

Now Hear This!

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General or Scholarship)

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Association Founded 1947

By Otto and Trudy Schwarz

USS Houston (CA-30), HMAS Perth (D-29) Commemorated at Arlington



Representing ABDA naval personnel at Arlington National Cemetery on 27 May 2022: (L to R): CDR Derek Powles, RN; LCDR Steven Witzand, RAN; COL Jarst de Jong, Netherlands Marines; RADM Samuel Cox, USN (Ret.).

2022 Memorial Day Commemoration

By John K. Schwarz and Dana Charles

Memorial Day is a very special day in America as we honor those servicemen and women who made the ultimate sacrifice while serving in the armed forces of our country. For the past five consecutive years our Association has maintained a Memorial Day tradition at the USS *Houston* (CA-30)/HMAS *Perth* (D-29) Marker, located in Arlington National Cemetery. Organized by our Association's executive director John K. Schwarz, naval representatives from Australia, Britain, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, and the United States—nations of the WWII ABDA Command—have gathered to honor and remember *Houston* and *Perth* as well as all the ABDA naval personnel of their respective countries who fought and died during the 1942 defense of

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Java. This year, the annual gathering took place at the marker on May 27th, 2022. Participants included: Lieutenant Commander Steven Witzand, RAN (Australia); Commander Derek Powles, RN (Britain); Colonel Jarst de Jong, Royal Marines (Kingdom of the Netherlands); Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox, USN, Director, History and Heritage Command and Curator of the U.S. Navy (U.S.A.).

Joining these naval officers this year was the 6-year-old Daphne Witzand, daughter of LCDR Steven Witzand, RAN. LCDR Witzand had arranged for Daphne to take a few hours off from school to participate in the annual event. At the USS *Houston*/HMAS *Perth* marker, Daphne placed the flags of the four ABDA nations who served in the South Pacific so bravely together during the dark, early days of WWII. On her jacket Daphne wore the medals earned by her great grandfather. (The full story of the medals appears below).

Our Association expresses its thanks to all who participated in this annual event. We especially thank RADM Samuel Cox, USN, who not only participated in the May 27th event, but also provided us with a U.S. Navy staff photographer.

Each of the four allied countries of ABDA suffered terrible losses of life while defending the Dutch East Indies (Indonesia) in 1942—eighty years ago. On America's Memorial Day, it seems only fitting that we remember all the allied crewmen who perished along with the men of the *Houston*. The sacrifices made by crewmen of USS *Houston* (CA-30), HMAS *Perth* (D-29), and all the other naval forces of the ABDA Command will never be forgotten.



The Medals Daphne Wore

While attending the ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery with her father, LCDR Steven Witzand, RAN, 6-year-old Daphne Witzand wore some important decorations on her jacket—the medals awarded posthumously to her great grandfather. Former Royal Netherlands Navy sailor Hendrik Witzand had been posthumously awarded medals for his service more than 70 years ago thanks to the efforts of his grandson LCDR Steven Witzand, who is a member of the Royal Australian Navy (RAN).

Hendrik Witzand often shared stories of his time in the navy over a bottle of port with LCDR Steven Witzand, including how he was not only one of a few marine technical sailors who could weld underwater, but also that he was a boxing champion. "I loved knowing we both followed technical career paths in the Navy," LCDR Witzand said, having joined as an engineer himself.

In the late 1940's, Hendrik Witzand served on the destroyer HNLMS *Banckert* during the Indonesian National Revolution, and its aftermath. LCDR Steven Witzand, RAN, investigated his grandfather's service records and discovered he was eligible for medals he was never awarded. They were introduced by the Dutch Government after Hendrik Witzand moved to Australia. Working at the Australian Embassy in Washington DC, LCDR Witzand met the Dutch Naval Attaché who helped him translate his grandfather's service records and apply for the medals. Hendrik Witzand was awarded the Decoration for Order and Peace and the New Guinea Commemorative Cross. "I am the only other person to have joined the Navy in my family, so we had a shared closeness," LCDR Witzand said. "He was always quiet about his time in service but opened up more with me." LCDR Witzand received the awards on behalf of his grandfather during a December 2021 ceremony at Embassy of The Kingdom of the Netherlands in the United States.

USS HOUSTON (CA-30) POWER POINT PRESENTATIONS

Over the past several months, Association vice president Dana Charles and executive director John K. Schwarz have independently been seeking, and on occasion finding, forums where they can spread the word about the story of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and her brave captain and crew. Each has developed Power Point shows to help further the mission of our Association: "To perpetuate the memory of the USS *Houston* CA-30 and her crew."



On June 22, 2022, the Association's executive director John K. Schwarz presented his USS *Houston* (CA-30) Power Point show to about 50 people in Eatontown, New Jersey.

John's latest presentation occurred on Tuesday, June 22, 2022, in front of a live audience of 50 receptive people, sponsored by the Senior Citizens Activities Network (SCAN) of Eatontown, N.J. Arrangements for this opportunity were made by Michael Aufiero (our ship model case craftsman) in coordination with Marybeth Kwapniewski, program director at SCAN. SCAN serves the 55+ community in Monmouth and Ocean Counties NJ, enriching their lives with programming to promote healthy lifestyles, continuing education, and access to community and economic resources to keep them active, healthy, and connected.

The presentation John delivered centers around a video (recorded by John's mother, Trudy) of his father (USS *Houston* survivor Otto Schwarz) telling Otto's story of the USS *Houston* CA-30. This 40-minute video captured the presentation Otto made for years at schools and various other events, and includes maps, photos, and, of course, Otto's colorful dialogue. John's presentation begins with an introduction, which places Otto's story in perspective, followed by Otto's 40-minute presentation. After the video, there is a question & answer period, followed by a Power Point segment produced by Dana and John which picks up where Otto's video leaves off—the story of the Survivors' Association: what it has meant for survivors and their families, and what it has accomplished during its 75 years of existence. "All the segments went very well with the wonderful audience in Eatontown on June 22nd," John reported.

One of Dana's recent Power Point presentations was made on May 19, 2022, via Zoom from Dana's home in Washington State to about 100 people seated in the Connie Brown Hall auditorium at the Tribby Arts Center in Ft. Myers, Florida. Florida resident and former editor of the Blue Bonnet, Jo Klenk, arranged for the program. Dana's presentation, "The Story of USS *Houston* (CA-30)," includes vintage newspaper clippings and maps, as well as old photos, and some new illustrations created especially for the presentation.



