, USS Houston CA 30 Survivors Association and Next Generations; John Schwarz, Executive Director, USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association and Next Generations; Alexis Catsambis, PhD, NHHC underwater archaeologist (U.S. Navy photo by MC1 Gabrielle Blake)

Meeting Summary
USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association & Next Generations/U.S. Navy
29 August 2014
By John K. Schwarz

On Friday, 29 August 2014 association president Sue Kreutzer, executive director John K. Schwarz, NGs Joel Earl Snyder, and Stacey Davidson attended meetings with officials from the Naval History and Heritage Command and Vice Admiral Scott H. Swift, Director of Navy Staff. These meetings were held at Navy Yard, Washington, DC and at the Pentagon, Arlington, VA.

At these meetings, Navy officials informed us that the reason that the Navy has focused much of its attention on the USS *Houston* (CA-30) (one of approximately 3,000 sunken US warships around the world) is quite simple: the Association is recognized, respected and admired for who we are and what we do. This is the reason the Navy recently dove on the USS *Houston* to determine its condition, and the reason that the Boucher ship model (one of hundreds) is currently on display in the National Navy Museum. Neither USS *Houston* (CA-30), nor our Association would have that recognition or respect if it wasn't for each and every one of you, our members.

During our meeting with the Navy on August 29, the discussion focused on a number of items relating to dives on the USS *Houston* (CA-30). Specifically, we talked about allegations of damage being done to the wreck site of USS *Houston* (CA-30); US Navy's recent dives on the *Houston*; and the Association's overwhelming concern and desire to do what it can to help protect the integrity of this historic vessel and resting place to hundreds of

crewmembers lost in battle on 1 March 1942. From the Association's point of view, the key concern is our desire to protect USS *Houston* (CA-30) from any further damage or disturbance.

One of the Navy's key conclusions following its recent dives on the USS *Houston* (CA-30) was that there is "conclusive evidence of a pattern of unauthorized disturbance of the gravesite." Factors that have been in place since the day of the sinking of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) and have led to this finding include: natural, environmental conditions (weather); and salvaging/dive activity. As environmental conditions are under no one's control, any serious attempt to stop that which is causing damage to the ship must address both the salvaging and dive factors.

The following describes the main topics of discussion and the action items we agreed upon with the Navy:

The Navy has decided to continue to have physical presence at the USS *Houston* (CA-30) wreck site as part of any future maneuvers occurring in the area. Some may include Indonesian forces. It is not certain what that frequency will be, whether once per year, once every other year. However, this will be made part of those exercises when they occur. The Navy believes this greater presence of force may help deter salvaging and diving activity at the site, even if only to a small degree.

- Salvaging: this presents the greatest individual challenge to the protection of the USS *Houston* (CA-30). The Navy has no authority to enforce anti-dive and anti-salvaging laws on those who exploit the *Houston* because she rests in Indonesian waters. Any matters pertaining to the governance of the wreck site rest solely within Indonesian control. Capt. Mark Stacpoole, Naval Attaché, Jakarta, Indonesia continues to discuss U.S. concerns with Indonesian officials. Adding to the challenge is the fact that the lucrative salvaging industry possesses lobbying power already being exercised with our government. Vice Admiral Swift made the point that this matter is really one that would have to be taken up with our U.S. lawmakers. He further suggested that support for the strengthening of existing laws regarding salvaging restrictions would be enhanced if other groups like ours were to become united in that support effort. The Executive Director (JK Schwarz) has taken this as an action item and will be making a plea to several other groups similar to ours to join us in contacting lawmakers.
- Diving: agreement was reached that legal representatives from both the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors Association & Next Generations and the U.S. Navy will work together to re-examine current policy on dives. Discussion topics will include: parameters surrounding dive authority in general and specific dive permitting to better define such concepts as what 'disturbance' to the ship actually means, as well as greater definition/restriction surrounding the "removal of artifacts." In general, the Association position is that diving on any sunken U.S. warship, including USS *Houston* (CA-30), should be as restricted as possible.

Our Board of Managers understands that when we represent our Association regarding matters as important as the protection of USS *Houston* (CA-30), we must be as reflective as possible of the sentiments of the **whole** Association. We welcome your feedback. The Association's Board of Managers will continue to update as any further developments occur on this matter.

On the next page you'll find the "Conclusions" of the recently released Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC)'s final survey report on the USS *Houston* (CA-30)...



