

USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 6, Issue 3

October 2014

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Let FREEDOM RING!



Please see next page!

We're Headed to Philly for the 2015 USS Johnston DD-821 Association Reunion

This year we are offering something a little different and we hope you like it. We will have two parts to the reunion. The first part is the normal reunion at the hotel, hospitality room, trips, etc and the second part is a 7-day cruise to Bermuda which will actually be the week prior to the regular reunion. We hope that you will make both parts but if you can only do one part, we are requesting you do the regular reunion at the hotel.

Part 1—Regular Hotel, Trips, Hospitality Room, etc.



We are still early in the planning stages but we always start out by working out a great deal for our hotel and 2015 will be no exception. We will be staying at the Hilton Garden Inn City Center in Philadelphia. It has a great location within walking distance of many activities, museums, restaurants & theaters and will act as the hub for all of our planned activities. Apparently May in Philly is a very busy time so we really do need each of you to book your hotel reservation as soon as possible. Not only did we have to guarantee a cer-

tain number of rooms but as we get closer to the reunion date, the rooms may not be available and especially at this rate. We also need to know how many are coming so we can specify the size of hospitality room we need. Here are the details for the regular reunion. Make sure you mention the USS Johnston DD-821 Reunion to get the special rate.

Date: Monday, May 18 thru Thursday, May 21, 2015.

Location: Hilton Garden Inn Philadelphia City Center, 100 Arch ST., Philly, PA 19107

Telephone: 215-923-0100

Rate: \$125/night plus taxes, two nights prior to the reunion are available at the same rate, however there are no rooms available after the reunion at the discounted rate.

Room Amenities Include: Newly Renovated, Free Internet both wired and Wi-Fi, 32" LCD TVs, Microwaves, Refrigerator, Keurig Brewing System and the famous Hilton "Garden Sleep System".

Hotel Amenities Include: Pool, Full-Service Restaurant, Bar, Within Walking Distance of many of the city's finest restaurants, shopping and historic sites.

(continued on next page)

Part 2—7 Day Cruise to Bermuda, have you cruised since the Jolly J?



John and Donna Argonti as many of you know are Cruise Travel Agents when they are not traveling and cruising themselves. They have made arrangements for a 7-Day Cruise to Bermuda to work in conjunction to our reunion. It will depart out of Cape Liberty Cruise Port in NJ, cruise for two days of relaxation and fun, continue on to King's Wharf Bermuda for 3 days of sun and fun and then back to N.J. The cruise port is only about 90 miles from Philly so if we have enough cruising with us, John and Donna will attempt to arrange bus transportation to and from the ship, otherwise we'll have to drive. Keep in mind this is the week prior to

the regular reunion. It returns on Sunday, May 17 and the reunion starts on Monday, May 18th so you will need to make special arrangements for Sunday night between the cruise and the reunion. Here are the details.

Date: Sunday, May 10th to Sunday, May 17, 2015

Ship: Celebrity Summit

Rate: Inside \$749, Oceanview \$899, Balcony \$1199 plus \$225 in taxes and port charges (prices are per person)

These are the current prices. If we have enough interested, John and Donna may be able to get us a lower price. Celebrity has also made special arrangements if and only if you book an **oceanview or above cabin** by October 31, 2014 you will get a free beverage package & gratuities (normally \$788 for a couple in one stateroom—see below for details) and all other gratuities will be pre-paid by the cruise line (normally \$210 for a couple in one stateroom). This is a great deal!

Now pay attention. John and Donna are currently on a cruise in the Greek Isles and only have email available until October 9th. Please contact them as soon as possible if you would like to cruise with us and take advantage of this special deal. Also, the sooner you sign up, the sooner John and Donna can work their magic to get us a better rate.

Here is their contact information.

Prior to October 10th: email them at johnnarg@juno.com

October 10th and beyond: email or phone 805-927-9677

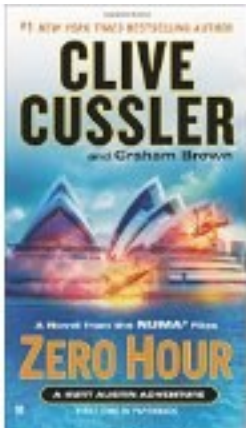
If you miss the October 31st cut-off date for the specials, I'm sure John and Donna can still get you on the cruise but you will be paying for your drinks and gratuities. Don't wait.