On May 19, 2022, via Zoom from his home in Washington State, Dana presented his lecture “The USS *Houston* (CA-30) Story” to about 100 people seated in the Connie Brown Hall auditorium at the Tribby Arts Center in Ft. Myers, Florida.

“My presentation takes the audience from USS *Houston*’s last battles to the 42-month-long POW ordeal of her survivors; and from the survivors’ 1945 liberation through various postwar physical and psychological difficulties some of them had,” Dana explained.

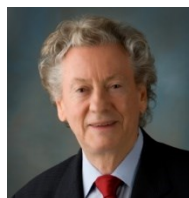
If you know of any group which may be interested in hosting either a live or a Zoom presentation about the Story of USS *Houston* (CA-30), please let us know by emailing us at: contact@usshouston.org. Meanwhile, Dana and John look forward to pursuing more Power Point presentations—either live or via Zoom—to spread the word about USS *Houston* CA-30 and her courageous crew. —John K. Schwarz and Dana Charles

You Shop, Amazon Gives

By Pam Crispi Moura, Treasurer

Many of us already shop online at [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com). Did you know that Amazon has a program to 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).



From the desk of the Executive Director

John K. Schwarz

SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM REMINDER

The window for applying for the 2023 *USS Houston* (CA-30) Scholarship expires **November 1, 2022**. To apply: Please visit our website (www.usshouston.org), click on the "Scholarship tab," then scroll down to the bottom of the page for application information. Or contact the Association's Scholarship committee at john@usshouston.org. Thanks to our generous donors, this next award will total **\$3,000.00**. The Scholarship award recipient will be announced at the March 2023 "Day of Remembrance (DOR)."

SHIP'S STORE MERCHANDISE UPDATE

Currently available are **USS Houston (CA-30) embroidered hats** priced at \$25.00 each plus shipping.



Also in stock are **USS Houston (CA-30) Challenge Coins**, priced at \$10.00 each.



Front



Back

We are currently in the process of fulfilling a special order for clothing items (polo shirts, jackets, and ladies fleece jackets), that was compiled at the March 2022 "DOR" gathering in Houston. As a result of an increase in the minimum order item number required by our clothing vendor (Divots), there will be a limited amount of additional clothing items available once the order is received. At that time, we will publish a special notice to our member email list offering those items, their sizes, colors and prices.

DAY OF REMEMBRANCE 2023

The 2023 Day of Remembrance weekend will be held in Houston **March 3—4, 2023**.
Save the dates!

TRACKING AN ELUSIVE GHOST

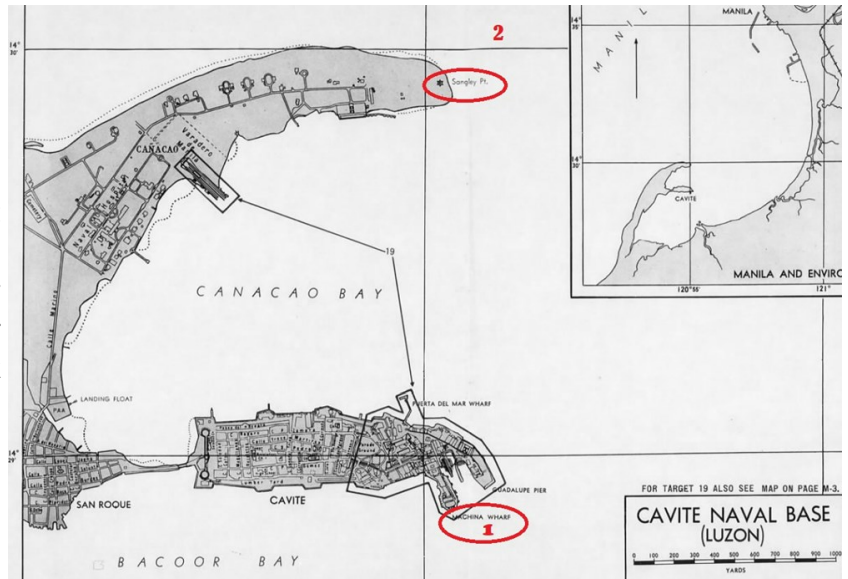
By Donald M. Kehn, Jr.



ADM Thomas Hart, USN

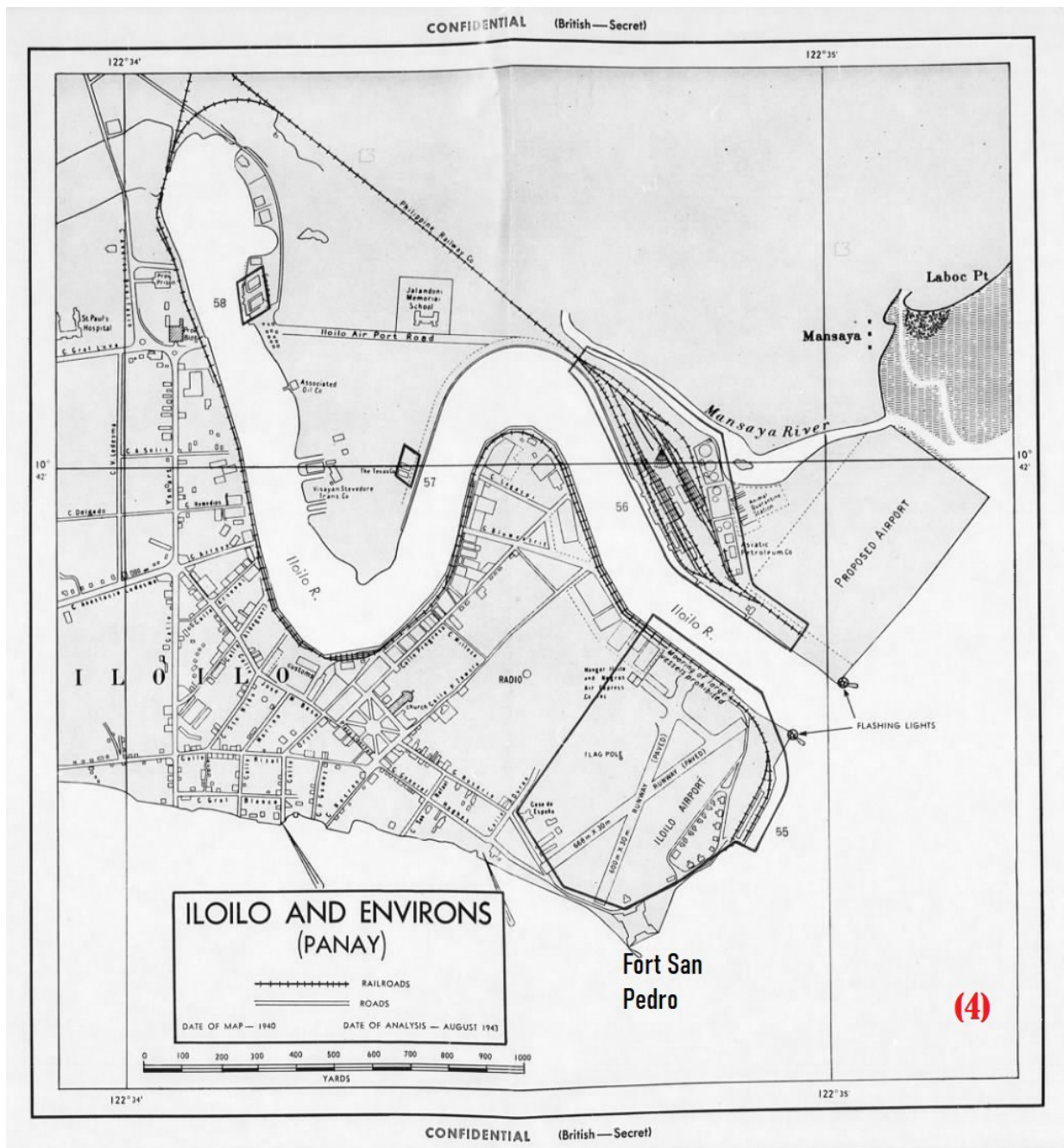
While many understand that **USS *Houston* (CA-30)** had been ordered out of the Manila Bay area prior to December 7th—thanks to the foresight of ADM Thomas Hart, USN (CINCAF)—few of us know exactly where she went. This brief account will attempt to clarify her whereabouts in the initial fortnight of December, 1941. Using official wartime charts from U.S. Air Force intelligence units and ***Houston***'s own Deck Log entries, we can reconstruct with some accuracy the cruiser's movements and locations. These preliminary movements by **CA-30** were directed through verbal instructions via CINCAF. We may bear in mind that a few days earlier (Nov. 27) ADM Hart had received the most explicit and serious warning from Washington of the likelihood of impending hostilities with Japan.

