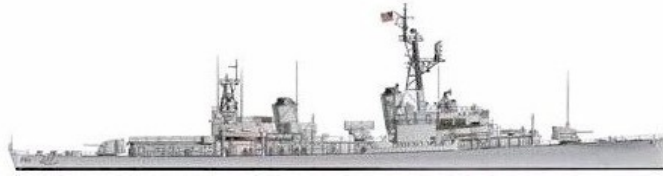


USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 8, Issue 2

May 2016

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2017 USS Johnston DD821 Reunion

Next year we promise the 2017 reunion will be another great event in the greater Boston, MA area. The next Johnston newsletter will have all the details and we will also email the details as well. Your board would greatly appreciate if you could sign up asap once the details are provided. The Association goes out on a limb each year guaranteeing numbers for the hotel, dinners, busses, etc. It is quite stressful and remember, the numbers are nothing more than a guess for us as it changes each year. If we guarantee it and we don't make the numbers by a certain date, the Association has to pay for the missing people. Once you sign up, you can always cancel at the last minute (prior to a certain date) due to some illness or family issues. However we hope this doesn't happen.

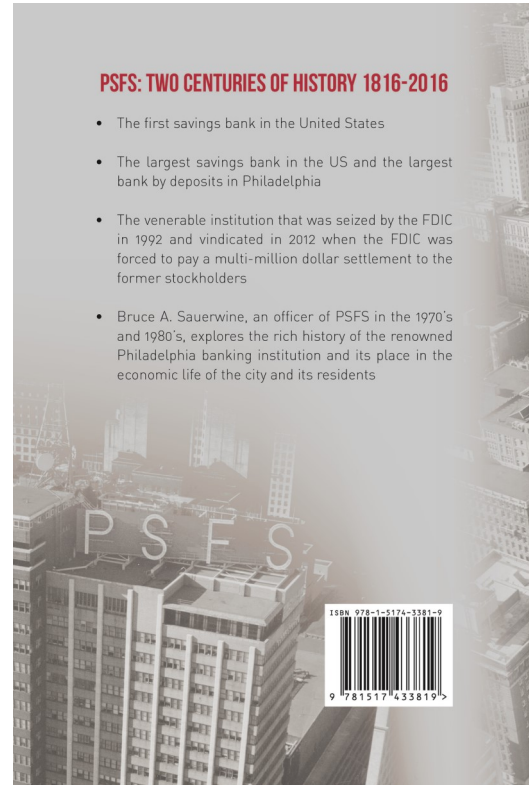
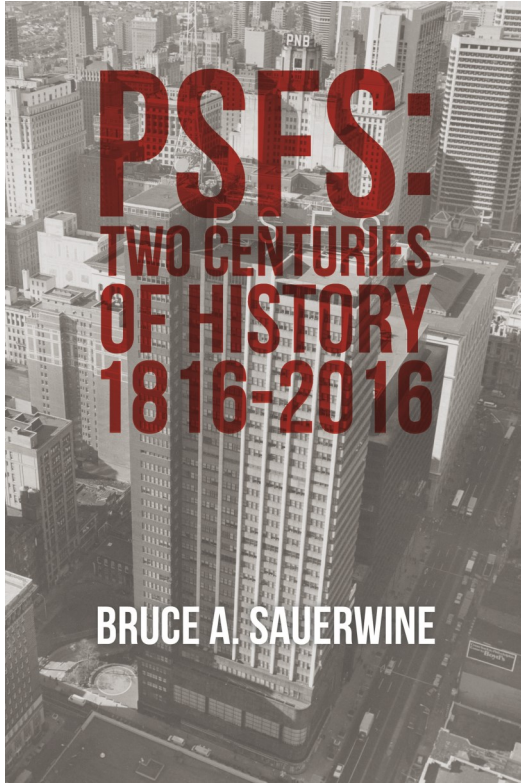
*Bob Nava, Charles Copeland, John Argenti
& George Sites*



USS Joseph P Kennedy DD850

Just replace the Hull Number with 821 and you'll be aboard the Jolly J.
There's a good chance we will board her next year!

Support One of Our Own!



One of our own, Bruce Sauerwine, has written a book on the history of the bank where he spent most of his working career after the Navy. Bruce was a QM2 on the “Jolly J” from 1971-1975.

