



**USS HOUSTON CA-30 BLUE BONNET
“The Galloping Ghost of the Java Coast”**

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IN MEMORIAM RAY GOODSON May 11, 2006 Heart Failure

REUNIONS

LOST BATTALION/USS HOUSTON

August 17 – 20, 2006

Omni Hotel – Dallas Park West

1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75235

972 869-4300

Contact: Susan Ficklin 817 326-1132 Email: Susuficklin@msn.com

USS HOUSTON ASSOCIATION CA30-CL81

September 13 – 17, 2006

Sea Turtle Inn Jacksonville Beach, Florida

Contact Leitha Coates 904 285-8111 for further information

USS HOUSTON SURVIVORS ASSOCIATION

March 2-3, 2007

Doubletree- Allan Center

400 Dallas St, Houston, TX 77002

713 759-0202

Contact: Val Poss 512 989-0000

email: CA30NG@aol.com

SAD NEWS – AL (ELMO) KENNEDY’s wife, Ilene passed away March 9 after a very long illness. Trudy Schwarz faxed to let me know that Marie Feliz’s sister passed away. I don’t have any other information. We all send our love and prayers.

STAND BY AND LISTEN UP – I noticed a trend over the years that forced me to delete many names from the mailing list. You know the story so I won’t beat a dead horse. *However*, a new trend has caught my attention and I need to talk it over with the Houston family. Not an issue goes by that I don’t start receiving calls & emails asking questions that were answered in the last edition. I suspect it’s being browsed through and not read. I really want to encourage you to read it because it may have the answers to your questions. I want you to please get a favorite beverage, sit down, prop your feet up and take your time to read this. Thank you!

NOW HEAR THIS!

All *USS Houston* (CA-30) Survivors Association and Next Generation family:
Spread the Word! To all blood relations of the ship’s crew, descendants, those associated through marriage, or any known persons with a keen interest in the *USS Houston*....

The Scholarship Program is announced! Applications are accepted beginning June 1 with the deadline for submission extending to November 1. Applications and specific information about applying may be obtained anytime by writing a request to:

John Keith Schwarz
2500 Clarendon Blvd Apt 121
Arlington, VA 22201

Those eligible to apply include students entering the final year of high school with anticipation of going to college, as well as all college under-graduates up through the final year of study. Previous applicants and winners can re-apply.

Applicants are required to present grades & evidence of other personal attributes, and are also required to write an essay.

Please remember that donations are appreciated – It would be an extraordinarily loving act to donate in honor of or in memory of a loved one. Make your checks out to USS Houston Scholarship Fund & send %Susan Krug, 3031 Loop Rd, Stevenson, WA 98648.

DVD – We now have the 2 DVD set about the USS HOUSTON that our Vic Campbell. THE LAST STAND OF USS HOUSTON part 1 Death Becomes The Ghost & part 2 Death in the Jungle is available individually at \$18 or as a set for \$30. We have a limited number. After we run out you will need to order directly from Vic via our web site at www.usshouston.org. They are excellent. We urge you to find your local public access TV station (NOT Public TV) & either loan or give them a copy to air (both DVD’s). Please encourage them to send Vic a courtesy email when they air it (vic@nac.net)

NOTE – It has been suggested that all of the NG’s attending the next reunion bring a picture of themselves as a child along with a picture of their loved one to share.

SPEAKING OF THE MARCH REUNION – We've made some changes in the planning of events. One of the biggest changes is there will be a reception at the University of Houston on Friday (not Saturday & there will be no sit down dinner Saturday evening (brunch only). It seems in the last 2 years, the number of attendees has dropped drastically that evening. So much so that we took a beating on the cost this past March because we guessed too high (even though we figured lower than the year before) we'll still have a grand ole time though in a more relaxed surrounding. Mark your calendars for March 2-3, 2007. We've blocked off some rooms in case you want to arrive a day or so early.

