



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

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MILFRED L. “GUS” FORSMAN

December 1, 2005

Pneumonia

REUNIONS

USS HOUSTON ASSOCIATION CA30-CL81

September 13 – 17, 2006

Sea Turtle Inn Jacksonville Beach, Florida

Contact Leitha Coates 904 285-8111 for further information

ASIATIC FLEET

May 3 – 7, 2006

Best Western Motel Asheville Biltmore, Asheville, NC

Contact Walter Ashe 828-298-3907 Email: wfashe3@bellsouth.net

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

JUST SHOOT ME - Before you sit down, get comfortable, and read this I have to fess up. From the day I send a newsletter to the printer, I begin to make notes for the next edition. I was pretty proud of myself that I had 90% of the newsletter all put together BEFORE the reunion. I had to gather some information, add it and dance on down to the printer. On the evening of the 10th, I received the last bit I needed via email and I downloaded the information into the March '06 formatted Bluebonnet. All I had to do was line it up a little, print it and take it to the printer the next day. Well, instead of the information adding on, it replaced. Normally the computer asks if I want to save the changes but this time it didn't. I called my son in law in desperation hoping he'd tell me there was a secret way I could retrieve it. Alas, that wasn't the case. I hung up & cried and CRIED. Thank goodness Max wasn't home because I would have really blubbered in his arms. Bottom line – I lost the SCUTTLEBUTT, SICK BAY, DONATIONS & MAILBAG entries along with a few tidbits of information. Fortunately, I've been able to retrieve quite a bit from emails and the trash can (that wasn't a pretty sight). My most humble apologies for a newsletter that is incomplete.....

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.

SICK BAY – Although I lost the complete list, these are our folks I remember. WILBUR SMITH is suffering from diabetes. His legs are terribly swollen & the doctor has suggested amputation however Wilbur declined. JOHN HOOD is also fighting diabetes and heart problems. Joyce Ranger is fighting an uphill battle with her liver. She's been in and out of the hospital along with trying out a nursing home. Son John emailed to say she's now living with them. OTTO SCHWARZ is now in the VA Nursing home in Lyons, NJ. Trudy visits every other day. He says that he & his room mate make quite a pair – he's blind and his roomie is deaf. To get some exercise, Otto pushes Trudy around the hallways in a wheel chair. Why am I not surprised at their ingenuity and flexibility?

JIM HORNFISCHER'S WORK - Just a heads up that Jim's book about the HOUSTON will be out in October. I'll have more details in the next newsletters.

SHAWN FLYNN'S WORK - You MUST look at his excellent work on his web site linked to ours (<http://home.pon.net/shawnf/>). Shawn also provided a terrific slide show of our crew members during our Saturday evening dinner. He made extra copies and they are available for \$18 each (this includes packaging and postage). We can read the names from the roster however seeing their faces truly give meaning to our organization.

SCHOLARSHIP MEETING '06 – Susan Krug, treasurer reports \$15,809.69 in the fund. The Friday night auction brought in \$1,400 & she received \$570 in donations. The application deadline was moved from December 1 to November 1. The verbiage in the program would change to include applicants and winners could re-apply. Clarification for eligibility of applicants with a “keen interest in the USS HOUSTON CA-30 was made (ie: Sea Cadets, history buffs, etc.) The organization’s web site would include scholarship information. The empty position of Chairperson was filled by John Schwarz. Several NG’s have volunteered and after a little reorganizing they will be going full steam ahead.

