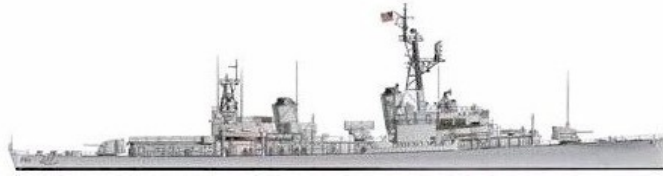


USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 12, Issue 2

July 2020

In this issue

- Taps—2
- 2021 Reunion Update - 3
- It's Never Too Late to Thank Them—4
- Rick Campbell, Deep Strike—5
- Reunion Listing—6
- USS Johnston DD821 Challenge Coins & Ball Caps—7
- USS Johnston DD-821 Association—8
- Association Newsletter—9
- 2020 Association Dues —10



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

With all that has and is happening during 2020 in our wonderful country, including canceling our New Orleans reunion (first time our reunion has been canceled) due to the Covid-19 virus, civil unrest, needless murders and every other terrible thing imaginable, keep in mind that we are all part of the greatest country in the world. You served your country and you should be proud of your service. From your Association Board, we hope that all of you (our shipmates) and your families are safe and healthy and have stayed clear of the virus. We hope to see you at the 2021 USS Johnston DD821 Association reunion!

TAPS



Byron Pulsipher 9/18/2015

Capt. James Held 11/8/2019

EM3 Oliver Norton 10/11/2018

EN2 Joe Connelly 3/26/2020

2021 USS JOHNSTON DD-821 Association Reunion Update

As you know, the Association Board had to cancel our New Orleans reunion this year in May due to the Covid-19 virus. It was not an easy decision at the time but turned out to be the right one. We considered just simply moving it to later in the year but decided against that. We also considered having the reunion in New Orleans for 2021 but ran into troubles. First problem is the hotels are still reluctant to quote us for next year. We also had a hard time getting our "Meals" deposit back from the hotel we were going to be staying in and just recently we were reimbursed. In addition to that, we have not received our deposit back from the New Orleans Tour Company and although they say we will get it back, we're not holding our breath. We hope you understand and support our decision to cancel the reunion and not have it there in 2021.

The Board then decided to hold an email vote for the 2021 reunion. The vote was based upon the cities voted on for the 2021 reunion during our 2019 reunion business meeting. The vote was between Orlando, San Antonio, and Las Vegas. We sent an email out to the email addresses we have on file. The final results have us holding the 2021 reunion in Las Vegas during the month of May, 2021. We are busy working out the details and if Bob Nava, Association President performs the same kind of magic he did for our past reunions, it should turn out to be a great deal and a lot of fun for all of our shipmates. Once the details are worked out, we will provide the details in our next newsletter.

Counting the 2020 reunion, the 2021 reunion will mark our 30th Johnston reunion since James Martin started the reunions back in 1992 at Myrtle Beach, North Carolina. Although he has passed on, we owe him a big thank you. For many of us, attending a reunion for the first time and seeing former shipmates for the first time in a very long time, is the highlight of our year. For the many of us that attend the reunions year after year, we not only have hooked up with previous shipmates but have made many new Johnston friends. Our ladies enjoy each other as well. We hope that our 30th reunion becomes our best reunion yet with the largest number of guests. Please mark your calendar to join us next May in Las Vegas! More info to follow in a couple of months.



IT'S NEVER TOO LATE TO THANK THEM

By Dana Beyerle, QMSN, USS Johnston, 1971-72

President Trump during his State of the Union address honored one of the last surviving Tuskegee Airmen, retired 100-year-old Air Force Col. Charles McGee, whom Trump had promoted to brigadier general earlier that day.

General McGee's centenary brings to mind the reality of the ages of the remaining veterans of American wars since World War II. Even the youngest Vietnam War veteran is now 62.

Here's the math: the youngest (legally) World War II veteran would have been 17 in 1945, the year the war ended, giving him or her a birth year of 1928. In 2020, that means a living veteran is 91 years old or 92 years old. (My father, a Pacific war Navy combat veteran of Iwo Jima and Okinawa, was 93 when he died in 2011.)

The Korean Conflict ended in 1953 – so, 1953 minus 17 gives a birth year of 1936. Hence the youngest vet is about 84. The Vietnam War officially ended in 1975, so a birth year of 1958 for the youngest makes him or her around 62, as previously mentioned.

Even the first Gulf War in the early 1990s makes that conflict's veterans at least in their late-40s.

Since the USS Johnston (DD-821) was turned over to the Taiwan navy in 1981, the potentially youngest shipmate 56 years old; the ship was launched in 1945 so the oldest Johnston shipmate would be the same age as the youngest WWII veteran, 92.