Final USS Houston (CA-30) Assessment Report Completed

On 14 November 2014 U.S. Navy underwater archeologists from the Naval History and Heritage Command (NHHC) released the final survey report of the shipwreck of USS *Houston* (CA 30). The original underwater survey was conducted as part of the Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training (CARAT) 2014 exercise in June. Over the course of 19 dive excursions, U.S. Navy divers from Mobile Diving and Salvage Unit (MDSU) One Company 1-5, along with personnel from the Indonesian navy, surveyed the wreck during a joint training evolution. Below are the survey report's "Conclusions."

FIELD REPORT: USS *HOUSTON* (CA-30) DIVEX 2014

VII. CONCLUSIONS

The 2014 USS *Houston* (CA-30) DIVEX, despite its short duration, fully accomplished its prescribed mission objectives due to the dedication and professionalism of USNS *Safeguard*, MDSU-1 Company 1-5, and Indonesian Navy team members who fully dedicated themselves to the task. Specifically, the DIVEX confirmed the identity of the wreck, established an accurate set of coordinates for the bow and stern of the vessel, documented the site and determined the extent and orientation of the main assemblage, assessed the site for environmental or public safety concerns, explored for evidence of exposed human remains, identified and documented evidence of unauthorized disturbance, and also identified and documented evidence of original battle-related damage. At the same time, the joint exercise enhanced regional cooperation, promoted understanding, and improved the interoperability of the forces involved.

A lengthier survey of the site would have permitted the development of reference points and resulted in a more accurate site plan, as well as potentially permitted the exploration of the full extent of the hull and the associated debris field, enabling the location of additional features. At present, there is insufficient evidence to ascribe the dislocation of certain elements to the wrecking event as opposed to unauthorized removal, as the adjacent seafloor was not fully surveyed. Accordingly, features that were not positively identified such as the mainmast or primary gun turrets 2 and 3 may rest only a few meters away from the main hull.

The operation produced convincing evidence that the wreck of *Houston*, which serves as the final resting place for hundreds of sailors, contains potentially live ordnance, is seeping oil, and is also being irreparably damaged by

the unauthorized disturbance of the site. In addition to the early, convincing indications of metal plate and porthole removal, as well as the salvage-related equipment observed on the site, the fact that the stern port quarter damage cannot be ascribed to battle injuries raises concerns of significantly heavier impacts to the hull than first indications suggested. Such impacts elevate the potential of the inadvertent release of oil still contained within the hull, to the detriment of the surrounding environment and the local fishing economy. Associated public safety or environmental concerns are exacerbated by the apparent recovery of potentially live ordnance from the port side of the hull.

Of great concern is that continuing unauthorized activities that intrude into the hull have the potential to impact any extant human remains that may have otherwise been preserved by their immediate environment.

A systematic survey would permit a more in-depth assessment of the environmental, public safety, and unauthorized disturbance concerns that became evident in the course of the 2014 DIVEX, and provide for a more reliable baseline upon which to base site management and preservation decisions.

Without the implementation of protective measures, unauthorized disturbance is likely to continue. Continued unauthorized disturbance will accelerate the deterioration of the wreck beyond that which may be expected from natural processes alone, with an accordingly increased risk of desecration of human remains, serious structural damage to the wreck, and adverse environmental effects.

...NOW HEAR THIS...!

INTERNAL ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Applications for next year's scholarship program competition are being accepted beginning June 1 with the deadline for submission extending to November 1, 2015.

To apply for the scholarship applicants can go to www.usshouston.org and click on the scholarship tab, scroll down to bottom of the page and click to download the application packet.

Application packets can also be obtained by writing to John Keith Schwarz, 2500 Clarendon Blvd. Apt. 121, Arlington, VA 22201.

The scholarship award available for 2015 will be determined after an assessment of the account balance as of 6/1/2015. The health of our scholarship fund account balance results directly from your generosity. Donations are always accepted, appreciated, and necessary to perpetuate this program and its award threshold.

You can also remember the USS *Houston* Scholarship Fund in your will, estate planning, or beneficiary designations. All donations are tax deductible.

Donations should be made out to: USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors Association. Please note on your check: "Scholarship Donation."

Mail Donations to: Treasurer- Pam Foster-Crispi, 370 Lilac Lane, Lincoln, CA 95648

To-date and after approximately 14 years of program implementation, we have awarded **11** scholarships totaling **\$22,250.00**. This is an extremely successful program outcome by any measure.

We thank everyone who has donated and participated in this worthwhile endeavor.