BLUEBONNET'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY – “On the first of September 1934, the day before we transited the Panama Canal enroute New York, the first issue of the present Blue Bonnet was printed. Today's issue marks the first anniversary of our paper. Formerly there was a 'Blue Bonnet' printed during the HOUSTON'S tour of duty on the China Station. The first issue of the “Blue Bonnet' appeared 14th February, 1930 while the ship was enroute Guam to Manila. From then on a weekly edition was printed until the Ship's return to the States in the winter of '33 at which time, because of the transfer of the Printer and Editorial Staff, it died a natural death. During that period from the Ship's return to the States until the first issue of the present paper appeared, the Ship was with a our a news organ. The 'Blue Bonnet' owes its rebirth to the combined efforts of Commander Eldridge, Navigator Chaplain Salisbury; Lieut. Berkley, our first Editor; Kessler, quartermaster Straiker; and Botterel, navigator's yeoman. Since the first issue appeared, just a year ago, the paper has appeared weekly; and has grown from two papers to four. Its newest innovation is the use of Clipper Book stock and the use of halftone cuts.”

MAILING THE NEWSLETTER – I want to thank so many of you for sending me your email address. It certainly has helped save on printing, paper and postage of the newsletter. I'm sure there are more of you out there. Please email us at CA30NG@aol.com and provide YOUR email address. In the mean time, per our NG meeting, I deleted the non-participants.

DONATIONS – Our Tax ID # is 74-2814051. Remember – we're a non-profit organization and every donation counts! Thank you for those contributions to the kitty! Lee Robinson, George Duffy, Frank Macumber, Eunell Weissinger, John Schwarz, George Jones (twice), Bette Fowler, Mattie Atterberry, George Jones, Ella & LANSON HARRIS, John & Susan Kreutzer (cost of previous newsletter) & Trudy OTTO SCHWARZ.

MAILBAG – We hadn't heard from Mattie Atterberry in such a long time --- she sends her regards to one and all. Jerry Ranger reports that his mom Joyce still struggles with her health. They have moved her in with them (6478 Kennington Cir, Milton, FL 32570 Phone 850 623-5849). Trudy sends regular faxes giving updates with OTTO (SCHWARZ) in the VA nursing home. He's a trooper trying to adjust. The days are long & Trudy is there every other day. He has very little exercise & is weak. It's a constant fight with is prostate cancer, bladder, etc. If you would like to send a card the address is: Otto Schwarz, Section 2C Room 148-2, VA Medical Center, 151 Knollcroft Rd, Lyons, NJ 07939 (Phone 908 647-0180 ext 1+ 6840). RAY GOODSON moved into a nursing home but neither he nor the family was happy with the facility. His daughter Joanne Weigel reports they moved him to an assisted living center with a private room. He was diagnosed with dementia in mid April however his heart condition seems to be stable. Unfortunately, Ray died

soon after the move. BILL INGRAM calls often to keep me tuned into what's happening in Florida...it's always a pleasure to hear from him. He had eye surgery the same week Ray died but still made it to the funeral. BILL was gracious enough to send flowers from the organization. Susan Ficklin (lovingly called Capt. SuSu – she's retired Navy & daughter of 131st Frank Ficklin) came for a visit. We discussed responsibilities for the August reunion & she spent most of one day with Janis Thompson (daughter of the late Kyle Thompson 131st & past editor of the Lost Battalion newsletter) making arrangements & getting "how to" information to continue with the LB newsletter. We had a wonderful visit and entirely too short! Heads up – go to <http://lib-adv4.tamu.edu/cushing/collectn/military/layne/cover1.htm> to take a peek at the album GUTHRIE LAYNE sent home before he was KIA. There are a lot of pictures of the crew in there..... so young..... so handsome.... Although undated, it's circa the '40's. Bonnie Babcock, niece of THOMAS CLARK sent a copy of a petition from the American Legion Post #14 in Elberton, GA to change their name to TATE-CLARK POST #14. I received a change of address for MARVIN BAIN but haven't heard from him in ages....