On the morning of December 1, 1941, ***Houston*** was moored with her port side along the Machina Wharf at the Navy Yard, Cavite. (#1) She held muster at 0800 hrs. and at 0900 hrs. got underway for her anchorage off Sangley Point. (#2) After that at 1110 hrs. she headed out to the degaussing range to calibrate her degaussing apparatus. This evolution—for protection against magnetic mines—took about four hours, steaming at low (10 knot) speed. After finishing, she stopped at 1519 hrs. and transferred off the degaussing officer and a last batch of ship's mail.



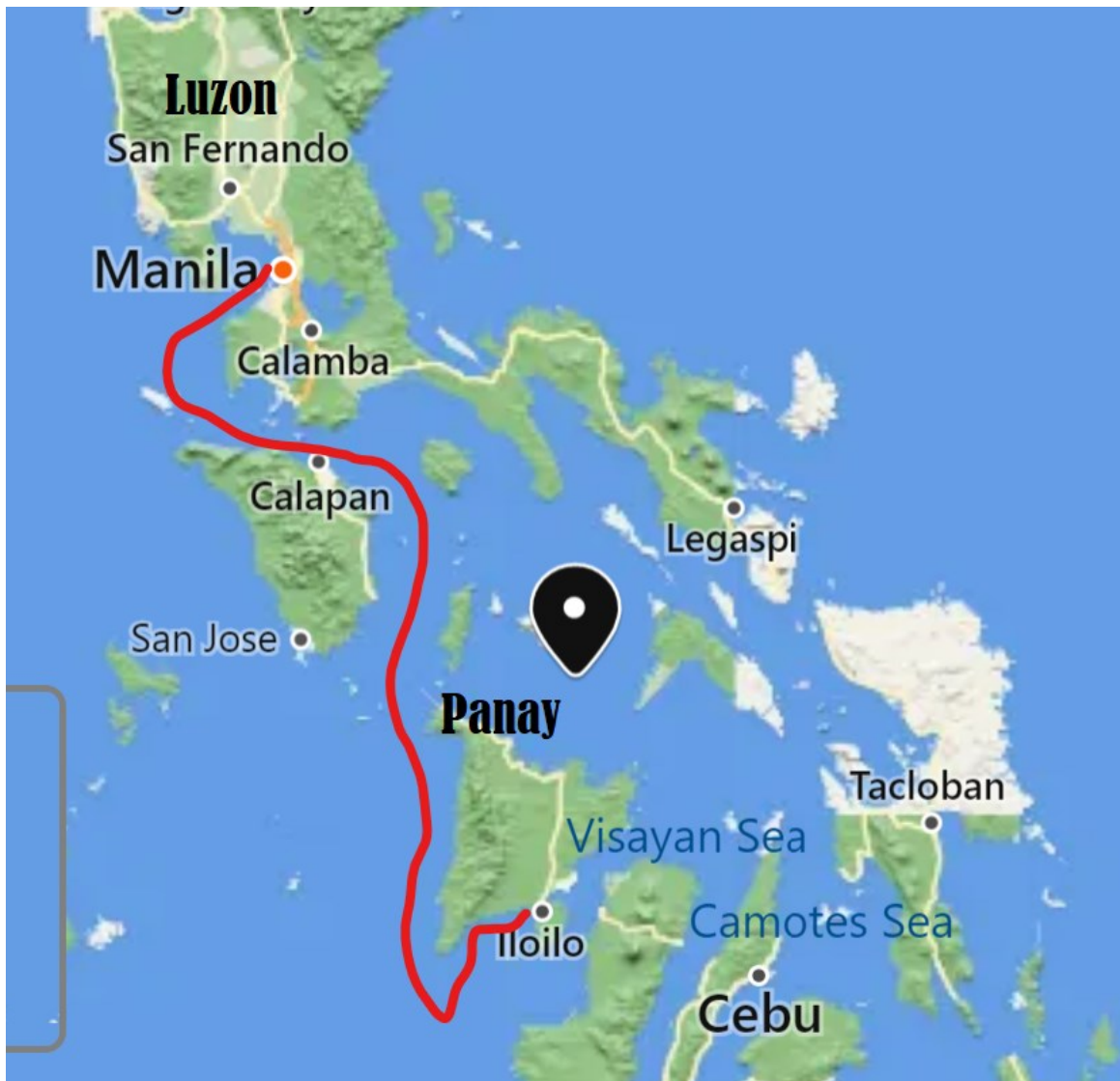
Then, as two more boilers were lit off and cut in, **CA-30** increased speed to 20 knots and headed for the extensive minefields that protected the upper part of Manila Bay and the channels around Corregidor.

