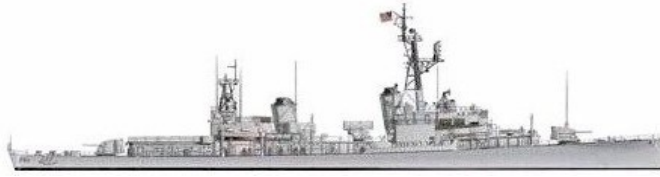


# USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 7, Issue 3

July 2015

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## 2015 Reunion Attendees



## USS Johnston DD-821 Newsletter

You may or may not know but this is the 7th year of our Newsletter's publication. You also may know that our Association membership is getting smaller as time goes by. The publication and mailing costs continue to rise so we need help keeping our cost down. We are requesting that anyone interested in receiving the Newsletter via email only instead of in the mail, please let George Sites know at [george.sites@gmail.com](mailto:george.sites@gmail.com). He will have two Newsletter mailing lists, one for email and the other for the USPS. We will continue to mail to those that do not request the email form. Keep in mind, the emailed version will be in color and much easier to read. Thanks for understanding!



## Biography—Hal & Sue Rosenthal

***“Four children, their spouses, six grandchildren and our love, legally initiated by marriage June 20, 1954 which grows lovelier each day. To us, that is what matters.” - Hal & Sue Rosenthal***



Sue is a retired Philadelphia public high school teacher; Hal, a practicing attorney who at the age of 16 lied to join and spend four years in the Naval Reserves.

Upon completing Law School, 1955, Hal was drafted into the Navy. At Bainbridge, Maryland boot camp, an officer noting the four years' Naval Reserve time, ordered Hal to wear a gold stripe despite his then only being an SN. Not wanting to be razzed by other boots for four years good conduct and no promotion, Hal

sewed the stripe on for morning quarters tearing it off as soon as the officer left for the day.

The first duty station was Brunswick, Maine NAS where Hal served as a Legal Yeoman. Sue and Hal lived in Navy housing designed for Jacksonville, Florida NAS and whose plans had accidentally been sent to Brunswick. At Maine temperatures, sometimes -30, they burned a ton of coal every two weeks and still had up to an inch of ice on the inside of window glass. Hal's duties included preparing papers for Captain's Masts, Court Marshalls, representing sailors at civilian traffic courts, preparing wills for them and advising on other legal matters.

To counter civilian stores increasing prices during every pay day period, Hal obtained permission to pay sailors and base civilians with two dollar bills. After three pay days, banks and stores up to forty miles away pleaded to stop the glut of the seldom seen legal tender. How many two dollar bills do you have in your pocket? The compromise was sailors showing ID were given a 10% discount.

After a year Hal was transferred to our Johnson, then Home Port, Newport, Road Island. Being the eighth assigned to the four seat Ship's Office, caused Hal to spend most of his time aboard wandering through the ship, and reading, watching the sea, the sky and the Turkey Tail from the fantail.

Sue who taught on an island in Narragansett Bay had more sea time than Hal until the Jolly J shoved off for a four month Med cruise during which Hal's duties included Captain's Talker. Hal's two year stint ended in 1957 with helping to produce the Cruise Book.

Hal and Sue greatly honor those who served more than his two years, particularly those who served during war times.

# **THE CITY OF BROTHERLY LOVE WELCOMES THE 2015 USS JOHNSTON DD-821 REUNION**

By Alida Breen

The destination for the 23<sup>rd</sup> annual USS Johnston DD-821 reunion was, as in past years, chosen by a majority of shipmates at the 2014 reunion. The city was Philadelphia and it was chosen over Baltimore and Williamsburg.

Our struggle for freedom as well as the beginning of our government have their roots in this city. It is truly the birthplace of our Nation. There is so much history and there are so many worthwhile sites that the four days of our reunion were too short to experience the full offering of this amazing city.

