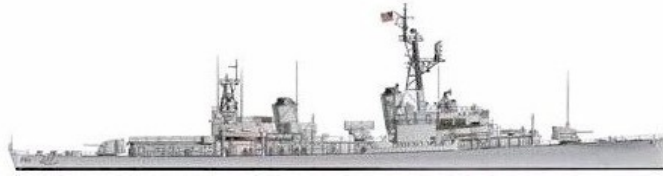


USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 14, Issue 2

September 2022

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SAVANNAH 2023 REUNION

Our 2023 reunion will be held in Savannah, GA. Savannah has always proved to be one of our most popular reunions and we hope you make it next May. As the issues associated with the Covid virus seem to be winding down and the number of early hotel room bookings, it would appear we will have a fairly large group making it another success.

The board worked hard to find us a hotel with a great location and we settled on the Holiday Inn Savannah Historic District. We have stayed there the past two times in Savannah and they have always treated us great. This year was tough finding a hotel because many of them are understaffed and wouldn't even return our calls.

We have four events planned plus our annual business meeting. We have the following events set up: our Welcome Dinner, a Lunch Cruise, an Evening Show and our Farewell Banquet. All promise to be a good time.

Included in this newsletter is the description form and the registration form. We are asking that you return the registration form asap with your payment. The Association has to guarantee certain numbers of guests for each event. If we don't have the number, we still have to pay using Association funds. Also, if you haven't booked your hotel room yet, please do so asap. Once again, we have to book certain numbers of rooms, meals, etc. to get our hospitality room at no cost.

Also included in this newsletter is the 2022 Association Dues forms. If you haven't paid, please make it a point to do so asap. If you don't recall if you've paid yet, just ask and we'll let you know.

Hope to see you all in Savannah.



July 28, 2022

Hi George

In June while Donna and I were having lunch at a Red Lobster in Waco, a man came over to our table and thanked me for my service to our country; I was wearing my *U.S.S. Johnston DD 821* cap. We talked for just a couple of minutes when he said he had something he wanted to give me.

He left and went out to his truck, when he came back in, he gave me a book of poetry, *Life Through Poetry*, and said I would probably like the poem on page 82. I thanked him for the book and he left.

Later that day I was looking through *Life Through Poetry*, I saw that there was a hand written note to me in the front of the book and the author's signature. I realized then that the man that gave me the book was also the author, John Clepper.

I read the poem that he mentioned on page 82, "United States Military" and I did like it. I thought that the poem might be something for the *U.S.S. Johnston* newsletter.

I wrote to Mr. Clepper and asked for permission to put his poem in the newsletter. Mr. Clepper wrote to me and gave permission to use the poem. I have enclosed the poem and Mr. Clepper's permission to put the poem in our newsletter.


Carl Williams

Johnny Clepper

2324 CR 203
HAMILTON, TX 76531

Life Through Poetry

by Johnny Clepper

To: Carl
Thank you for your
service!!
Hope you enjoy!!
God Bless America!!
John Clepper

Carl,

Thank you so much for the nice letter
& the 2 crosses made from horse shoe nails.
You have my permission to use any of these
poems anyway you want to. If you are
ever around Hamilton, call me & I will
take you to lunch.

These poems are some that I've written
since we had the book published. I
hope you enjoy them.

Thank you for your service, God Bless &
protect y'all.

John

I really loved the crosses!!

United States Military Johnny Clepper

Thank you from the bottom of my heart
For all that you give.
Thank God, because of you, in a free America,
We get the privilege to live.

Thank you for enlisting & serving
Giving of yourself & your time.
And for all that you go thru each day
And putting your health & life on the line.

Thank you for the time you spent
Away from your family, friends & home.
Thank you for the cold, lonely nights
That you were out there, afraid & all alone.

Thank you for being unselfish
And keeping our country free & strong.
God Bless all of our military that has served America
And may their life be happy, healthy & long.

No matter what branch you served
With gratitude we salute.
We love, honor & respect you from
The older veteran to the youngest recruit.

So thanks for keeping Old Glory flying
And bringing honor to the Red, White & Blue.
Without a doubt, America would not be standing strong,
If not for veterans like you.