The book **PSFS: Two Centuries of History 1816-2016** is the story of the Philadelphia Saving Fund Society (PSFS) which was the first and largest mutual savings bank in the United States. The bank was wrongly closed in the early 1990’s by the FDIC. A twenty year legal battle ensued which ended in a financial victory for the stockholders and former employees.

Bruce was inspired to write the book in 2013 while attending an employee reunion dinner which the former employees hold each year in the landmark PSFS building which is now the Loews Philadelphia Hotel in center city Philadelphia. He did extensive research in the bank’s archives which are housed in a research library in Delaware. He also interviewed numerous people for the project including a former president of the bank and board members, one of whom led the twenty year fight against the FDIC.

If you are interested in Philadelphia, history, architecture or banking, you will enjoy this book. It is available from Amazon.com for \$20-

THE WARMTH AND SUNSHINE OF JACKSONVILLE GREET THE 24TH ANNUAL USS JOHNSTON DD-821 REUNION - By Alida Breen

A warm venue is always popular and this year's reunion had over 60 attendees coming from as far as California, including eight first timers. The Double Tree by Hilton hosted the event and it was the perfect setting on the Jacksonville riverfront.

The afternoon of Monday, April 4th was the start of the reunion; and, as the shipmates and guests arrived, they drifted into the Hospitality Room to meet other attendees, grab some refreshments, and catch up on the year's events. The first timers were eager to reminisce with their old shipmates. As usual, the organizers and the hospitality room hostesses (shipmates' spouses) made sure there were refreshments and snacks to please everyone's tastes. When it was time for the Welcome Dinner, the attendees were treated to a delicious buffet of chicken, beef, and seafood, vegetables, salad and magnificent desserts. The camaraderie continued after dinner and then moved to the Hospitality Room.

The group was excited as it boarded the tour bus on Tuesday morning, April 5th. We were headed for the Naval Station Mayport, the third largest fleet concentration area in the United States. Mayport can accommodate 34 ships and, with its 8,000-foot runway, it can handle any aircraft in the Department of Defense inventory. In addition, Mayport is the operational and training headquarters for the SH-60B Seahawk LAMPS MKIII used for anti-submarine warfare. However, those were not the reasons for the excitement. We were going to be the first group to tour the USS Jackson LCS6, a modern and remarkable warship commissioned December 5, 2015. It looks like a "Star Wars" vessel with a sleek and ultra-modern look.

The USS Jackson LCS6 is a mission-specific vessel that is cheaper to build at \$400M. Thirty-two of these ships will be in service by 2020. The crew for this beauty is typically just 53 and 100 if fully deployed. It is interesting to note that the crew is all cross trained for all jobs including captain. The ship can change to three different modules depending on the need. For example, surface warfare is one module. I asked if there are any disadvantages to this type of ship and the captain replied (after I assured him I was not from Washington) that the only disadvantage was that it took two days to change modules.

Also on site at the Mayport base, the USS New Yorker was being refurbished. This is the ship that was partially built from the steel of the remains of the World Trade Center.

Everyone was hungry by the time our tour finished and our group headed to the Ocean Breezes Restaurant overlooking the gorgeous beachfront on the Atlantic Ocean. The restaurant is the former Officer's Club on the base which is now a catering and conference center.

Our final stop on today's agenda was the Anheuser-Busch Brewery in Jacksonville. Our tour guide was Roger who has been at the plant for 45 years. Needless to say, he was well versed in all aspects of the plant. We were able to see each step in the brewing process. The plant produces an astounding 5 million bottles and 8 million cans every 24 hours! Roger also provided a history of the first attempts to keep beer fresh starting in the 1870's. Mr. Busch had ice collected from the Mississippi River and placed in "ice houses". Subsequently, the ice was used in rail car walls to keep beer fresh to transport. The tour logically ended in the hospitality room where we were given a beverage of our choice in a glass to keep as a souvenir. I opted for the Melon-Rita, a margarita with a melon flavor. Terrific! I put it on my grocery list.