The Hilton Garden Inn was the perfect location to hold the reunion as it was in the center of the downtown and within walking distance of many historical attractions such as Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, the Federal Reserve and the U.S. Mint just to name a few.

Before I continue the story of our reunion, however, I want to briefly tell you about our reunion warm up. Ten of us signed up for the Bermuda cruise aboard the beautiful cruise ship, Celebrity Summit. It was arranged by John and Donna Argonti, a shipmate and his wife who own a travel agency. The cruise experience and Bermuda (a British colony with its own rich history) were fantastic. The crew was terrific, the food was delicious, and Bermuda was extraordinarily beautiful. The cruise was my 15<sup>th</sup> and I must say that Bermuda ranks in the top three of my favorite islands. Unlike most Caribbean Islands, I did not see evidence of poverty, panhandling, or folks pestering you to buy their wares. Crime is very low and we felt very safe and comfortable walking around the town. This is one island where I would happily vacation and not be overly concerned about safety. (Of course, security matters change quickly so that travelers must always be on their guard.) The only drawback for Bermuda is the high cost of living. The median price of a home is \$1.5M. So, it is definitely a grand vacation destination but, in my opinion, not a place for permanent residency for most of us.

On the ship, we ate sumptuous meals, enjoyed entertaining shows, played cards and laughed into the late night as we cruised the Atlantic Ocean. This was definitely not a cruise on the U.S.S. Johnston DD-821 except that we used the standard Naval terminology – the head, port, starboard, forward, aft, bulkhead, deck, etc. All of us agreed that it was a great way to get to know each other and develop a lasting bond much like the shipmates of the U.S.S. Johnston DD-821 had done in past generations.

Well, back in Philly on Monday, May 17<sup>th</sup>, the attendees started trickling into the Hospitality Room and the shouts and greetings of the shipmates could be heard all the way down the hall. They were glad to be reunited again and some were already pulling out their photo albums to once again relive the good memories and comfort each other on other experiences.

The camaraderie continued into the evening with cocktails and the Welcome Dinner. The chef and his staff prepared an exceptional meal that included an entree of chicken with wild

mushrooms and bourbon demi-glaze as well as seared salmon with Caribbean mango sauce.

A professional photographer had offered to come to the reunion to take group and individual pictures as a way of giving back to our brave sailors who served our country. The photographer and assistant traveled at their own expense and only charged a nominal amount to cover costs if anyone wanted to purchase photographs.

On Tuesday morning, we climbed into a tour bus for a 4-hour tour of Philadelphia. Among the most notable stops were Independence Hall where both the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution were signed, the Liberty Bell, and Christ Church and burial grounds. George Washington and Betsy Ross attended Christ Church and William Penn was baptized here. In the burial grounds are seven signers of the Constitution including Ben Franklin. As I walked these sites, I experienced so many emotions - joy, pride, humility, awe, inspiration. Above all, I was overwhelmed with gratitude that, as an Italian immigrant, I was able to come to the greatest nation on earth, work hard and achieve my goals. It had all been possible because of the determination and sacrifices of the people that toiled in those buildings to form this Nation and to all the brave veterans that preserved our freedom since that time.

Our last stop was not so much historical as entertaining. We were at the Philadelphia Museum of Art where we retraced the climb of Rocky Balboa up the 72 steps that were made famous by the Rocky movies. The only thing that was missing was the song in those movies, "Gonna Fly Now".

Wednesday was a full day of touring, stopping first at Valley Forge and visiting the house that George Washington used as his headquarters the winter of 1777-78. The modest home served as his office and sleeping quarters. We also climbed the steep steps up to the third floor where his security force was housed. On the perimeter of Valley Forge, we got a close view of the huts where the soldiers were encamped. The huts provided a glimpse of the miserable living conditions those men endured so that they might win freedom for future generations. I reflected on the bravery of the men and women in our military who are doing the very same thing today in many parts of the world.

