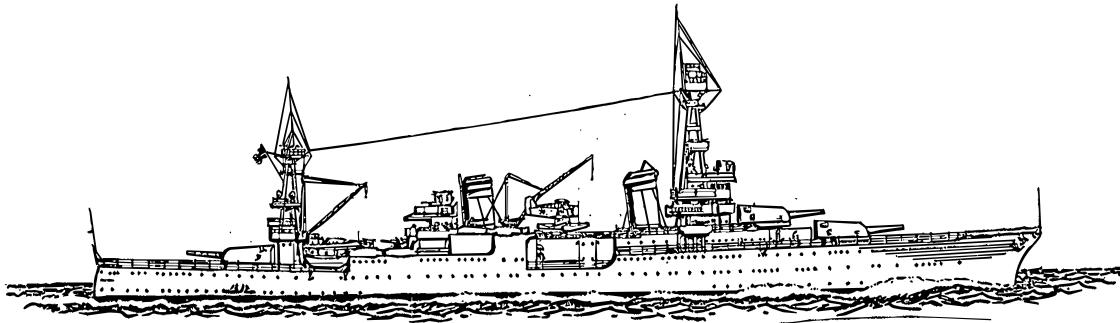


March 2007

VOLUME 53



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

Editor: Val Roberts-Poss 2501 Amen Corner, Pflugerville, TX 78660  
Phone 512 989-0000 Fax 512 989-3227

Email: CA30NG@AOL.COM web: www.usshouston.org  
Co-Editor Lin Drees Founder: Otto Schwarz

**IN MEMORIAM**

<b>JOHN STANZAK</b>	<b>DECEMBER 3, 2006</b>	<b>UNKNOWN</b>
<b>ROBERT O'BRIEN</b>	<b>DECEMBER 5, 2006</b>	<b>NATURAL CAUSES</b>
<b>EUGENE WILKINSON</b>	<b>DECEMBER 13, 2006</b>	<b>KIDNEY FAILURE</b>

**A MESSAGE FROM TRUDY SCHWARZ –** "Before I get too far past my thought, I would like to ask if you would include in the next issue of BB most sincere thanks to all the wonderful Houston family who took time this particular year to send their remembrances and support to us. What a wonderful blessing it has been to all of us to have such sincere feelings for each other. We want each of you to know how much it meant to us."

## **ASIATIC FLEET 2007 REUNION**

**May 2-6,2007**

**Crowne Plaza Hotel, St. Louis Airport**

**Contact : Denver Keplinger, 79 Caesars Cir, Amherst, OH 44001**

**440-985-2044; cykep@yahoo.com**

## **LOST BATTALION & USS HOUSTON REUNION**

**August 9 – 12, 2007**

**Omni Hotel – Dallas Park West  
1590 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, TX 75235  
972 869-4300**

**Contact: Gail & Mike Bialas 972 612-6768 Email: mqbialas@verizon.net**

## **USS HOUSTON ASSOCIATION (CA-30 & CL-81)**

**September 5 – 9, 2007**

**Howard Johnson Plaza Hotel  
3041 E Washington Av, Madison, WI 53704  
1 866-791-3349**

**Contact: Harold Bergum 608 798-4264**

**TO END ALL WARS** is a film with Kiefer Sutherland that received little attention. When HOWARD BROOKS & Silvia came for a short visit after the reunion saw it, he proclaimed it was a much truer version than BRIDGE ON THE RIVER KWAI could ever hope to be....please rent and/or buy it at Blockbuster/Netflix or whatever. We let our grandsons watch it and they were in awe of what our men experienced!

**LESLIE HURRELL, KIA** – Judy Bunch-Roach emailed pictures with a wonderful story! Her husband, Obie grew up in Danville, VA a short walk from the Mountain View Cemetery. As a child he played there often never knowing of the USS Houston. Judy and her husband were walking through the cemetery one day and noticed the WWII Memorial Section and decided to walk through it & read the markers. There they found a marker for LESLIE HURRELL, KIA. Thank you for sharing your story and the picture of his headstone for our archives!

