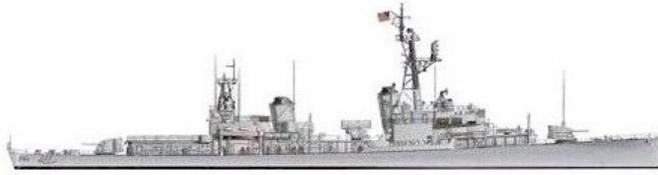


# USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 6, Issue 2

June 2014

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# Let FREEDOM RING!



the past, the reunion will be held in the month of May. Be patient and keep May 2015 open until you hear further details from the Association board. Our next Newsletter will include the dates, hotel arrangements and many of the details that will make you rush out and book the hotel.

If you have any suggestions, please send them to George Sites ([george.sites@gmail.com](mailto:george.sites@gmail.com)) as soon as possible for them to be considered. As you probably know, we do not use a reunion planner because we save a lot of money by making the arrangements ourselves and we pass the savings on to you. Any help we get from you only makes the reunion even better.

Our 2015 USS Johnston DD-821 Association reunion will be held in Philadelphia, PA. Based upon the enthusiasm for picking Philly at the annual Business Meeting I would venture a guess that this reunion will be well attended. As in

Brush up on your American history and we'll see you in Philly!

# A Texas-Size Reunion for the 2014 USS Johnston DD-821 Association

By Alida Breen

There we were in the seventh largest city by square miles in the entire U.S. San Antonio is big and beautiful with a plethora of rich cultural and historic sites. Our hotel, the Holiday Inn River Walk, was on the River Walk or “Paseo del Rio”. The setting is below street level where the San Antonio River is lined with 15 miles of paths and sidewalks that provide access to museums, hotels, shops, bistros and restaurants for all palates. In addition, the River Walk is close to the historic district, the Alamo, and the Spanish Missions.

Our reunion officially started with the opening of the hospitality room on the afternoon of Monday, May 19<sup>th</sup> when shipmates and spouses arrived from many parts of the U.S. to refresh, have a snack, and once again reconnect with other shipmates. Anyone listening could already hear the shipmates recounting memories of their Navy experience and sharing laughter and friendship. The ties between these shipmates were still as strong as ever.

The Welcome dinner was a smashing success, especially the finale, a delicious cheesecake. The event served as a warm up for the reunion and another good way to share life experiences with the members. A total of 46 attended the reunion – 23 shipmates and their spouses. It was the first reunion for one shipmate and his spouse.

On Tuesday, May 20<sup>th</sup>, the tour of San Antonio took us to San Jose Mission, the largest of the five Spanish Missions. In addition, we visited San Fernando Cathedral which at 283 years old is one of the oldest cathedrals in the U.S. and is on the National Register of Historic Places. Finally we ended our tour at the Alamo which was originally called San Antonio de Valero. We were fortunate to have a very knowledgeable tour guide who gave us details about the battle of the Alamo that one would not find in history books. She also recounted the fascinating history of the settlement of San Antonio.

The evening was free to enjoy and shipmates dined on the cuisine of their choice as there is no shortage of food in San Antonio. Many chose the native Tex-Mex which is ubiquitous here and served in Texas-size portions.

Wednesday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, as our tour headed north, our tour guide again provided many interesting details about the area. For example, underneath the shallow soil, are mostly layers of limestone. In the early days, mothers would break off a chunk of limestone and place it in a glass of water so that they could spoon out the water to give their children. This is how bicarbonate of soda was administered before the advent of the Arm & Hammer Company.

Our tour proceeded to Johnson City, the boyhood home of Lyndon B. Johnson. After a short stop, we were off again for the LBJ Ranch. While the ranch is expansive, the Texas Whitehouse is quite modest even with the many additions that were constructed over the years. That Lady Bird’s bedroom was furnished with thrift store French Provincial style furniture which she used for 40 years also shows the family’s unassuming style.

(Continued from previous page)

The next stop on our agenda was Fredericksburg. This is a town rich in German heritage with many historic buildings and original artifacts used by the pioneers who built the town. We were free to have lunch at any of the many restaurants on Main Street which included cafes, saloons, ice cream shops, steakhouses, casual bistros and fine dining. The choices were endless, including soups, sandwiches, burgers, seafood, Tex-Mex, German or European cuisine and, if you wanted to include a brew with your lunch, there was Fredericksburg Brewing Company serving Ales and Lagers with your meal. Some of us with a sweet tooth ventured to *Chocolat*, a specialty chocolate shop where one can buy European quality chocolate. The owner studied under a Swiss master Chocolatier to learn how to create the luscious chocolates sold here. In fact, *Chocolat* is the only American producer of the process known as “Liquid Praline”. Who knew we would find such a special treat in Texas!

