

USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 15, Issue 3

November 2023

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ADMIRAL MIKE McCAFFREE

Sad news! According to our Captain's wife, Lynn, after a short hospital stay, Admiral McCaffree passed away on May 13th, 2023 at his home in Goodwin House Alexandria. His death was unexpected but peaceful.

I got to know the Admiral well during my time on the "J". I was a Radarman and worked in the Combat Information Center (CIC) and had to communicate with him on a regular basis. Nearly 50 years later, he and I were reconnected when I was putting together the Johnston books. We communicated via email on a somewhat regular basis after that. He also contributed a couple of stories for the Johnston books that I am forever grateful. George A Sites

MCCAFFREE



BURNHAM C. MCCAFFREE JR. "Mike"
Rear Admiral, U. S. Navy (Retired)

Burnham C. McCaffree Jr., "Mike", died at Goodwin House Alexandria on May 13, 2023. He enlisted in the Naval Reserve, graduated from the Naval Academy in 1954, and became a surface warfare officer, serving in an aircraft carrier, a heavy cruiser, three destroyers and three amphibious ships. He commanded the destroyer USS Johnston, an

amphibious transport dock USS Shreveport, and an amphibious squadron, conducting operations in the Atlantic Ocean and deploying to the Caribbean, Mediterranean, and Norwegian Seas and the Indian Ocean. He served ashore in Norfolk VA, in Newport RI, in South Vietnam, and in Washington. As a flag officer he directed two divisions on the staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, was the Assistant Deputy Chief of Naval Operations (Logistics), and commanded an amphibious group in the Western Pacific and Indian Ocean.

After retiring from the Navy in 1988, Mike was a consultant for several defense-related research companies, most notably the Center for Naval Analyses, and for the federal government. He served in various capacities in church and community organizations associated with retirement living and seniors' services in northern Virginia and in the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. He is survived by his beloved wife Lynn, their two devoted daughters Elizabeth Antanitus and Debora Reed, five grandchildren and two great-granddaughters. A memorial service was conducted at Goodwin House Alexandria, with interment at Arlington National Cemetery at a later date.

TAPS



Please take a moment of silence for our fallen shipmates!

ADMIRAL Mike McCaffree 5/13/2023

GM2 James Ely 10/30/2023

GM2 Jim Ely



Those that attended the USS Johnston DD821 reunions year after year got to know Jim well. He was well liked and full of energy and grit. He loved the reunions and was always one of the first to sign up. Jim and his wife attended nearly every reunion in the past 10 or 12 years. In 2022 at the New Orleans reunion, he was the generous and anonymous provider of the tickets to the World War II museum. I'm sure Jim will not mind this being mentioned.

Obituary

James Edward Ely, born on August 21, 1941, to parents Edward T. Ely and Celia E. Ely (Lenz) in

Neenah, WI, passed away on October 30, 2023.

Jim was the beloved husband of Geraldine L. Ely (Delfosse) whom he married on October 21, 1967, at Martin Luther Church in Neenah, WI. Jim was a proud father to Michael (Crystal) Ely & Gregg (Hope) Ely; Grandfather to Sydney Ely, Jacob Ely & Daniel Ely; Step-Grandfather to Keisha Medley; and Step-Great Grandfather to Jayden Southwood.

Jim attended Neenah High School and was in the US Navy from September 11, 1959, to August 28, 1963, on the USS Johnston DD821. He worked for the Milwaukee Road, Soo Line & Canadian Pacific Railroad from 1964 until his retirement in April of 2001 after 37 years of service.

He was a member of the American Legion Post 52 and enjoyed going fishing and hunting, playing cards at the Legion and spending time with his many friends from the railroad. Jim also went on multiple trips to places like Hawaii, Alaska, Europe and the Panama Canal. He also took many bus trips around the US while attending Navy reunions or heading to Neenah to see family and friends.



UNITED STATES NAVY MEMORIAL

701 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW • Washington, D.C. 20004-2608
(202) 737-2300 • www.navy memorial.org

June 28, 2023

Mr. George A. Sites
Treasurer
USS Johnston DD-821 Association
11746 Goombay Court
Venice, FL 34292

Dear Mr. Sites,

Thank you for your generous donation of \$200 to the United States Navy Memorial which we received on June 22, 2023, in support of our programs. We truly appreciate your continued support since 2014 to *Honor, Recognize, and Celebrate the men and women of the Sea Services, past present, and future; and to Inform the public about their service.*

Over the last few weeks, we have continued to make our programs, such as wreath laying ceremonies, retirement ceremonies, and SITREPs, available to the Navy Memorial community across the world through Navy Memorial Digital Productions. We have also been making updates to the Navy Memorial, such as newly renovating our Commemorative Plaque Wall and updating our technology to further enhance the visitor's experience when they come to visit us.