Back on the road, we saw the National Memorial Arch which is very prominent in Valley Forge standing at 60' high. A brief stop at the Washington Memorial Chapel, an Episcopal church built as a tribute to George Washington and the patriots of the Revolution, ended the morning tour and we headed to Camden, New Jersey for the tour of U.S.S. New Jersey.

By the time we arrived at the port, we were hungry and welcomed the box lunch the Association provided for us before starting our tour. The U.S.S. New Jersey is the most decorated Navy ship of all time. At 45,000 tons and almost three football fields long, this battleship had roles in World War II, Korea, Vietnam, and the Persian Gulf wars. Our tour guide, George, himself a former sailor on the U.S.S. New Jersey, guided us throughout the vessel, including the Bridge, Captain's cabin, Officer's Wardroom, sailor's quarters, and communications area. Climbing up and down the companionways was exhausting but we were fortified by a substantial lunch and were enthralled by George's knowledge of the ship and the passion with which he conveyed the information. The time flew by and we were surprised that we had spent several hours on the ship and it was time to disembark.

Thursday, May 21<sup>st</sup> was a free day until the 4 p.m. business meeting. Some of us decided to venture out on our own. The following were among the most desirable to visit:



- \* The Betsy Ross House
- \* City Hall – a magnificent building started in 1870 and finished in 1901 – along with the statue of William Penn that sits on top of it and is the tallest statue on a building in the world.
- \* The thousands of murals in Philadelphia. It is the mural capital of the world.
- \* The U.S. Mint
- \* The Federal Reserve Building
- \* The Philadelphia Museum of Art
- \* Reading Terminal Market, one of America's largest and oldest public markets, where the dining choices are endless and the selection of goods extends to local and international products.

The afternoon was coming to a close and we rushed back for the business meeting and Farewell Banquet. The Banquet opened with a prayer and the Missing Man Ceremony, a solemn reminder that we will never forget the soldiers left behind on the battle fields of foreign lands. We will always honor their service, their sacrifice, and will always work to bring them home.

After the superb meal, we honored Mike and Regina Persiano with a cake and a "Happy Anniversary" song on their 65<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary. They were thrilled and we were happy to be able to help them celebrate this special occasion. The last event was our White Elephant Auction which is always fun as we raffle off items that the attendees have contributed. I won a book, oven mitts, and (my favorite) earbuds for my phone enclosed in a small blue bag with a U.S. Navy logo.

In the hospitality room after the banquet, it was time for final good-byes. Some exchanged emails and phone numbers as they committed to seeing their shipmates in 2016 in St. Augustine/Jacksonville, Florida.



## USS Johnston DD-821 Reunion Cruise to Bermuda



Country Inn & Suites



Freedom Tower



Entrance to Ellis Island



Statue of Liberty



Welcome to Cape Liberty



Celebrity Summit



## Cruise continued



L-R, Billy Cook, Penny Cook, Pat Nava, Bob Nava, Jim Ely, Gerry Ely, Alida Breen, George Sites, John Argonti, Donna Argonti



On board the ship



Having drinks prior to dinner

(You probably see the resemblance to the Jolly J!)



## Reunion in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

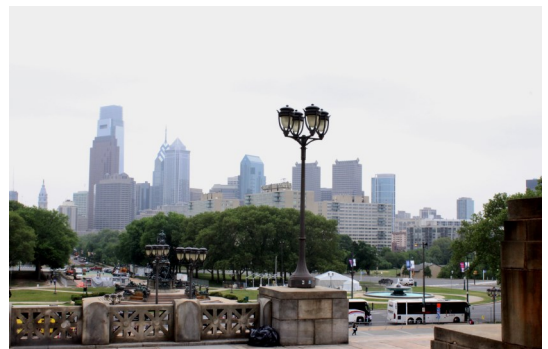


## Johnston Crew—2015 Reunion

L-R Top, Ward Hinds, Billy Cook, Steve Zenes, John Ogara, Bill Ismer, James Ely, Ordwayne Chauvin, Bruce Sauerwine