**DONATIONS** – Just a heads up, we are set up as a non profit organization and depend solely upon donations to get out the newsletter (paper, printing, postage), pay for the web site, etc. There are no dues. The only limitations we have is that if we do not receive a donation from a member receiving a newsletter either via snail mail or email after 6 newsletters (1 1/2 years) their name will be dropped from the list. (Tax ID # 17053122009007 **PLEASE** make checks out to the USS Houston Survivors Assn to get your tax deduction)

Jim & Nancy Morrow, John Schwarz in loving memory of OTTO SCHWARZ, Johan Vanleer, LEON GALSKE, David Hibbs, Mattie Atterberry, George Jones, William Lynch, Harold & Helen Estes, Peg Parris, Vickie Keehr in memory of JOHN REAS, Jean Rentz Lansing, Carol Pullen, Capt. Carter Conlin, Clyde & Roxanna Millinger in memory of OTTO SCHWARZ, Rita Jedinak in memory of her brother FREDERICK MILLS & SISTER Vera Mae Churchwell, Al Novak in memory of JAMES AUTREY, Nancy & Pete Adams, John & Jan Bradley, Audrey & HARRY KELEY, Susan & John Kreutzer, Jimmie Pryor, Leland Stewart, Ron & Lin Drees, Don Kehn, Sharron Long, Val & Max Poss in memory of VALDON ROBERTS, Martha Seeton-Magee (granddaughter of Dr. Wassell), Richard Jenke.

**MAILBAG** – It was such a pleasure to hear from LEON GALSKE. He sends a report that he still lives in the home he built over fifty years ago maintaining the inside & out AND gets in golf three times a week weather permitting. A note from Nancy Morrow says she's in her 5<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her breast cancer surgery & is very active in the Relay for Life & support group. Good for you!!! Mattie Atterberry has had a lot of illness in the family this past year but everyone is on the mend. She still enjoys going fishing. We received a note from Joyce Ranger prior to her death on Jan. 27 including pictures from the '03 reunion. She was always thinking of the group – we shall miss her. MATT MARINOS sent a note giving a report he is still managing canal marina 5 ½ days a week & feeling pretty good! This year Dorothy Willey became 80 years young. As her gift their family planned a trip for Dorothy to take back to Montana and Wyoming while son Dwight & Lloyd were bachelors! To Dorothy's surprise, her old high school is now a historical landmark (I'm sure it's just because Dorothy graduated from there!). She even went horse back riding! No plans had been made for their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary after such a trip however the family planned a potluck on the patio where daughter Christy from Florida surprised them at the door. A 12' banner the children & grandchildren signed was hung for them! Soon after son Kevin and daughter in law Young Sun arrived and both put their yard into perfect condition. Before you know it, LLOYD was treated to a dinner out by his grand daughter Adria and friend for his 92<sup>nd</sup> birthday. He has had one eye infection after the other but is able to keep score at cribbage. Oh LLOYD, I never realized you robbed the cradle and married such a young thing!! I received word that Marion Beardsley, widow of MARVIN, died Nov. 24<sup>th</sup>, '06 but have not further information. I was delighted to receive a copy of the Santa Rosa Sheriff's office newsletter describing Jerry Ranger's dive. Equally so, DAVID FLYNN was featured in his local paper! We send our thanks to BILL INGRAM for sending a