FROM DOWN UNDER – It seems that one of the Australian ladies magazines very much like our Ladies Home Journal ran a contest asking for stories how she met her beloved. Arthur Bancroft's (PERTH survivor) bride of many decades, Miria submitted their love story and WON! The grand prize was a trip to Hawaii. Atta girl! ANZAC DAY for our Aussie friends is the equivalent to our Veteran's Day. This day of honor to their vets is remembered all over the world. On April 30th, The Australian and New Zealand Society of Texas and The Australian-American Chamber of Commerce hosted a commemorate ANZAC DAY at the Bear Creek Park War Memorial followed by a picnic lunch at the park. Our friend Terry Beaton attended ANZAC DAY in Burma. He sent me 9 pages covering the first 3 days. It is very well written and you feel like you're there with Terry and his wife Sheila. I faxed the pages to OTTO SCHWARZ for him to enjoy. The Commissioning of the new HAMAS PERTH will be Saturday, August 26th in Fremantle, Western Australia. This event is by invitation only. Contact Ships Warrant Office Stephen Boyd of the NUSHIP PERTH **IMMEDIATELY** via email (Stephen.boyd3@fleet.defence.gov.au). It would be a terrible shame to travel that far and not be able to join the others.

MORE ABOUT THE HOUSTON CREW – Of the 54 officers aboard the USS Houston, 29 were Annapolis men. They represented the Class '14, '16, '21, '25, '29, '30, '31, '32 (3 men), '33, '36, '37 (3 men), '38 (2 men), '39 (2 men) and '40 (6 men). 13 were KIA/MIA (one KIA 2/4/42 & 12 KIA/MA 3-1-42), 1 transferred shortly before she was sunk, 1 detached, 2 died in POW camps, 11 liberated and 1 is still alive ---- our Admiral ROBERT FULTON!

POST REUNION FOLLOW UP – I communicated with reporter Rachel Seeley several times via phone in regards to the reunion & was promised a copy of her article but I didn't hear anything. Jan Bradley emailed to tell me that it was finally printed on March 23rd. Yet, still no copy of the article. You know me..... I contacted them and asked where my copy was! I finally received it and must say that Rachel did a good job. It focused on John Bradley and his story --- what a tribute to him and his brothers!

I'M JUST CURIOUS – What is the delay in sending Shawn Flynn your loved one's picture and bio? You DO realize this is to perpetuate their memory, don't you? We're not asking for an epic story – just a one page bio..... any pictures mailed to Shawn will be promptly returned. Shawn Flynn, 5240 Tenino Way, Kelseyville, CA 95451.

IN CASE YOU FORGOT - The deadline for the FREE Navy Log Enrollment Form is July 31, 2006. I sent a form in the last edition but give me a holler (see front page header for my contact info) and I'll send you another form.

ALERT – Jim Hornfischer has completed his book about the HOUSTON entitled SHIP OF GHOSTS (The story of the USS HOUSTON, FDR's legendary lost cruiser, and the epic saga of her survivors). I was one of the lucky ones to receive a copy of the manuscript --- y'all have to get a copy – Jim did an extraordinary job. I can't say enough wonderful things about it!! Keep an eye out for the release in October!! KUDOS JIM – SUPURB WORK! I know I speak for the men when I say, "Well done".

IN HONOR OF OUR VETS –

What is a vet? - Some veterans bear visible signs of their service: a missing limb, a jagged scar, a certain look in the eye.

Others may carry the evidence inside them: a pin holding a bone together, a piece of shrapnel in the leg - - - or perhaps another sort of inner steel: the soul's ally forged in the refinery of adversity. Except in parades, however, the men and women who have kept America safe wear no badge or emblem.

You can't tell a vet just by looking.

What is a vet? - He is the cop on the beat who spent six months in Saudi Arabia sweating two gallons a day making sure the armored personnel carriers didn't run out of fuel.

He is the barroom loudmouth, dumber than five wooden planks, whose overgrown frat-boy behavior is outweighed a hundred times in the cosmic scales by four hours of exquisite bravery near the 38th parallel.