NEXT GENERATION MEETING - I explained the cost of the bulk rate annual fee had increased to \$150 per year yet the numbers to mail a newsletter had gone down. It was agreed not to renew. In the same vein, we discussed the need to remove names from the mailing list of lack of response. However, courtesy newsletters to survivors and widows would continue. I also explained the process of keeping us in a non-profit status. We voted to continue on the same course with my being the Executive Director and Otto Schwarz the CEO. The NG’s agreed to a change in the responsibilities of the reunion committee. When Lin & Ron Drees moved to Oklahoma, Sharron Long volunteered to help with the hotel arrangements. The Drees’ have returned to Houston, Sharron & her hubby will be retiring to Hawaii in 2 years. Lin was gracious enough to agree to take her old job back. We discussed the eventual distribution of the archives. Note: Key word EVENTUAL. There was question of it being out on loan or as a gift. I reminded them that someday down life’s road there would be no one to return the loaned item. Susan Krug and I have scanned a big portion of the paper files and the next big step was the pictures. Copies can be made for the reunions & the originals to the museum (to be determined). This is in it’s infancy. Although I’ve touched base with Annapolis – no specific items or museums have been decided upon. There are duplicate items that will be made available to the NG’s. We are not deciding on immediate action but future years. It was agreed that all records should be definitely scanned and what items we have will be stored in climate controlled areas. From the feedback from the survivors, wives and surviving spouses, their choice was overwhelmingly to go back to the Doubletree. The NG’s voted to try talk to the hotel to determine if we could deal with them. The location will change ONLY if we can’t come up with some good figures. The challenges are competing with a convention that has agreed to a higher room rate, the Houston Rodeo dates, and what they can throw into the package. I advised that the USS LEXINGTON reported they are improving the USS HOUSTON display room. Max and I need to go down personally to see their progress. Sue Kreutzer has joined Vic Campbell with the responsibilities of the updating of the web site. Kudo’s to Susan for literally rebuilding the Crew Roster with her hand in a cast!!! She reported that the Guest Book was removed from the site due to a huge amount of spam hitting our site. All queries are directed to me at CA30NG@aol.com. Shawn Flynn reports he is still collecting pictures and bios of the crew members. He is committed to entering as many crew members as possible so none will be forgotten.

IMPORTANT CORRECTION - It was brought to my attention that my mention of the Tomb of the Unknown soldier wasn't exactly correct – please be advised:

The guard takes 21 steps across the tomb of the Unknowns. It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute, which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

The sentinel marches 21 steps across the black mat, past the final resting places of the Unknown Soldiers of WWI, WWII, Korea & the crypt of the Unknown Soldier of the Vietnam War. With a crisp turn, the sentinel turns 90 degrees (NOT about-face) to face east for 21 seconds. He will then turn a sharp 90 degrees again to face north for 21 seconds. A crisp “shoulder-arms” movement places the rifle on the shoulder nearest the visitors to signify the sentinel stands between the tomb and any threat. After the moment, the sentinel paces 21 steps north, turns and repeats the process.

From 1926 – 1937, the Tomb was guarded only during daylight hours. Ever since 1937, the Tomb has been guarded continuously 24/7, every day of the year. Guards are changed every thirty minutes between 8am – 7pm from April 1 – Sept 30 & every hour between 8am – 5pm the rest of the year. All other times (ie while the cemetery is closed) the guard is changed every two hours.

Each soldier must be in superb physical condition, possess an unblemished military record and be between 5'10" and 6'4" (not 6'2") with a proportionate weight and build (does not specify a 30" waist)

Sentinels at the Tomb do not have to commit to serving for any fixed period of time. The average tour of duty is only about 1 year (not 2). They do not live in a barracks under the tomb & live either on base or off base in housing of their choosing. There are no restrictions from off-duty drinking. The Tomb Guard Identification Badge, first awarded in 1957, is a honor for which a guard qualifies by “flawlessly performing his duty for several months” & passing a test, handed out to everyone who serves for a given period of time.