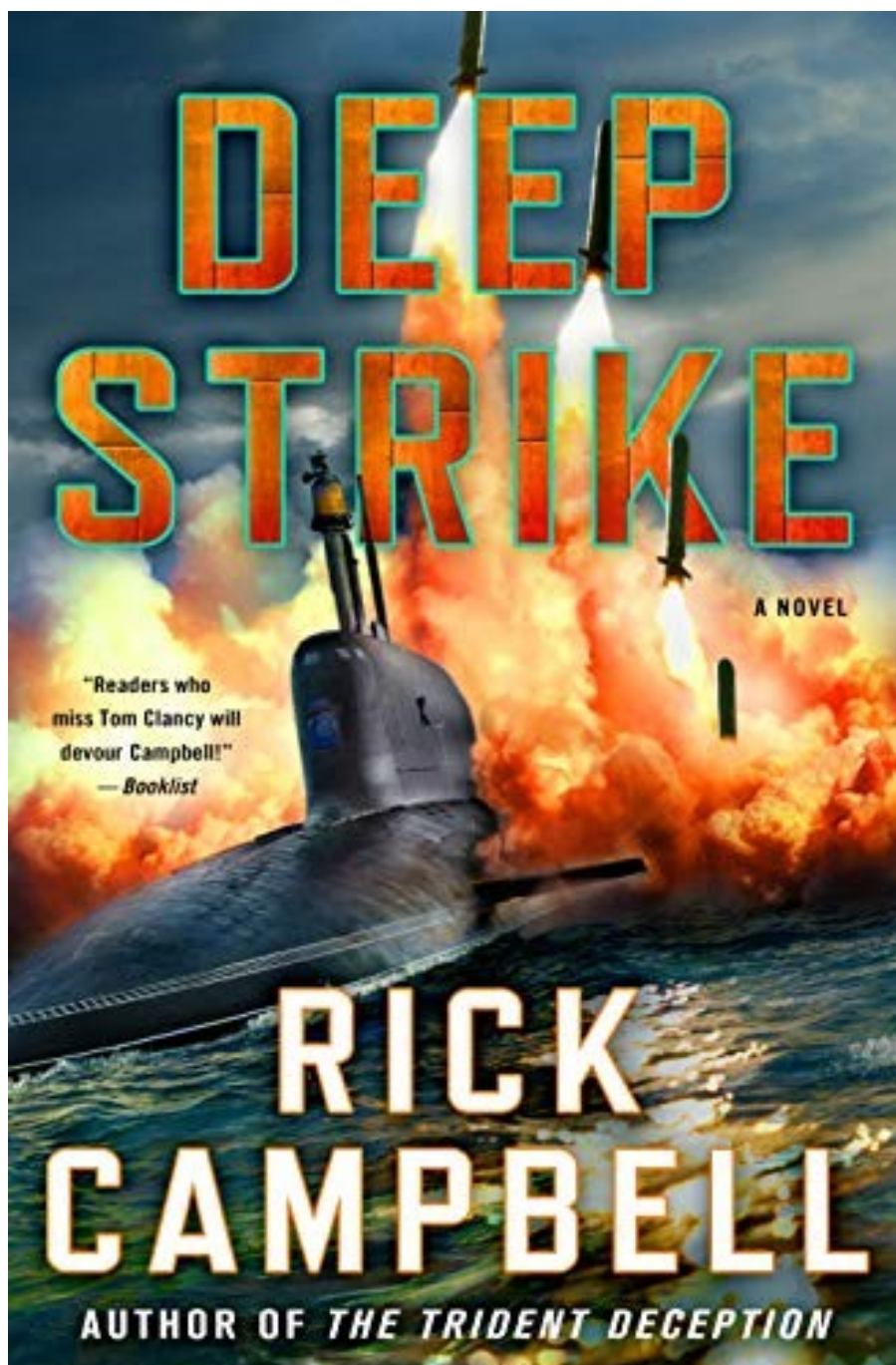
On my grandfather's side, we had two indirect ancestors who were Civil War veterans; one died of wounds sustained in 1863 and the other, whose unit was at Pickett's Charge at Gettysburg the same year, lived until 1929.

My grandfather who was born in the 1890s and who lived until the 1980s would have known about his great uncle and could have heard about his war experiences. But no one back then at least in my family had an interest in genealogy, much less the Civil War of 1861-65. I often think of what a joy to have been able to query my grandfather about a great-uncle's war stories.

Many American veterans who died in wars will always be the same age as their last day on Earth. And they shouldn't be forgotten. If you're fortunate enough to have surviving relatives who served in the United States military, now would be a good time to thank them and to encourage them to share their stories.

