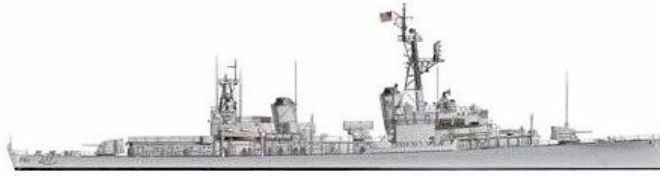


USS Johnston (DD821)



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In this issue

- DD-821's 2011 Association Reunion has near record turn-out in Pensacola!
- 2012 Johnston Reunion headed to Georgia
- 2011 Pensacola Reunion Pictures
- Anonymous Donation Received
- SQS Sonar
- In Color?
- USS Johnston DD-821 Association



DD821's 2011 Association Reunion has near record turn-out in Pensacola!

Another USS JOHNSTON DD821 Reunion enters the pages of our memories. The 2011 gathering in Pensacola was another in a long line of marvelous reunions. The near-record turnout (or was it a record?) enjoyed fantastic weather during our stay at the Travelodge on Fort Pickens Road. A pool and small beach at the rear of the hotel was an attraction for some, for others the wide beach and Gulf water across the road was a draw. Several fine seafood restaurants were within easy walking distance; apparently oysters provided a great deal of attention.

A few early arrivals were dazzled by a demonstration provided by the Blue Angels who performed

spectacularly.

Thursday evening the attendees were treated to a good old-fashioned Southern Barbecue featuring, among other savory delights, pulled pork w/BBQ sauce, baked beans, cole slaw and that staple of the South, sweet tea. A tasty cake, decorated with the ship's name, provided dessert.

Friday we boarded the trolleys (diesel-powered) for a visit to the Museum of Naval Aviation. That 2011 is the 100th anniversary of Naval Aviation, and the week of our reunion happened to be a time of special activities and ceremonies celebrating that milestone, simply added a special touch to our visit. A remarkable collection of air-

craft greeted visitors to the Museum; lunch in the Museum's cafe and an IMAX presentation featuring astronauts and a trip through space completed the experience.

We boarded the trolleys again Saturday for a ride through historic Pensacola and a stop at a Veterans' Memorial Park which displayed memorials to honor veterans of our wars. A moving tribute and wreath-laying ceremony, featuring an Honor Guard of Navy personnel stationed at Pensacola, provided a somber reminder that "Freedom isn't free".

Lunch at McGuire's Irish Pub followed. The pub featured a most unusual, truly unique wallpaper (ask someone who was

2012 Johnston Reunion headed to Georgia

Save the dates Thursday, May 17 through Sunday, May 20th for the 2012 Johnston Reunion in Savannah Georgia. Your Association board has made special arrangements with the Four Points by Sheraton hotel in the downtown area of historic Savannah. It is located on the main strip and is close to restaurants, shopping and museums (several are within walking distance). Our special price is \$89 per night plus taxes and is good for 3 days both prior and after the reunion. The phone number is 888-627-7811. The hotel charges a parking fee, however there is public parking nearby. Please mention the USS Johnston reunion when making your reservations. More information on the reunion events will follow in the next newsletter.



there to describe it). Also unusual was the arrangement of the mens' and ladies' rooms (again, ask someone who was there).

Sunday was a "free" day; some ventured by car to the end of Fort Pickens Road to tour Fort Pickens, which played a role in the Civil War, as well as World War I and World War II. The afternoon business meeting preceded our boarding the trolleys once again for our banquet at the Angus Restaurant. And, of course, the WHITE ELEPHANT RAFFLE, which this year raised a record \$837.00!!! Added to this impressive figure was another \$275.00 paid for a painting of the JOHNSTON; a beautiful work done by shipmate Ordwayne Chauvin, who donated the painting for the fundraising auction. A spirited bidding war ensued between Alida Sites and the Copelands, with Alida taking the prize!

By the way, a big thank-you goes out to Ward Hines, Trudy Garrison's son-in-law, for providing much-needed assistance during the raffle.

A wonderful addition to this year's gathering was the presence of six "first-timers"; we hope this was only the first of many reunions to come for them.

And, another truly unique feature to this year's reunion; we had a noteworthy set of "bookends". Among the attendees--Art Damm, a plankowner, and Carl Williams, a member of the decommissioning crew. How many ships' reunions can make that claim?!

I hope/think it's safe to say the reunion was a success and we all look forward to next year's get-together in Savannah, GA. Till then, smooth sailing. Be well. Ralph Hocking





ANONYMOUS DONATION RECEIVED

A \$1000 anonymous donation to the USS Johnston DD-821 Association was received in June. The board would like to thank the individual for the donation. We also want to say that donations big or small help the Association off-set the costs of providing the newsletter to members who cannot afford to pay their yearly dues. The yearly dues of \$15 is just not enough to cover our costs. Thanks again!

SQS 56 SONAR

By Carl Williams, MM1, 1976—1980



The patch was designed by the crew of USS Johnston DD821 during the SQS 56 Sonar system test period. The SQS 56 was one of several sonar systems that was being tested for the Navy on other Navy Reserve Destroyers. The SQS 56 Sonar system was a narrow beam sonar that could punch down into the cold thermal layers of water that conventional sonars could not penetrate.

The USS Johnston was chosen as a test ship for the SQS 56 Sonar system because of her good material condition at the time; she had completed a major overhaul in April 1976. The SQS 56 Sonar system was made by Raytheon and it was installed on the Johnston at Bethlehem Steel Shipyard in Baltimore, Maryland, during the summer of 1977. At this time USS Johnston was part of the Naval

Reserve Training Fleet; she was the flagship for Destroyer Squadron 30 (Desron 30) at the Philadelphia Naval Base, which was also her home port.

We tested the SQS 56 Sonar system in the Caribbean waters mainly, and a couple of times in the Atlantic Ocean off the northern coast of the U.S.A. The SQS 56 Sonar system proved to be a very good sonar system and after the Navy reviewed the test data from all the test sonar systems the SQS 56 Sonar system was chosen.

During one of the test runs in the Atlantic Ocean USS Johnston was to pick up a U.S. boomer submarine and to test how well the SQS 56 Sonar system worked in finding a boomer submarine as they are very quiet when submerged. When DD821 left the Delaware Bay area, she made sonar contact with what we assumed was a U.S. boomer submarine and for the next two days she pursued the submarine out into the Atlantic Ocean. During the second day of the pursuit, the Johnston was contacted by Atlantic Fleet Command and they wanted to know why we had not made contact with the test submarine. USS Johnston replied back to Atlantic Fleet Command that she had made contact with a submarine and was still in pursuit of said submarine and gave her current location. Atlantic Fleet Command replied back that DD821 was to maintain contact with said submarine and that we would be relieved. The next day a squadron relieved us and the squadron followed the submarine to the Baltic Sea. It was later determined that the submarine was one of the newest Russian ballistic missile submarines.



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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 RE-UNION 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.

In Color?

If you want to see the newsletter in color? Then visit the Johnston webpage at: www.ussjohnston.org and see the pictures in color.

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". 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 131 paying members for 2011 out of the 445 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). Now I don't know about you but in my opinion, our website is second to none. Contact George Sites via email if you don't know your dues status.

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