

# USS Johnston (DD821)



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## USS Johnston DD-821 Association anticipates a near record turn-out at the 2011 reunion!

As we mentioned in the last newsletter, the 2011 USS Johnston DD-821 Association reunion will be held in Pensacola, Florida starting on May 5th and ending the evening of May 9th. As of this writing, it appears we will have a near record turn-out! Make sure you are part of the fun and make this your year to attend the reunion.

The 2011 reunion will start Thursday night with a welcome dinner. Friday we will visit the US Naval Air Station and Saturday we will tour Pensacola. Sunday we will have our annual business meeting and a banquet in the evening. Most guests will depart the following morning, Monday May 9th.

As in the past, we have negotiated a hospitality room for the length of the entire reunion. It will be open from ear-



ly morning to late night so we can continue to share our sea stories.

Your association has picked the Cabana Inn on Pensacola Beach. We have negotiated an incredible nightly rate of only \$75 plus taxes plus free parking and free continental breakfast each morning of your stay.

The Cabana Inn is located at 40 Fort Pickens Rd, Pensacola Beach, Florida. The phone

number is 850-934-5400. When making reservations, please mention the USS Johnston reunion to get the special rate. This rate is good for two days before and 2 days after the reunion.

If you haven't signed up yet, please do so as soon as possible. Don't forget to bring your USS Johnston book for autographs.

Hope to see you there!

## The Johnston Five—Jack Hughes, Lt, 1962 to 1965

While ship reunions are hardly rare, particularly among destroyermen, a wardroom reunion is not that common. That is exactly what occurred over the weekend of 7-10 October 2010 in Hot Springs, AR as five former officers from the 1962-1964 wardroom of the USS Johnston (DD 821) came together to renew old friendships, meet wives, retell sea stories from long ago and generally have a good time in the various entertainment venues Hot Springs offers.

The officers, billets and (wives) involved were former LCDRs Sam Knox, Weapons (Carol Ann), Gene Flesher, OPS (Pat), Romain Bastain, ASW and Band (Evelyn), Jack Hughes, MPA (Kris) and former LTjg

Larry Burke, DCA (Nancy). The Knox's, Bastain's and Burke's travelled from various Pennsylvania locations, The Flesher's live in Hot Springs Village and the Hughes drove up from Dallas, TX.

## A Biography of Art Damm, FI/c

### Years aboard USS Johnston (DD-821) 1946-1947



When my enlistment was up, I was sent to the Brooklyn Naval Yard for discharge. They gave me \$100.00 mustering out pay and \$4.17 for train-fare to the North Philly station.

Home looked different on Oct 10, 1947. My time in the service was up and I was in another world.

I can remember I was laying on the sofa when my Dad came home from work. First thing he asked me was, "Are you retired?" What he meant was go out and get a job. I did get work at Edward Budd Company making door post dies for the 1948 Kaiser Frazer autos. I left there in a year and got a job with Derbyshire Machine and Tool Company as a machinist. They make specialized parts for the Navy such as custom valves, pumps and strainers. These products are made from bronze, stainless, aluminum and any other none-corrosive material. I remained at Derbyshire for 31 years and retired in 1990.

In that time I got married, had 3 kids, got divorced and am now happily married to Shirley for the past 13 years. We have a great life together. Plenty of trips, vacations and long distant visits with friends and relatives.

## The Johnston Five—continued from page 1



After arrivals were established, rooms claimed in the Hot Springs Village Inn, legs stretched and "What have you been doing for 46 years?" questions were asked and answered, the group, less the Burke's whose plane was delayed, went to the Flesher's home on the golf course for conversation, hors d'oeuvres and cocktails until time for our dinner reservations. The Burke's joined us at the restaurant and the party was on. It lasted until closing, much to the entertainment of the kitchen staff who were laughing as hard as we were as they waited for us to finish.

After a Continental breakfast at the hotel, couples headed out to follow their interests in a very interesting resort town. The evening of 8 October brought us all back to the Flesher's for more pre-dinner revelry followed by a catered dinner of Texas barbeque with all the trimmings.

Saturday saw various activities again with some driving through a very small part of the Ouchita National Forest and

enjoying the high bluffed beauty of Lake Ouchita. Others took the opportunity to enjoy the mineral baths which are fed by natural underground springs; hence the name "Hot Springs." During the afternoon, the Flesher's, Hughes' and Burke' toured one of the lakes in the Flesher's ocean capable boat and enjoyed admiring the beautiful homes built around the perimeter of the lake.

