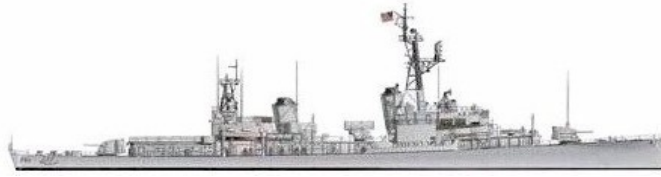


# USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 10, Issue 1

July 2018

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## SAVANNAH BOUND

By now you probably know that we are headed to Savannah, Georgia for our 2019 reunion. Our reunions are always a great time and our reunion next year promises to be another great one. As you know we post our recently deceased members on the website and in the newsletters. When I received the most recent news of Mike Fanzone's death, I sent an email to the Association board members letting them know. Mike frequently attended our reunions so we all knew him. I don't remember for sure but I likely commented that we are losing our members quickly. I got an email from John Argonti saying "That is exactly why going to the reunions is so important!". Keep that in mind the next time you are deciding whether or not to attend.

We have arranged our stay to be at the Holiday Inn Historic Savannah. It is located at 520 W Bryan St, Savannah, GA 31401 and it is within walking distance of the river walk and the historic section that has all the restaurants and shops. It was entirely remodeled just about two years ago. In fact, it is the same hotel we stayed in last time except with a new name. There are numerous Holiday Inns in the area, make sure you book for this address. We are still working on the tours, meals, etc. and will report them in the next newsletter.

In the meantime, we are asking you to make your reservations at the hotel asap. We had to guarantee a number of rooms. Once those are gone at the negotiated price, there may not be more available. Apparently May & June is their prime time. Many of the hotels in the desirable locations of Savannah are already booked nearly full for the time period we are going to be there.

The reunion will be held from Monday afternoon, May 20th to Thursday evening, May 23rd. Most will arrive on Monday afternoon and will leave on Friday morning. Call the hotel at 1-912-790-1000 and reserve your room. Be sure to mention the USS Johnston DD821 reunion to get the special price. The special price is \$129/night for a king or \$139/night for a room with two double beds. These prices do NOT include tax. Discount breakfast tickets (\$10) are available at the front desk. City parking is extra at \$30/day (valet). The hotel is allowing the Association to provide our own drinks including alcohol for the dinners so no extra expense for drinks during our meals.

Don't forget we have a welcome dinner on Monday night and a Farewell Banquet on Thursday evening. Keep this in mind when making your travel plans.



# TAPS



**James Dempsey    2/13/2017**

**MM2 James Kendrigan    5/1/2017**

**RMC Frank Prohidley    9/20/2013**

**Marvin Eppley    11/8/2017**

**F1/c Art Damm    4/19/2018**

**DK3 Michael Fanzone    4/25/2018**

# OLDE GLORY

AUTHOR UNKNOWN provided by Carl Williams, Jr.

I am the flag of the United States of America....My name is Olde Glory.  
I fly atop the tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice.  
I fly majestically over great institutions of learning.  
I stand guard with the greatest military power in the world. Look up! And see me!  
I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom!  
I am confident, I am arrogant, I am proud.  
When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is held a little higher.  
My colors are a little truer. I bow to no one! I am recognized all over the world.  
I am worshipped—I am respected—I am revered—I am loved—I am feared!  
For more than 200 years, I have fought in every battle of every war;  
Gettysburg, Shiloh, Appomattox, San Juan Hill, the trenches of France,  
The Ardennes Forrest, Anzio, Rome, the beaches of Normandy, the jungles of Guam,  
Okinawa, Tarawa, Korea, Vietnam and in the heat of the Persian Gulf and a score of  
Other places long forgotten by all but those who were there with me.  
I was there. I led my Sailors and Marines, I followed them, I watched over them, they love me.  
I was on a small hill on Iwo Jima.  
I was dirty battle worn and tired but my Sailors and Marines cheered me!! I was proud!  
I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries that I have helped to set free.  
It does not hurt for I am invincible.  
I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my own country  
And when it is done by those with whom I have served with in battle, it HURTS!!  
But I shall overcome for I am strong!  
I have slipped the surely bounds of Earth and from my vantage point on the Moon,  
I stand watch over the new frontiers of space.  
I have been the silent witness to all of America's finest hours. But my finest hour comes when I am  
torn into strips, to be used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the field of battle.  
When I fly at half mast to honor my Sailors and Marines and when I lie in the trembling arms of a  
grieving mother—at the grave side of her fallen son or daughter, I am proud!  
My name is "OLDE GLORY", long may I wave dear God, long may I wave.