Author Rick Campbell has donated autographed books to our reunion for several years now. We auction them at our Farewell Banquet and the money we raise helps pay for the reunion and also goes into our general fund. His books are fabulous.

Here is Rick Campbell's latest thriller. Originally set to be in the bookstores in April 2020, then changed to August 2020 and now March 2021 due to the Covid-19 virus. Please support Rick and read his books. Be sure to advance order your copy today. I've read them all and have already ordered my copy! George A Sites



Previous USS Johnston DD-821 Association Reunions

1	1992	Myrtle Beach, North Carolina
2	1993	Pensacola, Florida
3	1994	Mobile, Alabama
4	1995	Baltimore, Maryland
5	1996	Charleston, South Carolina
6	1997	Virginia Beach, Virginia
7	1998	Las Vegas, Nevada
8	1999	Branson, Missouri
9	2000	Charleston, South Carolina
10	2001	San Antonio, Texas
11	2002	Nashville, Tennessee
12	2003	Providence, Rhode Island
13	2004	San Diego, California
14	2005	New Orleans, Louisiana
15	2006	Washington DC
16	2007	Las Vegas, Nevada
17	2008	Chicago, Illinois
18	2009	Virginia Beach, Virginia
19	2010	San Diego, California
20	2011	Pensacola, Florida
21	2012	Savannah, Georgia
22	2013	Las Vegas, Nevada
23	2014	San Antonio, Texas
24	2015	Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
25	2016	Jacksonville, Florida
26	2017	Boston, Massachusetts
27	2018	Charleston, South Carolina
28	2019	Savannah, Georgia
29	2020	New Orleans, Louisiana (Canceled)

X3	Charleston, SC
X2	Pensacola, FL
X2	Virginia Beach, VA
X3	Las Vegas, NV
X2	San Antonio, TX
X2	San Diego, CA
X2	Savannah, GA
X2	New Orleans, LA

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 are also available for \$25 which includes shipping! For Ball Caps & Patches only, Send check to

USS Johnston DD821 Association, 11746 Goombay Ct, Venice, FL 34292

Be sure to include your mailing address and the quantity you want!

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

11746 Goombay Ct.
Venice, FL 34292
George.sites@gmail.com

Webmaster: Rich Donovan
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 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.

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, 2515 Madison St,
Cambria, CA 93428 johnarg@juno.com

Treasurer—George Sites, 11746 Goombay
Ct., Venice, FL 34292
george.sites@gmail.com

PLEASE HELP—USS Johnston DD-821 Newsletter

As the editor, I've run out of "items/ideas" for inclusion in the Johnston Newsletter. This is the second issue of the 12th year of the newsletter and I'm willing to continue putting the newsletter together but I need your help. Anything you feel would be of interest to our shipmates would be appreciated. It can be nearly anything—articles such as "my favorite Johnston port", "my scariest moment of the Johnston" or your biography. Basically any short story and the addition of 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 seen about the Jolly J, books that include our favorite ship and/or whatever else you can think of. I really enjoy reading about all our shipmates and the feedback I've received indicates our shipmates love those stories as well. 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 October 1971. Your story can be a few paragraphs to a page or more. The best length is one type written page, include a picture if available. Please email them to George Sites at "george.sites@gmail.com". You can also mail them to: USS Johnston DD-821 Association, 11746 Goombay Ct., Venice, FL 34292.

Secondly if you know of any Johnston shipmates that are not members of our Association, please encourage them to join. The forms are included in this Newsletter.

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). 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.

USS JOHNSTON DD821 ASSOCIATION

2020 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 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. Our roster has **304** names on it. Keep in mind, over 4000 served aboard the Johnston over the years.

Here are the facts for you to help understand our dues collection results.

Currently only 68 out of 304 members (appx 22%) have paid for 2020 and/or beyond.

Some of these may have passed away but their family still receives the newsletters. We don't mind continuing to send it if the family wants it. However, we don't want to mail them if they are going to be put in the circular file. If you know of a shipmate that has passed away recently and we haven't shown their name in a "TAPS" portion of the newsletter, please let us know.

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 DD821 Association or are an individual wishing to join, please fill out the information on the next page and send it to the address shown on the form along with your annual membership check for \$15.00 payable to the USS Johnston DD821 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 contact info. We will never turn our backs on our shipmates. Sending us the completed information sheet helps us keep our database current 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.

USS JOHNSTON DD821 ASSOCIATION

2020 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 **2020** 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 January 1, 2020.

Make Check Payable To: **USS Johnston DD821 Association**

Send To: **USS JOHNSTON DD821 ASSOCIATION**
C/O GEORGE A. SITES, TREASURER
11746 Goombay Ct.
Venice, FL 34292