This was a dangerous but necessary route. It took about an hour to clear the minefields at 20-25 knots. An hour or so later she altered course and began zigzagging as she headed for the port of Iloilo on the island of Panay, some 250 miles to the south. At 1847 hrs. she spotted Fortune Island light at a distance of twelve miles. (#3)



Houston made most of the trip at a standard speed of 15 knots and full speed of 20. At daybreak on the 2nd of December, she flew off one of her SOC floatplanes, piloted by ENS Walter "Windy" Winslow. Windy flew out 80 miles to report any unusual or suspicious surface vessels, and after returning his plane flew ASW patrol as **Houston** approached Iloilo Strait. She also spent half an hour test-firing the newly emplaced 1.1" AA battery. At 1257 hrs. on Dec. 2, the cruiser reached her anchorage off Ft. San Pedro and the Iloilo River. (#4)

It was while at Iloilo that the men of **CA-30** learned of Pearl Harbor. On Dec. 7, which was the night before the news broke, several familiar names were in Iloilo on temporary Shore Patrol duty: Joe Gans, MM1/c, Basil Bunyard, EM1/c, and Paul Papish, SK3/c. On the afternoon of Dec. 8, at 1612 hrs., RADM Wm. A. Glassford, Jr., USN flew in on a PBY and reported to the ship as Commander of Task Force 5. Within an hour the big cruiser was underway at speed for the Netherland East Indies and then to Port Darwin, Northern Australia.



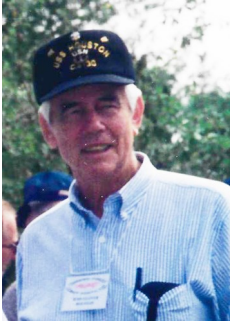
The route taken by USS *Houston* (CA-30) from Manila to Iloilo on December 1, 1941



USS *Houston* (CA-30)

S1/c ROSS M. GLOVER, USN

By Joseph L. and Marlene (Morris) McCain



Ross M. Glover

Ross Glover was born on June 23, 1918, in the small farming community of Lonoke, Arkansas. Later, as did so many other young men of that period, he found little opportunity in the hard years of the American Depression. The United States Navy, however, offered him an exciting chance to travel and serve his country. Ross enlisted for six years in December 1939 at Portland, Oregon. Less than a year later, he was assigned to USS *Houston* (CA-30).

The *Houston*, of course, was overwhelmed and sunk by a large Japanese naval force in the Sunda Strait off the coast of Java. Ross managed to get clear of his ship before it went down shortly after midnight. He was soon captured by the Japanese and imprisoned in the old Banton Park Theater in the town of Serang, Java (about fifty miles west of Batavia). For twelve hours a day the prisoners were forced to sit on the filthy concrete floor, cross-legged and silent while Japanese soldiers watched from behind a machine gun mounted in the theater balcony. Food and water were extremely scarce.

In April 1942, the *Houston* men were taken from the theater and sent to “Bicycle Camp” in the city of Batavia, Java where conditions were somewhat improved. Because it had been a Dutch army base, the prisoners had the use of seven long barracks buildings complete with running water and electricity. These were probably the best conditions that the *Houston* men encountered during their long captivity.

The worst conditions were coming, however. In mid-October, Ross was among a group of allied POWs who were forced into the hold of a Japanese freighter, *Dai Nichi Maru*, and transported under terrible conditions to Changi Barracks Camp in Singapore, Malaya. They were held in Singapore until January 1943, when Ross was among the group of allied POWs, including some 477 American prisoners, that were transported first via hellship to Moulmein, Burma, then via rail to Thanbyuzayat, Burma to begin forced labor on the notorious Japanese Burma-Thailand death railway.

Ross was assigned to the POW work group known as Branch 5. On 21 January 1943 this POW group was transported to the 18 Kilo POW camp at Alepauk, Burma. (POW labor camps of the railway, such as 18 Kilo, were named according to their distance from Thanbyuzayat). Branch 5 POWs were held in 5 POW camps during the railway’s construction, including: 18 Kilo, 85 Kilo, and 80 Kilo. In July 1943, Ross was designated as a truck driver while at 18 Kilo camp and was still assigned this task when reported to be at 108 Kilo Camp in late January 1944.

By March 1944, Ross and other railway survivors had been taken to Kanchanaburi, Thailand. From there, he was sent on as part of the “Japan Party” destined to work in the enemy’s homeland. However, no Japanese ships dared to make this ocean voyage due to a constant threat from American submarines. The prisoners were able to reach Saigon, French Indochina first by rail, then by small ships that could navigate in shallow and safer coastal waters. In Saigon, the POWs labored mostly on the docks and in the adjacent warehouses. Compared to the horrible conditions of the railway, the working conditions and food were an improvement.

The guards were less antagonistic, and the local French people were friendly towards the POWs.

1945 brought an end to the war and liberation. Ross chose to make the Navy a career and spent over twenty years in a variety of assignments in Alaska, Hawaii, and California. While stationed at Millington Naval Base, Tennessee, he met his future wife, Patricia, at an Officer's Club dance. They were married in August 1946, and for the next 50-plus years, continued to enjoy dancing together.

After Ross retired, they moved to Arkansas where he operated a barber shop on Little Rock's Markham Street. In 1965, Governor Orval Faubus appointed Ross as Secretary of the Arkansas Burial Board. After his second retirement in 1979, Ross and Pat relocated to Cabot (Lonoke County), Arkansas.

Ross spent his years in Cabot farming and was locally famous for his wonderful watermelons. He also was a dedicated sportsman and quail hunter and trained the best hunting dogs in the area. He became active in the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors' Association and enjoyed the reunions with former shipmates. Ross Glover passed away in February 2001 and Pat in July 2020. They are buried in Mount Carmel Cemetery at Cabot, Arkansas.

Sources:

Postal History of American POWs, by Norman Gruenzner, 1979.

The Last Battle Station, by Duane Schultz, 1985.

Building the Death Railway, by Robert S. LaForte & Ronald E. Marcello, 1993.

Cabot Star-Herald newspaper obituary/Ross Glover, 2001.