After breakfast on Wednesday morning, April 6th, we headed south for St. Augustine, our nation's oldest city founded in 1565. The tour bus took us through the main attractions when we arrived, including the following:

- The town center or Plaza de la Constitucion is the oldest public park in the United States. It has been the center of activity in St. Augustine since the 16th century.
- Government House which was the home of Florida's Spanish governors and later became the capital of the Florida Territory for a short time. And here, in 1862 Union officers took possession of St. Augustine during the Civil War.
- Mission Nombre De Dios is a 208 foot cross where Our Lady of La Leche, the oldest church in the U.S., was dedicated.
- Castillo de San Marcos is a national monument and has a long history as a fort. During its entire history, it was never captured in battle. It is the oldest coquina (shell stone) fort in the U.S.

We toured Flager Memorial Presbyterian Church, voted in the top 10 religious wonders by CNN. Henry Flager built the church as a memorial to his daughter who, along with his grandchild, died in childbirth. The style of architecture of the church is Venetian Renaissance. Flager hired German woodworkers and tile and marble craftsmen from Sienna, Italy. The chandeliers in the shape of crosses were originally powered by gas jets. It took 12 years to finish the 91 stained glass windows in the church. The organ is one of the largest in the U.S. and has 5,186 pipes.

Henry Flager also built opulent hotels and made the city a favorite destination of the rich and famous during the Gilded Age. He hired Charles Tiffany (yes, the famous jewelry name) to be his decorator.

Lunch and the rest of the tour time were on our own and we explored the local eateries, shopping, and other notable sites in St. Augustine. A number of us decided we needed more time in this quaint, colorful, and historically-rich city. We vowed to come back and explore further.

Thursday, April 7th was on our own until 4 p.m. when the business meeting would be held. About six of us decided to go to the Museum of Science and History (MOSH), a short jaunt from the hotel. The museum is rich in the history of eastern Florida covering 12,000 years up to the 1950's and houses various species of eastern Florida's native wildlife. It also has a remarkable planetarium that is the largest single-lens planetarium in the world.

At the business meeting, the shipmates chose Boston, MA for the 25th annual Jolly J reunion. In addition, Charleston, New Orleans, and San Diego were chosen as contenders for the 2018 annual reunion.

As in past years, the Farewell Banquet began with prayers and the Missing Man Ceremony, an emotional and touching tribute to the missing soldiers of foreign wars whom we will never forget and will always honor for their service and sacrifice.

The final event was the White Elephant Auction which is always popular with the attendees and is a fun way to raise a few dollars to defray the cost of the reunion expenses such as the hospitality room. Winners took away books, wine, jewelry, gift baskets, and even a painting of the USS Johnston DD-821.

We had such a great experience on last year's cruise, that twelve of us continued the adventure this year by booking a Caribbean cruise to Jamaica, Haiti, Grand Cayman, and Cozumel, Mexico. John and Donna Argonti, a shipmate and his wife who are travel agents, again came through with a memorable cruise on Royal Caribbean's cruise ship Freedom of the Seas. We have such a great time the past two years that we will likely make this an annual event either before or after the annual reunions. The shipmates have traded in their Jolly J cruise gear for modern cruise gear of shorts, sandals, and tropical shirts!



Hotel Doubletree by Hilton



Welcome Dinner



USS Sampson LCS 6



Bridge of USS Sampson



Crew at Fort in St. Augustine



Farewell Banquet

2016 USS Johnston DD821 Reunion Cruise RCCL Freedom of the Seas

Looks like a sea worthy crew to me, what do you say?



L—R Top Row: Billy Cook; Dave Batsche; John Argonti; Bob Nava; George Sites; Jim Ely

L—R Bottom Row; Penny Cook; Karen Batsche; Donna Argonti; Pat Nava; Alida Breen; Gerry Ely

On Friday after our reunion in Jacksonville, twelve of us ventured on down to Port Canaveral to our hotel, the Country Inn & Suites for our reunion cruise. Adventure. About dinner time, many of us were able to see SpaceX launch a rocket carrying supplies to the International Space Station. The following day some of us went to the Space Center to see the space shuttle Atlantis and learn a little more about our space program. Others went to the beach and later on most of us got together for dinner that night. Sunday morning our bus took us to the Freedom of the Seas for the start of our seafaring adventure and our home for the next seven days.

Our cruise lasted seven days and we visited: Larabee, Haiti; Falmouth, Jamaica; Cozumel, Mexico and George Town, Grand Cayman. Most of us ventured out on our own with many taking excursions to maximize the sight-seeing. Others just walked the ports or shopped. All of the walking and adventure made most of pretty hungry.