Dedicated to my friends:

William F. Garrison
Major General
U.S. Army Special Forces

Jim Clifton
L-CPL
U.S.M.C.
Vietnam 1967

Anthony French
Aviation Machinists Mate
Petty Officer 3rd Class
U.S. Navy

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
X3	Savannah, GA
X3	New Orleans, LA

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter Editor: George Sites

WWW.USSJOHNSTON.ORG

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cicbnc@shentel.net

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Cambria, CA 93428 johnarg@juno.com

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

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 **40** paying members for **2022** or beyond out of the **283 (about 14%)** that are currently listed on our roster. Ten years ago it was 33%. 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**. Forty paying members equals **\$600**. That barely covers the cost of two mailings and leaves no money for maintaining our website. Extra donations have been our saving grace. Those receiving the newsletter IN COLOR via email 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

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.

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

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 Roasted Chicken Georgia Fried Catfish Smothered Pork Chops Buttered White Rice Green Beans Roasted Fingerling Key Lime Cheesecake for Dessert Iced Tea Coffee 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.

USS Johnston (DD821)

REUNION REGISTRATION FORM

Yes, Sign me up for the 2023 USS Johnston DD-821 Reunion!!!

NAME: _____

STREET ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP CODE: _____

PHONE: _____ CELL: _____

EMAIL: _____

SPOUSE OR GUEST(S) NAME: _____

SPECIAL NEEDS: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT NAME: _____

EMERGENCY CONTACT TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____

FIRST JOHNSTON REUNION: YES _____ NO _____

YEARS YOU SPENT ON THE USS JOHNSTON: _____ to _____

HIGHEST RANK/RATE ACHIEVED WHILE ON JOHNSTON: _____

DO WE HAVE YOUR PERMISSION TO SHARE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION: Y or N

Please make your reservations with "HOLIDAY INN SAVANNAH HISTORIC DISTRICT" (Reservations 912-790-1000) as soon as possible and no later than April 1, 2023. The hotel is located at 520 West Bryan St., Savannah, Georgia 31401. We have negotiated a special room rate of \$169/night plus tax for a king bed and \$179/night plus tax for 2 queen beds, Sunday thru Thursday. Discounted daily in/out Valet parking is available for \$30/night. There could be other parking close-by, but we have not confirmed that. Breakfast is not included; however, the breakfast buffet has been discounted to \$10.95 and will be billed directly to your room. There are a limited number of rooms at the special rate so the sooner you book, the better to get the best choice of rooms and the special price. Be sure to mention the "US Johnston DD821 Reunion" to receive the special group rates. To attend the entire reunion, you should arrive early afternoon of Monday, May 8th (or before) and leave the morning of Friday, May 12th (or later). This is a busy time of year in Savannah, so the rooms are available on a first-come/first-serve basis. If you have any difficulties booking your room, please contact a board member ASAP!

**PLEASE FILL OUT THE BOTH SIDES OF
THIS FORM AND RETURN IT AS SOON AS
POSSIBLE!**

2023 USS JOHNSTON DD-821 SAVANNAH, GA REUNION

REGISTRATION FEES

WELCOME DINNER — NO. IN PARTY: ____ X \$50.00 EACH = \$_____

SAVANNAH RIVERBOAT CRUISE — No. IN PARTY: ____ X \$51.00 EACH = \$_____

HISTORIC SAVANNAH THEATER - No IN PARTY: ____ X \$36.00 EACH = \$_____

FAREWELL BANQUET— No. IN PARTY: ____ X \$58.00 EACH = \$_____

TOTAL ENCLOSED = \$_____ (\$195.00 for a party of one/\$390.00 for a party of two if attending all four events)

Please fill out this form (both sides) and return it as soon as possible with payment. The Association had to guarantee a minimum number for each event and we have a deadline in which we cannot change the number after.

*Payment is due no later than April 1, 2023. Please send payments to the following address and make payable to the **USS Johnston DD821 Association**:*

**USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION
C/O GEORGE A SITES, TREASURER
11746 GOOMBAY CT.
VENICE, FL 34292**

Thanks and safe travels, we look forward to seeing you at the reunion!