She - or he - is the nurse who fought against futility and went to sleep sobbing every night for two solid years in DaNang.

He is the POW who went away one person and came back another - or didn't come back at all.

He is the Quantico drill instructor that has never seen combat - but has saved countless lives by turning slouchy, no-account rednecks and gang members into Marines, and teaching them to watch each other's backs.

He is the parade-riding Legionnaire who pins on his ribbons and medals with a prosthetic hand.

He is the career quartermaster who watches the ribbons and medals pass him by.

He is the three anonymous heroes in The Tomb Of The Unknowns, whose presence at the Arlington National Cemetery must forever preserve the memory of all the anonymous heroes whose valor dies unrecognized with them on the battlefield or in the ocean's sunless deep.

He is the old guy bagging groceries at the supermarket - palsied now and aggravatingly slow - who helped liberate a Nazi death camp and who wishes all day long that his wife were still alive to hold him when the nightmares come.

He is an ordinary and yet an extraordinary human being a person who offered some of his life's most vital years in the service of his country, and who sacrificed his ambitions so others would not have to sacrifice theirs.

He is a soldier and a savior and a sword against the darkness, and he is nothing more than the finest, greatest testimony on behalf of the finest, greatest nation ever known.

So remember, each time you see someone who has served our country, just lean over and say "Thank You." That's all most people need, and in most cases it will mean more than any medals they could have been awarded or were awarded. Two little words that mean a lot, "THANK YOU".

HEADSTONE OR MARKER – The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) furnishes upon request, at no charge to the applicant, a government headstone or marker for the grave of any deceased eligible veteran in any cemetery around the world. For all deaths occurring before September 11, 2001, the VA may provide a headstone or marker only for graves that are not marked with a private headstone. Flat markers in granite, marble, and bronze and upright headstones in granite and marble are available. The style chosen must be consistent with existing monuments at the place of burial. Niche markers are also available to mark columbaria used for inurnment of cremated remains.

THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KNOW - The organization's archives, inventory of sales items & banking is handled through the USS HOUSTON headquarters here in Pflugerville. Please send your request for sales items, payments and donations to me. No one else will have to worry about forwarding your correspondence/check to me & I'll provide a receipt at your request (and acknowledge you if my computer doesn't eat the information). Your donations for the Scholarship will NOT be sent to me but the treasurer of the Scholarship Committee Susan Krug at 3031 Loop Rd, Stevenson, WA 98648. Lin and I will decide how we want to handle the process of registration checks & advise you in a future newsletter.

ITEMS FOR SALE - We have USS Houston T shirts sizes medium to 2X, great looking Next Generation coffee cups, Monument pins, Bell pins, bumper stickers and acrylic paper weights with the silhouette of the CA-30.

ITEM	COST	
Shirt	\$30	
Cups	\$15	
Pins	\$3	
Bumper Stickers	\$2	
Paper weight	\$20	
CD (crew pictures)	\$18	
DVD	\$18	"The Last Stand of USS Houston (CA-30) Death Becomes The Ghost"
DVD	\$18	Interviews of the survivors

NOTE: THESE PRICES INCLUDE SHIPPING HANDLING – If purchasing both DVD's the cost will be \$30 total). Sorry for the increase however the packaging and pricing has soared. There are no more caps available – no more will be ordered until we can sell off inventory.

FROM A STRANGER - Just to remind our survivors that their story is being told; I received the following email from a Tom Lepone that I wanted to share with our survivors and HOUSTON family: Hello, War is a dangerous and frightening undertaking. This is especially true, when there is little or no hope of winning. The HOUSTON and the small group of ships with her, faced an impossible task. Take the fight to the enemy, against greatly superior numbers. The HOUSTON went down in her last action, but she went down fighting. Her crew, those departed, and still living have my respect and admiration. GOD BLESS YOU ALL!!!