wreath to GENE WILKINSON'S funeral from the organization..... Our sympathy goes out to Rommell Grice, son of WALTER GRICE, for the loss of his wife after many years fighting the ravages of diabetes. Obviously, the movie with Kiefer Sutherland, "To End All Wars" wasn't a huge hit. I don't recall ever hearing about it. It's about the Scott's POW experience on the Death Railway & very well done. I suggest you check it out at your video store. NG, Bridget McMaster has highly recommended "Changi" which is a 6 hour miniseries from Australia also. BILL INGRAM keeps in touch often- he had surgery on his shoulder & is on the mend. MARVIN SIZEMORE had eye surgery and is also doing well. I was delighted to hear from Margaret Conner, wife of MARION "RED" CONNER. He is now 94 & housebound as she cares for him in the home they've live in for 60 years. Just before the reunion I received the nicest email from Arthur Anderson (electrician at the University of Houston) expressing his great pride in taking care of the lighting of the new display cases & encouraging everyone to donate keepsakes for UH to preserve. NG Tom Jones writes I wondered if it (USS HOUSTON wreckage site) would be visible on a satellite photo. So, I pulled out an old book called "The Last Battle Station" to view the battle map on page 164 and find exactly where the ship went down. Then I went to "Google Earth" and I feel confident that I found it at the following location: 5° 49' 51.67 S 106° 05' 12.6.8 E. In layman's terms: it's 1 1/2 to 2 miles straight north of the east side of St. Nicolas Point, Java, and Indonesia. For reference it's 45° northeast of the super tanker shown traveling east in the picture. There is clearly an object that's under the water and not on the surface. It is similar in size to the near by tanker, but a little smaller. It is long and narrow and laying east to west. Richard Jenke wrote an interesting letter about when he was 12 & visiting the HOUSTON in '39. Later he learned of her sinking & was inspired to join the Navy (lying about his age) at age 14. He was assigned to Submarine duty (Silent Service) & proud to report that they destroyed 55% of enemy ships in all oceans. "As for myself & my other brothers continue in the twilite years, we feel that we did our duty to preserve the freedoms that we all enjoy today....I know the guys are waiting for us up there."

**SHAWN FLYNN'S PROJECT** - Every issue I remind y'all to send Shawn pictures of your loved one with a one page bio. We have stated that we want to put a face & some personal essence to the name so that family or friends can find them. **We DO NOT want this crew to be forgotten!** It's my job to beg & nag & plead for what we once called a "CREW MEMBER SPOTLIGHT". When you read the following, you will realize why it is so important.....please don't let **your** loved one be forgotten because you won't take the time.... Send it to Shawn Flynn, 5240 Tenino Way, Kelseyville CA 95451 (707.277.7693) By the by – it's working! Shawn received a lovely note from Billy Morgan who found ARLIE WILLIAMS' bio. It seems Billy's dad & Arlie were best friends. Billy was moved to tears to see that Arlie is still honored for his sacrifice for our freedoms.

## **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*....

**Scholarship Program** - 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

Applications will soon be available via the USS HOUSTON website  
([www.ussHouston.org](http://www.ussHouston.org))

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 or evidence of progress in school and may present outside work experience, extra-curricular activities, etc. Applications must also present 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.

**SCHOLARSHIP DONATIONS** –Those wishing to donate to the scholarship fund must remember two things: 1 ) Until further notification still make all checks out to USS Houston Scholarship Fund sending donations to the address USS HOUSTON Scholarship Fund, 3031 Loop Rd, Stevenson, WA 98648 - NOT TO SUSAN KRUG ) **DO NOT SEND MONEY ORDERS OR CASH.** A financial report is available to you at your request.

"The Scholarship Committee held its annual meeting on Saturday, 03/03/07 prior to the memorial service and files the following report to the organization:

\*This year's winner, Jenny Garrett (grand-daughter of Joe Garrett) received the highest monetary award given thus far, \$2,000.00! Jenny was in attendance at the reunion and impressed everyone with her; thoughtful and well written essay, her singing at the memorial service, and her over-all poise and demeanor. She truly exemplifies why the survivor's wanted to start such a scholarship program. She also offers much encouragement as to the caliber of future survivor's generations who are needed to continue passing on the legacy of our beloved *USS Houston* (CA-30).

\*The Committee has decided to ‘streamline’ the application process to make it more ‘user friendly’ for our prospective candidates. Essentially, three items are now included in the application process; the essay, a record of grades or statement of performance in school, and extra-curricular activities/community service/outside work, etc. may also be listed.

The application packet will be revised and soon to be available through the USS Houston web-site as an option to receiving it by contacting the Committee chair.

\*External fund raising efforts will intensify. We are working on an Albertson’s courtesy card program which may generate some funds as part of store transactions. We will keep you posted on this.

