

# USS Johnston (DD821)



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## 2012 USS Johnston DD821 Association Reunion is now History!

By: Ralph Hocking



It wuz shur neet to see cuzzin Maynard an hiz frenz we wuz reel.....

Whoa—hold that thought. Let's begin, well, at the beginning.

The 2012 USS Johnston DD821 Association reunion is now history. And by all accounts it was a huge success. 33 shipmates, and their guests, a total of 82 attendees, enjoyed the sights, sounds and tastes of Savannah. Accommodations at Four Points by Sheraton were just fine; the staff efficient, courteous and Southern-friendly. The large hospitality room, which doubled as banquet room Thursday evening and Sunday night, was the scene of almost constant activity.

The Welcome Banquet Thursday saw lots of handshakes and hugs as can only be seen and enjoyed at such reunions.

A breakfast buffet that in just four mornings added to already expanding waistlines. A downtown location that allowed walking to a number of sights (and sites) added pleasure to free time.

Friday morning's tour took us to Tybee Island, site of an historic lighthouse and Civil War cannon batteries. Several of the more adventurous among us climbed the 170-plus steps to the top of the lighthouse. Next stop—Old Fort Jackson, where the group was informed, and entertained, by a Confederate re-enactor who gave a marvelous

presentation on the history of the Old Fort.

An afternoon of free time saw many taking strolls along Bay Street, River Street and the River Walk.

Friday evening a talented, versatile cast delighted the audience with a first-rate performance of song-and-dance called “Southern Nights.” The show was highlighted by the appearance of Maynard, the maintenance man. This gathering at the historic Savannah Theater was possibly THE featured tour of the reunion.

For those of you unable to attend the reunion, the previous paragraph should provide a hint to the opening fourteen words of this report. (Those of you who did attend, you're smiling right now, aren't you). Of interest, right now, the sites of upcoming reunions. Members voted Las Vegas as the gathering place for 2013. Choices for 2014 are Milwaukee, Nashville, San Antonio.

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Saturday morning two tour trolleys took us through downtown Savannah. Marvelous antebellum homes, a number of squares (parks) and a brief visit to St. John's Cathedral made the city's history come alive. The balance of the day and evening left us free to wander downtown, City Square, a fine maritime museum and the City Museum.

Free time Sunday ended with the business meeting in the hospitality room; details of course, will be in the minutes of the meeting. Of interest, right now, the sites of upcoming reunions. Members voted Las Vegas as the gathering place for 2013. Choices for 2014 are Milwaukee, Nashville, San Antonio.

The scheduled Social Hour at 6:00 PM Sunday actually started some 72 hours earlier. This hour, however, saw the group "dressed-up" rather than appearing in our playclothes. Official photographs were taken poolside during this time. An excellent banquet followed. Then, naturally, the White Elephant Raffle!! An extra added attraction this year was the arrival of "Wayward", apparently a cousin of Friday night's celebrity, Maynard, Wayward (Ward Hinds) interrupted the serious business of the raffle when he arrived, ball cap perched sideways on his head, to vacuum the carpet. Once order was restored, the raffle continued. You may recall that last year Ordwayne Chauvin donated his original paint-

ing of the JOHNSTON to be auctioned at the raffle. This year Ordwayne graciously and generously donated two of his original paintings of the 821 to be auctioned. Charles and Barbara Copeland and Bill and Debbie Ismer were the winning bidders. Although we didn't match last year's raffle record of \$839.00, a total of \$742.00 was realized.

As people began departures for airports and highways Sunday night and Monday morning, those heartfelt "Good to see you again" and "See you next year" words were repeated over and over and over.

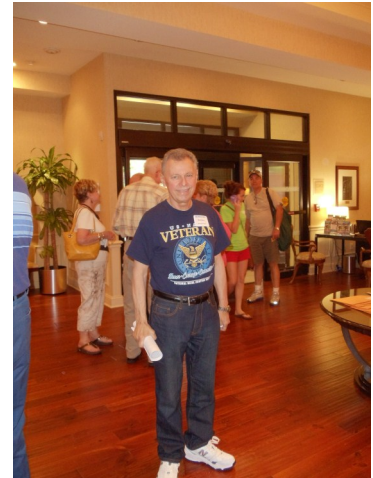
One more time—"See you next year!"







*The Ladies of the USS Johnston  
May 20, 2012 ~ Savannah, Georgia*















**If you would like a DVD of the reunion, please contact Michael Persiano at:  
[tincanspa@comcast.net](mailto:tincanspa@comcast.net)**

## Johnston Association Reunion Headed to Las Vegas in 2013

Your Association Board has been hard at work working out the details for the 2013 reunion in Las Vegas. As in the past, we make every attempt to keep the cost of attending as low as possible for our members and we achieved that again for 2013. Again our reunion will be at the “The Orleans” Hotel and Casino. We made every attempt to have it at a different hotel than before but the Orleans is the only hotel that is friendly to Military Groups especially as small as ours. We talked to about a dozen different hotels and basically none of them wanted our small group. You may want to keep that in mind the next time you visit Vegas.