Cocktail hour was again at the Flesher's until it was time to caravan to the aptly named "Last Chance Grill & Saloon" overlooking one of the many lakes in the area. We were escorted to the uptairs private room where a fun and somewhat noisy dinner ensued.

Sunday morning, those in the hotel gathered for a final breakfast and after the usual parting comments and promises to keep in touch, we packed up and headed for home, hoping to do it all again in a couple of years.

(Shown left to right—Jack Hughes, Gene Flesher, Larry Burke, Sam Knox, Romain Bastain)

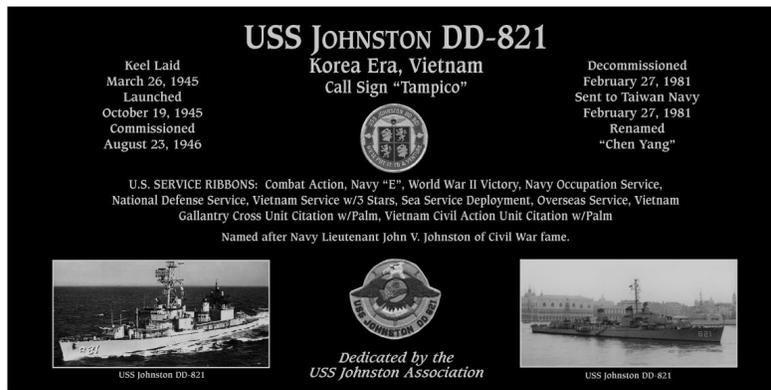
# USS Johnston DD-821 Mt. Soledad Memorial Plaque

John Argonti, USS Johnston DD-821 Association Board Secretary

Your association executive board working with the Mt. Soledad Memorial Association approved the final design for our plaque at Mt. Soledad. We were notified in early November that our plaque was finished and mounted. As a result, Donna and I drove to San Diego to see it and take pictures. It is absolutely beautiful and a fitting tribute to our ship and those who served aboard her. In addition to the pictures below and the picture on page one of this newsletter, you can visit the following link and it will show you the plaque installed at the memorial.

<http://www.soledadmemorial.com/plaqloc/p/1288899703.jpg>

Your association board would like to thank all of you that so generously donated to have the plaque created and mounted. Without your generosity, this would not have been possible. Make sure you visit it anytime you are in the San Diego area.



USS Johnston DD-821 Mt. Soledad Memorial Plaque



The orange cones indicate the location of our plaque



John Argonti next to the plaque

## Naval Reserve Biography, Captain Andrew T. Zander, USNR(Ret.)

Andy was commissioned with class E-6908, NAVOCS, Newport, RI, in July 1969. He went directly to Special Weapons training (Norfolk, VA) and Anti-Submarine Warfare Officer training (Key West, FL) and proceeded to meet the USS Johnston already on cruise in the Mediterranean Sea. Aboard Johnston, Ensign Zander served as ASWO, Special Weapons Officer and PAO.

In December, 1970 Lt.j.g. Zander was ordered to duty with Military Sealift Command, Saigon, RVN. Arriving in country, Andy was reassigned to the MSC Unit in Can Tho, Military Region IV (the heart of the Mekong Delta) where he directed the comings and goings of the merchant marine LST cargo ships and managed a tugboat and barge system hauling rock for the U.S.Army to build roads in the delta. LT. Zander served as OIC MSCU Can Tho until departing Viet Nam in February 1972. He earned a Navy Commendation Medal for his activities with MSC Saigon.

Andy was discharged from active duty in February 1972 at Great Lakes Naval Training Center (Waukegan, IL.) He then returned to his graduate studies in Analytical Chemistry at the University of Maryland outside Washington, DC. During the later part of his graduate program LT Zander served as a Weapons Instructor with NWTU 106, Adelphi, MD.

Once graduated with a Ph.D. in Analytical Chemistry, LT. Zander proceeded to serve in various Naval Reserve Volunteer Training Units in Indiana and Ohio until joining the faculty of Chemistry at Cleveland State University and becoming a member of NAVSEC 105, Cleveland, OH, as an NBC Warfare Defense Officer in early 1978.

Relocating to the Boston area in 1979, LCDR Zander joined ONRBROBOS 101, Boston, MA, as an Electromagnetic Sensors Officer. His affiliation with the Office of Naval Research put him in direct contact with many of his scientific colleagues in government, academia and industry. In 1983, at the initiation of the Technology Mobilization Management Program within ONR, CDR Zander transferred to ONRTMMT 206, Arlington, VA, as a Scientific Field Officer, in which capacity he was a technical liaison with many of the researchers funded by ONR.