The Classic Beverage Package includes your favorite Coca Cola can and fountain drinks such as Coke, Diet Coke, Sprite, Fanta Orange and Coke Zero, but you may also enjoy fresh squeezed and bottle juices, premium coffees and teas and non-premium bottled water as well as all beer up to \$6 per serving, spirits, cocktails, and frozen drinks up to \$8 per serving, and wine by the glass up to \$9 per serving. Plus, with purchase of this Classic Package, you can enjoy a 15% discount on all wines by the bottle purchased on board, even their prized Reserve Wine list and Rare Wine list. Check out the Celebrity Cruise website for more details.

George's Bookshelf

I read a fair number of books in any given year. Most are fiction but then I read the occasional “real story” book as well. I thought I would share some of 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.

Zero Hour by Clive Cussler & Graham Brown



According to Amazon, this latest NUMA adventure from Cussler and Brown features the heroic members of the National Underwater and Marine Agency—Kurt Austin, Dirk Pitt, Joe Zavala, et al.—battling yet another madman who hopes to conquer the world. But crazed scientist Maxmillian Thero's weapon is unique: it uses of zero-point energy to create machines capable of causing continent-shattering earthquakes. Narrator Scott Brick is skilled at creating accents—a much-needed talent considering that Thero has marked both Australia and Russia as his main targets. Brick treats the book's Aussies, male and female, to a credible, near musical twang.

His Russian accents are solid, especially the voice he uses for an oddly likeable Moscow assassin. When it comes to most of the NUMA world-savers, Austin and Pitt included, Brick uses an all-purpose, broadcast-quality stalwart tone, though the down-to-earth Zavala's comments have an added touch of Brooklyn sarcasm. It's the voice of Thero that presents the biggest challenge. The authors describe it as being the result of vocal chords damaged in an intense fire that nearly killed the man and drove him mad. Brick's croak is so effectively garbled and strained one hopes he has his own award-winning voice properly insured against misuse.

Update on Rick Campbell's Trident Deception

You may recall I recommended *The Trident Deception* in the last Johnston Newsletter. Well I wasn't wrong and it turned out to be a great recommendation. I have even more exciting news! Right now there are 340 submarine thrillers for sale on Amazon, and for years, the highest rated one (based on customer reviews) has been Tom Clancy's - *The Hunt for Red October*. Not anymore - it's #2. Guess which book is #1? Congratulations to Rick, as a result of great sales and of course pushing Clancy out of #1, he now has a deal for 3 more books. Stay posted for the next Rick Campbell's adventure! He has promised a signed copy for our 2015 reunion auction.

George's Bookshelf-Continued

A Heart for Service by Bill Ismer

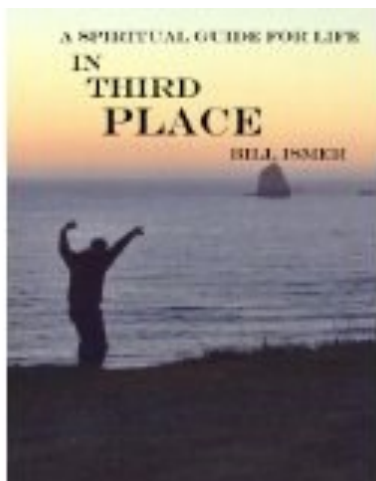
Not only is Bill one of our shipmates, a frequent reunion attendee but also a published author with three books to his credit. Here are two of his books. If you buy one, make sure you bring it to the reunion and have him autograph it for you.



"A Heart For Service" is not only a biographical look at the author's life, but also an attempt to share with you, the reader, the spiritual knowledge that he gained as he traveled his life's journey. After 4 years of active duty and receiving an Honorable Discharge from the Navy, the author joined the ranks of Law Enforcement where he served for thirty years. After retirement, he lived in his condo on the beach in Jupiter, Florida where he thought he was living the good life and, to his knowledge, was in excellent health while enjoying jogging, swimming, and riding his bike on a daily basis. At the age of fifty-four, he had been retired for several years and looked forward to a long and happy life. But that all changed one morning when he awoke with a pain in his left arm and the sensation of an elephant sitting on his chest. He called 911 and was then transported by EMS to the hospital where he subsequently suffered a massive heart at-

tack. The author was actually dead for about six minutes before multiple hits with a defibrillator restored his heart to a regular rhythm. It was during those six minutes that he had an epiphany that started his spiritual journey down a path to an understanding of who we are, what we are, and what we are doing in this life here on earth. Because of the heart attack, the author spent most of 1999 in a cardiac care unit at Tampa General Hospital before receiving his gift of life, a heart transplant. He never grows weary of telling people who he meets that once he received his new heart, he turned right around and gave it away to his favorite nurse, Debbie who agreed to marry him. He is also the author of a spiritual guide booklet, "In Third Place".

