

Now Hear This!

Association Address:

c/o John K. Schwarz,
Executive Director
2400 Clarendon Blvd., Apt. 211
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703-867-0142

Address for Tax Deductible

Contributions:

USS Houston CA-30
Survivors' Association
c/o Pam Moura, Treasurer
2065 Sutter View Lane,
Lincoln, CA 95648
(Please specify which fund:
General or Scholarship)

Association Email Contact:

contact@usshouston.org

Association Founded 1947

By Otto and Trudy Schwarz

USS Houston (CA-30), HMAS Perth (D-29) Remembered in Houston



(Left to Right): Donna Mae Flynn, widow of USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor David Flynn; Daniel Swick, grandson of USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor John Reilly; and Teresa Reilly, widow of USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor John Reilly at the 2023 USS *Houston* (CA-30) annual Memorial Service in Houston, Texas on 4 March 2023. (Photo by Shawn Flynn)

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Day of Remembrance 2023

By Dana Charles

On 3-4 March 2023, clear and beautiful sunny skies greeted our Association members, families, friends, and representatives of the WWII American-British-Dutch-Australian (ABDA) Command during the 2023 "Day of Remembrance" (DOR) weekend in Houston, Texas. The weekend marked the 81st anniversary of the WWII loss of USS *Houston* (CA-30) and HMAS *Perth* (D-29) at the 28 February-1 March 1942 Battle of Sunda Strait.

(Continued on next page)

On Thursday afternoon, 2 March, the day before the weekend officially began, the Association's board of managers: **Sue Kreutzer**, **Dana Charles** (with his wife, **Kathleen**), **Pam Moura**, **Bernice Harapat** and **John K. Schwarz** were invited to visit the new *USS Houston* (CA-30) display at the Consulate of Indonesia in Houston. The beautiful display features a model of the *Houston* as well as several large, framed pictures of the ship.

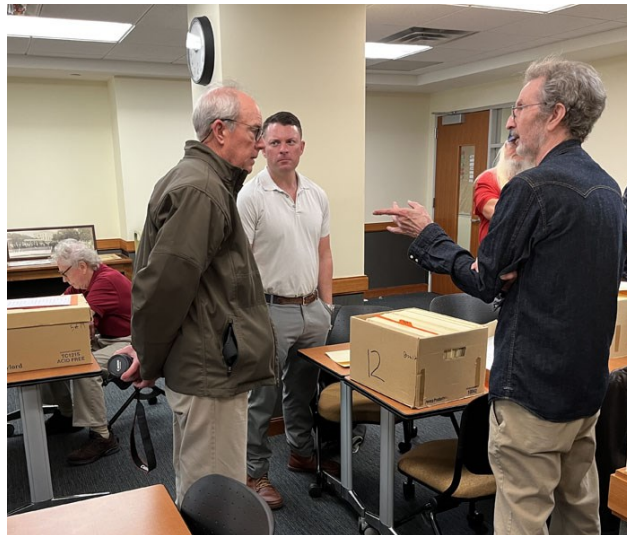
We sincerely appreciate the cordial relationship we have with **the Honorable Andre Omer Siregar**, Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia, Houston and his staff, and we thank our hosts on 2 March 2023: **Hadyan Tamimi**, Vice Consul for Information and Social Culture Affairs, Consulate General of the Republic of

Indonesia; **Oktorian S. Hakim**, Consul for Information and Social Culture Affairs, Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia; **Muhamad Alamsyah**, Staff of Information and Social Culture Affairs, Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia; and **Budiardjo Waluyo**, Staff of Information and Social Culture Affairs, Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia for their warm hospitality during our visit.



At the *USS Houston* (CA-30) display at the Consulate of the Republic of Indonesia in Houston, Texas on 2 March 2023 (Left to Right): Oktorian S. Hakim; Sue Kreutzer; John K. Schwarz; Dana Charles; Kathleen Charles; and Hadyan Tamimi. (Photo by Muhamad Alamsyah)

On Friday, 3 March, a bus, generously provided by the Harris County Precinct Four Transportation Department, brought most DOR attendees to the M.D. Anderson Library at the University of Houston where the library's **Christian D. Kelleher** and his staff welcomed us to the "Cruiser *Houston* Collection." For only the second time ever, we were invited inside the Cruiser *Houston* Collection's "back room" to peruse the collection's holdings, including original *USS Houston*-related documents and photos which were placed on display for us to view. (Photo below left by Shawn Flynn. Photo below right by Dana Charles).