Thank you for your organization's generous and continued support through the years. Without support like yours, these wouldn't be possible. I hope you will visit the Navy Memorial soon so you can witness firsthand what you have helped to accomplish.

All the best,

Frank Thorp IV
Rear Admiral, USN (Ret.)
President & CEO

This letter acknowledges that the U.S. Navy Memorial, a 501(c)(3) organization, received your contribution without any goods or services forwarded to you in return; therefore, pursuant to IRS Regulations your contribution qualifies as tax deductible.



TIN CAN SAILORS, INC. DESVETS



The National Association of Destroyer Veterans

June 21, 2023

USS Johnston (DD-821) Assn.
ATTN Mr. George Sites
11746 Goombay Ct.
Venice, FL 34292

Dear Mr. Sites:

Thank you for your gift of \$200.00 to Tin Can Sailors. Contributions such as these help to carry out the three-part mission of our association:

- to educate and broaden the public's understanding of the contributions made by destroyers and those who served aboard them and to promote and preserve destroyer history;
- to support today's destroyer Navy and encourage understanding of its importance and mission;
- to promote camaraderie among our members through many events, our magazine, library, website, social media and by facilitating reunions of former shipmates.

Tin Can Sailors is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3). This was a donation for which you received no goods or services, therefore, it is tax deductible as allowed by law. Consult your tax advisor for additional information.

On behalf of Tin Can Sailors, thank you again for your generous contribution.

Sincerely,

Terry Miller
President

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.

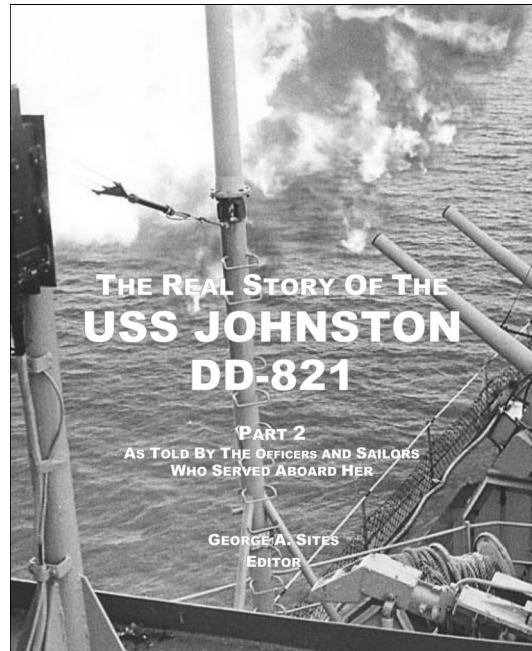
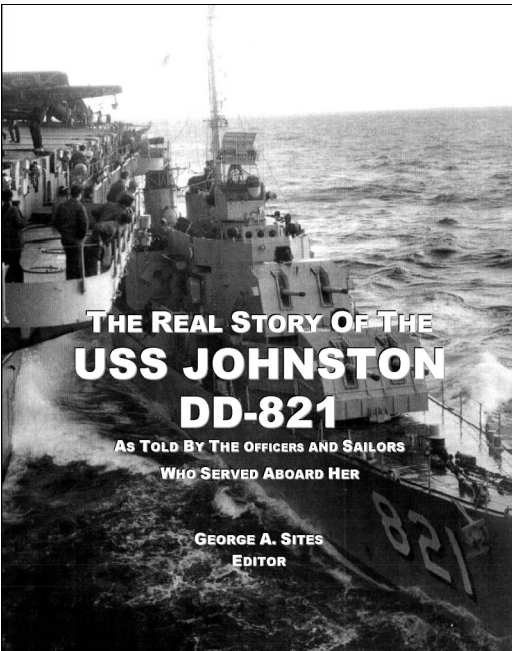
Currently, all specialty marks for new ratings are approved by the Permanent Naval Uniform Board which is a division of the Bureau of Naval Personnel.

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.

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

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 in each book

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!

The 2024 USS Johnston Reunion will be held in Jacksonville, FL. The information is included in this mailing. We hope you all can make it.

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 johnnarg@juno.com

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

The USS Johnston DD-821 Newsletter is ready for it's 16th year in 2024!

As we continue into the 16th 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 third 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

2024 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 20% 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

2024 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 **2024** 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, 2024.

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