

USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 14, Issue 1

June 2022

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NEW ORLEANS REUNION

Our 2022 New Orleans reunion was another success. Although the attendance was down, we expected it due to the Covid virus hanging around and the overall cost of airfare. Our reunion started out on Monday by swapping some sea stories in the hospitality room and then with our normal “Welcome Dinner”. Everyone enjoyed the food and filled their bellies. On Tuesday, we took a boat ride back in the swamps watching for alligators of which we saw plenty of. The gators definitely were not afraid us or the boat. We were told that in the past, the guides were allowed to feed the gators but are no longer allowed to. As a result, they don’t feel threatened by the boat. During the evening, we were able to do whatever we wanted. On Wednesday we took a river boat ride down the mighty Mississippi and enjoyed a Cajun lunch on board. Once again we had the evening free to do what we wanted. During the reunion, all shipmates and their guests were given tickets to see the National WWII museum courtesy of a generous shipmate. Thursday we had the morning free and most shipmates used that time to visit the museum. Our annual business meeting was held at 4:00. During the meeting, we voted Savannah, Georgia to be the location of our 2023 reunion. It was a near unanimous vote in favor of Savannah. The board will be going to work on the details for the Savannah reunion in a few weeks after a much needed rest. After the meeting, we had our “Farewell Banquet”. The food was great and we were lucky to have a guest speaker named Terry J. Ebbert. You can read his resume later in this newsletter. We ended the night with our annual White Elephant Auction with many of our shipmates and guests going home with some interesting gifts they won. All in all, we had a great time and everyone is looking forward to getting together again in Savannah next year. Details for the 2023 reunion will be coming in the next newsletter.



2022 REUNION GUEST SPEAKER

COL Terry J. Ebbert, USMC (Ret.)



LTjg Toby Mack (USS Johnston 1966—1968) arranged for Terry to speak at our reunion. Toby is on the left.

Terry Ebbert recently completed a long and distinguished career as both Director of Homeland Security and Director of Public Safety for the City of New Orleans. Notably, in 2005 he was the “Incident Commander” and coordinated all local, state and federal responses to New Orleans in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, the largest disaster in the history of the United States.

Upon his retirement this past December, New Orleans Mayor LaToya Cantrell paid tribute, saying “Colonel Ebbert’s leadership as the City’s Public Safety Director is unmatched. He has been a critical asset to my administration as we weathered countless emergency declarations during his tenure. I am beyond thankful for his commitment to keeping our residents safe.”

Terry began his first career as a Marine infantry officer, including commanding a Company of Marines during the Vietnam War, during which he was awarded the Navy Cross, our second highest award for valor in combat. His distinguished career in the Marines included serving as Commanding Officer of Basic School in Quantico, and as Executive Assistant to Marine Commandant General P.X. Kelley.

Prior to his service with the City of New Orleans, Terry served as Director of Security of the U. S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Afterward, helped establish and then ran the New Orleans Police Foundation, which marshalled New Orleans business and civic leadership to dramatically reduce the incidence of crime in New Orleans.

Terry’s military service included a tour of sea duty as Commanding Officer of the Marine Detachment aboard the USS Springfield (CLG-7) during 1969 and 1970, where he and our USS Johnston shipmate Toby Mack served together and began a life-long close friendship.

Terry will share some of his fascinating and trying experiences in leading New Orleans through the challenging and difficult aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

TAPS



SOG1 John W. Urbank 12/17/2021

TM1/c John Peniston 12/1/2021

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
30	2021	Las Vegas, Nevada
31	2022	New Orleans, Louisiana
32	2023	Savannah, Georgia

X3	Charleston, SC
X2	Pensacola, FL
X2	Virginia Beach, VA
X4	Las Vegas, NV
X2	San Antonio, TX
X2	San Diego, CA
X2	Savannah, GA
X3	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

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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 first issue of the 14th year of the 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, 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 have not already paid your 2022 dues, we would appreciate payment soon. 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 **37** paying members for **2022** or beyond out of the **283 (about 13%)** 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 **\$230**. Thirty-seven paying members equals **\$555**. That barely covers the cost of two mailings and leaves no money for 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.

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

2022 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 **283** 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
2022 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 **2022** 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, 2022.

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**