Past Internal Annual 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
- 2014 – Stephanie Daigre, Granddaughter-in-law of Gene Crispi

Past US Naval Academy Foundation Scholarship Winners

- 2010 – Stephen Scales
- 2011 – Lene Gilchrist,
- 2013 – Robert Z. Sutherland
- 2014 – Evan S. Hovenden



US NAVAL ACADEMY FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM UPDATE

Again, due to the generosity of our Association members and others and since its purchase in 2008, this permanent scholarship in the name of 'USS Houston CA-30 Memorial Scholarship' has seen five awards granted. We are proud to announce that our first and original recipient of the scholarship, **Stephen Scales**, has graduated and is currently an Officer serving in the U.S. Navy. The scholarship award, enabling a year of preparatory military school education, aided Stephen in his journey which has now produced yet another proud Naval Officer. What a lasting tribute to the legacy of the men of the USS *Houston* (CA-30)!

- Received an email from **CAPT Bruce H. Handler, USN (ret.)** as follows: "Here is what your wonderful and loyal association needs to know, because It may well not be in the record: In 1961 (if I recall the year correctly), when assigned to a US Navy Patrol Squadron functioning as a Task Group, a succinct message was received from the US Embassy in Canberra, Australia that Indonesian recreational weekend scuba divers had "discovered" the wreck of *Houston*, identifying it from personal laundry stamps recovered at the site. This message came to us as the southern-most deployed US Naval unit in the area, but also as addressees on this message were CTF 72, CINCPACFLT, and CINCPAC, among others. Subsequently, the question arose as whether to inform survivors or next-of-kin in the absence of US official verification of this event which, if and when verification occurred, would require a considerable effort, and if verified, sensitive protocols regarding the site and human remains. With an abundance of caution, the decision that came down was not to publicize this in order to avoid "raising false hopes and painful memories" in the absence of formal and fitting US Navy on-site knowledge of the situation... As we both know, (prior?) or subsequent local divers have been known to have removed artifacts some of which have been returned... I have carried this footnote to the *Houston's* history and felt it time to pass it on." I thanked Captain Handler for his information, and received his permission to pass it along to our Blue Bonnet readers.
- Received from the following email from **Phillis Ali**: "Hello! Earlier this year, I found out my uncle, **James William Musto**, was a Navy sailor who was assigned to the USS *Houston*,...was captured and passed away of dysentery in a Kilo camp in Burma. In my search for information,... I recently had the pleasure of speaking with John Schwarz who directed me to this email address and gave me his mother's (Trudy's) phone number. She is a delightful woman and we had a wonderful conversation. Trudy told me she recognized my uncle's name because her husband Otto knew, was friends with, and spoke of my uncle often. Trudy, in turn, gave me Howard Brooks and Bill Ingram's phone numbers. Mr. Brooks didn't know my uncle, but, Mr. Ingram told me the men from the New York-New Jersey area stuck together and he also remembered a couple of nicknames: "Muscle" and "Fergie"... My uncle entered the military at 18. Since he left home at such an early age, then, unfortunately passed away only a few years later at 21, there are no surviving photographs and very little family information about him...I'm in search of any information there is, *in particular*, a picture of my uncle. Did the Navy take a photo of my uncle when he entered the military for ID purposes? Do you know anyone else I could contact to find out if any picture (solo or group) exists?" I thanked Ms. Ali for contacting us. If any survivor remembers Mr. Musto, please contact dana@usshouston.com and the info. will be forwarded to Ms. Ali.
- Received from **NG Linda Swick (daughter of Navy Survivor John Reilly)** an update on her son, **Kevin Swick**, recipient of the 2010 Internal Scholarship Award. Linda wrote: "Here is an update on Kevin. He became the first player in Baseball at USC to become an Academic All-American. He was drafted by the Chicago White Sox last June, and played rookie ball for them this summer in Arizona. He is back now and working at the Capital Group in Los Angeles... his dream job. They were hiring 6 college grads and interviewed globally. After 18 interviews he received one of the positions. He is now going to have to decide whether he goes back to Spring Training or hang up his cleats and pursue his finance career."
- Received from **Joann Short** this email: "**My uncle, Joseph E. Rains, SM2C**, was on the ship when it was sunk on 3/1/1942 and presumed lost. Would there be anyone that might have served with him that is still living?" If any survivor has any information for Joann regarding Mr. Rains, you may contact her c/o dana@usshouston.org.
- **Trudy Schwarz** reports that: "**NG Eric & Pili Lien** from San Francisco sent the nicest note of encouragement re: the work of the Association, including the permanent scholarship at the Naval

Academy, the seeds of which were planted as he put it, by Otto. Included in the letter was also a fabulous picture of Eric's extended family."

