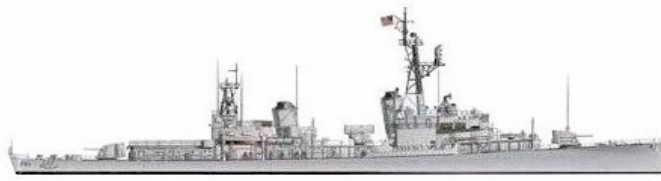


# USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 15, Issue 2

May 2023

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## SAVANNAH 2023 REUNION

As reported in our last newsletter, our 2023 reunion was held in Savannah, Georgia and once again, Savannah proved to be one of our most popular locations. Although we had a good turnout, now that Covid is winding down, we hope that we can get back to the number of shipmates coming that we used to have. Please save some time early to mid May 2024 for our reunion in St. Augustine, Florida. At our annual business meeting, we selected Las Vegas, Pensacola, and San Antonio as our possible 2025 reunion location.

We had four events: our Welcome Dinner, a Lunch Cruise, an Evening Theater Show and our Farewell Banquet plus our annual business meeting. All were great and we heard from many that our Welcome and Farewell Dinners had the best food we've ever had at our reunions!



At the Historic Savannah Theater, our group while entering was announced as the USS Johnston DD821 Association from all over the country. The show was great and enjoyed by all. During the show, Sonny and Cher sang to us and one of our guests (George Sites' guest) was sung to by Elvis Presley. She played along with Elvis to the delight of everyone in the theater.

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.

# TAPS



Please take a moment of silence for our fallen shipmates!

QM3 Douglas Knysz 6/7/2021

BTFN Andrew Nat Jr 12/30/2021

RM3 Roger Janis 2/24/2022

BT3 George Lemley 4/6/2022

BTC George Larimer 10/13/2022

MM2 Tim O'Brien 12/31/2022

# LIBERTY BELL



## OUR OWN HAL & SUE ROSENTHAL

Hal and Sue are the first “couple”, the first “non-elected” persons to be given the privilege of tapping the Liberty Bell on January 18, 2023. Hal is wearing his USS Johnston DD821 cap. Way to go Hal & Sue!

Sherry O'Brien  
21 Greenbriar Dr.  
Myerstown, Pa 17067

2/18/23



Dear George Sites and USS Johnston Assoc.

My husband, Tim, passed suddenly on Dec. 31, 2022. He had COPD and heart issues

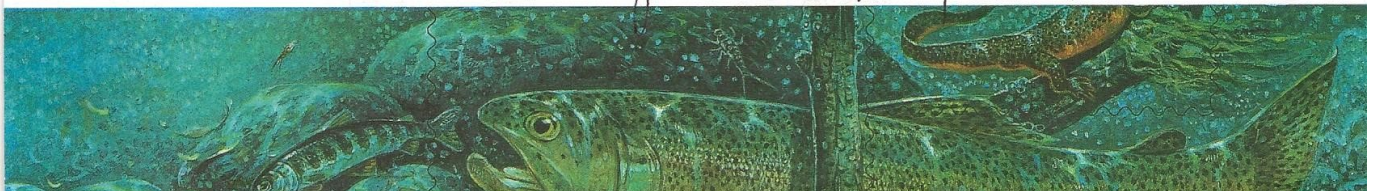
Your January newsletter arrived after he passed. I read the letter from the daughter of Frank Lemly and thought I'd send you Tim's obituary, pictures and etc.

Tim served from Nov 1968 to Dec. 1972. He was on the USS Lowry first and then the USS Johnston.

When ever he was in the company of another Navy Veterans their stories would make for great conversations. In the book USS Johnston stories Tim's story, page 359, title The Chief Hates Hammers.

I would appreciate receiving one more issue with whatever you put in the newsletter regarding Tim. Enclosed is check to help with operating costs.

Thank you! Sherry O'Brien





## William John "Tim" O'Brien

September 16, 1950 - December 31, 2022

William John Timothy "Tim" O'Brien, 72, of Myerstown, PA, died Saturday, December 31, 2022 at WellSpan Good Samaritan Hospital, Lebanon.

He was the husband of Sherry Lynn (Gerard) O'Brien. They celebrated 43 years of marriage on October 6, 2022.

Born in Baltimore, MD on September 16, 1950, he was the son of the late John W. O'Brien and Mary Rose (Webster) O'Brien Smith.

Mr. O'Brien served in the U.S. Navy during the Vietnam War.