In 1992, CDR Zander transferred into the West Coast ONR Reserve Unit, CRTCPAC 220, San Jose, CA as an Analytical Chemistry Officer. Following that billet he served in the VTU, San Jose during which time he was promoted to Captain. CAPT Zander rejoined the Office of Naval Research



Reserve Program becoming a member of the ONR Science & Technology Headquarters Unit 106 as a Senior Field Officer, also as Co-director of CBWD S&T and as the Navy Joint Liaison with the Army CBD Command, Aberdeen, MD. He was awarded the Navy Meritorious Service Medal for his efforts supporting Chemical, Biological and Radiological Warfare Defense Science & Technology.

In August 1999, CAPT Zander retired after 30 years of commissioned service. As of early 2011, he remains actively employed as a Director of Engineering Development with a high tech equipment company and resides in Santa Barbara, CA with his wife of 34 years, Sandie.

**USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION**

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**2011 Cruise**

At the San Diego Reunion, there was some interest in having a second gathering in the



form of a cruise. If you are interested in joining a cruise group to either Alaska in July/Aug of 2011, or a New England fall foliage cruise in Sept/Oct 2011, please contact John & Donna Argonti at [Johnnarg@juno.com](mailto:Johnnarg@juno.com) or 805-927-9677 as soon as possible. This is not a commitment, but we need to know if there is enough interest.

**USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION**

*THE PURPOSE OF THE USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION IS TO PERPETUATE THE BONDS THAT WERE FORMED AMONG THE PERSONNEL WHO EXPERIENCED THE "TRADITION OF THE SEA" WHILE SERVING ABOARD THE USS JOHNSTON DD-821, IN PERPETUITY.*

*WE DO THIS BY PROVIDING SHIPMATES A WEBSITE SECOND TO NONE THAT WAS BUILT BY AND IS OPERATED BY FORMER SHIPMATE DUANE MALLAST, AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE USS JOHNSTON ASSOCIATION AS A MEANS TO MEMORIALIZE AND SHARE THE EXPERIENCES WE ALL HAD WHILE SERVING ABOARD THE U.S.S. JOHNSTON. IN ADDITION, THE ANNUAL JOHNSTON REUNION REINFORCES THESE BONDS AND BRINGS US ALL TOGETHER AGAIN.*

*THE ASSOCIATION IS A "NOT FOR PROFIT" ORGANIZATION FORMED BY AND OPERATED BY USS JOHNSTON DD-821 SHIPMATES.*

**USS Johnston DD-821 Newsletter**

The Association Board hopes you are enjoying the USS Johnston DD-821 Newsletters. Over the past couple of years we have expanded the content, improved it's format and increased the number of newsletters from one to three per year. We would like to make it a quarterly newsletter, expand it's content even more and make it available to all of our known shipmates. However to do that, we need help from you our fellow shipmates in two ways.

First and foremost to keep the newsletter interesting, we need your help writing articles such as "my favorite Johnston port", "my scariest moment of the Johnston" or your biography. Basically any short story you feel our fellow shipmates will enjoy reading. Your photographs make the stories even more interesting. I don't know about you, but I really enjoy reading about all our shipmates. I'm sure you would especially enjoy reading about that favorite officer and/or sailor you served with. I find it interesting to know what my favorites have been doing in their lives all these years since I served on the Jolly J. Your story can be a few paragraphs to a page or more. The best length is one type written page. Please email them to George Sites at "[george.sites@gmail.com](mailto:george.sites@gmail.com)". You can also mail them to: USS Johnston DD-821 Association, 5653 Haydens Reserve Way, Hilliard, OH 43026.

Secondly we would appreciate payment of the yearly dues (\$15/year) if at all possible. We do understand that not all can afford to pay and that is OK. At the time of this writing, we have only 89 paying members for 2011 out of the 438 that are currently on our roster. All shipmates on the roster have been sent a dues payment form. The dues basically keep the Association afloat by not only paying for the printing of the newsletters but the cost of mailing them also. Dues also helps to defray the costs of maintaining the USS Johnston website ([www.ussjohnston.org](http://www.ussjohnston.org)). Now I don't know about you but in my opinion, our website is second to none.

We are including the dues payment forms with this newsletter in case you have misplaced yours.