In Third Place by Bill Ismer



According to Amazon—After suffering a "Near Death Experience" the author wrote this Spiritual Guide For Life. Almost all of us have been taught from an early age that we are to love ourselves first before we can effectively love anyone else. It is Psychology 101 and is contrary to the manner in which our Creator would have us act; God wants us to love Him first, others second and ourselves third. Consider for a moment, what life would be like if that were the case. There would be no envy, jealousy or greed and we would share and experience great joy in the happiness of others. It sounds like utopia or maybe Eden. Could that be the point of our Creator's desire for us? We are children of God and He would be pleased to see us act more like His Son, Jesus our Savior, rather than our carnal-nature selves.

Covers and descriptions courtesy of Amazon.com



The United States Navy Memorial

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(202) 737-2300 • www.navymemorial.org

June 30, 2014

USS Johnston DD-821 Association
Attn: Mr. George A. Sites, Treasurer
5653 Haydens Reserve Way
Hilliard, OH 43026

Dear George:

On behalf of our President and CEO Vice Admiral John Totushek and the Directors of the United States Navy Memorial Foundation, thank you for your \$200 donation to the Navy Memorial Foundation approved at the Annual Business Meeting of your Association. Please extend our appreciation to all your shipmates.

I wish to personally thank you for this donation and share with you that it will be applied to our various educational outreach programs coordinated by our Curator Mark Weber. My card is enclosed; please call. The United States Navy Memorial's "Authors on Deck" book lecture series, the 2014 programs affiliated with our current Year of the Coast Guard Exhibit as well as the need for a few new exhibit cases for our ever expanding collection of naval artifacts will be well served by your donation.

This is an extraordinary place and one only has to look into the faces of the thousands of veterans and their families who visit us each year to know why we work so diligently to ensure the future of the Navy Memorial. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Haley
Director of Planned Giving

Cc: Toby Mack

P. S. This letter acknowledges that the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation, a 501(c) (3) organization (IRS # 52-1104476) received your contribution without any goods or services forwarded to you in return; therefore, pursuant to IRS Regulations, your contribution qualifies as tax deductible.

TIN CAN SAILORS, INC.

The National Association of Destroyer Veterans

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June 27, 2014

USS Johnston (DD-821) Assn.
ATTN Mr. George Sites
5653 Haydens Reserve Way
Hilliard, OH 43026-7475

Dear Mr. Sites:

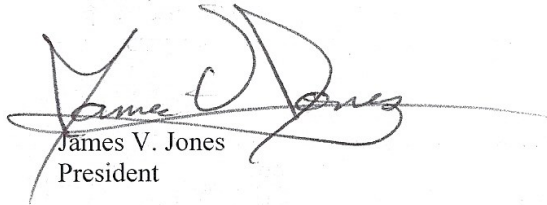
Thank you for your letter and the generous \$200.00 check from the USS Johnston (DD-821) Assn. Contributions such as these help to carry out the three-part mission of our association:

- to promote camaraderie among our members through our many events, our quarterly 44 page newspaper and by facilitating reunions of former shipmates;
- to promote the preservation of destroyer history and work to broaden the public's understanding of the contributions made by destroyers and those who served aboard them;
- and to support today's Navy and encourage understanding of its importance and mission.

Additional funds allow us to make an impact on the lives of sailors from yesterday, today and tomorrow.

On behalf of Tin Can Sailors, I once again thank the USS Johnston (DD-821) Assn. for their generous contribution.

Sincerely,



James V. Jones
President

Tin Can Sailors is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3). This was a donation for which you received no goods or services, therefore, it is tax deductible as allowed by law. Consult your tax advisor for additional information.

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"**

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____

STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

NUMBER OF COPIES "Part 1" ORDERED: _____ @ \$39.00 Each (includes shipping)

NUMBER OF COPIES "Part 2" ORDERED: _____ @ \$39.00 Each (includes shipping)

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLOSED \$ _____ (\$39.00 TOTAL PER BOOK)

MAIL YOUR ORDER FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:

GEORGE A SITES

2204 Ravinia Circle

Venice, FL 34292

ALLOW 4 TO 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY

Each book is also available on amazon.com in both printed and digital formats if you prefer to order that way

TAPS



Edward Burke	09/24/2009
Nankervis, George	04/08/2014
Richards, Norton	09/01/2014

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

5653 Haydens Reserve Way
Hilliard, OH 43026

Robert "Bob" Nava, President
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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 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 113 paying members for 2014 or beyond out of the 392 (29%) 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). 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.