A special thanks to Dana Charles, USS *Houston* Survivors' Association, for supplying Ross' POW record and the pictures for this article.



USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors (L to R): Ross Glover; David Flynn; Gene Wilkerson; Bob O'Brien; Walter Winslow; Earl Snyder; Joe Gans; Ned Gallagher; Howard Brooks.

Lessons my Grandfather Taught Me

By Justin D. Koelle



LT Thomas "Tommy" B. Payne, USN

I must be honest, when initially asked to write an account of my grandfather Thomas "Tommy" Payne, I had no idea where to start. I was only four years old when my grandfather passed away and I have no conscious memory of him. I asked myself, "How can I present an account of someone I never knew?" It took me over a year to satisfactorily answer this question.

Armed with materials painstakingly collected by the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor's Association, and a tattered copy of The Last Battle Station, I was underway. Through my reading it became apparent, the story of the USS *Houston* contained much more than heroism in naval combat. It is a story of uncompromising friendship and commitment. A story of defiance in the face of impossible odds.

I came to understand that my grandfather Tommy Payne, then lieutenant commander, was the ship's senior aviator and responsible for the *Houston's* SOC planes. These catapult-launched floatplanes provided intel on enemy movement to the ship's Captain Albert Rooks. His outfit was known to some of the crew as "The Flying Wombats," others offered simply "Payne's Flying Circus" instead.

I was proud to hear of his contribution to a maneuvering plan that was passed up to Captain Albert Rooks. Following one of the first air attacks on the *Houston*, he challenged some of the more antiquated Navy procedure to better adapt to the battle at hand. This plan was implemented by Captain Albert Rooks to defend against an air attack on February 16th, 1942.

It was clear that all men onboard the *Houston* were put in impossible situations which transcended both role and rank. There was no Navy manual detailing the steps to follow when removing the charred remains of a man, that some months prior, was sharing a beer with you on liberty. There was no amount of daily calisthenics that could have prepared the men for days-long combat, previously expected to last no more than 20 minutes.

Initially setting out to meet my grandfather, his friends vibrantly came to life as well. In my reading it seemed as though my grandfather and his friends were gathered around to share these stories.

Up to this point, I have never paused long enough to organize my own values. In the endless pursuit of getting "somewhere", I failed to look back at where I came from. I decided to shift my focus to the lessons within the materials, rather than the events. Frankly the events have been catalogued thoroughly and wouldn't benefit from my amateur attempts to regurgitate them. These lessons often came packaged within unlikely stories.

With Japanese subs lying in wait all around them, Tommy Payne would often break out his harmonica. His crewmates sang over the harmonica's wail into the early hours of the morning. When he was approached by men with fears of uncertainty, Tommy would say "If we are going to get it, there is nothing we can do about it." He continued "You might as well think about home for as long as you can before it does catch up with us." The lesson was clear, in times of adversity, attitude matters.

During one particularly rowdy night on liberty Tommy Payne, Lieutenant Jack Lamade, and Ensign W.G "Windy" Winslow sauntered into one of the port's bars. After helping themselves to several drinks before dinner, Tommy Payne and Jack Lamade were apprehended by the bar's portly bouncers. The quick-thinking Windy Winslow responded in kind. He swiftly captured the manager and armed himself with a nearby Catsup bottle. In what can only be described as the first recorded hostage exchange by Catsup bottle, the bouncers summarily released their prisoners. Tommy Payne was able to stuff his friends into taxis, safely returning to the ship.



Thomas B. Payne

These seemingly innocuous events preceded more tragic examples of friendship. In decisions of life and death the men onboard the *Houston* were uncompromising in matters of friendship and commitment. The men upheld their commitment to their country and laid down their lives to preserve freedoms at home. They did the same for their friends onboard. This was highlighted through actions like that of Commander George Rentz, the *Houston's* chaplain. He urged a younger man to take his life jacket; when the offer was refused, he didn't leave the man a choice. Quietly removing the lifejacket, Commander George Rentz gently slid under the sea.

I have fallen short many times in my life, and have either let down, or have been let down by friends. I have wavered in commitments that I have made. In the spirit of these men, it is my responsibility to be uncompromising in matters of friendship and commitment.

When the call came to fight the men onboard showed no hesitation. Against overwhelming odds, the men onboard took the fight to an enemy. One such example of this indomitable spirit featured the "flying circus" ringleader himself. During the first attack launched against the *Houston*, Tommy Payne, rushed topside. After exclaiming "What are we waiting for? Let's go shoot em' up!" he strapped into his plane and took to the sky. The men onboard fought for weeks leading up to their final stand in the Sunda Strait. Some of these men plainly refused to stop firing the ship's guns despite the call to abandon ship, lest they waste ammunition. I am reminded that when the going gets tough, take the fight to the enemy.

My enemy today is not a fleet of enemy cruisers, submarines, and torpedo boats. Some cynics might suggest that my enemy could be the oppressive 75-degree costal California heat. While I largely agree, 75-degrees is far too hot, my enemy is "me." My enemy manifests as self-doubt, complacency, and fear. I know that if I can tap into even a small portion of the courage my grandfather and his friends had, I will prevail.

As my reading came to a close, I was confronted by my initial question: "How can I present an account of someone I never knew?" The answer was obvious. I have always known my grandfather. He has been with me all along. He has been with me in times of triumph and defeat. His friends have been with me as well. Otto Schwarz's youthful poise as he approached the ship so many years ago, reminds me to stay optimistic and open-minded. Dutch Kooper's determination and strength, reminds me to face challenges with my chest out.

I am extremely grateful for the effort and personal sacrifice that has gone into the preservation of the stories of the men who bravely served onboard the USS *Houston*. Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to spend some time with my grandfather and his friends. I will strive to keep a good attitude through challenging times, to be unwavering in matters of friendship and commitment, and to always take the attack to the enemy. These are the lessons my grandfather and his friends taught me.

As I set out to become a better man the words of encouragement Tommy Payne shared with his friend Windy Winslow on the deck of the USS *Houston* come to mind. "OK, fly boy, she's all yours." "Try the next one on your own."

After his release from a Japanese prison camp Thomas "Tommy" Payne continued to serve his country. He retired as a Captain in the US Navy in 1961. He loved his family unconditionally and was surrounded by loved ones when he passed away in Coronado, California on October 26th, 1993. He never was made president of Australia. In loving memory of our "Bumpy," Tommy Payne.

