

USS Johnston (DD821)

2019 USS JOHNSTON DD-821 Reunion Savannah, GA

Your Association officers have worked hard to make USS Johnston's 2019 reunion the best ever. It will be held in Savannah, GA at the "Holiday Inn" located at 520 Bryan St., Savannah, GA 31401. We have negotiated a special room rate of \$129 for a king and \$139 for 2 double beds (these prices DO NOT include taxes). Discounted overnight parking is available for \$25/night. Breakfast is not included, however, there are discounted \$10 Breakfast buffet vouchers available at the front desk. There is no shuttle service to the hotel from the airport. Uber is the least expensive method at about \$18. Taxi's cost about \$32 per couple. They are available at the airport.

The reunion will start on Monday evening, May 20th with the "Welcome Dinner" being held that night. If you want to attend the entire reunion, it is important to arrive no later than on Monday afternoon as you certainly don't want to miss our Welcome Dinner. We have arranged exciting tours for Tuesday and Wednesday plus a great show at the Historic Savannah Theater on Wednesday evening. Thursday, we will have our business meeting early evening followed by our Farewell Banquet and White Elephant Auction. Five events in total plus our business meeting. The Hotel is providing a Hospitality Room for the reunion, so we can relax and continue to exchange those old sea stories and once again spend time together. The Hospitality Room will be open early morning to late night as required. Please check your "Welcome Packages" for any last-minute details or changes.

*We have really got it set up this year for our tours. There are **two** important issues regarding the busses.*

- 1. **Due to the size of our group, our tours will be on 2 vehicles, both leaving from the hotel at the same time. All seats will be filled on a first come/first serve basis so send your registration form in early. We will number your registration form as received and that will be the order the bus seats are filled in. Once all seats are spoken for, late registrations will also be numbered, and you will get a seat only if space becomes available.***
- 2. **The buses are not equipped for wheelchairs. However, if required, they do have storage for your wheelchair.***

Monday, May 20th - REUNION STARTS

Our Hospitality Room will open at approximately 3:00 pm (possibly earlier so check in earlier if you want). Please come by and pick up your Reunion Package. Snacks and Drinks will be available.

*Our **WELCOME DINNER** will be held this evening at the hotel. This event is casual so come as you are however, please wear your nametags - as you know, our memories aren't what they used to be. We have a feast planned with something for everyone so come with an empty stomach. No outside alcoholic drinks allowed to be brought into the Farewell Banquet, so a Cash-Bar will be available. Here is what is on our plate for tonight.*

<i>Mixed Green Salad with Choice of Dressing</i>
<i>Chicken Parmigiana</i>
<i>Tuscan Grilled Chicken</i>
<i>Lasagna</i>
<i>Pesto Potatoes</i>
<i>Vegetable Medley</i>
<i>Dinner Rolls</i>
<i>Tiramisu for Dessert</i>
<i>Iced Tea</i>
<i>Cash Bar</i>

After dinner, you are free to stroll around the city or simply join your shipmates in our hospitality room.

Welcome Dinner: \$42.00 each

Tuesday Morning, May 21st - SAVANNAH EXPERIENCE TOUR PLUS LUNCH AT THE PIRATES HOUSE

The Savannah Experience Tour is the most comprehensive city tour offered in Georgia's "First City"! This excursion takes place in the comfort of our climate-controlled minibus, visiting all the familiar sites and landmarks of the Historic District as well as surrounding areas. Take a break from touring and dine at one of Savannah's oldest and most unique restaurants since 1753. The tour will last approximately 4 hours.

Savannah Experience Tour plus Lunch: \$43.00 each

Wednesday Morning, May 22nd - TYBEE ISLAND & FORT TOUR

After touring the Historic District, your group may enjoy our surrounding coastal Region. This excursion includes a visit to Old Fort Jackson, Georgia's oldest standing brick fortification, and National Historic Landmark. This excursion also includes a visit to Tybee Lighthouse, where one

can climb the 178 steps to the top for a breathtaking view of the surrounding Coastal Empire. The tour last approximately 3 hours.

Tybee Island & Fort Tour: \$32.00 each

Wednesday Evening, May 22nd - HISTORIC SAVANNAH THEATER

The Historic Savannah Theatre was built in 1818 and designed by renowned architect William Jay. Today the theatre has been restored in the classic 1940's Art Deco style. In its seventeenth year of operation since being restored, you will enjoy a two-hour show. As of the date of this printing, the actual title of the show has not been released. We will let you know asap but request you not hold up booking for the show. No transportation is included, the theater is less than a mile from the hotel and takes about 4 minutes to walk.

We attended the Historic Savannah Theater the last time our reunion was in Savannah and it was the hit of the reunion. Our shipmates and their wives talked about the show for years.

Historic Savannah Theater: \$31.00 each

Thursday Late Afternoon and Evening, May 23rd: BUSINESS MEETING, FAREWELL BANQUET & WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

The morning and afternoon are free and yours to do as you please. Our business meeting will be held just prior to the Farewell Banquet and both will be held in the hotel. Check your "Welcome Package" for times.

Our FAREWELL BANQUET will be held this evening at the hotel. Two years ago, at the annual business meeting, the dress code for tonight's dinner has been relaxed from those in the past. Smart casual is requested however if you prefer to dress up a bit, that is ok as well. Please wear your name tags. No outside alcoholic drinks allowed to be brought into the Farewell Banquet so a Cash-Bar will be available. Here is what is on our plate for tonight.

<i>Mixed Green Salad with choice of Dressing</i>
<i>Bourbon Marinated London Broil - Grilled & Served with Beef Demi-Glace</i>
<i>Pan-Seared Salmon prepared with a Low Country Rub</i>
<i>Roasted Potatoes</i>
<i>Vegetable Medley</i>
<i>Dinner Rolls</i>
<i>Key Lime Pie for Dessert</i>
<i>Iced Tea</i>
<i>Cash Bar</i>

Farewell Banquet: \$53.00 each

The White Elephant Auction will follow immediately after dinner. Please bring a gift to be given away at the auction and plenty of cash for the raffle to win some of the wonderful items donated by your shipmates. The hospitality room will be open immediately after the White Elephant Auction.

Many of our shipmates will be leaving on Friday morning so be sure and give them a good send-off Thursday evening.

If you had a great time, let us know. If there is something we need to do differently, let us know that as well. Safe travels to all and hope to see you next year.