The total number of recipients is now about 525, not 400. The award is, as its name states, a badge worn on the pocket of a uniform jacket, not a pin worn in the lapel. Since the sentinels are held to such a high standard, if they ever do anything that is deemed behavior unbecoming to a Tomb Guard or brings dishonor upon the Tomb, their badges may be revoked, even after the guard has left active duty military service.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat & cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt. The shoes are standard issue military dress shoes. They are built up so the sole & heel are of equal height. This allows the Sentinel to stand so that his back is straight & perpendicular to the ground. The side effect of this is that the guard can “roll” on the outside of the built up as he walks down the mat. This allows him to move in a fluid fashion. If he does this correctly, his hat & bayonet will appear to not “bob” up and down with each step. It gives him a more formal & smooth look to his walk, rather than a “marching” appearance. The soles have a steel tip on the toe & a “horseshoe” steel plate on the heel. This prevents wear on the sole. There is no mention of the length of time for the guard to dress (previously stated 5 hours) – he will dress in front of a full length mirror & there will be no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. A Tomb guard's behavior is not so stringently regulated that he is prohibited from speaking to anyone for a

full 6 months & guards may do whatever they want (including watching TV) during their off duty hours. However a sentinel must undergo rigorous training, including several hours a day of marching, rifle drill and uniform preparation AND every guard is expected to be completely versed in the history of both the tomb and of Arlington National Cemetery (including knowing how to find the graves of all the prominent persons buried in the cemetery), they don't necessarily have a lot of free time for recreational activities.

Lastly, Joe E. Lewis, the comedian, is buried in New Jersey. Joe Louis (aka The Brown Bomber), Heavyweight Champion of the World between 1937– 1949, is the boxer interred at the cemetery. Although Joe Louis served in the Army during WWII he did not meet the technical requirements for burial at Arlington, however President Reagan waived the requirements when Louis died in 1981.

Line from Lin

This year for the first time we had to move the Memorial Service indoors as it had rained all day, turned cold, and the ground was too soggy. The weather dampened and changed the location, but not the beautiful service that we always have. A friend, who attended for the first time, wrote "We were overwhelmed by the 'presence' there and were so touched by the warmth of the event."

Each year at our Memorial Service, I would love to be able to call out all the names of OUR MEN who served on the USS *HOUSTON* – and are named on the Monument, BUT it would take too long. So we call out all the names of ones who are in attendance or have family in the audience. This year the following attended with family, and friends: Howard and Silvia Brooks, David Flynn, Joe Garrett and friend, Marie Hill, and Clarence and Mary Schilperoort. The following men are Living, but were unable to attend this year and had family in attendance to represent them: Bob Charles, Bill Ingram, and Otto Schwarz. Representing their deceased husbands, the following wives and family were in attendance: Gwen McFarland, wife of Tom McFarland, Jimmie Pryor, wife of Charley Pryor, Teresa Reilly, wife of John Reilly, Lee Robinson, wife of Marvin Robinson, and Eunell Weissinger, wife of Bill Weissinger. This year the following deceased men had family to represent them: Roger Barnett, Leonard Bradley, Gene Crispi, Joseph Davis, James Gary, Jr., Vernon Koelling, Albert McGarvey, Paul Papish, Charles Parsons, Thomas Pecina, Fredrick H. Ramsey, John Ranger, John Reas, Valdon Roberts, and James Raydell Wilson.

When talking (email talking) with JoAnn Pryor Wychopen earlier in the week before the Memorial Service, she told me: When she and her brother, David, talked with Michael Thornton, a Medal of Honor recipient, at a previous service, he asked who their service member was, and they told him about their Dad. Michael's wonderful answer to them was that he figured their Dad had the best seat in the house for the program. JoAnn and David will always remember Michael for his comforting words. **All of our deceased men had the best seat and will always have the best seat at our Memorial Services.** JoAnn Wychopen, daughter of deceased Marine crewman, Charley Pryor, assisted during the Service and called out the names of the men who are "standing watch at Sunda Strait" and had family at the Service.

The *HOUSTON* was a part of the Asiatic Fleet. This year June and Jo Gallagher were with us - June lost two brothers on the same day, March 1, 1942. One brother, Charles Parsons, was aboard the *HOUSTON*, and the second brother, Loys Parsons, was aboard the USS *EDSALL* (DD

219) sunk south of Java. Attending with Don Kehn was Jim Nix whose grandfather, Joshua Nix, was the Commanding Officer of the *EDSALL*, sunk with almost all of the crew.