Photo # NH 94188 Vought O2U catapulted from USS Houston, in the Far East, circa 1931-1932





Report from Jakarta

Captain Stacey A. Prescott, USN

July 19, 2022

Executive Director Schwarz, President Kreutzer, Vice President Charles, and esteemed members of the USS *Houston* CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations,

Unfortunately, my time as the Naval Attaché here in Jakarta is coming to a close. It is certainly bittersweet – while I am excited to return to the United States and spend more time with my family, I am certainly sad to leave Jakarta and the great home it has been these past three years, despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

It has truly been the greatest honor of my tour to “stand the watch” over our Shipmates in Banten Bay. While I am disappointed we have yet to codify the protections for USS *Houston* (CA-30) with the Government of Indonesia, I am confident we are close to reaching that agreement, and I know that our local partners in Banten Bay already stand the watch daily.

Before I depart, I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude to all who have supported our efforts to watch over USS *Houston*. First, I am extremely grateful for the cooperation of the U.S. Naval History and Heritage Command team led by Admiral Samuel Cox and Dr. Jay Thomas – their hard work, dedication, and partnership with the many other Navy and Department of Defense stakeholders has been crucial to the progress we have made thus far.

Here in Jakarta, words just cannot express the depth of gratitude I have for the entire Country Team at U.S. Embassy Jakarta, from Ambassador Sung Kim, who regularly stressed the importance of protecting the USS *Houston* when engaging with senior-level counterparts in the Government of Indonesia, to my day-to-day partners in the Embassy's Political section: Ms. Lynda Hinds and Ms. Dilyara Austin. Their commitment and relationships with the Indonesian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries have been instrumental in advancing our efforts in support of the USS *Houston*.

Finally, to the Association and the Board of Managers: Thank you from the bottom of my heart for your trust and partnership these past three years. It was my distinct honor to work with you and the Association in support of our efforts, and I will certainly miss working with all of you. It is my pleasure to introduce my successor, Commander Patrick Panjeti. I know he looks forward to assuming the watch and continuing our efforts to ensure our brethren remain at rest and undisturbed, as they have for the past 80 years.

Lest we forget,

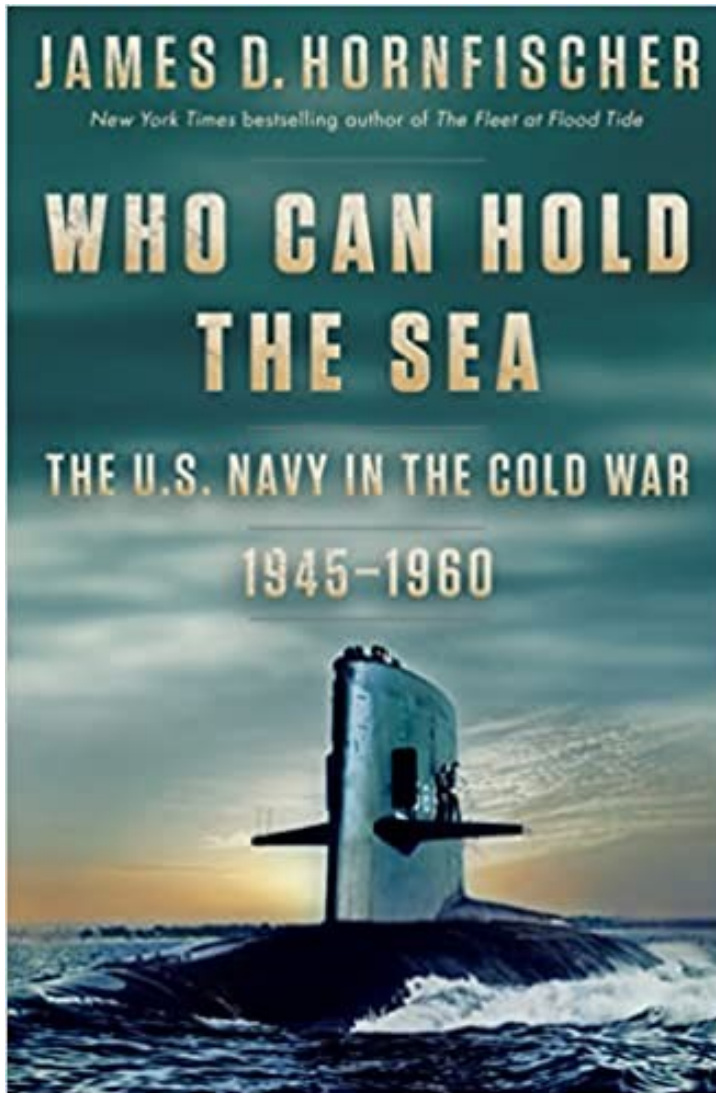
Stacey

CAPT Stacey A. Prescott
U.S. Naval Attaché, Jakarta

Notes on news received via email at contact@usshouston.org and via regular mail...