The Association's Executive Director **John K. Schwarz** kicked off the Friday night banquet program with the annual year-end report and his introduction of our Association's 2023 USS *Houston* CA-30 Scholarship Award recipient, **Michelle Reilly**, granddaughter of USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivor John Reilly, USN. Michelle (at left) read aloud her excellent essay, which was well received by all.

Blair Atcheson, (at right) Program Analyst with the Naval History and Heritage Command's (NHHC) Underwater Archeology Branch, Washington, D.C. presented an interesting overview of the NHHC and some preliminary plans for a new US Navy Museum to be built next to the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C.; **RADM Samuel Cox, USN (retired)**, Director of the NHHC remarked that the 14-foot-long shipbuilder's model of USS *Houston* (CA-30) definitely will be on display at the new museum, which is great news!



Anthony Tully, (at left) co-author of Shattered Sword: The True Story of Midway, then spoke about the Pacific War and USS *Houston*'s contribution to the war effort.

The books, documents, photos, maps, and other USS *Houston* (CA-30)-related materials on display in the Association's hospitality room at the hotel were as popular as always.

On Saturday morning, 4 March, our breakfast gathering featured an interesting Power Point presentation by our Association's historian **Don M. Kehn, Jr.** (at right), author of In the Highest Degree Tragic and Blue Sea of Blood.

At 12:30 p.m., a bus departed the hotel for the annual USS *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Service at the site of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument in Sam Houston Park in downtown Houston.



The Association's historian Don M. Kehn, Jr. presenting his Power Point show "Ghosts on an Old Battlewagon" during the morning breakfast gathering on 4 March 2023. (Photos by Dana Charles)



The 28th Annual USS *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Service was held on 4 March 2023 at the site of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument in Sam Houston Park in the City of Houston. John K. Schwarz (at the podium), Executive Director, USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors' Association and Next Generations®, served as Master of Ceremonies. (Photo by Shawn Flynn)

The 28th Annual USS Houston (CA-30) Memorial Service



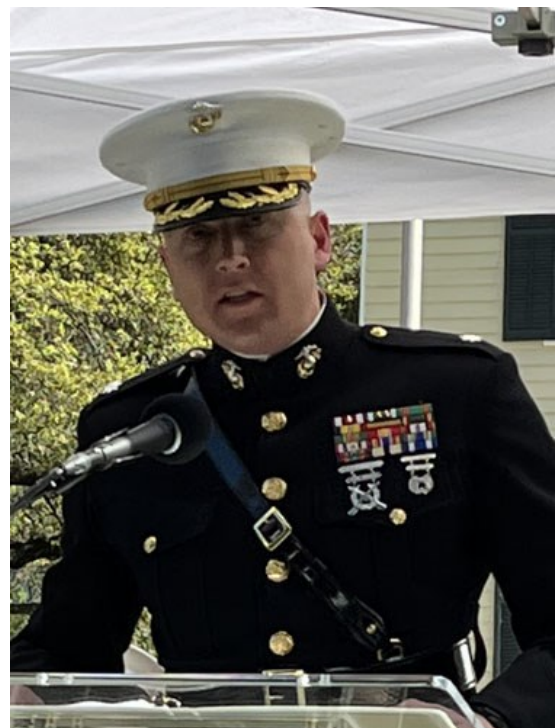
On Saturday afternoon, 4 March, at 1:30 p.m., the Association's executive director **John K. Schwarz** again served this year as MC during the 28th annual Memorial Service which, since 1995, has been held at the site of the USS *Houston* (CA-30) Monument in Houston. The Invocation and Benediction were provided by **Commander Jim Sterling, USN (Retired)**. A Sea Cadet led us in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

A welcome by the City of Houston was provided by **Robert Dembo III**, (at left) Director of Veterans Affairs, Mayor's Office.

