

USS Johnston (DD821)

2023 USS JOHNSTON DD-821 Reunion Savannah, GA

Your Association officers have worked hard to make USS Johnston's 2023 reunion the best ever. It will be held in Savannah, GA at the "Holiday Inn Savannah Historic District" located at 520 West Bryan St., Savannah, GA 31401. We have negotiated a special room rate of \$169 for a king and \$179 for 2 queen beds (these prices DO NOT include taxes). Discounted overnight valet parking is available for \$30/night. There may be other parking close-by but hasn't been confirmed. Breakfast is not included; however, it has been discounted to \$10.95 for the breakfast buffet and will be billed directly to your room. There is no shuttle service to the hotel from the airport. Uber is the least expensive method at about \$22. Taxi's cost about \$34 per couple. Both are available at the airport.

The reunion will start on Monday evening, May 8th 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 events for Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday evening. 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. 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 evening as required. Please check your "Welcome Packages" for any last-minute details or changes.

There is one important issue regarding the two tours.

Both events, the Riverboat Cruise and the Savannah Theater are within walking distance, so no transportation is included. Both are about 4 to 6 minutes from the hotel, less than three-quarters of a mile. Please arrive on time for each event so you don't miss out. Sorry but there will be no refunds.

Monday, May 8th - 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 Soft 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 Welcome Dinner, so a Cash-Bar will be available. Here is what is on our plate for tonight.

<p>Poppy Seed Tossed Salad Southern Fried Chicken Southern Meatloaf Candied Yams Smashed Purple Potatoes Creamed Corn Brownie Ala mode for Dessert Iced Tea Coffee Cash Bar</p>

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

Welcome Dinner: \$50.00 each

Tuesday at Lunch, May 9th – SAVANNAH RIVERBOAT CRUISE WITH LUNCH

The Savannah Riverboat Cruise will go up river towards the ports passing the Talmadge Bridge and then back around down river passing the waving girl until Fort Jackson. There is a chance of the fort firing cannons while we are in the area but not guaranteed. Lunch will be served, and we will all be sitting together. Lunch will feature their signature Savannah Shrimp & Grits, the best Southern Fried Chicken in the South, Chef's Specialty Station, Creamy Macaroni and Cheese, Southern Greens, Seasonal Vegetables, Sweet Potato Souffle, Fresh Fruit, Coleslaw, Cornbread, Dessert and more. Includes non-alcoholic drinks. There is also a cash bar on the boat. The cruise will start about 12:00 noon and end approximately at 2:30. No transportation is included, and it is about a 5- or 6-minute walk from the hotel. This leaves the early morning and late afternoon/evening to do whatever else you want.

Savannah Riverboat Cruise with Lunch: \$51.00 each

Wednesday Evening, May 10th – 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 twenty-first 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. However, we will let you know asap but request you not hold up booking for the show while waiting for the show information. No transportation is included, the theater is less than a mile from the hotel and takes about 5 to 6 minutes to walk.

We attended the Historic Savannah Theater the last two times our reunion was in Savannah and both times the show was the hit of the reunion. Our shipmates and their wives talked about

the show for years. This schedule leaves Wednesday morning and afternoon for you to do whatever you please.

Historic Savannah Theater: \$36.00 each

Thursday Late Afternoon and Evening, May 11th : 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. A number of years ago, at the annual business meeting, the dress code for the Farewell Banquet 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. 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>Poppy Seed Tossed Salad</i>
<i>Roasted Chicken</i>
<i>Georgia Fried Catfish</i>
<i>Smothered Pork Chops</i>
<i>Buttered White Rice</i>
<i>Green Beans</i>
<i>Roasted Fingerling</i>
<i>Key Lime Cheesecake for Dessert</i>
<i>Iced Tea</i>
<i>Coffee</i>
<i>Cash Bar</i>

Farewell Banquet: \$58.00 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.