- 4/29/2022: Received the following email from **Greg Jacobs**: "I am doing a military history research project on my family. My great uncle was a Machinist Mate 1st class with the US Navy aboard the USS *Houston* CA-30 when the ship was sunk on March 1st 1942. My uncle was KIA, MIA by enemy action in the Battle of Sunda Strait. His military service # is 3284549. He was born on 9/13/18. He received a Purple Heart and he was a very brave man. Unfortunately, none of his siblings are alive and he didn't have children..."
- 5/16/2022: Wrote the following email to **Greg Jacobs**: "Dear Greg, Thank you for contacting our Association regarding USS *Houston* (CA-30) crewman **Paul J. Jacobs**...I am sorry to report that our information sources have found very little information on Mr. Jacobs. We have also had no luck in locating a "cruise book" or photos of Mr. Jacobs or a group photo of machinists mates. However, one of my colleagues searched Ancestry-dot-com and has reported the following: Paul Joseph Jacobs, Jr; 328-45-48, Enlisted 2-Dec-1936, Reported to CA-30 on 4-Aug-1940... Of note, is the difference in service number. Some references show 325-45-48 and some show 325-45-49. As the family searches, they may need to try both service numbers to get more complete info. Also, a reminder to them that the men's records stored by the Navy were burned in a fire in New Orleans where records were then stored. Many records of USS *Houston* crewmen were destroyed in that fire."
- 5/30/2022: Received the following email: "Greetings, I am **Fred Boucher, son of Boucher Donald L. RM3C USN**. Dad grew up with, and enlisted in the Navy with **David Flynn**, whose son manages this site (www.usshouston.net). I spoke to David Flynn a month or two before he died, and exchanged once or twice before. Regarding your information about **RM3C Boucher**: WIA-2/4/42-Transferred in Tjilatjap, Java to USS *Tulsa*, then to USS *Isabelle*, 5/8/85, Unknown Lung Cancer... Dad joined *Houston* in 1940 after working out a personnel trade with his ship, USS *Arizona*. USN recruiters promised dad, Mr. Flynn and a third friend whose name I don't recall, that they would serve together on the same ship; they went to different ships, and tried to reunite. Dad was not wounded Feb. 4, 1942. He was aboard *Houston* until after the Battle of Java Sea. It was then that dad and (USS *Houston* survivor) **David Flynn** were sent ashore with a burial detail, and according to Mr. Flynn, dad, being a radioman, was ordered to set up some communications system. When *Houston* was ordered out of Tanjong Piork, Mr. Flynn made it aboard but dad literally missed the boat just hours before she was sunk at Sunda Strait. What happened next to dad Mr. Flynn did not recall but dad's USN personnel book shows he was taken aboard USS *Tulsa*, and shortly thereafter, USS *Isabelle*, Dad spoke of *Isabelle*, upon which he served until the end of the war, but I don't remember him ever mentioning *Tulsa*, nor did Mr. Flynn. I, and dad's brothers, recall him only being aboard *Isabelle*. I do recall in his USN record book (my sister has it) that it was a very short time - days - *Tulsa* is listed. I recall dad describing the bombing attacks against *Isabelle* as they escaped to Australia. Dad is shown as KIA in the crew roster of Mr. Winslow's *The Ghost That Died At Sunda Strait*. I contacted Mr. Winslow about a month after he died and spoke to his daughter. Mr. Flynn corrected the record on a website - perhaps this one. Mr. Flynn told me that he believed the reason dad was shown KIA is that ship's log was prepared the first of the month, *Houston* sank Feb. 28/March 1, and the confusion of the time did not correct the records available to Mr. Winslow. That makes sense as I have the Western Union telegrams to my grandparents, chronologically: 1. from the War Dept. that dad was MIA; 2. from dad that he was alive and well in Australia; 3. from the War Dept. that dad was dead; 4. from dad that he was not dead.... Dad's book shows he was in the hospital in 1943. Vaguely recall appendicitis.... Dad did die of lung cancer. The date was August 5, 1985, not May 8, as on the site. He died in Paducah, KY... If you have questions, please contact me."

- 5/31/2022: Received the following email: “**Joyce Ogle** received word earlier this morning about the death of the **Wise County Museum Executive Director Rosalie Gregg** and former John B Denton Chapter Regent. She passed away this morning after spending nearly a week in the hospital with a heart issue.”
- 6/15/2022: Received the following email from **Vic Campbell**: “I regret to note -- the DVD series on *USS Houston* and Java Sea. Perhaps your webmaster can remove the FOR SALE buttons from the website. I hope to find a free site to host the streaming versions for future generations... I hope the Next Generation is doing well. We are enjoying retirement and most of the efforts made with interviews and veterans have been archived. ...What an honor it was to have some time with the *USS Houston* Family. The experience changed much of the course of my life for years of additional veteran interviews that enriched my understanding of our GREATEST GENERATION...I will NEVER forget the *USS Houston* and Asiatic Fleet survivors... who honored their dead by bringing their legacy forward. God Bless. Vic Campbell.”



A new book by the author of *Ship of Ghosts*, the late James D. Hornfischer, which has just been published and is available now at bookstores, Amazon.com, etc. Written shortly before Jim’s recent, untimely death, the new book is entitled: *Who Can Hold the Sea: The U.S. Navy in the Cold War 1945-1960*. “*Who Can Hold the Sea* is a wonderful standalone book that takes us through Korea, submarine and missile development, and geopolitics from the Truman Doctrine through the Eisenhower administration,” wrote Jim’s friend and fellow author Brent E. Jones in an email recently. (Brent was keynote speaker at our 2022 “Day of Remembrance” this past March). For more information about this new book, go to:

https://smile.amazon.com/Who-Can-Hold-Sea-1945-1960/dp/0399178643/ref=sr_1_1?crid=13UPTD0Z799XE&keywords=who+can+hold+the+sea&qid=1651330770&s=books&prefix=%2Cstripbooks%2C120&sr=1-1

Updates From Here and There

5/9/2022: Received the following email report from NG **Jo Klenk**: "I thought y'all would be interested in knowing that my cousin's son (so I believe that makes him my first cousin once removed!) has just been promoted to Rear Admiral. Here is some additional info: '**US Navy Chaplain Carey Cash** was promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral (RDML – one star). RDML Carey Cash will be the US Navy's Deputy Chief of Chaplains and the Deputy Chief of Chaplains over the US Marine Corps. His father, CAPT Roy Cash, USN (retired) had the honor of performing the promotion ceremony. His sister, Kellye Cash Sheppard (Miss America 1987) sang the National Anthem and his Mother, Billie Cash, read Psalm 89:15-18 and prayed." (See photo on page 20).

5/10/2022: Internal Scholarship recipient NG **Brooke Chambliss** reported the following: "To the USS *Houston* Survivors Association, I have just finished up my first year of college and I wanted to say thank you all for awarding me the USS *Houston* Survivors' Scholarship for the past 2021-22 school year. I have had an excellent time at Georgia Tech studying Biomedical Engineering with a bright future ahead thanks to support from you all. Your organization is something truly special by turning a tragic event like the sinking of the USS *Houston* into a vibrant and collaborative community that supports the next generation of college students and future storytellers. I hope you all have a wonderful rest of the year and thank you again from the bottom of my heart. I appreciate everything you have done for me. Sincerely, Brooke Chambliss."

June 26, 2022: Filmmaker **Theresa Loong** wrote in an email to John Schwarz: "My dad, **Dr. Paul Loong, MD** (who was the subject of Theresa's documentary film, "Every Day is a Holiday") passed away in March of 2018. I don't know if we sent you that news - it was such a difficult time, and then with the pandemic, the past few years have been a blur... We miss my dad very much. I'm sure you understand. As you know, your dad [Otto Schwarz] and mine kept in touch and my dad spoke so highly of your father. We visited your dad's grave at Arlington a number of years ago.... I appreciate the opportunity you extended to show "Every Day Is a Holiday" at the reunion a few years ago. Wow, where has the time gone? Thank you for [your] kind note and for taking the time to watch the film again. Since the [2013 Reunion] screening in Houston, "Every Day Is a Holiday" showed on public television and at places like the National Gallery of Art, the Asia Society in Hong Kong, and last year at the Spurlock Museum at the University of Illinois. I'm hoping to introduce the film to more audiences, including at the VA, and to create a companion book... I'm interested in continuing the conversation of a visit with the Association again... Here's the obituary from The Star-Ledger for my dad:"

<https://obits.nj.com/us/obituaries/starledger/name/paul-loong-obituary?id=11467777>

"I still have DVDs of 'Every Day Is a Holiday' and would be happy to mail copies to Association members free of charge to share with schools and community organizations. Best, Theresa."

