



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.

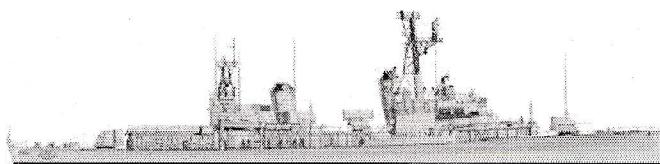
We also had the pleasure of spending an evening at the Naval Memorial and Heritage Center for a wreath laying ceremony complete with color guard. We were honored to have retired Admirals Richard A. Buchanan and Burnham (Mike) McCaffree, Jr. address our group and commemorate the anniversary of our ship's 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.



USS Johnston (DD821)



At this year's business meeting we conducted our annual election of officers. I agreed to hold the office of president for at least one more year. We are very happy that Billy Cook was willing to accept the position of vice president. Our real shining star is Ray Pac who will continue as our treasurer. Ray has been willing to act as treasurer for many years and we can never thank him enough for his hard work and dedication to our association.

The dates for the 2007 USS Johnston DD-821 reunion will be Thursday May 3, 2007 to Monday May 7, 2007. It will be held at the Orleans Hotel in Las Vegas, Nevada. Enclosed with this newsletter is a flyer with the basic information. As more information becomes available to us from the reunion planner I will send out additional mailing. I would suggest getting your reservations in as soon as possible because Las Vegas books very fast and we would hate to see anyone miss out on what looks to be our best reunion yet. Again, as we get closer to our reunion date we will also be sending out the tour sign up sheets with another mailing.

I would like to give special thanks to some of our members who helped us put the 2007 Vegas reunion together. John Argonti and Bob Nava spent many hours researching accommodations and tours for us. Please remember to thank these individuals for all their hard work. It's dedication like this that helps keep our Association strong.

Included in this newsletter is a letter from our Treasurer Ray Pac with our annual dues appeal. Rather than having a separate mailing for this purpose, we felt that we could save on postage and mailing costs by including these items at this time. Please help support your Association by becoming a dues paying member. As Ray has said many times before, we will never turn our backs on any of our Johnston shipmates so please help to defray the costs of keeping the USS Johnston DD-821 legacy alive.

That's it for now my shipmates. May God keep you and yours safe and healthy until we set sail once again. I hope to see as many of you as possible at our next reunion.

Sincerely,

Tony Tomasin
President
USS Johnston DD-821 Association
4850 Hosner Rd.
Metamora, MI 48455
Cell...248-561-4351
tony@tomasinelectric.com

USS Johnston DD-821 Reunion

May 3-7, 2007

~~ Las Vegas, Nevada ~~

To be held at The Orleans Hotel and Casino. Room rates are \$60 per night Sunday-Thursday and \$120 a night Friday/Saturday, plus tax. Parking at the hotel is free. Registration will be approximately \$143 per person and includes the following:

- ~ Welcoming Package with name button, itinerary, list of attendees, & local information*
- ~ Reception Dinner Buffet*
- ~ Sunday Banquet Dinner & Program & Raffle*
- ~ Hospitality Room stocked with snacks & beverages & cocktails all 4 days*
- ~ All associated taxes and gratuities*

Call The Orleans Hotel and Casino at 1-800-675-3267 no later than April 2, 2007 to make your hotel reservations.

The hotel will not honor the group rate after April 2nd!

Optional Tours will be available and are TBD

Look for your reunion registration forms in the mail soon!!

COME JOIN US AS WE SHARE OLD MEMORIES AND MAKE NEW ONES!!!

For More Information:

Contact Tony Tomasin

Phone: (810)796-9669

Email: tony@tomasinelectric.com

Or

Contact: The Reunion BRAT

Phone: (360)663-2521

Email: Info@TheReunionBRAT.com