Each night the twelve of us got together for dinner in Leonardo's, the main dining room. One night, the Argonti's (thank you John & Donna) treated all of us to a steak dinner in "Chops", one of "Freedom's" premium restaurants. We all enjoyed our dinners together aboard "Freedom" and the entertainment was entertaining to say the least. Too early to tell if we will have a cruise in 2017 but we hope even more of our shipmates will decide to cruise with us in the future. It really is a good time.



Pictures Left to Right, Top to Bottom

Country Inn's & Suites Hotel, Space Center

Space Shuttle Atlantis, Freedom of the Seas Nameplate

One of the pools on the Freedom of the Seas, Promenade on the Freedom of the Seas



Formal Night on the ship



It's a USS Johnston Thing, You Wouldn't Understand!

Letter to the Editor

Dear Editor:

I read with great interest the section in your last newsletter involving Rear Admiral Burnham (Mike) C. McCaffree Jr, that was from the Naval History Foundation, Oral History Program 2014 – June 14, 2015 (Oral History Conducted by John Grady 15 March 2013). I thought I would add a few things that I recall from when I served aboard the USS Johnston.

A portion of this article told that when Commander McCaffree became C.O. of the USS Johnston he ahad “relieved a rather progressive predecessor who had implemented a number of new ideas. This predecessor had been Commander Daniel F. Anglim Jr. When I first came aboard the Johnston, the CO was Commander Robert W. Curran, who was relieved by Capt. Anglim shortly after I came aboard. Commander Anglim remained CO of the Johnston until my separation from the Navy right after we returned from a Mediterranean cruise in April of 1970.

During Capt. Anglim’s tenure as CO of the Johnston a number of regulations from “the old Navy” were relaxed or eliminated such as those involving reveille, regulations on hair length, and beards were also permitted. I was also one of those (mentioned in the newsletter article) who had been sent to a tender in Naples, Italy for a dental appointment. While in the waiting room of the dental office, the Chief Master at Arms of the tender came in and ordered all of us Johnston sailors off the ship, because of our relatively long hair and beards. When we returned to the Johnston, the OOD at the time (I believe it was LTJG John Rausch), told all of us to stand by. Capt. Anglim was informed, he returned to the tender alone, and a few minutes after his return to the Johnston, we were all back on the tender for our dental appointments. I remember all of this as shortly after being separated from the Navy, (as I mentioned in my story in “The Real Story of the USS Johnston DD-821, Part 1), while riding back home on my motorcycle I had been included in a routine traffic stop just after entering Ohio. With my relatively long hair and beard, and my South Dakota drivers license which had expired while I was in the Navy, I had quite a time explaining that I had just been separated from the Navy a few days before.

Although we were never officially informed, most of us assumed that these new regulation changes had come down from Admiral Elmo Zumwalt Jr. Adm. Zumwalt had been Commander of Naval Forces Vietnam, which included “the Brown Water Navy” and was later named Chief of Naval Operations. During his tenure in these offices one thing he did was reform outdated Naval policies which he though contributed to difficulties involving the recruitment and retention of qualified Naval personnel.

It should also be noted that while he had been Commander of (the brown water) Naval Forces in Vietnam, PBR (river patrol boat, or swift-board) commanders had included our present Secretary of State John Kerry and the Admiral’s own son LT Elmo Zumwalt III. As casualties were so high on these PBR’s, Admiral Zumwalt ordered the use of the chemical spray known as Agen Orange. Admiral Zumwalt’s son later died of Hodgkin’s disease and Lymphoma, and the Admiral’s grandson Elmo Zumwalt IV was born with severe learning disabilities, both of which were attributed to exposure to Agent Orange.

In the last issue of “The Tin Can Sailor” an author of one article noted how all of us have Naval Heroes. His was Commander Ernest Evans, who had been the Commanding Officer of the (first) USS Johnston DD -557. Even after his son’s death, Admiral Zumwalt said that he did not regret issuing the use of Agent Orange because it saved so many other lives. Because of this, I will have to say that one of my Naval heroes is Admiral Elmo Zumwalt Jr.