A letter is being finalized that will be used to appeal to, as an example, corporate CEO’s, foundations, wealthy individuals, etc. This is where everyone can help; if you know of any individual or corporate/foundation source that would be worth making an appeal to, please offer that information (preferably, name/address) to the Committee Chair (John Keith Schwarz, 2500 Clarendon Blvd. Apt. 121, Arlington, VA, 22201, 703-867-0142/202-268-2261, [john.k.schwarz@usps.gov](mailto:john.k.schwarz@usps.gov)). Possible leads would be greatly appreciated.

\*The Committee would like to thank Susan Krug for her long-standing, outstanding service to the program as our Treasurer. She has performed admirably since the original formation of the Scholarship Committee ensuring all the money matters are properly handled. Pam Foster has graciously accepted the Treasurer’s role and we of course thank her as well.

\*The Committee has determined that next year’s winner will receive \$3,000.00!! This of course, due to the magnificent generosity of the USS Houston family.

In closing, we urge all Association members to spread the word about the scholarship program. Let’s step-up getting that third generation involved and applying for the scholarship. What a great way to get the next generation(s) involved in perpetuating the memory of our great ship, and all of her beloved men.

Stay well everyone- John Keith Schwarz (son of Otto Carl Schwarz), Scholarship Committee Chair”

**DID YOU KNOW** – We are the only organization of its kind that provides scholarships in memory of its ship and crew?

**DID YOU KNOW** – This organization is the only one of its kind that has their Next Generations perpetuating the memory of their ship and crew?

**ACT OF KINDNESS** – A group of ex-POW's from WWII including our STANLEY WOODY have had a monthly breakfast at Bunny's Restaurant for the last 30 years & for the last few years someone has been anonymously been picking up the tab. Eventually William Blair (Army vet from the 50's) was found out & has become part of the group. Viet Nam vet Randall Recht read the article exposing Blair & decided he just had to meet these men. About 15 of Recht's buddies of the 815<sup>th</sup> Engineers (gun truckers) were in the area for a get together at Fort Eustis so they met. Recht often speaks at schools giving the message to students "to support the troops no matter how you feel about the war....we have to support the troops". STANLEY is quoted as saying, "This camaraderie is what built America and keeps this country going".

**A MARINE'S STORY** – Jack Chevigny's name will be forever known by the Notre Dame football fans as the half-back who scored the winning touchdown for Knute Rockne's '28 team to beat Army & famously "win one for the Gipper". His football coaching career included a short time with the Chicago Cardinals, St. Edward's University (sister school to Notre Dame in Austin, TX) and 3 years at the University of Texas in Austin. By '36, he got out of the football arena and was an attorney for the State Tax Commission then went into the Illinois oil business. When the US entered WWII he joined the Marines & on February 16, 1945, was one of the first GI's to storm the beaches of Iwo Jima where he was KIA. Months later at the signing of the peace treaty on the USS MISSOURI, an American official noticed an envoy pull out a fountain pen bearing an English language inscription. It was the pen the UT Longhorns had given Chevigny in '35 when Coach Jack beat his alma mater by a 7-6 victory. He had been presented the fountain pen inscribed, "To Jack Chevigny, a Notre Dame boy who beat Notre Dame." The American official brought the pen back with him and returned it to Jack's sister with a new inscription: "To Jack Chevigny, a Notre Dame boy who gave his life for his country in the spirit of Notre Dame."

**REMEMBERING OUR LOVED ONES** – As you know, Lin Drees has offered to place flowers at the USS HOUSTON monument for folks wanting to remember their loved one on a birthday these past few years. John Schwarz is also offering to place a wreath at their loved one's gravesite at Christmas at Arlington National Cemetery. He has even offered to take a picture of the wreath at the marker and send it to you. If you want Lin or John to do this for you, you'll need to be willing to send a check to cover the expense along with the name of the crew member. John will also need the Section, gravestone number & date of burial (NOT DEATH). Contact Lin Drees at: 14219 Wickersham Ln, Houston, TX 77077 (281 493-5972). John can be reached at: 2500 Clarendon Blvd. Apt 121, Arlington, VA 22201 (703 867-0142).