The excellent speakers representing the WWII ABDA Command included: **Commander Chris Emonson, RAN, Assistant Naval Attaché, Embassy of Australia, Washington, D.C.** (1st on the left) who represented Australia. Representing Britain: **Commander Derek Powles, CEng CMarEng MIMechE, Royal Navy, Assistant Naval Attaché, British Embassy, Washington, D.C.** (1st on the right); Representing the Kingdom of the Netherlands: **Commander Stefan Luteijn, Royal Netherlands Navy, Naval attaché, Assistant Defence Cooperation Attaché, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Washington, D.C.** (3rd from the left); Representing the United States: **Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox, USN (retired), Curator of the Navy and Director of the History and Heritage Command** (2nd from the left), and **Lieutenant Colonel Russell Fluker, U.S. Marine Corps.** (Below, right).



Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox, USN (Retired)



Lieutenant Colonel Russell Fluker, USMC

(Photos by Dana Charles)



Representing the Republic of Indonesia: **the Honorable Andre Omar Siregar**, Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia, Houston, Texas (at left, photo by Shawn Flynn). The Association's vice president **Dana Charles** recited the lyrics to "The Navy Hymn." **The McLemore Detachment, Marine Corps League** provided the Rifle Salute. Echo Taps was beautifully provided by **The Community Band of Southeast Texas**. **Matt Rejmaniak** led us in singing the National Anthem and "God Bless America," accompanied by **The Community Band of Southeast Texas**.

We greatly appreciate all those who laid wreaths at the base of the Monument during the wreath-laying ceremony, including:

Donna Mae Flynn and **Theresa Reilly**; **Scott Ingram** and **Jerry Ranger** (at right, photo by Shawn Flynn), representing the Next Generations; **Benson Saulo**, Consul General of Australia in Houston; **Melissa Hutchings**, Assistant Consul-General of Australia in Houston; **Hadyan Tamimi**, Vice Consul for Information and Social Culture Affairs, Consulate General of the Republic of Indonesia, Houston; and **the Honorable Andre Omer Siregar**, Consul-General of the Republic of Indonesia, Houston; **Aura Cuellar**, Honorary Consul, Consulate of the



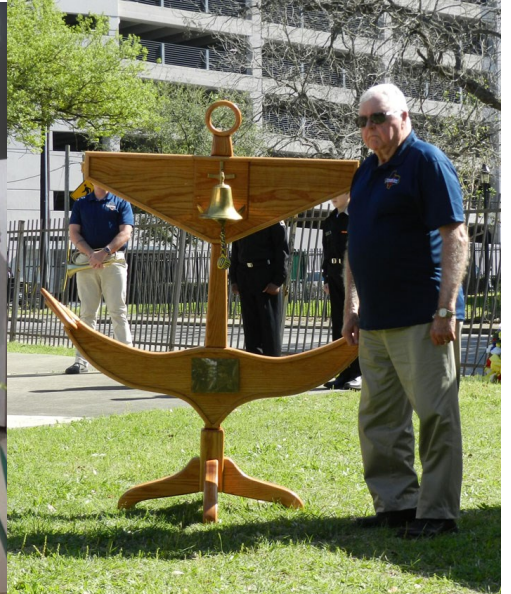
Netherlands in Houston; all aforementioned representatives of ABDA; **Robert Dembo III** of the City of Houston; **Steven K. Howell**, Officers Commander, the Naval Order of the U.S., Texas Commandery; **Steve Cutrer** of the U.S. Marine Corps Coordinating Council; **Scott Mosely** of the McLemore Detachment, Marine Corps League; and **Paul Habelko**, Board Vice President of the Australian-American Chamber of Commerce. We also wish to thank the wonderful **Gideon family** for providing refreshments, and the City of Houston and The Heritage Society for their gracious support for the annual USS *Houston* (CA-30) Memorial Service.