Fredericksburg has a number of museums but we had limited time and had been scheduled to only visit the National Museum of the Pacific War. This Museum is the only one in the continental United States dedicated to telling the story of the Pacific Theater battles of World War II. The Museum includes the George Bush Gallery, Admiral Nimitz Museum, Plaza of Presidents, Veterans’ Walk of Honor, Japanese Garden of Peace, Pacific Combat Zone, and the Nimitz Education and Research Center. We could have spent several days here but, unfortunately, time was short and we had to proceed to our final destination of the tour.

As the tour bus drove off, we heard the song, “Luckenbach, Texas” made famous by Waylon Jennings and Willie Nelson. Yep, we were now close to the final stop of the tour. Luckenbach has a mid-1850’s feel with a general store, a saloon (with the sign “beer joint”), a closed post office and a dance hall. We had a short time to relax and enjoy refreshments from the saloon as well as purchase souvenirs in the general store.

Once back at the hotel, we were free for the rest of the evening. The hospitality room continued to be a popular venue to share stories, pictures, and memories with fellow shipmates while the spouses socialized and made new friends.

On Thursday, the group had free time until 4 p.m. when the general membership meeting convened. At this meeting, Philadelphia was chosen as the site for the 2015 Johnston reunion. In addition, three venues were nominated for the 2016 reunion – Jacksonville/St. Augustine, New Orleans, and a cruise.

Our Farewell Banquet opened with a prayer by the President, Bob Nava, after which we enjoyed delicious dinners of Chicken Piccata with Lemon Caper Butter Sauce and Petite Sirloin with Brandy Peppercorn Sauce. The meal was followed by the auction of an original painting of the USS Johnson DD-821 painted by shipmate Ordwayne Chauvin, a handmade quilt exquisitely made by Donna Williams (spouse of shipmate Carl Williams), and the book, The Trident Deception, autographed by Rick Campbell, the author of this submarine thriller who has been compared to Tom Clancy. The auctioneer for the event was none other than Michael Graziano, a former officer of the USS Johnston DD-821. Lastly, attendees had many choices for the White Elephant Raffle, including a bottle of exceptional wine purported to be worth several hundred dollars. The auction and the raffle were quite successful bringing in a total of \$765.00.

Final good-byes were exchanged among the shipmates and spouses during the Farewell Dinner and during the final minutes in the hospitality room. All had a great time and planned to see their shipmates in Philly next year. Happy sailing until we meet again in 2015!

# San Antonio Reunion—Welcome Dinner



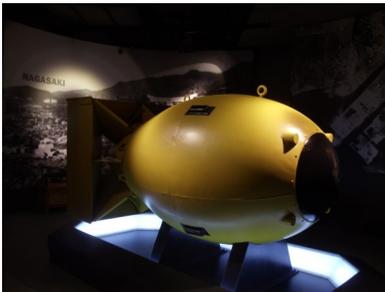
Our “come as you are” Welcome Dinner always starts the reunion off with good friends, of course some old sea stories and great food. This was no exception.

# San Antonio Reunion—San Antonio Tour



Our bus tour took us around San Antonio and we saw Spanish Colonial architecture, fountain-laden parks and plazas that make San Antonio the most visited city in Texas. We also visited the San Jose Mission, the San Fernando Cathedral and of course the Alamo. The tour lasted about 5 hours and we all had a great time!

# San Antonio Reunion—Fredericksburg, WWII Pacific War Museum Tour



Our bus tour took us to Fredericksburg, Texas the home of the Admiral Nimitz and the WWII Pacific War Museum. While in route we visited President Johnson's boyhood home in Johnson City, took a tour of the Texas White House and saw the largest working wild-flower farm in the United States. We had lunch in Fredericksburg and visited the two museums. Stopped at Luckenbach, Texas made famous by Waylon & Willie on the way back. Everyone had a good time but wished they had more time for the Museums.