**COVER PICTURE OF SHIP OF GHOSTS** -There's a story behind why they all look so happy. There was a reporter and photographer there standing above them. I don't know which was who, but one was male and one female. We need to remember that women's fashion those days were dresses, slacks hadn't caught on yet. Anyway, a gust of wind caught her dress and they caught a glimpse of "gams". It'd been quite a while since they'd seen such beauty and as my dad told me, they broke into cheers! I told Jim he couldn't have picked a better picture!

**COMMANDING OFFICERS OF THE USS HOUSTON CA-30** - Capt. James B Gay (13 June 30), Capt. Robert A Dawes (18 Nov 30), Capt Wm. Baggaley (3 Jan 33), Rear Admiral Walter B Woodson (5 June 34), Note 1 July 34 became Flagship of the Asiatic Fleet, Capt. Guy E Baker (25 June 35), Capt. George N Barker (16 July 37), Capt. Francis Cogswell (24 May 29 until his death on 22 Sept '39), Capt. Jesse B. Olendorf (16 October 39), Capt. A. H. Rooks (30 August 41 until sinking with the ship 1 March 42).

**DISPLAY OF RING AT THE NAVY MUSEUM IN DC** – When visiting the museum last September, we noticed a ring on display in the USS HOUSTON CA-30 section that piqued our curiosity. It was noted as an Annapolis ring with "DS from SD" inside. The only SD we could think of was Dorsey Swanson & his rank was S1c. My fear was there was a crew member we had not known about & should be added to our roster. I began to pester the poor folks at the museum. After checking closer, the initials are "without question" LJ from SD. They also found that this is NOT an Annapolis ring, but is a ring of an officer. The plot thickens..... we have no officer with those initials on our last official roster dated Jan. '42. The museum's records show this ring was given by the Indonesian government from a diver off the CA-30. It seems that the gentleman served aboard the CA-30, lost his ring & was transferred off prior to the sinking.

**ITEMS FOR SALE** - We have great looking Next Generation coffee cups, Monument pins, Bell pins, bumper stickers ITEM: T-Shirt \$20, Cups \$15, Caps \$15, Pins \$3, Bumper Stickers \$2, CD (crew pictures) \$15, 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. By the time you receive this, our supply of caps and T-shirts will be replenished – each @ \$20.

## Line from Lin

This year the weather was beautiful as was the Memorial Service. After the Memorial Service, many said "how touched they were by the Service," "how meaningful the Service was," "how moving and beautiful," "emotional and thought-provoking," and most said that they would be back next year.

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 and friends in the audience. This year the following attended with family and friends: Howard and Silvia Brooks, David and Donna Flynn, Bill Ingram, Harry and Audrey Kelley, Harold McManus, Clarence and Mary Schilperoort, and Marvin and Helen Sizemore. The following men are Living, but were unable to attend this year and had family in attendance to represent them: Bob Charles and Joe Garrett. Representing their deceased husbands, the following wives and family were in attendance: Jane Davis Merrick, wife of George Davis, Jimmie Pryor, wife of Charley Pryor, Teresa Reilly, wife of John Reilly, Lee Robinson, wife of Marvin Robinson, Trudy Schwarz, wife of Otto Schwarz, the founder of the USS *HOUSTON* Survivors Association, and Eunell Weissinger, wife of Bill Weissinger. This year the following 24 deceased men had family to represent them: Aaron Albers, Harold Albers, James Autrey, Roger Barnett, Leonard Bradley, Jerry Bunch, Claude Cherry, Joseph Guy Comer, Gene Crispi, Gus Forsman, William Garrett, James Gary, Jr., Walter Grice, Vernon Koelling, Albert McGarvey, O.C. McManus, Samuel McMaster, Bert Page, Jr., Paul Papish, John Ranger, John Reas, Valdon Roberts, John Stefanek, and James Raydell Wilson. Dub Reed was a POW w/ the *HOUSTON* men & a member of the 131st Field Artillery; he was also represented by daughter Becke Frietas & her husband Michael.