I lamented that we would have not the Monument indoors and I wished that we had a blow-up to throw onto the wall - well, Jerry Ranger and others ran across the street in the rain and made a digital photo that could be projected onto the wall. Therefore, we had a place to lay our wreaths during the ceremony. Dana Charles, son of Marine Bob Charles, was our M.C. --- for those of you who do not know, Marines were also on the USS *HOUSTON*!

Since the Memorial Service was indoors and other conferences were in adjoining rooms, the Houston Brass Band was unable to attend as well as the Marine Rifle Detail - BUT we look forward to their attendance next year. The Sea Cadets attended and very professionally paraded the colors and led the Pledge. The Houston Park Service had the park ready for our use, but the weather did not cooperate, and we are looking forward, next year, to holding our event outdoors with their assistance and sound equipment. The Heritage Society flew our flags (ABDA flags and POW flag) at the Monument the whole week-end. Carter Conlin of the Texas Commandery brought his cassette player and cassette of TAPS -- we appreciate that he was able to bring them for the service - a very last minute request.

As always the Monument was beautiful for our reunion / Memorial Service week-end. BUT for those of you who do not live in Houston or go downtown, you might not have known of the fact that the ground underneath the Monument shifted due to the VERY DRY summer last year - and the paving, between the Monument and flags, was very many different levels with wide gaps between some of them. Yellow tape was placed around the Monument. We have to thank Carter Conlin for his work with the city - his emails to ones responsible for finding the monies to repair the paving. Carter copied me on his emails - and the city and park services found the monies - the paving was repaired and the work finished just days before the reunion attendees started arriving. AND our Monument looked as beautiful as always!

Speaking of beautiful - that and other similar words, such as wonderful and inspiring, describe the new display that Julie Grob of UH Libraries has just completed in memory of the USS *HOUSTON*. Come to Houston to view the Monument and to UH Library to see the new display area for our USS *HOUSTON* photos, letters, memorabilia, and paintings. Precinct 3 was able to again provide bus service to the Library - we appreciate this service each year.

We have not yet set a definite date for next year's reunion and Memorial Service. The rodeo parade date will not be definitely set until after the current rodeo run is completed, and the committee meets and sets the dates for next year. Unfortunately we have had to change the reunion date two years in a row so we decided to wait until we have a definite date before announcing the 2007 reunion dates. The 2007 date will be announced in future BLUE BONNETS and also via emails - be sure that we have your current email address!

Many thanks to all who attended our reunion and the Memorial Service - and for those of you who were not able to attend, you were missed!

We have the reunion and Memorial Service for you - so please let me know what you liked this year (or previous years) and what you would change! (. . . and feel free to volunteer) We are already working on plans for next year - and would welcome your input!

Lin and Ron Drees, 14219 Wickersham, Houston, TX 77077, 281.493.5171 (phone and fax) -- or lindrees.ca30@sbcglobal.net

DONATIONS - Although I am unable to name names, I can certainly thank you for your generosity! Remember – it's your generosity that keeps us going. Every time I begin to fret over the increase in prices, you all seem to read my mind ease my worries. Our Tax ID # is 74-2814051.

NEXT YEAR'S AUCTION - After the reunion, Larry and Susan Krug came to visit. Susan helped me with going through unpacked boxes and we came across several items that would be a big hit in next year's auction. This year, anything to do with the HOUSTON or WWII made good money. therefore, there's no need donate an item for the next year. Bring plenty of cash though. By the way, I've taken an extra bedroom and converted it into an office & Larry put in some shelves in the closet. Wow! What a difference it has made. Again, there will be no need to bring auction items.

