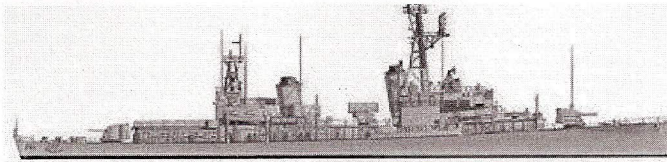




USS Johnston (DD821)



AHOY SHIPMATES

February 5, 2007

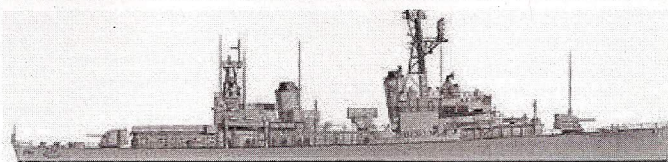
I hope that your holiday season was enjoyable and that you were able to celebrate them in good health with your family and friends. I'm sure we all feel that as the years speed along, the time we spend with our friends and loved ones becomes more precious.

I'm afraid I must confess that I failed to proofread the reunion flyer I sent out in our last newsletter. The flyer was provided by the company we selected to be our reunion planners. Once all the final details of the reunion were completed I was in such a hurry to get the mailing out that I assumed all the information on the flyer was correct. Although they might not be major mistakes, there are in fact a few corrections that have to be made; and I have included a corrected flyer and reservation form with this newsletter. The first mistake is that while the listed day and month for the reunion are correct, it is in fact the 2007 reunion and not the 2006 as stated. Hopefully no one thought they missed last year's reunion and you'll let me slide on that one. I hope the next item didn't cause anyone any problems, but in talking with one of my old shipmates who will be attending this year, it may have. Historically we have always had our farewell banquet on Sunday night of the reunion. Most people book their rooms from Thursday through Sunday night and the majority of the people fly home on Monday. Of course there are those that book a few extra days, but that is not the concern. The reunion flyer stated the farewell banquet would be on Saturday instead of our normal Sunday farewell banquet, and this is not the case. My friend almost booked his return flight on Sunday thinking the reunion was over Saturday night. Our farewell banquets have always been one of the greatest events of the whole reunion, and I would hate to see anyone miss out on the festivities. For those of you who have already made your room and travel reservations, please double check the dates against the new flyer in this mailing. As for the rest of you that may be considering attending this year's reunion, I can only say if you come to your first reunion, it won't be your last.

Our treasurer Ray Pac and I wish to thank those of you who paid their annual dues and also those who sent additional funds to help support our Association. It's through your generosity that the USS Johnston DD-821 Association continues to carry on the legacy of the great ship we served on. Without your help we wouldn't be able to hold our annual reunions and send out these newsletters. Thanks again for all your support.



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It's always such a pleasure hearing from our members and getting suggestions or ideas. One of our members asked if we had a ship's store; and although I never thought of it that way, I guess we do. We have hats and ships patches if anyone is interested in purchasing them. The hats are very nice and the patch that we had reproduced is of excellent quality and is a copy of the FRAM patch that you see on the left side of our letterhead. The cost is \$10.00 for each item plus shipping supplies and postage. The average cost of sending a hat and patch is \$25.00. We do not have a copy of the other Johnston patch; but if we have enough interest in having it reproduced, we could possibly make those available as well. Unfortunately there is a \$600.00 minimum order and setup fee, so let us know. If we had enough response, we could also look into shirts and jackets as well.

Another one of our members suggested the names of some books pertaining to destroyers. I can suggest no better book on the subject than *The Last Stand of The Tin Can Sailor* by James D. Hornfischer. It is the story of the battle of Layte Gulf in which the original USS Johnston DD-557 fought so valiantly in. The book was suggested to me by Ed Takkunen, a survivor of the original Johnston and of that engagement as well. I highly recommend the book.

I will keep this newsletter short because it includes the extra flyers, and we want to keep postage costs down. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our May reunion in Las Vegas. Please make every attempt to attend. Life is just too short, and I know you will have the time of your life. Until then I wish you any yours God's speed and smooth sailing.

Sincerely,

Tony Tomasin

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