At 7:00 p.m. on Saturday, 4 March, DOR attendees gathered for dinner back at our hotel's "USS *Houston* (CA-30) meeting room." The evening's program featured a video made during the 1980's in which several USS *Houston* (CA-30) Survivors from the San Diego, CA area were interviewed, including: **Carl Gunerson, USN**; **Lloyd Willey, USMC**; **Hampton Cray, USMC**; **James Ballew, USN**; **Tommy Payne, USN**; **Slug Wright, Lost Battalion**; **Hank Allen, USN**; **Leon Rogers, USN**; and **Jack Smith, USN**. Many thanks to all who attended and/or participated in DOR 2023! We have already begun planning for the 2024 Day of Remembrance gathering to be held in Houston on **1-2 March 2024**. Save the dates!



DOR 2023 SNAPSHOTS





2023 Overseas Commemorations



The Hague



Surabaya, Indonesia

“Two days ago (27 February 2023), about 100 were in attendance at the annual commemoration of the Battle in the Java Sea, held in **the Kloosterkerk in The Hague**. Amongst the attendants was the U.S. Naval Attaché. A central theme was the need for international cooperation, and in particular cooperation between countries that believe in rule of law, individual liberties and democratic values. That is what the sailors of the Combined Striking Fleet were fighting for. And today, with a war raging in Europe, it is important to explain that in 1942 those sailors paid the highest price. We should not allow their sacrifice to go to waste.

At the same time, a wreath was laid in **Kembang Koening, a war cemetery near Surabaya in Indonesia**, where a monument was erected for the Battle in the Java Sea. I have attached two pictures of the wreath laying in The Hague and Surabaya (above). In The Hague, the wreath laying was conducted by **Mr. Henk Kleijn** and **Mr. Johan Geneuglijk**. The latter was part of the crew of HNLMS *Witte de With* and as such part of the battle in the Java Sea. On behalf of the Karel Doorman Fund, we wish you and all attendants in Houston, a worthy and valuable commemoration.” — **Ben Bekkering, Vice-admiral (retired), RNN**, Chairman, Karel Doorman Fund.



(At left): The crew of HMAS *Perth* III pauses in the Sunda Strait on 28 February 2023 to remember and honor the crews of HMAS *Perth* I and USS *Houston* (CA-30), which were sunk nearby during the 1 March 1942 Battle of Sunda Strait. (At right): Pete Johnston, OAM, President of the HMAS *Perth* Association, Victoria, Australia, speaks during the annual HMAS *Perth* (D-29) and USS *Houston* (CA-30) commemoration ceremony at the Shrine of Remembrance, Melbourne, Australia.

ROYAL AUSTRALIAN NAVY

HMAS Perth

01/09/01

PER/OUT/2023/039

John K. Schwarz

USS Houston CA-30 Survivors Association
2400 Clarendon Blvd, Apt. 211
ARLINGTON VA 22201
United States of America

Dear Mr. Schwarz,

I am writing to inform you of the privilege HMAS *Perth* III recently experienced in honouring the men of HMAS *Perth* I and USS *Houston*. As we transited the Sunda Strait on the 28th February 2023, Ship's company conducted a Memorial Service, paying homage to those lost in battle and to those taken prisoner by Japanese forces.

Gathering on the Flight Deck, the crew were recounted with the story of courage and sacrifice of the men of *Perth* I and *Houston*, and their gallant fight in the face of overwhelming odds. War diary entries of poetry were read to assist the crew in their understanding of the impact upon those who became Japanese Prisoners of War. Ship's company received a bowl of rice wrapped in a banana leaf as a reminder of the harsh conditions that were endured by the prisoners.

I have included with this letter the Historical Synopsis read at the occasion, the Order of Service, and a few photos of the event. I hope that in this media you witness our pride in honouring those who have gone before us.

Yours Sincerely,

Tony Nagle, CSC
Commander, RAN
Commanding Officer
HMAS Perth III

'Fight and Flourish'

23Mar23



From the desk of the Executive Director
John K. Schwarz

The day of our memorial service remains my **favorite** day of the year. This year, on 4 March 2023, at the USS *Houston* (CA-30) monument—on what was a spectacular day weather-wise—all the pieces needed to conduct the service came together in what resulted in a wonderful commemoration. After all the hard work that went into it, the service was a joy to watch unfold. As I think about whom we honor; and I think about the program that was laid out for us by those who preceded us; and I think about the dedicated group whose efforts turned an idea for a beautiful USS *Houston* (CA-30) monument into a reality, I am grateful to **all** whose efforts since 1995 have made this day **so** special.