# SOUTHERN CHARM AND HOSPITALITY

## The U.S.S. Johnston 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Reunion, May 7-10, 2018

By Alida I. Breen

It is interesting to note that the mere mention of Charleston, SC elicits excitement and enthusiasm for this city. As we prepared for the 2018 U.S.S. Johnston reunion, we told friends and neighbors of the destination when they asked where we were going. Inevitably, they described the sights, the people, the food, the atmosphere, and everything about Charleston in superlatives. After arriving in Charleston, I asked a lady walking on the street for directions to the Fleet Landing Restaurant. Not only did she point us in the right direction, she also indicated we would have a terrific time in Charleston and that she had lived there for three years and absolutely loved it. Surely, I thought, there must be someone who has had a bad experience here.

As we entered the Town & Country Inn & Suites, we were surprised at how new, modern, and beautiful it is. Ok, I thought, that's always the way these places are laid out to make you think your room will be luxurious. After all, how many people ask to see the room before they book it? Well, at \$114/night, the price negotiated by the Association President, Bob Nava, the rooms our group reserved scored a "10" in my book. In fact, many of the attendees commented on their well-appointed rooms.

As in past years, we opened the Hospitality Room on Monday afternoon. The hotel provided a very large room with many tables for the attendees to gather around to reconnect with their shipmates. After 27 years of holding the reunion, the wives have also formed friendships with each other and they hold their own discussions while their husbands talk Navy. We don't allow new attendees to feel like first timers. No, whether the attendees come alone or bring a guest, everyone makes sure that all are included in the conversations and socializing.

The Welcome Dinner is the official start of the reunion and it was a success both from a gastronomical perspective as well as the spirit of camaraderie that permeated the event. Each table was buzzing with conversation and laughter from the beginning of the meal with the salad to the end with the table of desserts.

Tuesday morning, we boarded our beautiful motor coach and headed for Patriot's Point, touring the U.S.S. Laffey (a destroyer). The Laffey was commissioned in 1944 and was in Japan in World War II. It was attacked by a monstrous air strike of 22 Japanese bombers and kamikazes. Five of the kamikazes and three bombs struck the ship and a number of the crew were killed and wounded, but the Laffey remained afloat. We went on to tour the U.S.S. Yorktown. This carrier had a major impact in the Pacific between 1943 and the surrender of the Japanese in 1945. As an additional treat, we lunched in the CPO mess hall of the Yorktown. We also saw the Medal of Honor Museum, the Vietnam River Patrol Post, and the submarine, the Clamagore.

The afternoon schedule included a boat ride to Fort Sumter. What a historic site! Here, the first shots of the Civil War were fired in April 1861. Prior to our walking tour, one of the rangers with the National Park Service provided a detailed history of the Fort and the major historical events. As we toured the areas of the Fort, we could imagine the soldiers manning their positions and living in the Fort.

-Continued on next page-

# SOUTHERN CHARM AND HOSPITALITY

## Continued from previous page

Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, we were up early for the day's tours to Fort Moultrie and Boone Hall Plantation. Fort Moultrie, on Sullivan's Island, is located near a beautiful beach area with Key West style homes and quaint cottages. It has a long and rich history going back to 1776 and extending to 1947 when, after World War II, changes in military technology rendered seacoast defense obsolete. Fort Moultrie has been restored so that visitors can see the different time periods in which the Fort was active. For example, a portion of the Palmetto log fort of Revolutionary times is still on site.