Sincerely,

Daun H. Harris “Harry”

RD3, 1968—1970

TAPS



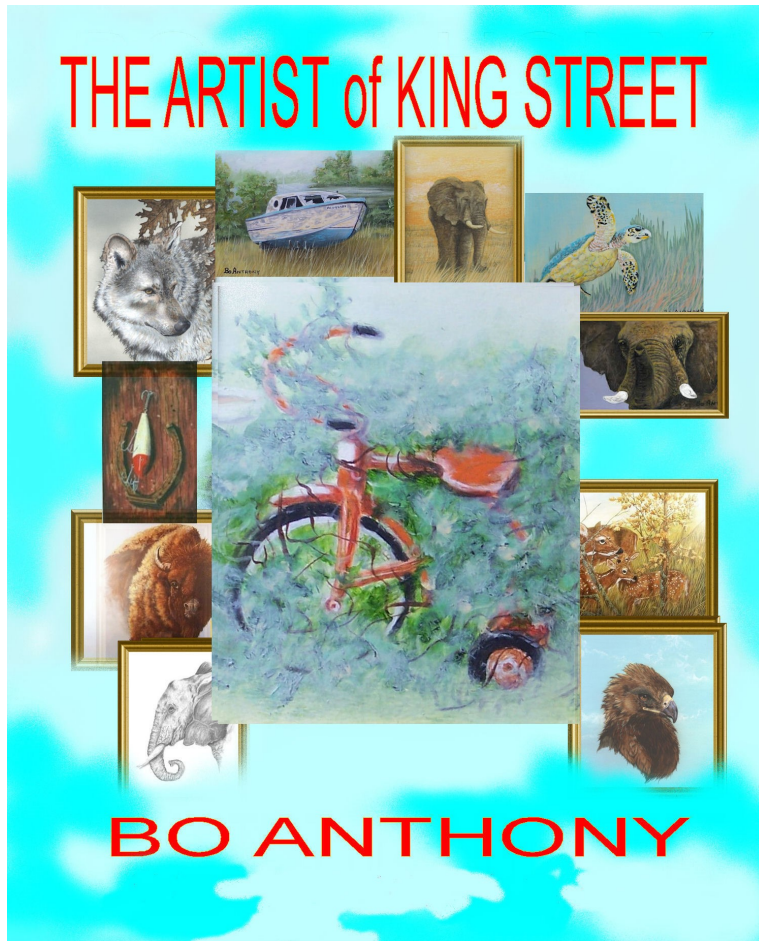
Michael Besse, Sr.

3/4/2015

Victor Anderson

11/29/2015

STARVING AUTHOR



George Sites' Florida buddy and U.S. Navy veteran, Bo Anthony has published his first book "The Artist of King Street". It is available digitally on Kindle and in printed format on both Amazon and Create Space now. The Audible format will be available in the late June time frame. It contains colorful language. If you pick one up, let him know what you think by giving a positive review on Amazon. Written in the style of Michael Connelly.

George says you won't be disappointed. He couldn't put it down! In addition to writing the book, Bo is an accomplished fine artist and all of the pictures on the cover and used in the book were painted by him.

INTRO

A small boy is left sitting on a park bench in St. Augustine, Florida by his father. Before the father walks off, he pins a note to the boy's shirt and tells him he will be back soon. He never returns.

A homeless street artist takes the boy in and teaches him the tools necessary to live on the street: how to stay dry on rainy nights, warm on cold ones and how to find or earn enough money to get by. Gradually the boy learns to paint as well as and eventually becomes better than his teacher. The old street painter and his homeless friends become the boy's family. Deep bonds are made.

The boy becomes hardened to life on the street and his paintings begin to sell. They are sought out by tourists wanting a work of art by the boy artist of King Street. Then the old man disappears. The boy thinks he has been abandoned a again and blames himself.

When he finds out what really happened, a killer is born.

The Artist of King Street finds that he is just as good at killing as he is at art. Detectives Conico and Swainson are assigned just one case. Catch the Artist of King Street whoever he might be.

