

USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 9, Issue 3

July 2017

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CHARLESTON BOUND

You guessed it, our next Association reunion will be held in Charleston, SC from Monday late afternoon, May 7th thru Thursday evening, May 10th, 2018. Most will leave on Friday May 11th. We will be staying at the Town & Country Inn and Suites, Charleston. It is located at 2008 Savannah Hwy, Charleston, SC 29407. We have negotiated a special rate of \$114/night plus taxes. Free parking is included. Other reunion details are still being worked out and we will provide the details asap. A form with the hotel info is included on the next page. Please book your room asap. You can either send the form in or call them. In addition, a reunion cruise is planned for the week prior to the regular reunion. If you have to make a choice of one, please pick the regular reunion in Charleston.

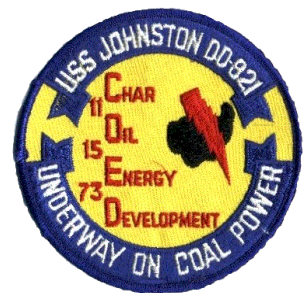
Charleston was the homeport to the Jolly J in the late 1960's and early 1970's and many of us that served on her during that time have never been back to Charleston. We hope you will attend and as in the past, please let us know asap if you will be attending the reunion.

As you probably remember we made a call to our shipmates asking for someone with some computer skills to take over the USS Johnston DD821 website. Rich Donovan (Shipmate from 1958 to 1960) stepped up and is taking over as Webmaster. His contact info will be on the website. The site may go down for a few weeks or so but hang in there and it will be up and operating in no time. As you know, Duane Mallast did a fabulous job for about 15 years and our website is second to none. Thank you Duane!

Our 2017 reunion in the Boston area went well. We had a visit to the USS Joseph P. Kennedy DD850 a sister ship to the Jolly J. We were able to explore most of the ship. Most of us did not remember how poor the living conditions were on our ship. I guess at our young age at the time, it really didn't seem all that bad. We also had a meet and greet with the Captain of the USS Constitution. He escorted us to areas of the ship not normally open to the public.

John Argonti has arranged for a "USS Johnston DD821 Challenge Coin" to be produced for our members. An order form is included in this newsletter. The coins are going fast so get your orders in soon.

As we all gracefully age our Association membership continues to shrink. Paid memberships are low as well. If you know shipmates that are not members now, please ask them to join.



USS Johnston DD-821

May 7 through May 11, 2018

Town & Country Inn and Suites

2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407
T: 843-571-1000 TF: 800-334-6660 F: 843-766-9444

Group Room Rate:

\$114.00 plus 14% tax per room per night, Sunday through Thursday evenings.

\$179.00 plus 14% tax per room per night, Friday & Saturday evenings.

Group rates are not subject to further discounts or any current promotions.

A Credit Card Number is required to guarantee this reservation.

The Town & Country Inn and Suites is a non-smoking Hotel.

Your Name: _____ Telephone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Email Address: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ # Rooms: _____

Roommate Name(s): _____

Room Type Preferred: _____ Contemporary King _____ Contemporary Two Queens

Special Requests: _____

*Although we cannot guarantee special requests, every effort will be made to meet your request. Group reservations are blocked several days prior to arrival. Although the Hotel makes every effort to pre-block group reservations as close as possible, we do not guarantee the proximity of rooms due to numerous variables, including varying arrival dates and room types.

Deposit Enclosed: _____ OR

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp: _____

Cardholder Signature Authorizing Hotel's Use of Credit Card: _____

*(PLEASE NOTE: Those guests sending a cash deposit should be aware that a credit card imprint and valid, state-issued ID will be necessary upon check in. Should you wish to pay for your stay with cash, a credit card imprint and valid ID will still be required upon arrival to secure your accommodations. All cash payments are accepted upon departure.)

Cancellation Policy: 24 Hours prior to arrival date

Check-in Time: 3:00pm Check-out Time: 12:00pm

Group Code **USSJOH**

To confirm accommodations, please return form to the Hotel, or call directly, by **April 7, 2018**.
The accommodations block and group rate will not be held beyond this date.

We look forward to seeing you in May!



Royal Caribbean's "Freedom of the Seas"

Ahoy Shipmates!

Isn't the "Freedom of the Seas" just beautiful! I'm sure it reminds you of the Jolly 'J' in some ways doesn't it? We are planning another reunion cruise right before the 2018 shore reunion starts in Charleston, SC. We will sail from Ft. Lauderdale on Saturday April 28th. Many of our Johnston shipmates have cruised on the "Freedom" in the past and had a wonderful time.

We will cruise on the "Freedom of the Seas" for 8 nights. Our itinerary is: Day 1 / Depart Ft Lauderdale, Florida—Day 2 / At Sea—Day 3 / At Sea—Day 4 / Basseterre, St. Kitts—Day 5 / St. Philipsburg, St. Maarten—Day 6 / San Juan, Puerto Rico—Day 7 / Labadee, Haiti —Day 8 / At Sea - Day 9 / Return to Ft. Lauderdale, Florida on Sunday, May 6th.