The reunion will start on **Thursday May 16, 2013 and will end Sunday night May 19, 2013**. Most of our members leave on Monday morning. Details for excursions, shows, meals, etc. are still being worked out and will be included in the next newsletter.

With that said, we have negotiated a fabulous rate as indicated below. For the entire four days of the reunion the hotel will cost you less than \$300 including the 12% tax not shown in the table. That’s nearly \$100 less than for the 2012 reunion in Savannah, Georgia. Please keep in mind the rates are for single or double occupancy, additional guests in a room will be charged an additional \$15 per night. As indicated below, the rates are guaranteed for up to 3 days prior and after the reunion. Please note the rate is higher on Friday and Saturday nights.

			Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun			
May 13	May 14	May 15	May 16	May 17	May 18	May 19	May 20	May 21	May 22
\$39	\$39	\$39	\$39	\$89	\$89	\$39	\$39	\$39	\$39

Our Association had to guarantee a number of rooms and guests for the meals, etc. Please make your reservation as soon as possible using this information. The hotel recommends using their on-line reservation through the website. You will need the reservation ID: **A3UJC05**

**[www.orleanscasino.com/groups](http://www.orleanscasino.com/groups)**

If you prefer to call, make sure you mention the **USS Johnston—DD821** to get the special rates. The proper number to call is: 1-800-675-3267. Keep in mind that if you do not use the group name, you will not receive the special pricing.

The Orleans is a complete destination with many fine restaurants, a bowling alley, casino, snack bars, theatres, and bars. They also have a shuttle that leaves every 30 minutes for the strip at no charge.

Sign up soon and we’ll see you in Vegas!

## **A Message from former USS Johnston DD821 Association President—Tony Tomasin**

My Dear Fellow Shipmates,

It seems that this old salt has heard the call of duty once more but for a completely different branch of the service. I have accepted a one year tour of duty and will become attached to the Department of Defense's Civilian Expeditionary Force in support of our troops in Afghanistan. I will be departing July 14, 2012 to complete my processing at the US Army's Camp Atterbury and then shortly thereafter I will deploy to Afghanistan. I will be under the direction of the US Army where I will live, eat, sleep and travel with the troops.

I'm sorry for the short notice but because I have signed letters of confidentiality I have been unable to divulge any information until this time.

Should you wish to contact me during my deployment my email address is [anton.m.tomasin.ctr@us.army.mil](mailto:anton.m.tomasin.ctr@us.army.mil) or through my wife Carla Tomasin at [cet@tomasinelectric.com](mailto:cet@tomasinelectric.com).

It has always been my greatest pleasure to be a part of the US Navy and to have served on the USS Johnston DD-821. While I will be stationed far away from the sea, my heart will always be with the Navy. I look forward to seeing you upon my return. May God bless you all.

Sincerely, Tony Tomasin

## **The next volume of "The Real Story of the USS Johnston DD-821" is a possibility!**

Most everyone who got a copy of "The Real Story of the USS Johnston DD-821" really enjoyed it and many of those have said they wish they had contributed a story or two for it. Recently, George Sites has been asked to make an additional volume of "The Real Story of the .....". George has agreed to put it together but he will not be "begging" for stories this time around—he says it is simply too stressful. He currently has about twenty new stories that shipmates have sent in but needs many more. George says that once he has about 50 or so, he will start to work on it. It is a lot of work and will likely take up to a year to complete. If you did not contribute the first time around now is your chance. If you did, share some more of your stories. If you are interested in contributing your stories, please send them to George via email or snail mail. Please include any photos you would like included. He says the format will be similar to the first book so please include the information that was required for the first book. George's email address is: [George.sites@gmail.com](mailto:George.sites@gmail.com) and his address is on the last page of the newsletter.



**USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION**

5653 Haydens Reserve Way  
Hilliard, OH 43026

Robert "Bob" Nava, President  
USS Johnston DD-821 Association  
541 Heswall Ct.  
Henderson, NV  
E-mail: usnavy821@cox.net

Webmaster: Duane Mallast  
Newsletter Editor: George Sites

**WWW.USSJOHNSTON.ORG**

**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](http://www.ussjohnston.org) and see your newsletter in full 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 its format and increased the number of newsletters from one to three per year. We would like to make it a quarterly newsletter, expand its 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 133 paying members for 2012 or beyond. out of the 447 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 help 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. Contact George Sites via email if you don't know your dues status.

We are including the 2012 dues payment forms with this newsletter in case you have misplaced yours.