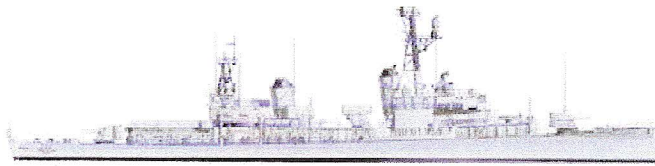




USS Johnston (DD821)



AHOY SHIPMATES

October 31, 2006

I hope this newsletter finds all of you and your families in good health and spirits and the seas of life have been calm for you.

It was good to see those of you who were part of this year's reunion in Washington D.C., I only wish more of our former shipmates were able to join us. Perhaps we will set a new record for a reunion attendance at the 2007 reunion to be held at the Orleans Hotel from May 3, 2007 to May 7, 2007 in Las Vegas, Nevada. But before we get into the details of next year's reunion, here is a short recap of this year's reunion.

Our Washington D.C. reunion helped all attending celebrate the 60th anniversary of the commissioning of the USS Johnston DD-821. We were fortunate to have four original plank owners attend our reunion. One of those happened to be Ed Burke who was a signalman at the time of commissioning. He had in his position all these years the original Naval Jack and Ensign that flew at the time the ship was commissioned. When those flags became worn he saved them all these many years and has graciously donated them to our Association for posterity.

We also had the pleasure of spending an evening at the Naval Memorial and Heritage Center for a wreath laying ceremony complete with color guard. We were honored to have retired Admirals Richard A. Buchanan and Burnham (Mike) McCaffree, Jr. address our group and commemorate the anniversary of our ship's commissioning. Admiral McCaffree had served as Captain aboard the Johnston and it added a special touch to the evening to be with him once again.

Included in this year's reunion were tours to the Smithsonian, the war memorials, monuments, and Arlington National Cemetery to view the changing of the guard at the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. Our farewell banquet included a raffle, movies and a slide show from the Chen Yang Association showing the final disposition of our fine ship after being transferred into the Taiwan Navy.

As with all our reunions it was sad to have to say goodbye to all our shipmates and their families, but it was a great reunion and one that we will all remember for years to come.