[NOTE: Email contact@usshouston.org if you would like a DVD copy of "Every Day is a Holiday." – Editor]

"Every Day Is a Holiday" tells the inspirational story of how Paul Loong, survived a POW camp in Japan and set out on an unlikely journey to become a citizen of the country that liberated him: the United States." About making the film, Theresa writes that "It's been a labor of love. I would like to continue to spread the word about the Allied POW experiences in the Pacific during WWII."

NG Paul A. Papish Honored at the Naval Academy

Background: USS *Houston* CA-30 survivor Paul E. Papish came home from WWII, married Theresa Jersin and raised two children. The elder child is our Association's long contributing President Sue Kreutzer, and the younger was son Paul A. Papish. Paul A. went on to receive a Presidential appointment to the U.S. Naval Academy due to his father's service to our country. Paul A. successfully completed four years at the U.S. Naval Academy, graduating in 1975 as an Ensign in our U.S. Navy—truly a proud moment for Paul's Dad and family. While at the Academy Paul A. was a well-known and very much liked individual who stood out. He was a gifted vocalist in the Naval Academy choir and Glee Club, often participating in Sunday Chapel services. He was also an accomplished keyboard/organist well known for those skills. Upon graduating from the Naval Academy with his fellow class of 1975, he went on to serve and rise to the rank of LT(jg). Unfortunately, Paul A.'s life was cut short and he passed in 1990, at age 37. His 24-man company unit remained in contact through the years and was determined to honor all their deceased classmates—which brings us to account of the wonderful honoring that occurred at the USNA Chapel on July 10, 2022:



Paul A. Papish

As Paul A. had made such a mark musically while enrolled at the Naval Academy, both as a choir vocalist and musician, his classmates felt some sort of honoring connected to music would blend well with his remembrance. Resident Academy organist Mr. Monte Maxwell came to the rescue, and after discussions with a class coordinator, Jim Ochenkoski, and Paul A.'s sister Sue Kreutzer, it was decided that an upgrade to the Chapel organ would be fitting. And fitting it is, as it now provides a way to honor Paul's legacy every time this fabulous organ fills that chapel with the rich, inspiring, and now more tone-filled sound of ethereal strings.

On July 10, 2022, the upgrade donated by Paul A.'s mates was demonstrated by organist Monte Maxwell



USNA 1975 24TH COMPANY

HONOR AND REMEMBER

PAUL PAPISH '75

USNA CHAPEL ORGAN UPGRADE DEMONSTRATION BY MONTE MAXWELL
10 JULY 2022

to Paul's sister Sue and eight of the classmates of 1975 who gathered together at Annapolis. Mr. Maxwell performed for over an hour, demonstrating the sound enhancement, as well as playing several inspiring tunes, making it fully clear how the sound has been enriched. Paul's legacy now sounds forth each time the organ is played. Paul A's classmates then went on to offer additional tokens of remembrance to Sue, including a beautiful company picture which was signed by those in attendance. The gathering was a truly remarkable tribute to a cherished but not forgotten serviceman. It was so touching to all who were fortunate to be there on this glorious day in Annapolis, MD. —Sue Kreutzer & John K. Schwarz

Meet your...

Board of Managers

...here to serve you!*



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Son of USN survivor Otto Schwarz and Trudy Schwarz
Association strategy/outreach, Special Projects,
Scholarship Committee, Merchandise
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President: Sue Kreutzer
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* The Board of Managers is available to members for questions, concerns, input, or to clarify any matter regarding the Association via email (to contact@usshouston.org), phone, or regular mail.

Membership

Our Association continues to grow as more folks reach us—through such avenues as our websites—and want to know more about the *Houston*, or just simply seek to contribute to the perpetuation of the memory of this gallant warship. To those interested in taking it further and joining our Association: go to www.usshouston.org, click on the “news tab,” scroll to the bottom and review the Association’s bylaws, then click on the link to membership form (<http://www.usshouston.org/memberform.pdf>). After filling out the form, send it in as directed on the form. Our Association is funded through voluntary donations rather than mandatory annual dues. To make a donation, please refer to page one of this newsletter, or review the instructions on the “news tab” of our website.

Association Communication Channels

- Association information, including current and archived newsletter editions, is available at the Association's official website: www.usshouston.org.
- All email correspondence for the Association is directed through: contact@usshouston.org
- The Association’s regular mailing address and phone number is listed on the first page of each issue of the *Blue Bonnet* newsletter.
- Our Association's only social media presence is on Facebook at: **USS Houston CA-30**.



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

Thank you...!

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

Donations

March 13, 2022—July 13, 2022

In memory of Eugene Crispi
Don and Pam Moura

Other Donations

Blane Amphor
Dana Charles
Richard Gans
Bernice Harapat
Earl Hooper
John K. Schwarz

Amazon Smile Donations Received YTD - \$67.04

Financial Report

by Pam Moura, Treasurer

January 1 – July 13, 2022

General Fund

Beginning Balance	\$27,589.25
Receipts:	+8,531.39
Expenses:	<u>-6,150.47</u>
Ending Balance:	\$29,970.17

*



Scholarship Fund

Beginning Baance:	\$21,202.55
Receipts:	+3,001.15
Expenses:	<u>-0.00</u>
Ending Balance:	\$24,203.70



Published by:

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors' Association and Next Generations® (April, August, December)

Editor: Dana Charles

Proofreaders: Pam Moura, John Schwarz, Sue Kreutzer,
Bernice Harapat, Marlene McCain.

Distribution: Dana Charles, Pam Moura

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All articles submitted are subject to editing.

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



Recently, Carey Cash (Left) was officially promoted to Rear Admiral in a ceremony presided over by his father CAPT Roy Cash, USN (retired). RDML Cash will be the U.S. Navy's Deputy Chief of Chaplains and the Deputy Chief of Chaplains over the U.S. Marine Corps.