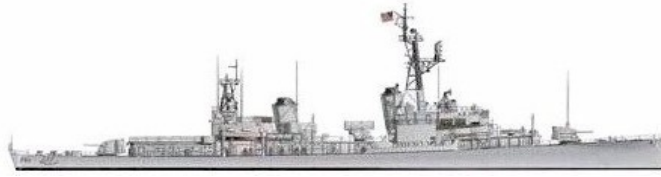


USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 15, Issue 1

January 2023

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SAVANNAH 2023 REUNION

As reported in our last newsletter, our 2023 reunion will be held in Savannah, Georgia and Savannah has always proved to be one of our most popular locations. Now that Covid is winding down and based upon the number of early hotel room bookings, we believe we will have a good turn-out. We hope each and every one of you will celebrate our USS Johnston DD821 with us this year.

Our Association President, Bob Nava worked hard to find us a hotel and it wasn't easy. Many of the hotels were understaffed, would not return his calls, or work with us. As a result, 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. It is within walking distance of many restaurants, bars and shopping.

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

To help reduce the cost of printing and mailing our newsletters, I have not included the description form and the registration form for the reunion in this newsletter. For those receiving it by email, the forms will be included. If you are receiving the newsletter via USPS, please email george.sites@gmail.com and ask for the reunion info if interested. We are asking that you please return the registration form asap with your payment. The Association has to guarantee a certain number of hotel rooms and guests for each event. If we don't have the numbers we guaranteed, we still have to pay using Association funds. Also, if you haven't booked your hotel room yet, please do so asap and send in your registration form and payment.

Also included in this newsletter are the 2023 Association Dues forms. If you haven't paid, please make it a point to do so asap.



October 25, 2022

Dear George A. Sites and the U.S.S. Johnston Association:

I recently received your newsletter in the mail for my father, George Franklin "Frank" Lemley. It is with great sadness to let you know that my father passed away on April 6, 2022 after years of battling with Parkinson's Disease. I have included a copy of his obituary; in case you want to include it in your next newsletter. My Father worked on the U.S.S. Johnston DD 821 from September 1965 to September 1968 Active Duty as a High-Pressure Marine Boiler Operator. His duties included Operation, Preventative Maintenance and Emergency Repair of Boilers, Pumps, Turbines, etc. of the U.S.N. Destroyer Fire Room. He received an Honorable Discharge as E4 3rd Class PO. Dad was very proud of his service on the U.S.S. Johnston. He was able to attend the 2002 Nashville, Tennessee Reunion, which was his last one before he was unable to travel because of the Parkinson's Disease.

Some years back, I purchased your book "The Real Story of the U.S.S. Johnston DD-821" and also the sequel, which you graciously autographed for my dad. He loved your books! He had them always in a basket next to his chair and would re-read them every day. When visitors came to see him, he would get his books out and show them the stories and pictures inside. And I wanted to thank you very much for the memories that your books gave to my Dad.

I have enclosed some copies of his pictures from the time he served. I have also enclosed a donation toward the membership dues. I would be grateful if you could continue to send your next newsletters to me. I was a caregiver for my father and live at the same address. I also have an email address if that helps to send them to me by email than sending the printed edition to help defray costs. The additional funds enclosed can be applied to help defray operating costs for newsletters sent to other Veterans.

Again, thank you for your service and also the many years of joy you brought to my father with your books.

Sincerely,

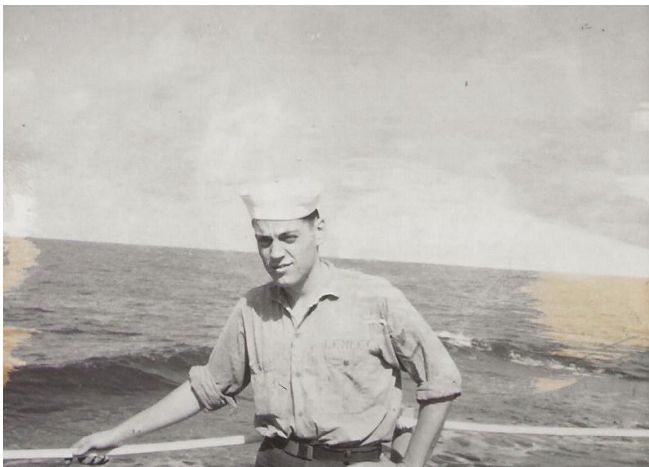
Tina Lemley ☺

Tina Lemley

3727 S. 49 Road

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George Franklin "Frank" Lemley

Victoria Martin

Apr 11, 2022



CADILLAC — George Franklin "Frank" Lemley, age 76, went home to his Lord and Savior on April 6, 2022 peacefully in his home surrounded by family.

George or "Frank" as he was known to friends and family was born in Detroit, MI on December 7, 1945 (Pearl Harbor Day). He was the second son of George Harding Lemley and Violet Vern Cox.

He was preceded in death by his parents and brother, James Lemley.

Frank graduated from Redford High School in Detroit, MI. He joined the U.S. Navy in 1965 and served aboard the U.S.S. Johnston DD-821 during the Vietnam War.

On April 17, 1966 in Detroit, MI he married the love of his life, Polly Ann Hutchinson-Hall. Frank passed 11 days shy of celebrating their 56 years of marriage.

After being honorably discharged from the Navy, Frank worked as a maintenance engineer. He worked his way up to Manufacturing Manager with Alpha Steel Heat Treat in Livonia, MI for numerous years until his retirement. Frank and Polly Ann then decided to move up to their property in Cadillac and retire here in this beautiful area.