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

Inside cabins start from \$651 P/P

Outside (window) cabins start from \$732 P/P

Balcony cabins start from \$1190 P/P

****Taxes, fees & port expenses are included in these prices!**

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

johnarg@juno.com or (H)805-927-9677 or (C)805-423-7947

U.S.S. Johnston DD821

Given to George Sites by John Walsh at the 2017 Johnston Reunion

Read at the annual business meeting

I know that there will never be
A slicker ship than she
And she'll always be that way
The grand ole Jolly J

Her Skipper is the best of all
He keeps the crew on the ball
The Exec is the same I'll say
Both are very proud of the Jolly J

Officers and Chiefs as well
Help to keep our ship looking swell
But with the crew she has today
She will always be the Jolly J

Jolly Jolly Jolly J
What the hell is in store today
General Quarters or Turn to
Or Holiday routine and liberty to

TAPS



Owen Corrigan	3/12/2011
CPO Frank S. Nash, Sr.	2/4/2017
MM3 Joe Oliver	3/25/2017
SO3 George Prescott	4/26/2017
MM3 James K Martin	5/7/2017
Arthur Daly	7/1/2017

Boston Reunion Review

By Alida L. Breen

THE DESTINATION IS “BAHSTON”

Both George and I had been to Boston over 20 years ago but we did not have the opportunity to see all the sites. So when Boston was chosen for the 25th annual U.S.S. Johnston DD-821 reunion, we made a list of attractions and venues we wanted to visit. This historic city is on the U.S. News and World Report magazine's list of top U.S. destinations. It has a lot to offer whether your passion is baseball, the arts, fashion, food, history and many other interests. Our board of directors chose the Holiday Inn Boston-Dedham for its location and affordability. As most of you know, you can blow through your entire travel budget easily in Boston if you are not careful.

We arrived the day before the reunion started so that we had time to prepare for the arrival of the shipmates and guests as well as have some additional free time to explore. The reunion started officially at 3 p.m. on Monday with the opening of the Hospitality Room. Monday morning, we gathered a group and took off by train to downtown Boston where we got the feel of the city with the huge buildings, the crowds and, unfortunately, no idea where we could find a good restaurant for lunch. The city can be intimidating. As it happened, we were stopped at a crosswalk and I managed to ask a young man standing next to us where he would recommend our group have lunch. He suggested the Slate Bar and Grill as a popular place with good food and gave us directions. We had a bit of a hike but finally found it and, as it turned out, it was worth the effort. On the return train trip, the group was given a free ride when the train operators saw all the U.S.S. Johnston hats. Boston is also a patriotic city!

The shipmates and guests started arriving at the Hospitality Room by early afternoon and by the time dinner time arrived, all were sharing experiences of the past year and welcoming new attendees. The Welcome Dinner was truly welcoming with an array of offerings, among them – New England clam chowder, fruit salad, antipasto salad, chicken marsala, sliced strip loin with Bordelaise sauce, and assorted desserts!

Tuesday, May 9th, all shipmates and guests were on board by 8:15 a.m. and headed for Battleship Cove which has the largest collection of World War II ships. Our driver, Vinnie, and our tour guide, Ron, were prepared to make the 45-minute ride as comfortable, informative, and entertaining as possible. Upon arriving at Battleship Cove, we went directly to our tour of the U.S.S. Joseph P. Kennedy DD-850 which is similar in size and configuration to the U.S.S. Johnston DD-821. I marveled how the young men assigned to such ships could maneuver around the small areas, especially their bunks stacked three high with three small compartments where all of their earthly possessions were stowed.

After our tour, we ate lunch on the U.S.S. Massachusetts, a battleship that is also in Battleship Cove. Our next adventure was a totally different type of experience—a tour of the Lizzie Borden house. Prior to the tour, a number of the attendees expressed little interest. The comments after the tour, however, indicated they were totally absorbed with the story. It is no wonder. Our host at the Lizzie Borden house was, obviously, very adept and knew the story well. As soon as we stepped inside the house, he took control of the story and we felt as if we were right in the middle of a murder mystery imagining a precise re-enactment of the murders. The upper floor of the house is used as a bed and breakfast. A night will cost you a few hundred dollars and you shouldn't be too afraid to book it. After all, Lizzie was never convicted!

Wednesday, May 10th, required another early morning start at 8:15 a.m. Our tour director, P.J., originally from Ireland and still holding on to slight accent, was well versed in American history. During our walking tour of Boston's historic district, he provided a lot of information on Paul Revere's house, the settlement of the area by different ethnic groups, the development of Boston by Josiah Quincy in the 1820's, and many other topics. A stop for refreshments and a cannoli at Mike's Pastry Shop on Hanover

Boston Reunion Review—continued

Street was a welcome treat. It is one of the most famous pastry shops in Boston. We continued on the Freedom Trail where we saw Paul Revere's statue and St. Stephen's church where Rose Kennedy was both baptized and memorialized at the end of her life.