L-R Center, Tim Kujawa, Robert Terry, Fred Bender, David Batsche, Dennis Greiving, Stan Blaszcak, John MacDonald, Terry Carmoney

L-R Front, Michael Fanzone, Carl Camerano, George Sites, Michael Persiano, Bob Nava, John Argonti, Charles Copeland, Harold Rosenthal





## Reunion in Philadelphia—continued





## Reunion in Philadelphia—continued



**The Ladies of the USS Johnston DD-821  
May 2015 Reunion  
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania**



## Johnston Ladies—2015 Reunion

**L-R Top, BJ Copeland, Gloria Kujawa, Susan Terry, Alida Breen, Kathleen Snyder,  
Yolanda Ogara, Nancy Camerano**

**L-R Center, Donna Argonti, Savannah Bender, Pat Bender, Pat Nava, Barbara Angle,  
Carolyn Chauvin, Regina Persiano, Sherry Sauerwine, Debbie Ismer**

**L-R Front, Wendy MacDonald, Sue Rosenthal, Trudy Garrison, Brenda Hinds, Gerry Ely,  
Penny Cook, Lois Fazone, Karen Batsche, Cherie Greiving**



## 2016 Johnston Association Reunion is the 25th Anniversary of our Reunions!

The 2016 USS Johnston DD-821 Reunion will be held in Jacksonville, Florida. We have arranged our hotel arrangements at the five-million dollar newly renovated Double Tree Jacksonville Riverfront Hotel located at 1201 Riverplace Blvd, Jacksonville, FL 32207. It is located downtown on the Riverwalk and convenient to restaurants and the newly docked museum ship USS Charles F. Adams DDG2.

Due to Jacksonville being the home to so many conventions in May, the Johnston reunion has been moved up to Monday, April 4th thru the evening of April 7th. To be able to attend the entire reunion, you should arrive no later than Monday the 4th and leave no earlier than Friday the 8th as a minimum. Come earlier or stay later if you wish.

The below mentioned rates all include two full hot breakfast buffets per room per night and free self-parking each day (normally \$10 per night). The rates are good for 3 nights before and after the reunion. The negotiated rates are as follows:

- \* **Sunset View Rooms** (two double beds, one queen bed or one king bed) overlooking the Southbank and San Marco district. \$99/night plus taxes
- \* **Riverfront Rooms** (two double beds, one queen bed or one king bed) overlooking the St. Johns River and downtown Jacksonville skyline. \$109.00/night plus taxes
- \* **Riverfront Junior Suites** (oversized one room suite with king bed & sitting area including pull out sofa, mini fridge and microwave) overlooking the St. Johns River and downtown Jacksonville skyline. \$129.00/night plus taxes

The Johnston reunion is currently **NOT** active in the hotel's computer system so you **CANNOT** make your reservation until early August. We wanted to get this hotel information out to you as quickly as we could so you can sign up early. The reservation phone number is 904-396-8845. The link to our reservation site is:

[http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/J/JAXJRDT-JOH-20160401/index.jhtml?WT.mc\\_id=POG](http://doubletree.hilton.com/en/dt/groups/personalized/J/JAXJRDT-JOH-20160401/index.jhtml?WT.mc_id=POG)

Be sure to mention the USS Johnston DD-821 Reunion to receive the negotiated rates if calling in. If you have any problems let us know. Please make your reservations as early as possible after the previously noted date.

In addition to our Welcome Dinner on Monday and our Business Meeting, Farewell Banquet and White Elephant Auction on Thursday evening, we will be having a tour of the Mayport Naval Base and a tour to St. Augustine, home of the Fountain of Youth. More information to come in the next newsletter with all the details. We truly hope to see as many of you as we can. We hope you join us on our cruise just following the reunion (next page)!



### ***Royal Caribbean's "Freedom of the Seas"***

Ahoy Shipmates!