Frank was a funny and caring person. He was a loving husband and father and very supportive of his family. He loved history, especially steam locomotives and lighthouses. He enjoyed working on various projects, especially electrical. Frank loved to camp with his family in the Upper Peninsula and also to hunt and fish. He also taught his daughters and grandson at a young age to also learn the fun of fishing. He did volunteer work and was involved in the early AWANAS program at First Baptist Church of Cadillac mentoring kids. He was a man of God and very open about his faith. He will be dearly missed by so many.

Frank is survived by his wife, Polly Ann along with his children, Tina Lemley of Cadillac and Ann Marie Lemley of Sterling Heights; grandson, Justin Franklin (Trisha Wright) Lemley of Sterling Heights; great-grandchildren: Jaden, Silas and Lilliana Lemley; sister-in-law Jocelyn Lemley; nephew, Rodger Anthony Hutchinson Jr.; niece, Kimberly Hutchinson, many loving nieces and nephews, extended family and friends.

The family would especially like to thank Janet Hicks and Denny Hicks, along with the caring staffs of Hospice of Michigan and Missaukee Commission on Aging for their help and compassionate care for Frank during his last years.

In accordance with Frank's wishes, cremation has taken place. An online guestbook is available at www.petersonfh.com.

Victoria Martin

“SHIPMATES”

by: ET1 Christopher W. Jinks

In the fall of 2018, I sat in the office at the local cemetery discussing the local scuttle butt with my buddy Rich, the caretaker of this ‘quite’ community. Rich (an Army Vietnam Veteran), was soon to relinquish his duties as he was slated to spend some rehab time at the VA hospital. On this particular day, Rich’s replacement was scheduled to make a visit to the office to introduce himself and to learn the details of the cemetery. So this fellow, Bill Palmer, arrived while I was still present and we shared our greetings.

After the review of the documents and procedures, Bill happened to notice my Navy Veteran’s ball cap sitting on the filing cabinet next to me. Well, this led to the normal dialog that veterans have; what years did you serve, where did you serve, etc., etc.. I responded with ’71 -’79, with my last seven months stationed onboard the U.S.S. Johnston. With a display of excitement, Bill Palmer explained that he too had served on the ‘Jolly J’, in 1966 as a MM3. What a coincidence to have met like this!

Sadly, Rich is no longer with us, but Bill & I have bonded as shipmates. He has been a great friend, especially in helping me as I navigate my mobility issues (COPD). My Granddaughter McKenzie (now 7), always request a stopover while passing the cemetery to see ‘her friend Mr. Palmer’. Bill always has kind words for her.

We ‘salute’ our departure with our salutations: ‘We’ll Put it to a Venture’.



L-R Christopher Jinks, McKenzie, Bill Palmer

HISTORY OF THE NAVY RATES!

The US Navy's enlisted occupational system was a product of more than 200 years of Naval evolution.

The Navy of the United Colonies of the 1775 era offered only a few different jobs above the ordinary level of seaman. These included boatswain's mate, quartermaster, gunner's mate, Master-at-Arms, cook, armorer, and coxswain. These were titles of the jobs that individuals were actually performing and became the basis for petty officers and ratings.

During this time, ship crews were taken from civilian life and enlisted for only one cruise, making the job at hand rather than career possibilities the primary consideration.

It was not until 1841 that distinguishing marks for a rating were established in the Regulations of the Secretary of the Navy and specialty marks were not added to enlisted men's uniforms until 1866.

The marks consisted of the tools or instruments used in each rating's specific duty. The Master-at-Arms, the police officer of a ship, wore the star of authority and the Gunner's Mate wore two crossed cannons. Currently, all specialty marks for new ratings are approved by the Permanent Naval Uniform Board which is a division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

As the US Navy's rating system changed so did the US Navy. The first steamship, mine, radar, torpedo, aircraft carrier, and many other "firsts" all established a new era in the Navy, and each directly impacted the enlisted occupation structure.

During WWII, the US Navy also briefly maintained a rating of "Specialist", similar to the rank in the US Army. The rating of "Specialist" was discontinued in 1948.

Since the establishment of the rating system, the US Navy enlisted rating structure played a key role in career development, served as a basis for training, detailing, advancement, and simply keeping tabs on several hundred thousand US Navy Sailors.

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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George.sites@gmail.com

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Newsletter Editor: George Sites

WWW.USSJOHNSTON.ORG

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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

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.

The USS Johnston DD-821 Newsletter is starting it's 15th year!

WOW, I can't believe this is the start of the 15th year of the USS Johnston DD-821 Newsletter. It seems like yesterday when I started it. I really appreciate all of the articles, pictures, stories and general information regarding the Jolly J that you have sent me over the years. As I've said in the past, I have to admit I'm running out of “items/ideas” to put in the Newsletter. This is the first issue of the 15th year of the newsletter and I will continue publishing the newsletter 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. Send me any articles or stories you may have about the Jolly J, whatever else you can think of. Feedback tells me you really enjoy reading about our shipmates and our ship. 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 2023 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. The number of paid up shipmates decreases each year. All shipmates on the roster receive our newsletters and have been sent a dues payment form. The dues basically allow us to mail the newsletters to those that can't receive it via email. Printing costs continue to increase each year. 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

2023 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 approximately 250 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 YEARS 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 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

2023 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 **2023** 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, 2023.

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