We were on our own for lunch at Quincy Market and had plenty of time to stop in Faneuil Hall, another great U.S. landmark. Our afternoon destination was Charlestown to tour the U.S.S. Constitution or "Old Ironsides" as it has been known since the War of 1812. The U.S.S. Johnston DD-821 reunion group was given special treatment on this tour. Captain Robert Gerosa, the 74th commanding officer of Old Ironsides, took time out of his duties to talk to our shipmates and guests. Additionally, another deck was opened for touring by our group exclusively. Anyone touring this amazing vessel is bound to feel the patriotism of the American heroes who served on it and the gratitude we owe to them.

Thursday's official activities did not start until mid-afternoon when the business meeting was held. As such, we had the morning and early afternoon to continue to explore the Boston area. As it happened, some of the shipmates had planned to tour the John F. Kennedy Library and Museum and invited us to go along.

Driving in the Boston area is not for the faint of heart but our navigator, Billy Cook, drove like a native Bostonian! There are 13 Presidential Libraries in the country and the J.F.K. Library is the only one located in New England. The Libraries are managed by the National Archives and Records Administration which was created by Franklin D. Roosevelt. All Presidents are required to surrender their records to the National Archives.

There is so much in this library and museum that it is overwhelming to consider being there for just a few hours. In addition to the 5 million pages of J.F.K.'s papers, Robert Kennedy's papers are also on site, along with the manuscripts of Ernest Hemingway and countless photographs, sound recordings, films, video tapes, and other printed materials. Having lived through the Kennedy years as a high school student, the memories of the 1960 campaign through November 22, 1963 all came back to life. This tour is one worth taking if you visit the Boston area.

By the time we finished the library and museum tour, we had worked up an appetite. Of course, the only place we wanted to go is "where everybody knows your name"—Cheers! Finding a parking place was a challenge but our driver, Billy, again came through. We enjoyed a delicious lunch with our friends and crossed off our list another Boston landmark. I managed to purloin a paper placemat and a cocktail napkin as souvenirs.

Our Farewell Dinner provided a final opportunity for the shipmates and guests to reminisce and socialize with new and old friends. The Missing Man Ceremony, along with prayers, always starts the event. This tribute to missing soldiers of foreign wars is always very solemn as everyone remembers the sacrifice these men made for our freedom.

There was something for everyone on the menu—minestrone soup, salad, Teriyaki steak tips, roasted pork, grilled salmon, assorted starches and vegetables, and irresistible desserts. The White Elephant Auction is always a hit and the shipmates and guests can always count on taking home several items. Our time together had come to an end and the attendees shared last minute thoughts and said their goodbyes.

We hope to see you next year in Charleston, South Carolina when the Jolly J will have its 26th annual reunion of shipmates.



Battleship Cove, Lizzy Borden House, Historic Boston, USS Constitution







FAREWELL DINNER





USS JOHNSTON DD821 CHALLENGE COIN

John Argonti of the USS Johnston DD821 Association board has arranged for the manufacturing of a USS Johnston DD821 Challenge Coin. As you can see, it is beautiful and should make a wonderful keepsake for shipmates and family members. If interested, please fill out the form below and mail as indicated. John Argonti will ship them directly to you. All profits go to the Association's general fund!



The cost is \$15.00 each which includes shipping. Please fill out the form below and mail it to the following address along with your check made payable to John Argonti:

John Argonti
2515 Madison St.
Cambria, CA. 93428

Yes I would like to purchase USS Johnston DD821 Challenge Coins at \$15.00 each including delivery.

Number of Coins requested _____ x \$15.00 each = \$_____ total enclosed

Your mailing address:

Name: _____

Street Address: _____

City, State & Zip Code: _____

Email Address: _____

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

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Venice, FL 34292
George.sites@gmail.com

Webmaster: Rich Donovan
Newsletter Editor: George Sites

WWW.USSJOHNSTON.ORG

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St, Cambria, CA 93428 johnarg@juno.com

Treasurer—George Sites, 2204 Ravinia
Circle, Venice, FL 34292
george.sites@gmail.com

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.

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 27th 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 **70** paying members for **2017** or beyond out of the **338 (about 20%)** 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. One Hundred paying members equals **\$1500**. 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 **2017** dues payment forms at the end of this newsletter in case you have misplaced yours.

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

2017 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 343 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

2017 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION DUES

NAME: _____

SPOUSES NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE NUMBERS: _____

DATES SERVED ON THE JOHNSTON: _____

RATING WHILE ON THE JOHNSTON: _____

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

EMAIL ADDRESS: _____

YES I WANT TO JOIN, ENCLOSED ARE MY **2017** 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 due upon receipt.

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

Send To: **USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION**
C/O GEORGE A. SITES, TREASURER
2204 Ravinia Circle
Venice, FL 34292