As my thoughts turn to the City of Houston, I am grateful for the services the city provides, including a permit to conduct our service on City grounds, two tents, a sound system, and an operator. I am also grateful for the band, our lead vocalist, the chaplain, the Sea Cadets, all the guest speakers, the Marine rifle salute team, and the generous refreshments! What a display of patriotism by a community—we thank them so very much! The service would simply not be the same without these dedicated people who contribute their support annually. We also offer our thanks and appreciation to all who contribute to this respectful honoring by traveling to the monument from near and far to attend and support our Memorial Service. Thank you all!

- Our open, ongoing lines of communication remain most important for our Association. As a reminder, please update us if/when any change occurs to either your email and/or your street address.
- The USS *Houston* (CA-30) (Internal) Scholarship application window opens **June 1** and extends to **November 1, 2023**. Applicants and coaches of potential applicants are reminded and advised to not wait until the last minute to prepare to compete for this monetary award scholarship. Information concerning the program is available at our Association's website: www.usshouston.org.
- Check out our available merchandise in this Blue Bonnet issue as it reflects great quality items of apparel and commemoration.

Best of health and happiness to everyone!

John K. Schwarz



Photo: AUSTIN JACKSON/WCMESSENGER

DISASTER IN DECATUR

By Dana Charles

At approximately 6:00 a.m. on Saturday, 18 March 2023, Lost Battalion Association's Terry Shields sent out the following email regarding a terrible disaster unfolding in Decatur, Texas: "Sadly this email is to let everyone know that I received one of those early a. m. calls you do not want. This time it was Kerry Clower telling me the Wise County Museum was on fire and is expected to be a total loss. As Kerry was, I'm also at a total loss for words and my heart breaks, not only for all of the Lost Battalion history that was lost, but for all the history of Wise County that was in the museum...."

According to The Fire Department officials, the fire started in the 130-year-old building at approximately 1:00 a.m. on 18 March 2023. Despite the efforts of some 50 fire fighters, the blaze completely destroyed the museum, including the "Lost Battalion Room."



Kerry Clower, the museum director, said most of the museum's artifacts were uninsured "because we had no valuation on so many things that were priceless. But we do have insurance on our structure and our business equipment inside." The cause of the fire is under investigation. (See Press Release on the next page).

At left: The Lost Battalion Room contained arguably the largest collection in the world of artifacts, documents, photos, and newspaper clippings related to the 131st Field Artillery 2nd Battalion and survivors of USS *Houston* (CA-30), who were POWs of the Japanese together during WWII for 42 months. (This photo by Dana Charles was taken in 2016).



Decatur Fire Department **Press Release – Structure Fire**

For Immediate Release
Saturday, March 18, 2023, 4am

Engine 115, Squad 115, Chiefs 115, 215, and 315 responded to the report of a structure fire on the south side of the city (1600 South Trinity Street) around 1am on Saturday, March 18th 2023. The “Wise County Heritage Museum” area.

First arriving fire apparatus reported a three story heavy timber building with smoke coming from one side. Units quickly forced entry and took hand lines to the first then second floor. A Fire Captain on the second floor reported heavy heat and smoke conditions with visibility nearing zero.

As additional arriving fire units stretched hand and supply lines in support of suppression the fire conditions changed rapidly. The aggressive change in fire and smoke forced numerous fire crews from the second floor to the first then immediately out the front door. Heavy fire and smoke conditions ravaged the historical stone building for the next two hours as mutual aid aerial units were called to tamp the flames.

The fire ultimately destroyed the three story building which was built and first occupied in the spring of 1893. More information on the museum can be found here: <https://www.wisehistory.com/>. The nearby City of Decatur Police and Development Services buildings sustained smoke/odor damage. Public works staff were called in to monitor water supply for the city.

Decatur Fire Marshal Office in partnership with the Wise County Fire Marshal and the Tarrant County Arson Task Force will be assisting in the investigation. The cause of the fire has yet to be determined. There were no occupants on scene and no injuries reported by first responders.

