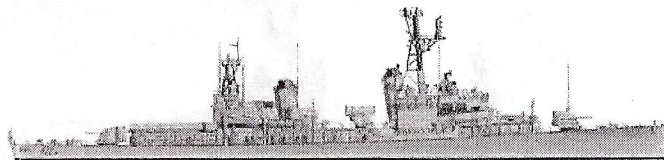




USS Johnston (DD821)



December 24, 2008

My Dear Shipmates,

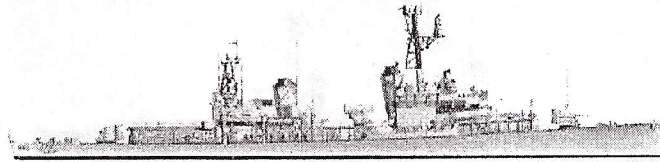
I'm afraid your humble servant and president made a few mistakes in my last newsletter and reunion notice. It seems I gave you a bad phone number for making your hotel reservations. This did cause some confusion, especially for the members who do not have access to the internet. In addition, I failed to emphasize how important it is to make your hotel reservations early. The hotel will only hold the rate for our block of rooms until the second week in January unless we make the minimum rooms we contracted for. Once we have made our minimum, the rate will remain until the middle of March. For those planning on attending the Virginia Beach reunion in 2009, please make your reservations as soon as possible. Again, here is the reunion information including the tour and registration forms.

The reunion will start Thursday April 30, 2009 with most people departing on Monday May 4, 2009. We have reserved the Beach Quarters Resort right on the boardwalk in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It is an excellent facility with all rooms having a balcony facing the ocean. For those of you with computer access please visit their web site at: <http://www.beachquartersvirginiabeach.com/>. We have negotiated a \$99.00 per night room rate plus taxes for each day of the reunion, and the hotel will honor that rate the day before and after the reunion for those that would like to extend their stay. We also negotiated a light continental breakfast for our group to be included each morning of the reunion. For those of you planning to attend the reunion, please call the hotel at 800-345-8136 to make your reservations. The USS Johnston Association will act as booking agents for the welcome banquet, farewell banquet and tours. Included in this newsletter is a reservation form for the reunion tours and banquets. For those attending the reunion, please fill out the form, include your check payable to the USS Johnston Association, and send it to our reunion committee member Phil Demmel at the listed address. We will also be hosting our own hospitality suite complete with a viewing area for all our accumulated memorabilia.

The tour will include a special visit to the Norfolk Naval Base including lunch on the base and a visit to the USS Missouri. Our fellow shipmate Toby Mack has some special friends that will grant us a tour on an active duty ship of the line. We have kept the tours to a minimum to give our members more time for little side trips and to spend more time reminiscing. Anyone who has ever attended a Johnston reunion can verify that the hospitality suite is always filled with people talking and sharing their stories into the wee hours of the morning.



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As you can see by the date of this letter I am writing it on Christmas Eve. I was wondering what else I would include in my writing and then my thoughts drifted back to another Christmas Eve when I was serving on board the Johnston as a very young man. I'm sure many of us spent more than one holiday away from home on board our beloved ship. While we could not be home our ship provided us with security, warmth, food and a place to sleep. She provided us with safety and we protected her with all we could muster. I immediately thought of a 1951 USS Johnston DD-821 Christmas Menu that fellow shipmate Wayne Quimby donated to our archives. I'd like to share it with you now:

USS Johnston DD-821
Christmas Menu
1951

Shrimp Cocktail, Saltines, Turkey Rice Soup, Ripe Olives, Stuffed Olives, Roast Tom Turkey, Baked Spiced Ham, Candied Yams, Cranberry Sauce, Lettuce Leaf, Giblet Gravy, Sliced Tomatoes, Whipped Potatoes, Oyster Dressing, Assorted Pickles, Buttered Kernel Corn, Buttered Green Peas, Parkerhouse Rolls, Bread, Butter, Pumpkin Pie, Mincemeat Pie, Fruit Cake, Strawberry Sundae, Mixed Candy, Mixed Nuts, Cold Chocolate Drink & Cigarettes

On behalf of myself, Ray Pac and the entire USS Johnston DD-821 Association, we wish you and your families the very best this Holiday Season, and may you always have fair winds and following seas.

Your shipmate,

Tony Tomasini

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