USS HOUSTON STATIONERY – John A. Roth was working as an oil engineer in Kuwait in about 1970 when he received several sheets of stationery as a gift from a friend who knew he had been in the Navy during WWII. As we all know, many items from the Far East found their way to the Middle East after the war. John gave the sheets of stationery to his daughter, Exa Lynn Roth Porter since she is a librarian at North Harris College in Houston, TX. She notified me January 16 of her stationery & wanted to share the pages with the association as long as they would be displayed. I received 3 pages. With her permission, one page was sold at the annual scholarship auction, she asked the 2nd sheet be given to Annapolis, and to use my discretion for the last page.

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.

NEW DVD BY VIC CAMPBELL – We received Part 1 (the first CD) from Vic just in time for the reunion. "The Last Stand of USS Houston (CA-30) Death Becomes The Ghost" is awesome! It was a huge hit & I sold out. Vic is sending more copies of Part 1 plus the completed Part II (interviews). Individually they are \$18 (package & postage included). The set is \$30 (package and postage included). Every home should have one! When I run out – I'm out. You will need to go to our web site after that.

The USS Houston Exhibit and Beyond

Thank you to all who came to view the new USS *Houston* (CA-30) exhibit at the University of Houston's M.D. Anderson Library in February. The main exhibit cases feature professional graphics and labels, an eye-catching American flag made by POWs in Saigon, artifacts from the ship and the camps, and many photographs of USS *Houston* crew members. One wall of cases holds large paintings and framed photographs related to the ship. Nearby, the professionally cleaned and restored model of the USS *Houston* is on display. The reaction of members of the USS *Houston* Survivors Association and Next Generation members was very positive at the library reception. I hope that those of you who were not able to join us will have a chance to come see this permanent exhibit at a future date. The exhibit is located on the second floor of the library, and may be viewed during any hours that the library is open.

Several things are still being planned for the exhibit area – the purchase of archival mannequins and free-standing exhibit cases for our two crew uniforms, the reframing of several items that are in substandard frames, and a large museum-style wall sign proclaiming the name of the exhibit. Since the entire Cruiser Houston Fund went towards conservation treatment and graphics for the exhibit, we will be pursuing these things when the generosity of the community makes additional funds available. If you would like to contribute, donations may be sent to Iska Wire, Director of Library Development, 114 University Libraries, Houston, TX 77204-2000. For more information, please contact Ms. Wire by phone at 713-743-9741 or by e-mail at igwire@central.uh.edu.

In addition to educating the public about the USS *Houston* (CA-30) and honoring her crew, the exhibit serves to make people aware of the significant research collection held by the library. The Cruiser Houston Collection held in Special Collections contains historical materials related to the USS *Houston* (CA-30) and her crew. While the exhibit is now complete and no new items will be added to it, the Cruiser Houston Collection itself is ever-growing. The collection now numbers over seventy boxes of material and nine scrapbooks, for a grand total of 50 linear feet. We always welcome donations of relevant materials (no scans, please, and preferably originals rather than photocopies), particularly those from 1929-1945. The collection is available for use both by scholarly researchers and members of the general public in our reading room.

Within the next several months, the 56-page finding aid for the Cruiser Houston Collection should be posted online. People who would like a copy e-mailed to them before that may contact me at jgrob@uh.edu.

Julie Grob
Digital Projects and Instruction Librarian
for Special Collections
University of Houston Libraries

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.

FROM DOWN UNDER – The date for the new PERTH commissioning has been announced for Saturday, 26 August 2006 in Fremantle, Western Australia. I've been contacted by the Australian Embassy in Washington DC and Steven Youll OAM RAN Ret'd/President, HMAS PERTH National Association Inc. with a promise to keep us updated. I should be hearing from the Commanding Officer of the PERTH, CMDR Simon Craig soon also. Those of you interested in going, please let me know and I'll keep you posted also.