We are planning another reunion cruise right after the shore reunion ends. We will sail from Port Canaveral on Sunday April 10th, a few days after our Jacksonville reunion ends. There are many options for transportation from Jacksonville to the port and/or other places to visit.

We will cruise on the Royal Caribbean ship "Freedom of the Seas" for 7 days visiting the western Caribbean.

**Itinerary:** Port Canaveral, Florida - At Sea - Labadee, Haiti - Falmouth, Jamaica - Georgetown, Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands - Cozumel, Mexico - At Sea - Port Canaveral, Florida.

Here are the current "From" prices per person. Booking early locks in the price, if the price goes up, you keep your price! If the price goes down, we have always been able to get the new lower price. The booking deposit is **fully refundable** until 90 days prior to sailing.

Since this cruise is scheduled the same time as "Spring Break", chances are the price will go higher as time goes by!

Inside cabins start from \$660 P/P

Outside (window) cabins start from \$824 P/P

Balcony cabins start from \$1,122 P/P

**\*\*Taxes, fees & port expenses: \$129.00 P/P**

Please contact Donna Argonti, Worldwide Cruise Headquarters, for more information or to book this or any cruise!

johnarg@juno.com or 805-927-9677



## THINKING OF A CRUISE?

If you didn't know it, John and Donna Argonti (John is a Johnston shipmate) are cruise experts. They have personally taken dozens of cruises, on most of the cruise lines and have first-hand experience to help you pick the right cruise line, the best itinerary, at the right time and the right price. They arranged the 2015 Johnston Reunion cruise and we all had a great time. Give them a call or send them an email and see what they can do for you.



## Worldwide Cruise Headquarters

**Donna Argonti** ACC

Ca Central Coast Office

2515 Madison St.

Cambria, Ca 93428

<http://wwcruisehq.com>

*Managing Agent*

[johnarg@juno.com](mailto:johnarg@juno.com)

Home 805-927-9677

Cell 805-423-7947

## Johnston Association Annual Business Meeting Minutes

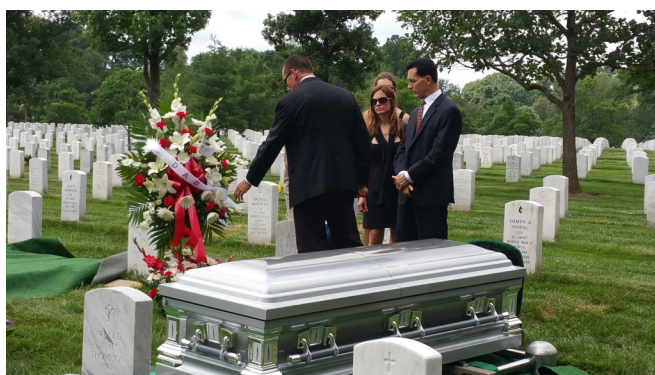
For those of you that don't attend the annual Johnston Reunion, we have a business meeting on the final day of the reunion. During the meeting we discuss issues such as: membership, dues, next reunion and the reunion two years out. We also discuss Association rules, possible changes to the rules and any general issues that may come up. In addition to all of that, we take comments and questions from our shipmates.

Changes have been made to the Association rules regarding the reunions and the Association Board Member terms.

Anyone who would like to receive copies of the meeting minutes, simply contact John Argonti via email at [johnarg@juno.com](mailto:johnarg@juno.com) and let him know what you would like to see.

# Captain John Mingo's Funeral

## Arlington National Cemetery





# Wake Up Call

Written by: Stephen A Brown, JD (a USS Johnston Shipmate)



Published in 1995, *Wake-Up Call* was written to share my personal testimony, and to point people to Jesus Christ. Copies have been distributed throughout Canada and the U.S. by business men and women who travel. This little book has changed lives and saved marriages. One marketing director for a national corporation, after reading the book, accepted Jesus as her Savior, only to die in a car crash three weeks later. I spoke at her funeral, and learned that she had lead a co-worker to Christ just before her death.

