

USS Johnston (DD821)

2022 USS JOHNSTON DD-821 Reunion New Orleans, LA

Your Association officers have worked hard to make USS Johnston's 2022 reunion the best ever. It will be held in New Orleans, LA at the "Crown Plaza New Orleans French Quarter" located at 739 Canal St., New Orleans, LA 70130. We have negotiated a special room rate of \$109 for your choice of bed (this price DOES NOT include state and local taxes or the state occupancy charge of \$2.00 per room). High speed internet is included in the room price. The hotel phone number is 504-962-0500, make sure to mention the USS Johnston DD821 Reunion for the special pricing. The same pricing is available for three days before and after the reunion in case you want to spend extra time in New Orleans. The hotel is entirely NON-SMOKING. You can also make your hotel reservation using this link:

<https://book.passkey.com/e/50249217>

Overnight valet parking is available at the hotel. If you prefer to park your own car and don't mind a short walk, the Fulton Place Parking Garage, 901 Convention Center Blvd is only 1.3 miles away and is approximately \$12 per night which is considerably less than at the hotel. There are coupons available on the internet for this garage. We suggest you book your parking on-line ahead of time to get the best rate.

There is no hotel shuttle service to and from the airport. We're told that Uber is the least expensive. Of course, taxis are available as well. Both Uber and taxis are available at the airport.

The reunion will start on Monday evening, May 16th with the "Welcome Dinner" being held that night. If you want to attend the entire reunion, it is important to arrive no later than Monday afternoon as you certainly don't want to miss our Welcome Dinner and leave no earlier than Friday. We have arranged exciting tours for Tuesday and Wednesday. Thursday, we will have our business meeting early evening followed by our Farewell Banquet and White Elephant Auction. Four events in total plus our business meeting plus the bonus listed below. 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. Most of our shipmates arrive a day or two early and leave the reunion on Friday or a few days later after the reunion.

A bonus "free" ticket to the WWII museum is being paid for by a USS Johnston sailor who wishes to remain anonymous. You will be required to sign up for the free ticket on your registration form, so we have the proper number of tickets. You will be on your own to visit the

museum on your schedule. The tickets will be dated for use a few days prior to and after the reunion. The museum is within walking distance at barely over one mile. If you don't want to walk, the local bus runs there on a regular basis and is inexpensive.

The transportation we have arranged for the tours is handicap friendly.

Monday, May 16th - 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. Drinks will be available in our hospitality room and will be allowed to be taken into our dinner. Here is what is on our plate for tonight.*

*Marinated Vegetable Salad or House made Potato Salad
Choice of:
Meatloaf with Gravy
or
Fried Catfish Filets
Cajun Mashed Potatoes with Gravy or Macaroni & Cheese
Dinner Rolls with Butter
Chocolate Cake or Key Lime Pie
Coffee, Iced Tea, or Iced Water*

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

Welcome Dinner: \$60.00 each

Tuesday Morning, May 17th - JEAN LAFITTE SWAMP TOUR

Our swamp boat tour will cruise deep into the protected bayous of the Jean Lafitte National Park and Preserve, giving us a taste of Louisiana swamp life. We'll see moss draped cypress trees, fascinating plant life and the creatures who make their homes there, such as alligators, snakes, egrets, white-tailed deer, mink and nutria. We will learn why the wetlands are disappearing due to coastal erosion and in turn the efforts to correct the damage it has done and restore this vital habitat.

Our Cajun guide is a native of the area who will share the legends and lore of Louisiana's still untamed wilderness, including their alligators! Our captain is certified to educate and handle live

gators and will get our swamp boat deep into alligator habitat while teaching us about alligator life cycle and conservation.

Jean Lafitte Swamp Tours have been featured on Showtime, Fox Sports and Entertainment Tonight. Make sure you bring your camera and capture some of the wildlife.

After the tour, you'll be free to explore New Orleans into the evening. Remember the hospitality room will be open.

Swamp Tour and Transportation: \$49.00 each

Wednesday Morning, May 18th - CREOLE QUEEN HISTORICAL CRUISE WITH LUNCH TOUR

We will gently glide past the historic French Quarter on the beautiful Creole Queen riverboat and experience the Port of New Orleans from the river as our on-board historian entertains and informs us with a detailed narration of New Orleans landmarks, history, vessel information and river lore. We will disembark at the site of the 1815 Battle of New Orleans at the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, where we can tour the Chalmette Battlefield including the Malus-Beauregard House and the Chalmette Monument before we re-board for lunch and the return cruise. After our return to the hotel, you will be free to spend as much time in New Orleans as you like. Remember, our hospitality room will be open.

Creole Queen Historical Cruise with Lunch and Transportation: \$69.00 each

Thursday Late Afternoon and Evening, May 19th: BUSINESS MEETING, FAREWELL BANQUET & WHITE ELEPHANT AUCTION

The morning and early 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. Several years ago, at the annual business meeting, the dress code for our Farewell Banquets was 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. Drinks will be available in our hospitality room and will be allowed to be taken into our dinner. Here is what is on our buffet for tonight.

Iceberg Salad with Tomatoes, Cucumber & Croutons

Baby Field Greens with Tomato, Cucumber & Croutons

Choice of:

Chicken Jambalaya, New Orleans Style Roast Beef, or Penne Primavera

Dinner Rolls with Butter

Bourbon Bread Pudding or Carrot Cake

Coffee, Iced Tea, or Iced Water

Farewell Banquet: \$65.00 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 our 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.