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

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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,
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Vice President—Charles Copeland, 3227
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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've run out of "items/ideas" to put in the Johnston Newsletter. This is the 25th newsletter and I'm willing to continue putting the newsletter together but I need your help. Anything you feel would interest our shipmates would be appreciated. Articles such as "my favorite Johnston port", "my scariest moment of the Johnston" or your biography. Basically any short story and 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 left "J" in 1971. 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 **78** paying members for **2016** or beyond out of the **359(22%)** 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 \$300. Eighty paying members equals **\$1200**. That barely covers the cost of three mailings and maintaining our website. Extra donations have been our saving grace. Some are now receiving the newsletter IN COLOR via email and that has helped lower our delivery costs. 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 **2016** dues payment forms at the end of this newsletter in case you have misplaced yours.

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

2016 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION DUES

AHOY SHIPMATES! Once again it is time for our annual dues request to help support the USS Johnston DD-821 Association. While we know these are trying times, your dues make it possible for us to stay in contact with as many former Johnston shipmates as we can reach. Your generous donations help us cover the cost of postage, newsletter mailings and maintenance of our website. At this time each year we ask all our shipmates to please help support our Association and keep it growing. Our dues rate is still just \$15.00 per year, but we will accept any additional donations you may wish to include and help us offset membership costs for shipmates that may be less fortunate than yourself. We currently have only about one-fourth of the known Johnston shipmates as paying members. Our roster has approximately 370 names on it. Keep in mind, over 4000 served aboard the Johnston over the years.

PLEASE NOTE WE SEND THIS FORM OUT WITH EACH NEWSLETTER AS A FRIENDLY REMINDER. MANY HAVE SENT IN DUES MULTIPLE TIMES WHEN THEY HAVE ALREADY PAID FOR THE CURRENT YEAR. WE ALWAYS APPLY YOUR PAYMENT TO THE NEXT YEAR'S DUES IF YOU HAVE ALREADY PAID FOR THE CURRENT YEAR. WE APPRECIATE HAVING YOUR PAYMENTS IN ADVANCE BUT IF YOU ARE NOT SURE IF YOU ARE PAID UP TO DATE, PLEASE CONTACT GEORGE SITES VIA EMAIL (george.sites@gmail.com) OR SNAIL MAIL.

If you wish to continue your membership in the USS Johnston DD-821 Association or are an individual wishing to join, please fill out the information on the next page and send it to George Sites at the address shown on the form along with your annual membership check for \$15.00 payable to the USS Johnston DD-821 Association. Even if you choose not to join or cannot afford the dues at this time, please fill out the personal information sheet so that we may keep track of your current mailing address and email address. We will never turn our backs on our shipmates, and maybe someday we may need a little help as well. By sending us your completed information sheet it helps us keep our database current and up-to-date so we can continue to send you all our newsletters and reunion notices.

The requested dates of service should include any and all time spent in any branch of the US military. This will help us determine if your donations in the future can be considered "tax deductible". Currently your dues and/or donation are **NOT** tax deductible. Many of our shipmates have asked for a copy of our membership roster. We are asking you for permission to add your name to the published roster.

On behalf of all the officers of the USS Johnston DD-821 Association, we thank you for your support and wish you and your families our very best.

Sincerely,

George A. Sites, Treasurer

USS Johnston DD-821 Association

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

2016 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION DUES

NAME: _____

SPOUSES NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBERS: _____

DATES SERVED ON THE JOHNSTON: _____

RATING: _____

DATES SERVED IN ANY BRANCH OF THE US MILITARY INCLUDING THE JOHNSTON:

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

YES I WANT TO JOIN, ENCLOSED ARE MY **2016** ANNUAL DUES FOR \$15.00 ()

I DO NOT WISH TO JOIN AT THIS TIME BUT INCLUDE ME IN THE ROSTER ()

YES, PLEASE ADD ME TO THE PUBLISHED ROSTER FOR ALL TO USE ()

IF ADDITIONAL FUNDS ARE INCLUDED, PLEASE INDICATE IF THEY ARE FOR FUTURE DUES OR A DONATION TO HELP DEFRAY OPERATING COSTS:

FUTURE DUES: _____ DONATION: _____ (Currently dues and/or donations are **NOT** tax deductible)

Dues are requested by Jan 1, 2016.

Make Check Payable To: **USS Johnston DD-821 Association**

Send To: **USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION**
C/O GEORGE A. SITES, TREASURER
5653 Haydens Reserve Way
Hilliard, OH 43026