Decatur Police Department officers assisted with crowd and traffic control along with identifying routes for large water hose lines and incoming fire apparatus.

Alvord, Boyd, Bridgeport, Denton, Haslet, Newark, Paradise, along with Decatur Police Department, Wise County Sheriff's Office, Wise County Fire Marshal, and Wise County EMS operated at the scene. Mutual Aid from neighboring fire departments was requested for backfill in the event additional calls rang out.

Please forward all requests for further information to the Decatur Fire Department.

Point of Contact: Deroy Bennett, Fire Chief
City of Decatur Fire Department
1705 South State, Decatur, Texas 76234
info@decaturfd.com | 940-393-0230 | www.decaturfd.com

Sylvia Banner, a member of our association's Facebook site recently posted this poem written in honor of USS *Houston* (CA-30) crewman **Charles L. Spencer, SEA1/c, USN** (below) who perished during the 1 March 1942 Battle of Sunda Strait. Sylvia wrote: "I am new to this site and would add that our family grieved for decades at the loss of our Uncle Charles L. Spencer. Our grandfather wrote this poem in memory of his son in 1942 when they had little knowledge of the battle other than he went down with the ship. I know it feels quite sentimental, but knowing how they suffered, it is from the heart." Many thanks to Sylvia Banner for granting us permission to publish the poem in this issue of the Blue Bonnet.



Memorial Day

By Willard Ernest Spencer, Sr.

Our flag is dipped to honor
Our noble dead and brave;
Throughout the nation, flowers
Are strewn upon their grave.

They fire salutes and beat the drums,
And march with muffled tread;
With faces grim yet saddened hearts,
Above their buddy's head.

We too, would honor those who died,
We too, would lay a wreath;
For a sailor lad who gave his life,
And lies the wave beneath.

The graves are strewn with flowers,
Yet none upon his grave;
For we know not where he's lying,
As he sleeps beneath the wave.

We have his medals, two, or three,
A purple heart beside;
But we know not where they laid him,
And know not where he died.

He sailed aboard the *Houston*,
Expendable was she;
They sank beneath the waters,
Deep in the Java Sea.

Though deep he lies and far away,
From flower studded land;
We know the Savior holds him,
In the hollow of His hand.

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

- 1/30/2023: Received the following email from **Jeff Laurich**: “Hello, I am writing to let you know that I think you are missing a crew member name on your crew list...I was born and raised in Northern Wisconsin in a small town called Goodman. My dad served in WWII in the Philippines. He came back from the war and lived a good life. He passed away in 1997. This is not about him. Two other men from Goodman (amongst many) served in WWII. These two served together on the USS Houston. In fact, they were next door neighbors. They were on it when it went down in 1942. The men are **James Dickie** and **George Sando**. James is on your list but George is not. I can provide you with more information, if you need it. I have a newspaper clipping from 1992 with their pictures and information about their service. It was the fiftieth anniversary of the sinking and the Goodman High School Alumni Association was recognizing them for their service... Thank you for your website and all of the information in it. I just finished reading The Last Battle Station by Duane Schultz. Amazing story. Keep up your important work. Sincerely, **Jeff Laurich**, Appleton, Wisconsin
- 1/30/2023: Replied to **Jeff Laurich** as follows: “Dear Mr. Laurich, Thank you for emailing us regarding James Dickie and George Sando. As you mentioned our records list USS *Houston* (CA-30) crewman **James Dickie, PTR2/c, USN** as having been killed in action on 1 March 1942 (during USS *Houston*’s final battle). Unfortunately, however, we have no information regarding **Mr. Sando**. We would truly appreciate it if you would scan and email the scan to us of that 1992 newspaper clipping, and any other information you may have...!
- 2/1/2023: **Sue Kreutzer** also replied via email to **Jeff Laurich** as follows: “Hi, Jeff, What I have found about Mr. Sando is very confusing. I would think the best thing would be for us to have a telephone conversation. Please call me.
- 2/5/2023: **Jeff Laurich** replied in an email as follows: “Sue, Thanks again for your research. My wife called her mother here in Goodman and talked to her about it. **George T. Sando** is actually **George T. Rocque**. The crew list that you have on your website is correct. George was never adopted but he was raised by the Sando family. He considered himself a Sando but when he enlisted, I am sure he had to use his real name. A few years ago, they created a monument for those killed in action that was placed at the cemetery. When they gathered the names for the monument, a member of the Rocque family clarified this and they used both names on the monument. As you mentioned, times were hard back then. In this area, if a family had more children than they could feed, sometimes another family would take one or two off their hands. That may have been the case with the Rocques and the Sandos. I will see if I can find out more about that. Nice talking to you. Keep up the important work you do.
- 2/9/2023: John Schwarz received the following email: “Hi John, Update on **Frank McGovern**. I have only just been informed that the sole survivor of *Perth 1*, Frank McGovern, experienced a bad fall a few days ago and is at present in the Eastern Suburbs Hospital, Sydney. In addition to lacerations to both his arms and legs, Frank also sustained a fractured neck. At 103 years of age, Frank’s recovery will be both delicate and slow. Cheers, **Colin Bancroft**.”
- 2/21/2023: Received the following email: “Dana, I saw this over the weekend. **Rear Admiral Samuel J. Cox, USN (retired)** and the NHHC are mentioned in the article.” —**Joe Kollmyer**.