- **Trudy Schwarz** also reports that: "**Vic Campbell** sent a thoughtful card, in which he mentioned that his son Alex, upon completing college with a degree in History, followed his dream of many years to join the U. S. Marine Corps."
- Received a letter from 2013 Internal Scholarship Winner **Laura Reilly**: "I just finished my first year at USC where I have been working toward a major in Political Science and Public Policy. At USC I have been a member of the Triathlon Team; homeless ministry; Emerging Leaders program; and JEP—a program that tutors underserved children. This summer, I have had the incredible opportunity of travelling to Spain in a study abroad program for my minor. I remember fondly my time at the survivors' convention and am so appreciative of your support and dedication to the memory of the heroes of USS *Houston*. I wish you all the best as I begin my sophomore year. Sincerely, Laura Reilly."
- Received on 12/2/14 an email from **Michelle Hauser** re: her grandfather **RADM Robert B. Fulton II, USN (Ret.)**: "I would like to inform the USS *Houston* Association of my grandfather's health status. Although my grandfather has done pretty well for 103, in recent months he has begun to have some infections which have caused him to go in and out of the hospital. The doctors do not know his long-term prognosis, but he has been moved to a hospice house where he is getting round the clock care to ensure he is comfortable...I will be sure to keep you updated in the upcoming days, weeks, and months. Thanks much for everything you do to keep the legacy of the USS *Houston* alive for future generations. He didn't want much in his new room, but he does have some family pictures and his trusty USS *Houston* hat!!" Michelle Hauser's email address: hausermichelle@yahoo.com. RADM Fulton's address: RADM Robert Fulton, Baptist Reynolds Hospice House, 1520 W. Poplar Ave, Collierville, TN 38017.

Happy Birthday!



Survivor Howard Brooks turned 95 on 30 October 2014.

Now SEE This...

A large collection of [USS Houston \(CA-30\) Photographs](#) is now available for viewing online in the UH Digital Library!

By Drew Krewer, Digitization Operations Librarian,
University Libraries, University of Houston

More than 350 black and white photographs from the 1920s to the 1940s tell the incredible story of the heavy cruiser USS *Houston* (CA-30), which traveled the world during peacetime, served as flagship of the Asiatic Fleet, and was sunk by the Imperial Japanese Navy during the Battle of Sunda Strait.



Many photographs depict the cruiser in various ports or at sea during early cruises. Other photographs capture individual officers and crew members and depict life aboard the ship. Also included in the collection are photos of the ship's most famous passenger, President Franklin D. Roosevelt, who took four cruises on the *Houston* during his presidency to relax and enjoy deep sea fishing.



Of the 1,068 crew members on the *Houston* when it was sunk, 368 survived and became prisoners of the Japanese. Photographs document the POW camps, the deplorable conditions endured by the POWs, and the evacuation of POWs at the end of the war in August 1945. The original materials are available in [UH Libraries Special Collections](#) in the [Cruiser Houston Collection](#). Many thanks to all those who helped make this digital collection possible.



USS Houston (CA-30) Annual Reunion 2015

Hyatt Regency Houston Downtown

1200 Louisiana, Houston, TX

March 6-7, 2015

THURSDAY (March 5)

Registration & Hospitality room	6 PM - 10 PM	Arboretum (2 nd floor)
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FRIDAY (March 6)

Hospitality** & Registration (Continental breakfast available 8:30AM)	8 AM – 10 PM	Arboretum (2 nd floor)
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*** Hospitality Room is closed during dining room meals*

Scholarship Committee Meeting	9:30 AM	Arboretum (2 nd floor)
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Annual Member Meeting	10 AM	Arboretum (2 nd floor)
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Board of Managers Meeting	10:30 AM	Arboretum (2 nd floor)
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Thursday Dinner and Friday Lunch on your own – A list of eateries is available at concierge desk.

Please double check when the restaurants will be open!

University of Houston Reception	12:30 PM – 3:45 PM
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12:30PM-12:45PM - Gather in hotel lobby to check-in prior to boarding bus.

1:00 pm – SHARP - Bus departs for University of Houston.

1:30 pm – 3:00 pm – University of Houston Staff

3:15 pm – SHARP - Bus departs for the return to the Hyatt Hotel.

Dinner	6:00 PM	Arboretum (2 nd floor)
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- Executive Director's Year-end Report
- Announcement of Scholarship Winner
- Speaker: Naval Heritage and History Command

SATURDAY (March 7)

Breakfast	9:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Arboretum (2 nd floor)
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- Speaker: Houston Maritime Museum Presentation

Hospitality	10:45 AM – 1:00 PM	Arboretum (2 nd floor)
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*** Hospitality Room closed during meals & Memorial Service*

2015 Memorial Service	2:00 PM	Sam Houston Park
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Hospitality**	3:30 PM – 6 PM	Arboretum (2 nd floor)
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Saturday Dinner on your own.