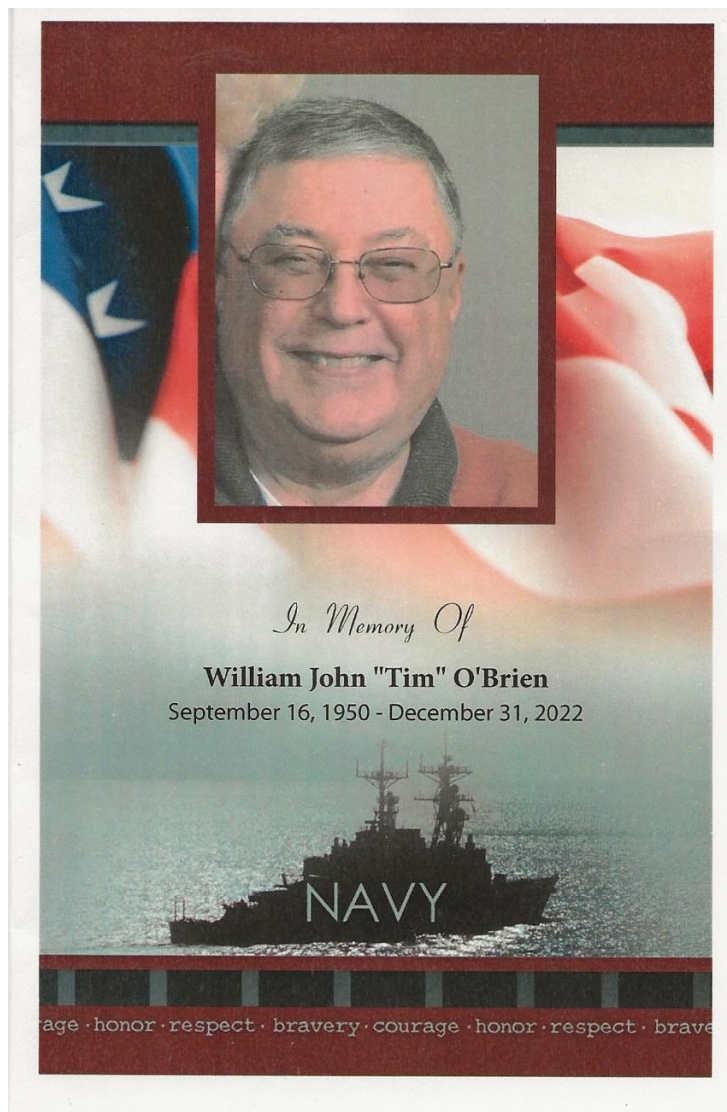
He enjoyed playing guitar and had a fascination for cars. Tim was known for his ability to guess his Christmas gifts and his "punny" jokes. He was a wonderful husband, an amazing father, and a loving PopPop/TimPop that will be deeply missed.

In addition to his wife, Tim is survived by daughter, Michelle K., wife of Kevin Robb, of Denver, PA;

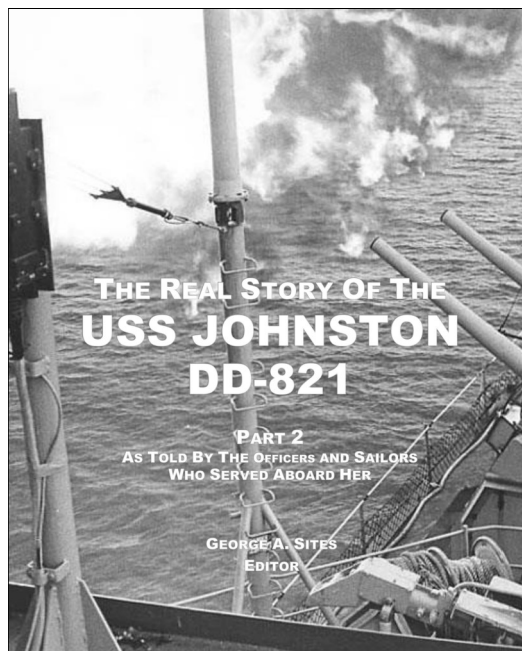
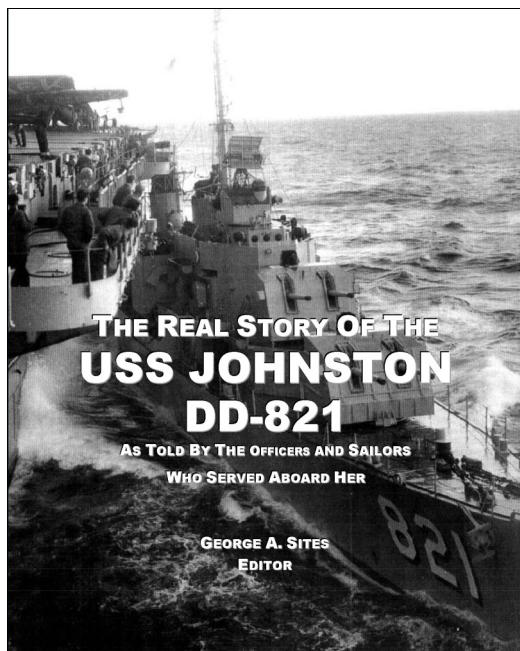
sons, Shawn T, O'Brien husband of Leila, of Ft. Mills, SC; Paul C. Thimm, Jr., husband of Erin, of Mohnton, PA; grandchildren, Keira & Kailee O'Brien, Cylas & Brystan Thimm, Kyle & Shelby Robb; and a sister, Carolyn Milano.