This year we were privileged to have Dr. Hekkings' son with us - Fred Hekking and his wife, Dorothy.

With the beautiful weather we were able to enjoy the music of the Houston Brass Band, including the Echo Taps. The Marine Rifle Detail supplied the rifle salute. The Sea Cadets attended, helped with ushering, and provided the color guard. The Houston Park Service had the park ready for our use, plus assisted with the setting up for our event and provided the sound equipment, along with the sound technician. The Heritage Society flew our flags (ABDA flags and POW flag) at the Monument and allowed use of the Museum's restrooms. The NOUS, Texas Commandery, keeps the flags in safekeeping for us during the year.

Every year, two couples appear with cookies (homemade), coffee, and bottled water. Larry and Linda Poole, along with Roy and Dorlene Gideon, are wonderful friends of the USS *HOUSTON*.

Friday morning, Ron Drees took a group on a tour of the special exhibit, Houstonians during World War II, at the Houston Public Library - the USS *HOUSTON* was featured in one case. From there the group went to the Museum of The Heritage Society and to see the Monument.

Friday afternoon, we attended a reception held at the UH Library and also viewed the displays in memory of the USS *HOUSTON*. Come to Houston to view the Monument and to UH Library to see the 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.

Saturday afternoon found most of us in attendance at Jerry Ranger's Dive Presentation, assisted by members of his dive team.

Many thanks to all who assisted this past year - setting up chairs, folding up chairs, ushering, assisting with various aspects of the Service.

We have not yet set a definite date for next year's reunion and Memorial Service. The 2008 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!

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

**NEXT GENERATION MEETING** – We covered the old business reporting our air controlled storage unit costs \$63.75 per month, Annapolis was offered some of our archives and they placed many restrictions to store – not display our items, repeating that Shawn Flynn continues to work on his site building his album of crew members, we are still the only organization of it's kind to continue the memory of a ship & it's crew AND give annual scholarships, and the same request for more volunteers. New business was reported that to continue with our charter as a non-profit, it was time to change officers (every 4 years). This year we report President – Allen Crispi (I promised a 4% cost of living expense raise from what I earn --- \$0000.00/year), Vice Pres – Susan Kreutzer, Treasurer-Shawn Flynn & Secretary: Pat Dauphin. It was approved we can replace the worn card board box for a sturdy container to transport our copy machine. The hotel wants us back next year. Lin Drees will work hard negotiate expenses (this is a 4 star hotel and we have to compete with other conventions – so far we've kept them far less than the other groups have had to pay). It was stated that thank you letters needed to be sent after the reunion but there were no volunteers at the time. (Afterwards, Lin agreed to do half).

**QUESTIONS ABOUT ARCHIVES** - This is a very touchy subject and I won't be able to please everyone. I have spent more time than I can count contacting museums and libraries in hopes to share some of our works to be accessible through out the United States. Rarely is there a contact that is willing to DISPLAY our items. Few are willing to accept them out of concern of the space it will take to store them. To please *everyone*, we need our own building and the funds to maintain the structure, pay utilities and someone a salary to run it. The University of Houston has offered to take everything to preserve our records including converting our video interviews to DVD's that will be available to the public to view. I have two questions – will someone volunteer to find a museum to meet the requirements of all the membership and secondly, will someone volunteer to head a committee to find a site, get funding to build and even more funding to maintain a structure to fill with USS HOUSTON archives?