<https://www.cnn.com/2023/02/18/us/albacore-world-war-two-submarine-japan-coast/index.html>

Wreaths Across America 2022

by John K. Schwarz



"Team Houston" 2022

December 17th, 2022, was not too cold nor too harsh of a day at Arlington National Cemetery where the 2022 "Team Houston," along with the many thousands of volunteers, braved the elements to place wreaths at each gravesite of our cherished American heroes laying at rest in this wonderful cemetery.



The 2022 "Team Houston" consisted of (L to R): Peter Bota, Marta Bota, Rayna Lester, Anna Cato, Alexa Cato, Irini Tsapos (USN HM3 retired), Rick Bernstein, Eli Bernstein, and John K. Schwarz.

The Team traditionally begins its effort each year at McLellan Drive where we place a wreath at the USS *Houston* CA-30/HMAS *Perth* (D-29) marker just inside of the drive's "arch." Since that "arch" is the gateway to Section 12 of the cemetery, that section quickly became fully populated with wreaths on 17 December. Section 12 includes the gravesites of the following USS *Houston* CA-30 survivors/spouses:

Joe and Isabelle Gans; Otto and Trudy Schwarz; John and Irma Stefanek; David Flynn; and William Batchelor.

Special thanks to Marta Bota for her coordination of "Team Houston" this year and past years. Marta utilizes her social media platforms to request volunteers, and as the group is usually limited to 10, this year she had twice that number interested in joining the team. As part of the effort, it normally culminates at the gravesite of Marta's parents both buried in Arlington National due to Mr. Gallo's service in the U.S. Army. Marta and you are very much appreciated by all the rest of us who participated. Job Well Done!

Thailand - Burma Railway Centre

Tax No.
0715545000201



T.B.R.C. Co., Ltd. (Head Office)
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บริษัท ที บี อาร์ ซี จำกัด (สำนักงาน

73 Jaokunnen Road, Ban Nua

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KANCHANABURI 71000

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Thailand

จังหวัดกาญจนบุรี 71000

1st March 2023

Update from Thailand-Burma Railway Centre (TBRC) following impact of Covid-19

As previously reported, TBRC, like many others in the world, was substantially impacted by serious repercussions brought on by the reactions of various Governments of the world to the Covid-19 pandemic. It's probably fair to say the world, as we knew it, was brought to its knees.

During 2021 as Covid continued to extend way beyond any previously imagined time-frame and TBRC's future was looking uncertain, there were some very proactive steps taken by a number of good friends/supporters around the world, who understand and strongly support the valuable research work TBRC has done for 20 years and continues to do for the benefit of PoW related families. Their wonderful initiatives rallied support for funding assistance which progressively gathered momentum to include all similarly devoted organisations in the UK, The Netherlands, Australia, U.S.A., and a number of individuals also got behind the cause. With much of the world re-opening to international travel progressively from mid-2022, it is time to give an UPDATE to our wonderful friends and supporters on how we are progressing.