PLAQUES AND BRICKS – Admiral Nimitz Museum and the National Museum of the Pacific War has ways to memorialize a vet or ship of that era: 4"x8" bricks along the Veterans Walk of Honor allows for 3 rows & 14 spaces per row for wording @ \$100. 5"x7" plaques (assistance will be provided for wording and picture of vet or ship) for \$350 or a 20" x 20" plaque with the same assistance for the picture and wording @ \$2500. The USS HOUSTON, HMAS PERTH AND Capt. Rooks are there. All are USS HOUSTON is a 5"x7". These are placed on the Memorial Wall of Honor. Lastly, for a one time \$1,000 donation a perpetual floral tribute will be placed in the Memorial Wall courtyard each Memorial Day. A ribbon is placed across the floral wreath with the ship's, individual's or unit's name. Call 830 997-8600 or fax 830 997-8092 for further information.

FINANCIAL REPORT –

Print Newsletter	\$228.00	Previous Balance	2222.03
Postage Newsletter	131.80	Deposits	11779.82
Fax & Long Distance	285.90	(registrations, donations, sales)	
Supplies	1178.70	Reserve	3000.00
Web Fee	71.75	('07 reunion expenses)	
Postage	260.13		
Reunion expenses	5556.34	New Balance	\$3289.23

IN CONCLUSION – This last quarter was an endurance test. I thank the good Lord for a husband that picked up the slack because I was constantly having one hurdle after the other. It wasn't just me – it was Lin having to push the city to repair the cracks (promised to be repaired last year), Sharron's contact with the hotel dropping the ball on a routine basis, my having to go to the printer four (4) times to get the programs....just to name a couple. Those of us enjoying each other's company Friday morning over breakfast even had to evacuate the building. Apparently someone burned the toast but they wanted to be safe! The original weather forecast for Saturday was sunshine – mid 70's. It changed to high 60's with the possibility of rain. Late Friday afternoon, a cold front came roaring in with the threat of thunderstorms. Max asked the survivors, wives and surviving spouses if they would mind if we held it indoors & they were extremely gracious. The NG's assessed the situation, decided what needed to be done for damage control, they gathered around to volunteer to take a responsibility & made it happen. One and all had a can do attitude. We made it happen in the true spirit emulating the character of the USS HOUSTON crew! We managed to have a nice Memorial Service. Dana Charles was our MC & he had to make adjustments to the ceremony as it was moving along. No one else could have handled it with such grace, humor, & poise. We appreciate that our guest speakers were willing to make the changes to have the program inside. We enjoyed the speakers representing the ABDA. Kudo's to the Flynn's for standing out in the rain at the monument to divert people to the hotel, Jerry Ranger for dashing out in the weather to take pictures of the monument on his digital camera & doing whatever one does to connect the camera to the projector. If we couldn't go to the monument, we brought it to the survivors! Capt. Conlin came to the rescue with a cassette of the National Anthem & Taps, Lin Drees for making innumerable calls to people advising of the change of agenda, Sharron Long & John Bradley for setting up the initial food & beverage supply in the hospitality room, Don Kehn, Jerry Ranger, Sharron Long, my Max, Jolene Stewart, Patty Letze for keeping the hospitality/exhibit room in order. Which NG did I see vacuuming? Dana Charles & his beautiful wife Kathleen shared their musical talents at the piano in the sing along each evening. The ladies had a good time singing the tunes of their day. I'm thinking of cutting a record for a duet with Carter Conlin (pause) well, we didn't clear the room when we sang together! I know I'm missing some folks but didn't have time to take names. Let me know & I'll proudly mention you in the next edition. All of the NG's did their best to make the four survivors, their wives and surviving spouses as comfortable as possible. We not only had CDR Craig Pritchard with the Australian Embassy from Washington DC join us but also Brian and Ruth Morris from Down Under come for the reunion! The PERTH was well represented. Not to say that HOWARD BROOKS & DAVID FLYNN didn't look handsome but I have to admit that SKIP SCHILPEROORT AND JOE GARRETT looked dashing in their uniforms!

Until the next newsletter – GOD BLESS