Visitation will be held Monday, January 9, 2023 from 11:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. at Grose Funeral Home, Inc. 358 W. Washington Ave., Myerstown, PA. Inurnment will follow at Indiantown Gap National Cemetery, Annville, PA.

Please make memorial contributions to Tunnel to Towers Foundation, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306 or visit their website at [www.t2t.org](http://www.t2t.org).



# STILL AVAILABLE!



In May, 2009 I decided to put together a book with stories and pictures from former USS Johnston DD-821 sailors and officers. I spent hundreds of hours laboring over my computer putting together the new USS Johnston book “**The Real Story Of The USS Johnston DD-821**”. The work was worth it as many of our shipmates have written me expressing how much they have enjoyed reading it.

As a result of that feedback and many requests from other sailors and officers who did not get their stories in the first book, I put together a companion book titled “**The Real Story of the USS Johnston DD-821 Part 2**”. Both books are in the same format and have beautiful front and back covers as well as many stories from our shipmates. If you ever served on the “Jolly J”, you will certainly enjoy these books. George A. Sites, RD2—USS Johnston, 1969 to 1971, Editor and Contributing Author

## Order Form on Back

Perfect Bound, Soft Cover, Black & White Front Cover, Full Color Back and Spine

Size: 9.25” H x 7.5” W x 1.125” D, Weight = 2.2 pounds

Number of Pages: 498

Number of Contributing Authors: 90+ (Part 1), 40+ (Part 2)

Number of Stories: Over 100 (Part 1), Over 70 (Part 2)

Number of Pictures: Dozens

Publication Date: May, 2010 (Part 1), September, 2013 (Part 2)

Part 1 ISBN-13 978-0-9790746-2-2, Part 2 ISBN-13: 978-0-9790746-4-6

# Book Order Form

**"THE REAL STORY OF THE USS JOHNSTON DD-821"**

**Parts 1 & 2**

**"AS TOLD BY THE OFFICERS AND SAILORS WHO SERVED  
ABOARD HER"**

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STREET ADDRESS:** \_\_\_\_\_

**CITY:** \_\_\_\_\_

**STATE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **ZIP CODE:** \_\_\_\_\_

**PHONE:** \_\_\_\_\_ **CELL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**EMAIL:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NUMBER OF COPIES "Part 1" ORDERED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$35.00 Each (includes shipping)**

**NUMBER OF COPIES "Part 2" ORDERED:** \_\_\_\_\_ **@ \$35.00 Each (includes shipping)**

**TOTAL AMOUNT INCLOSED \$** \_\_\_\_\_ **(\$35.00 TOTAL PER BOOK)**

**MAIL YOUR ORDER FORM ALONG WITH YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO:**

**GEORGE A SITES**

**11746 GOOMBAY CT**

**VENICE, FLORIDA 34292**

**ALLOW 2 TO 4 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY**

**Each book is also available on amazon.com in printed, digital, and audible formats if you prefer to order that way!**

# 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

11746 Goombay Ct.  
Venice, FL 34292  
George.sites@gmail.com

Webmaster: Rich Donovan  
Newsletter Editor: George Sites

**WWW.USSJOHNSTON.ORG**

## 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.

### Board Members

**President**—Bob Nava, 541 Heswall Ct,  
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

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

As we continue in the 15th year of the USS Johnston DD-821 Newsletter, it seems like yesterday when I started it. All of the articles, pictures, stories, and general information regarding the Jolly J that you have sent me over the years have really helped. As I've said many times in the past, I'm running out of "items/ideas" to put in the Newsletter. This is the second issue of the 15th year of the newsletter and I will continue publishing the newsletter but I truly 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. A obituary of a recent fallen shipmate proved to be popular in the last issue, so we added another one to this issue. 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, or 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](mailto: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**