# San Antonio Reunion—RiverWalk



World-famous "RiverWalk" located just outside the door of our hotel allowed us to sail or walk the waters of the San Antonio River throughout the city via water taxi's or sidewalks. Numerous restaurants lined the river, many with entertainment, lots of food & drinks. The RiverWalk also provided us with lots of exercise walking back and forth and helped us all stay trim.

# San Antonio Reunion—Farewell Banquet



Our final night started with our annual business meeting followed by our Farewell Banquet. Once our bellies were full, we had our auction followed by our White-Elephant-Raffle. Ordwayne Chauvin presented the Association with one of his paintings of the Jolly J, Donna Williams gave us a hand-made nautical themed quilt and author Rick Campbell gave us a signed copy of his new book *The Trident Deception* all for auction. Many items were donated by our attendees for the raffle. All money raised will be used in our General Operating Fund and will help us continue to provide newsletters to all our shipmates.

# High-Line

**By: Dick Harken, RM-3, Served aboard the Jolly J from 1951 to 1954**

Sixty years later, I still remember the various DesBatRed (Destroyer Battle Readiness) inspections that we had every summer, but the last one stands out in my mind. As an RM3, I was at that time the senior Radioman in the Radio gang.

These inspections were carried on in every Department of the ship and for the Radio shack consisted of two ships taking turns observing each other under a pre-set program of sending and receiving radio messages. Each ship sent an observer to the other ship to make note of how well and how correctly they completed their tasks under simulated battle conditions.

The exercises started with the USS Charles R Ware sending an observer to the Jolly J. His function was to observe for proper radio procedures in sending, receiving and handling messages. I was not involved in this part of the exercise, but was told later that they gave us a very poor grade. Needless to say Captain Watkins was upset and gave instruction to the Comm officer to retaliate.

I was volunteered (or was it voluntold?) by our Comm officer that I would be going over to the USS Charles R Ware to observe and make note of any regulated procedures that would be employed. The fact that we were at sea meant that the transfer would be done by High-Line. I had observed this technique several times and was always amazed that it could be done with mail and never get any mail wet, but the occasional Ensign would be taught a lesson in diplomacy by the deck crew.

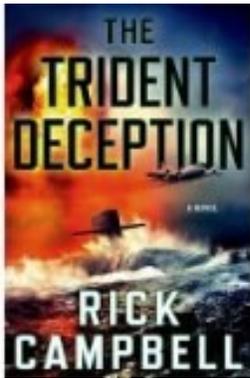
The exercise by the Charlie R went well as their Radio gang was very competent. One of the parts of the exercise was for the Johnston to request the Charlie R that they change radio frequencies to circumvent radio interference from a third party. This was done using classified information. Most of our log sheets were non-classified, but when the operator made note of the frequency change, he entered the classified information on the non-classified document. This was clearly a breach of security. To make it worse, he did it four times that day.

After I had ridden the High-Line back to the Johnston, I reported to the Comm officer who actually thanked me and shook my hand. I heard later that the two Captains decided to overlook the actual reports and to doctor them up so that neither would get any flack.

## George's Bookshelf

I read a fair amount of books. Most are fiction but then I read the occasional “real” book. I thought I would share my readings. Of course my favorite two books are “The Real Stories of the USS Johnston DD-821 Parts 1 & 2” but then I’m sure you all knew that. With that said, I hope you enjoy this section.

### *The Trident Deception by Rick Campbell*



I first became aware of this book as a result of the author contacting me asking me to share the information about his book to our Association which I did via email. He was also generous to give the Association a “signed” copy for our auction at the San Antonio Reunion’s Farewell Dinner. The winning bidder was Barbara “BJ” Copeland and the money she bid will help with the Association’s general fund. Thank you BJ.

I read the book and I have to say it is intense from cover to cover. Halfway through the book it starts counting down the time and when I completed the book, I must say I was stressed out. Definitely a good read. Let’s help out our fellow sailors and buy his book!

Here’s what Amazon has to say about it:

“The best submarine novel since Tom Clancy’s *The Hunt for Red October*.” —*Booklist* (starred review)

The USS Kentucky—a Trident ballistic missile submarine carrying a full complement of 192 nuclear warheads—is about to go on a routine patrol. Not long after it reaches the open sea, however, the Kentucky receives a launch order. After receiving that launch order, it is cut off from all counter-orders and disappears into the Pacific while it makes the eight-day transit to the launch site. What the Kentucky’s crew doesn’t know is that those launch orders haven’t actually come from the U.S. government.