To God be the Glory! S. Brown, Yeoman Second Class, Ship's Office 1969-71

## RECEIVE YOUR USS JOHNSTON NEWSLETTER IN COLOR VIA EMAIL

As our membership continues to decrease, dues payments continue to lag, the cost of printing continues to increase and of course postage isn't getting any cheaper, we are looking for ways to continue providing our Newsletter to all our shipmates regardless of whether or not they are paying members.

We are asking those that would like to receive the Newsletter via email to fill out the form below and return it asap. We will continue to provide the Newsletter 3 or 4 times a year for as long as we can. Allowing us to email your copy will help to keep our costs low. Please make sure you keep us advised if you change your email address.

\_\_\_\_\_ Yes I prefer to receive the USS Johnston Newsletter via email

Please email it to: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail your completed form to: USS Johnston DD-821 Association, c/o George A Sites

5653 Haydens Reserve Way, Hilliard, OH 43026



## UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. • Suite 123 • Washington, D.C. 20004-2608  
(202) 737-2300 • [www.navymemorial.org](http://www.navymemorial.org) • FAX (202) 737-2308

June 3, 2015

USS Johnston DD-821 Association

Attn: George A. Sites

5653 Haydens Reserve Way

Hilliard, OH 43026

Dear George:

On behalf of our President and CEO Admiral John Totushek and the Board of Directors of the U.S. Navy Memorial I thank you for your \$200 donation to the United States Navy Memorial Foundation.

We will apply your donation to our 2015 Lone Sailor Awards Dinner for the sponsorship of a variety of youth organizations which I have listed below:

**NJROTC students from the National Capital Area**

**Sea Scouts coordinated by the National Capital Area Sea Scouting Council**

**Sea Cadets coordinated by the Navy League's U.S. Naval Sea Cadet Corps**

**Midshipmen from the NJROTC Program at George Washington University**

Thank you for your ongoing support. The students attending each year are interacting with wonderful role models and are often inspired by the life stories of the honorees to give serious consideration to a career in one of the Sea Services.

Sincerely,

Paul T. Haley

Director of Planned Giving

P. S. This letter acknowledges that the U.S. Navy Memorial Foundation, a 501(c) (3) organization (IRS # 52-1104476) received your \$200 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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*Executive Director*  
Terry Miller

June 04, 2015

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.

## USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

5653 Haydens Reserve Way  
Hilliard, OH 43026  
George.sites@gmail.com

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.*

### Board Members

**President**—Bob Nava, 541 Heswall Ct,  
Henderson, NV 89014 usnavy821@cox.net

**Vice President**—Charles Copeland, 3227  
Battlefield Rd, Strasburg, VA 22657  
cicbnc@shentel.net

**Secretary**—John Argonti, 2651 Madison  
St, Cambria, CA 93428 johnarg@juno.com

**Treasurer**—George Sites, 5653 Hayden's  
Reserve Way, Hilliard, OH 43026  
george.sites@gmail.com

## USS Johnston DD-821 Newsletter

As the editor, I have to admit I'm running out of "items" to put in the Johnston Newsletter. I'm willing to continue putting the newsletter together but I 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. Have you written a book and want to share it, send me the information. Any articles you may have about the Jolly J, books that include our favorite ship and whatever else you can think of. 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 former shipmates 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 if at all possible. We do understand that not all can afford to pay and that is OK. However at \$15/year, you have to admit it's a great deal. At the time of this writing, we have only **85** paying members for **2015** or beyond out of the **376 (23%)** that are currently listed on our roster. All shipmates on the roster receive our newsletters and 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. You do the math, each mailing of the newsletter cost about \$350 time 80 paying members equals \$1200. That barely covers the cost of three mailings let alone four and doesn't leave a dime for our website. Extra donations have been our saving grace. 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 **2015** dues payment forms with this newsletter in case you have misplaced yours.