Our second destination was Boone Hall Plantation, one of America's oldest working plantations. Going through the entrance, we saw the lengthy row of huge oak trees on each side. This is the famous  $\frac{3}{4}$  mile Avenue of Oaks. When we arrived, one of the employees was enjoying a piece of cake at one of the tables and, when he finished, he offered to do a presentation on the cabins of the slaves on Slave Street. The cabins are made from brick and were reserved for skilled slaves such as seamstresses, cooks, etc. When the slaves were freed in 1865, half of the slaves stayed on as sharecroppers. Most of the slaves on the Plantation originated from the Caribbean Islands and the western part of Africa.

The Plantation Garden is a masterpiece, designed in the form of two butterfly wings. It contains 22 beds of historical flowers and plants. The Noisette class of roses originated in Charleston and is a specialty of the Plantation.

Our tour guide for the five areas of the Plantation House was very funny and entertaining as well as knowledgeable about its history. The home passed through several owners and the acreage shrank from the original 15,000 to just over 700 as portions were sold. The main products of the estate were indigo and bricks. Rice was also grown but it was mostly for consumption on the Plantation. Later, cotton was added. The Plantation has been used as the site for filming, most notably "Gone with the Wind".

The reunion also included free time for us to explore on our own. Tuesday evening, Wednesday afternoon and evening, and Thursday morning and early afternoon provided a great opportunity to explore the many eateries as well as the Charleston City Market, downtown Charleston, the marina, the Citadel and other destinations. Our goal is to return to Charleston again to see the sights we missed on this trip.

Thursday was the final day of the reunion and the official activities started with the business meeting on Thursday afternoon where Savannah, GA was chosen as the destination for the 27<sup>th</sup> annual reunion. It was soon time for the Farewell Dinner where, along with an initial prayer, the Missing Man Ceremony commenced the event. As in past reunions, the shipmates and guests remembered the missing soldiers of foreign wars and paid tribute to the sacrifice they made to maintain our freedom. We all enjoyed the delicious banquet but, more importantly, the bonds that unite these men were confirmed and strengthened.

We had a number of new attendees this year and we hope that we will continue to draw more shipmates for the 28<sup>th</sup> annual reunion. Anchors Aweigh—see you in Savannah!



# 2018 Charleston Reunion

## Farewell Banquet















# 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: \_\_\_\_\_

**DD821 Ball Cap and Patch also available for \$25 which includes shipping!**

## USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

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George.sites@gmail.com

Webmaster: Rich Donovan  
Newsletter Editor: George Sites

**WWW.USSJOHNSTON.ORG**

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cicbnc@shentel.net

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St, Cambria, CA 93428 johnnarg@juno.com

**Treasurer**—George Sites, 11746 Goombay  
Ct., 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 FORMER SHIPMATE DUANE MALLAST, AND WITH THE SUPPORT OF THE USS JOHNSTON ASSOCIATION AS A MEANS TO MEMORIALIZE AND SHARE THE EXPERIENCES WE ALL HAD WHILE SERVING ABOARD THE U.S.S. JOHNSTON. IN ADDITION, THE ANNUAL JOHNSTON REUNION REINFORCES THESE BONDS AND BRINGS US ALL TOGETHER AGAIN.

THE ASSOCIATION IS A “NOT FOR PROFIT” ORGANIZATION FORMED BY AND OPERATED BY USS JOHNSTON DD-821 SHIPMATES.

## 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 **40** paying members for **2018** or beyond out of the **328 (about 12%)** 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 **\$250**. 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 **2018** dues payment forms at the end of this newsletter in case you have misplaced yours.



# USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

## 2018 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 328 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](mailto: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

## 2018 ANNUAL ASSOCIATION DUES

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

SPOUSES NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBERS: \_\_\_\_\_

DATES SERVED ON THE JOHNSTON: \_\_\_\_\_

RATING (RD3, etc) 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 **2018** 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**  
**11746 Goombay Ct.**  
**Venice, FL 34292**