REGISTRATION FORM

73rd Anniversary USS Houston Memorial Service/Reunion

March 6-7, 2015

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/USSHOUCA30>

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

DEADLINE – MUST BE RECEIVED BY FEBRUARY 14, 2015

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 – 6:00 PM (please select your choice of entrée)

Baked Chicken # _____ X \$35.00 = \$ _____

Vegetable Lasagna # _____ X \$35.00 = \$ _____

Saturday Breakfast – 9:00 AM # _____ X \$25.00 = \$ _____

Registration # _____ X \$40 per person = \$ _____

Late Registration # _____ X \$15 per person = \$ _____

(Received after February 14, 2015)

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Reception at the University of Houston (Friday) # _____

Bus seat needed to U of H # _____ Handicapped Access # _____

Please include a check for the total cost made payable to: USS Houston-Next Generations (your check is your receipt). Payment is non-refundable.

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

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.)



T-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

Include the following information
 (please print clearly):

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

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



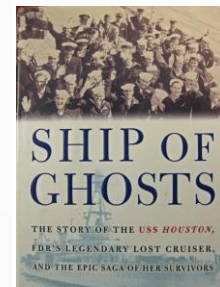
Women's Polo Shirt



Men's Polo Shirt



T-Shirt



Ship of Ghosts
 autographed by author
 James Hornfischer

Questions? Email: Sue@USSHouston.org

Meet your ...

Board of Managers

...here to serve

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



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Daughter of USN survivor Paul Papish
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Blue Bonnet Editor, 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

Facebook Group Site:
[USS Houston CA-30](https://www.facebook.com/USSHoustonCA30)

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. If you have relatives and friends who have not yet joined our Association, please encourage them to join us! Members do not have yearly dues. However we do operate based on the generosity of our membership. Annual donations are gratefully accepted. For more information and a membership form, click on: <http://www.usshouston.org/memberform.pdf>, fill out the form and send it in!

Welcome Aboard!

*We would like to
extend a hearty
welcome to everyone
who has recently
joined our USS
Houston (CA-30)
Survivors Association and Next
Generations!*



Happy Holidays!

NEWS FROM HERE & THERE

Jakarta Update

By John K. Schwarz

US Naval Attaché CAPT Mark Stacpoole, USN at the American Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia talked with John Schwarz on Friday, 21 Nov 2014 via telephone and updated our Association on several important matters:

Mark's son, Richard, is proceeding with his Eagle Scout project which, hopefully, will one day include the unveiling of a USS *Houston* (CA-30) memorial in Jakarta that can easily be visited and will be used to educate people on the heroism and sacrifice of USS *Houston*. Richard will soon begin an effort to raise funds for this memorial.

Also, Mark is planning to host another (the 2nd) memorial dinner on 1 March 2015 at his house to commemorate the anniversary of the loss of both USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth*.

Meanwhile, diplomatic efforts to honor and respect the wreck sites of both ships continue on all fronts. Mark also mentioned that he recently visited the site of "Bicycle Camp," which is now a major hotel in Jakarta (today, nothing remains of the POW camp). I thanked Mark for his continued, thoughtful efforts to perpetuate the memory of the *Houston* and her crew. We will continue to support him in any way that we can.



In August 2014, John Schwarz purchased a 4 ft. by 6 ft. POW flag as a donation from our Association to the Naval Air Station Fort Lauderdale Museum, Fort Lauderdale Airport, FL in memory of USS *Houston* CA-30 crewman David Flynn. Museum volunteer and WWII Veteran Ray Rivera is holding the flag.

Dining Together on November 29, 2014 at Mastori's Diner in Bordentown, NJ, were... (Left to Right): John Schwarz; survivor Howard Brooks; Howard's neighbors Karl and Pat Biegert; Silvia Brooks; Trudy Schwarz; and John Signorin.



THANK YOU

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

Donations:

Memorial Donations:

In memory of David Flynn:

Eric Lien

Other Donations:

Bruce DeWald

Billie Marie Johnson

Sue Kreutzer

Nancy Morrow

John Schwarz

Robert Wederich

Financial Report

by Pam Foster, Treasurer

Fiscal Year 2014

January 1 – November 28, 2014

Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance	\$13,522.43
Receipts	+2,273.20
Expenses	<u>-3,000.00</u>
Ending Balance	\$12,795.63

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$13,272.90
Receipts	+6,585.55
Expenses	<u>-5,380.18</u>
Ending Balance	\$14,478.27



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contact@usshouston.org or Bluebonnet@usshouston.org.

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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