Rogue elements within the Mossad have learned that Iran has developed its first nuclear weapon and, in ten days, will detonate it—and the target is Israel. The suspected weapon complex is too far underground for conventional weapons to harm it, and the only choice is a pre-emptive nuclear strike. With limited time, this rogue group initiates a long-planned operation called the Trident Deception. They’ll transmit false orders and use a U.S. nuclear submarine to launch the attack.

In this thriller from Rick Campbell, with only 8 days before the Kentucky is in launch range and with the submarine cut off from any outside communication, one senior officer, the father of one of the officers aboard the submarine, must assemble and lead a team of attack submarines to find, intercept and neutralize the Kentucky before it can unknowingly unleash a devastating nuclear attack.

George’s Bookshelf Continued on Next Page

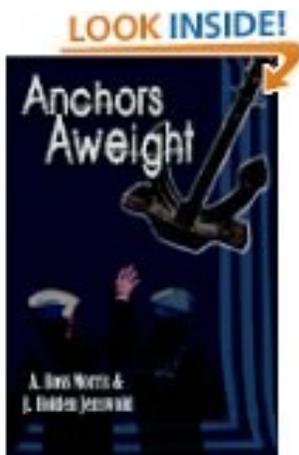
## George's Bookshelf-Continued

I found this book a few years back entirely by accident. It is written by two former "Jolly J" sailors that actually served aboard the Johnston during my last year on board. The book is intended to be comical based upon the two author's real life experiences before and during their time in the Navy and especially on the Johnston. I found it hilarious and could hardly put it down. Now if you are the serious type and don't like stories that may seem stupid or that you can't believe people would do while in the service, you may or may not find this book amusing and you may not want to read it. I remember some of the events taking place on the J.

As I understand the two author's are working on a sequel and I will certainly buy it when it comes out. Support your shipmates and give this one a try. Some of you will surely remember the authors by name and you may find yourself in the book with your name changed to protect your innocence. I found myself in it.

The reviews on Amazon are mixed so that may say something about the book. Here's what Amazon has to say:

### *Anchors Aweight by A. Alan Morris & J. Holden Jenswold*



This is a tale of two young men who are forced into the choices of being drafted, resisting the draft, or enlisting in the military. Neither knew each other before this dilemma. Neither felt resisting the draft was appropriate. However, each believed in democracy and the United States of America, so they enlisted in the U.S. Navy. From different parts of the country these two young men were now on a confusing collision course to meet each other, become good friends, and, learn of the fun, hardships, and absurdities of military life. Written in a unique narrative style, *Anchors Aweight* (a play on words), alternates narration from character to character in each chapter until they meet aboard ship. They form a bond as they deal with these new experiences. The adventures, hardships, and fun accelerate from chapter to chapter, as the two characters play off of each other well (like a Butch Cassidy & Sundance Kid interaction). Over time, they learn that even

in miserable or undesirable situations, life can be satisfying. "Life is what you make it!", says Jenswold. Morris says a story like *Anchors Aweight* is important because it serves as a simple reminder of the sacrifices made by our veterans, during war times, for all Americans. "We all have, or have had, friends, fathers, brothers, mothers, sisters, sons, daughters, aunts or uncles in similar circumstances," he writes. It is a sea story, a naval tale and it is about the military. The military is chock-full of adventures and themes that never change, so this chronicle relates well to all branches of the military. *Anchors Aweight* is a fictional account of the authors' experiences in the U.S. Navy. This entertaining chronicle is a smooth read with a dose of reality and a bountiful supply of humor.

# Book Order Form

**"THE REAL STORY OF THE USS JOHNSTON DD-821"**

**Parts 1 & 2**

**"AS TOLD BY THE OFFICERS AND SAILORS WHO SERVED  
ABOARD HER"**

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# TAPS



Doire, Laurent	01/30/2009
Gilmore, David	02/04/2010
Horn, Edward	01/26/2014
Lumpkins, Daniel	04/01/2014
McMuller Jr, Robert	04/10/2014

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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 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.*

**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 Hayden's 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 104 paying members for 2014 or beyond out of the 398 (26%) that are currently listed 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. Keep in mind the dues are not tax deductible! Contact George Sites via email if you don't know your dues status. We are including the 2014 dues payment forms with this newsletter in case you have misplaced yours.