**IN CONCLUSION** – Since it's my address on the letterhead, I'm the person that receives the many notes from people thanking me for my work. Thank you, I have business cards that state I'm the Executive Director of the organization because, after careful thought, I am only because I boss around a lot of people ergo I "direct executives". John Schwarz is one for example because I'm in contact with him & tell him when I need a scholarship report. Otto deserves the credit for sharing his vision for the future of the organization. I knew I don't have the expertise so I asked for volunteers. Susan Kruetzer updates or posts a correction on the web site (she and her hubby also donate the cost of the newsletter each quarter). Vic Campbell deals with the web site company to negotiate expenses. Anyone involved with the helping of the reunion can tell you how I pester them right to the edge of their patience. It's time to recognize the NG's that keep this organization going --- Dana Charles: music & our media contact person (this year John Bradley stepped up to help since Dana was in the middle of packing to move to Nevada, Shawn Flynn: designing the great link to our web site (<http://home.pon.net/shawnf/>), Jerry Ranger: official diver & provides the slide shows for the hospitality room, Sharron Long: food & beverage (and work) in the hospitality room/keeper of the wreaths, Jo Klenk: up keep & notifying me of a interesting blog, scholarship committee PLUS in charge of the birthday project (John Schwarz, Clay Ramsey, Sue Pogue, Pat Mintzer, Bill Lynch, Chrisy Lariveel, Walter Grice, Dana Charles, Nancy Adams, Bridget McMaster (who also spent many long hours entering EVERY crew member to the WWII Memorial site), Mary Fort, Jan Bradley, Joann Pryor, Debbie Carson, Lin Drees, Dorothy Rogers, Patty Letze, Jane Matthews, Ben Reynolds, Helen Estes, Harry Kelley, Jr.). The Naval Oder of the United States, Texas Commandery : Capt. Carter Conlin, Capt. George Holyfield, LCDR Larry Ruddell. Susan Krug: in charge of the scholarship auction, served as treasurer of the Scholarship Committee & has come to our home to help with scanning, Larry Krug: steps and fetches without complaint AND built shelves in my office in our current home to make my life a bit more organized, my Max that is the greatest gofer in the world & hospitality helper, John Bradly for donating soft drinks for the hospitality room for years, additional Scholarship helpers: Scott

Ingram, Dawn Lodge, Diane McIntosh, Vickie Keehr, Pam Foster (new treasurer), Nancy Adams, Jolene Stewart, David Bassett, Linda McManus, Gail Holmes, Wendy & Sean Gouge. Although I do the registration packets, print the name tags & meal tickets, send out the invitations in preparation for the reunion, & send thank you cards, Lin & Ron Drees do most of the preparation: hotel negotiations (meals, microphones, rooms for whatever we need, podium), electric power & microphone at the Monument site, Master of Ceremonies, Honor Guard, Chairs (ordering, setting up & breaking down)/ tent & tarp if needed, Brass band, 21 gun salute, bus, police, port a potties, permits, repairs around the monument and destroying the ant beds – whew! Oh, and helping with thank you cards also. Each year, we recruit unsuspecting NG's to help with setting up the Memorial Service AND breaking it down, they assist with the NG wreath laying ceremony, set up/keep neat/ clean up the hospitality room. Look at ALL of those names --- **all** of those volunteers! All of those people it's taking to fill Otto's shoes..... I'm just **one** of them. As I told Trudy, I'm the bookkeeper/bill payer, typist & envelope licker for the newsletter that pesters the other people about what they're doing. I *do* stay busy with emails & queries, in the last 12 months, I've received over 5,300!

In the past, Max has urged me to change the Memorial Service to add the Boatswains mate ALL HANDS alert and 8 bells signifying END OF WATCH. This year, we added it to the service & it was VERY touching. Also, at the last minute, I decided to end the ceremony differently. At the very end, we had NG Dana Charles read the lyrics to BEFORE YOU GO that was written as a tribute to our WWII vets. You can listen to the song and watch the video by going to [http://www.managedmusic.com/php/BYGIndex.php?page=Before\\_You\\_Go\\_Home](http://www.managedmusic.com/php/BYGIndex.php?page=Before_You_Go_Home). It is incredible!

#### FINANCIAL REPORT

##### DEBITS

Print newsletter	109.91
Postage newsletter	134.35
Storage	191.24
Phone	124.67
Supplies	873.46
Postage	466.28
Ship of Ghosts (60)	1029.60
Reunion expenses	7813.28
Total	10020.64

##### CREDITS

Previous balance	3441.33
Reunion reserve	3000.00
Deposits &	
Sales	11392.70
Total	17833.92
Note: Reserve for '08 reunion	
	3000.00
New Balance	4813.28

UNTIL THE NEXT BLUEBONNET – GOD BLESS