Line from Lin

Next year's Memorial Service will be held in the early afternoon, at 2 o'clock on Saturday, March 3, 2007, the week after the rodeo parade. Hopefully the weather will hold, and the service will be at the Monument. We hope to visit the Library at UH on Friday - people seemed to like the two events, being on different days, more leisurely. The official reunion activities will be Friday and Saturday, but you are welcome to arrive Wednesday or Thursday, to get an early start on the reunion activities. We will again be staying at the Downtown DoubleTree as the membership voted to stay there again next year. Those in the know ask for a parkside room with a view of the Monument, sometimes only the bell and flags are visible. Room rates and reservation phone numbers will be available in the September newsletter - with more detailed information and the registration form and information in the December newsletter.

This past year we were honored with a visit from Brian and Ruth Morris who came from Australia. They really did enjoy the books and albums on display in the Hospitality Suite at the reunion. Everyone enjoyed meeting and visiting with Brian and Ruth; both are very delightful. Brian is still looking for the USS *HOUSTON* lifebuoy that his Father had recovered in Australia in 1942. The lifebuoy was taken from his Father by a military / secret service serviceman. Brian had hoped to find the lifebuoy to bring to our 2006 reunion - and now hopes to find it and get it to us for the 2007 reunion.

I recently heard from the granddaughter of Dr. Wassell. Martha is researching and documenting for her Mother, Dr. Wassell's daughter, and would appreciate any information - or recollections that anyone might have, relating to Dr. Wassell. Her name is Martha Seeton-Magee - here is her home information, #59 Side Hill Drive, Durham, CT 06422, PH (860) 349-1194, and her email address, MMagee59@aol.com. Martha has already received an email from Al Kopp, a copy of a letter from the UH Library that I remembered being donated by Gene Crispi, and is looking forward to coming to our next reunion in 2007.

Extracted from the May, 2006, newsletter of Tx. Gulf Coast Chapter of American Ex-Prisoners of War:

Legislative Information - Thanks to Representative Chet Edwards (D-TX) and Walter Jones (R-NC) who introduced the Military Retirees' Health Care Protection Act. This bill would prevent any of the proposed increases from going into effect and would take away the Department of Defense's ability to raise fees - requiring that Congressional action be taken before any increases could be instituted. Once again these two representatives have demonstrated why they are two of the best friends of our military, both those still serving and those retired.

Also there is a House bill (HR-2369) and a Senate bill (S-2157) that is called "Honor our Fallen Prisoners of War" act. If passed, this would award the Purple Heart to POWs who died in captivity. Please write, email, or fax your representatives and senators and ask them to co-sponsor these bills. Fax or email is better because mailed letters have to be irradiated against anthrax and often take too long to get to your representative or senator.

Contacting Congress - new website (www.congress.org) Use this homepage to find the correct names and addresses - and write them a letter and if possible, fax it to them -- in some cases you may directly email them. You may also find the latest action on a bill that you are following. This

website is run by a private, non-partisan organization that wants to make it easier for you to have a say in your government.

Here are two other bills of interest that I found while looking through the long list of bills that are recorded at the above-listed website:

S.1271 'A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war. '

S.1290 'A bill to appropriate \$1,975,183,000 for medical care for veterans. '

Have a good summer - hopefully no hurricanes, visiting your area of the USA - suggestions and volunteers will be appreciated - Lin Drees - 14219 Wickersham - Houston, TX 77077 - lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net

FINANCIAL REPORT

Debits		Credits	
Print Newsletter	110.96	Previous Balance	3289.23
Postage Newsletter	134.63	Deposits	645.59
Envelopes printed	105.59	(Donations & Sales)	
Reunion expenses	89.11	Reserve '07 reunion	
Postage	134.63	expenses	3000.00
Storage	191.25		
Supplies	386.33		
Total	1377.35	Balance	2557.47

IN CLOSING – The organization is running smoothly with the help of so many of the Next Generation volunteers. It couldn't be done without you! Please plan to attend the '07 reunion – it's always good to see the HOUSTON family gathered together. There won't be many more years before our survivors won't be able to travel and you'll have missed a great opportunity to be in the presence of such heroes!

UNTIL NEXT ISSUE -- GOD BLESS