With this greatly valued assistance when we needed it most, we are pleased and proud to say we have managed to keep our experienced and dedicated Team allowing us to respond very quickly to the recovery of international travel as it continues to gain momentum. Recovery has been quicker than we might have hoped and we are now back to around 75 to 80% of our visitor level prior to the world shut-down in early 2020. We are back in full swing!!!

On behalf of our TBRC Team we would like to offer our sincere and heartfelt "THANK YOU" to all who have helped us survive these unprecedented times and it's very IMPORTANT TO ADD that we have not only survived to continue our valuable work but our Team have worked tirelessly on extensive recording and research projects during the enforced "quiet times" that has seen our records grow substantially over the last couple of years – projects that we may never have had the time to complete.

So we are better equipped than ever at helping PoW related families and, while ongoing donations to assist with our research costs will always be very welcome and put to very good use, we look forward with great optimism to what we hope will be a complete recovery by 2024 and especially to continuing our work for future generations. **THANK YOU!!**

Terry Manttan

General Manager

Now See This!

USS Houston (CA-30) Merchandise!

Wear with pride!

Email johnk.schwarz@yahoo.com if you desire to place an order.

- USS Houston (CA-30) Challenge Coins – (\$10.00 ea.)
- USS Houston (CA-30) Hats – (\$25.00 ea.)
- USS Houston (CA-30) Large Men's Polos – (\$28.00 ea.) (2) in Navy Blue; (2) in Black; (1) in Red; (1) in Light Green; and (1) in Royal Blue.
- (1) Navy Blue USS Houston (CA-30) Woman's Large Embroidered Fleece Jacket— \$45.00
- (1) Navy Blue USS Houston (CA-30) Woman's X-Large Embroidered Fleece Jacket— \$45.00

Visit our website's 'Ship's Store' at www.usshouston.org/shipsstore.html and see all of the USS Houston CA-30 items!

(All Items Plus Shipping)

USS Houston CA-30 Challenge Coin



Front

Back



USS Houston CA-30 Hats



USS Houston CA-30 Men's Polo Shirts



USS Houston CA-30
Women's Fleece Jackets

Meet your...

Board of Managers

...here to serve you!*



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



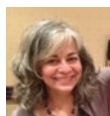
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Daughter of USN survivor Paul Papish
Webmaster, archives, membership,
Scholarship Committee
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Special Projects, Scholarship Committee
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* The Board 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

Donations

November 14, 2022 — March 25, 2023

In Memory of Eugene Crispi

Donna Mae Flynn

In Memory of David Flynn

Donna Mae Flynn

In Memory of Ray Goodson

Scott Ingram

In Memory of Bill Ingram, Jr.

Scott Ingram

In Memory of John Reilly

Donna Mae Flynn

In Memory of Trudy Schwarz

Donna Mae Flynn

Other Donations

Richard Bain

Sylvia Brooks

Bernice Harapat

Tim & Jo Klenk

Joe & Melissa Kollmyer

Scott Marshall

Michael & Jo Marie Reilly

Linda Robinson

Linda and Charles Swick

Eunell Weissinger

Financial Report

January 1 – March 25, 2023

General Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$30,828.73
Receipts:	+7,373.50
Expenses:	<u>-5,031.69</u>
Ending Balance:	\$33,170.54

Amazon Smile Donations Received YTD: \$38.70
(Amazon recently cancelled this program).



Scholarship Fund

Beginning Balance:	\$24,406.31
Receipts:	+2,489.56
Expenses:	<u>-3,000.00</u>
Ending Balance:	\$23,895.87



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Distribution: *Dana Charles, Pam Moura.*

Articles or information may be sent to:

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.



(L to R): Aura Cuellar, Honorary Consul, Consulate of the Netherlands in Houston and Commander Stefan Luteijn, Royal Netherlands Navy, Naval attaché, Assistant Defence Cooperation Attaché, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Washington, D.C. at the 4 March 2023 USS Houston CA-30 Annual Memorial Service in Houston, Texas. (Photo by Robert Blair).