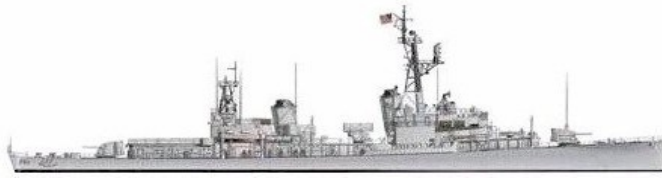


# USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 17, Issue 2

September 2025

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## We are headed to Las Vegas for our 2026 Reunion!

As I mentioned in the previous newsletter, we had a great reunion in Pensacola, Florida this past May. We had 32 attendees that enjoyed the meals, tours, sea stories and the great weather. We are hoping for an even better reunion in Vegas next year.



We have selected the Golden Nugget Hotel and Casino in downtown Vegas for the 2026 reunion. The arrival is Monday afternoon, May 4th through May 7th. Normal departure is on Friday morning, May 8th. However, we have

arranged for three days prior to and after the four scheduled days if you want to spend some extra time in Vegas. Sunday is at the same rate as our scheduled four days. Friday and Saturday's rates will be \$149/\$169 plus tax. Here's the deal.

Room rate (King or Double) is \$79 plus tax for a total of \$89.12 per night with the resort fee wived. The resort fee would have been another \$49 per night. Use of the link will show the daily rate as a higher average rate if you are booking extra days.

- Free self parking, valet parking is available for a fee.
- Free WiFi.
- Four free bottles of water per day.
- Access to the fitness center daily.

Continued on next page



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**We will have our customary hospitality room as well as our usual Welcome Dinner and Farewell Banquet at the hotel. The hotel has a casino and many restaurants to enjoy if you wish.**

**The Golden Nugget Hotel & Casino is located at 129 Fremont St, Las Vegas, NV 89101. Please use this link below for reservations or if you prefer, call 800-331-5731. Be sure to mention the Group Code GSUSS26 to receive the special room rate.**

<https://goldennugget.reztrip.com/ext/promoRate?property=1115&mode=b&pm=true&sr=1066023&vr=>

**Check in time will be 4:00pm with check-out at 11:00am.**

**As I mentioned in the email that I sent, we truly need you to book your rooms asap. We need to have a good idea of how many are coming so we can finalize our meals and tours. Please let me know when you have booked your room and let me know how many will be in your party. Please email the info to George Sites at [george.sites@gmail.com](mailto:george.sites@gmail.com). Your help is appreciated.**

## **COMRATS**

During my time both before, after and in the Navy, Sue and I were married. As married sailors, the Navy gave us an extra pay, "comrats" (love those military fighten terms). That stuck \$72 a month in my pocket just for living and eating off base, NAS Brunswick, Maine (bitter cold). Rent, \$35 a month, food, electricity, \*/heat/\* insurance, the usual stuff. Plus gas and car care to get on base.

Have you heard the phase (phrase) "Poor as a sailor?" We lived it. One month we had five bucks left. Another five days was pay day. So, what the hell oh! We went on base to play bingo. Two dollars put two cards in front of us. Two dollars put a coke and a beer there. Fifty cents for a tip left a rich fifty cents. It filled my pocket as Sue filled her card with the "cover all." We went home rich with fifty dollars and fifty cents. Did not try that again. Yet we were luckier than most married sailors. Sue was a college trained professional teacher. So we bought a second hand car. Sue could then get to work teaching during teaching season. In my off duty time I found a job paying \$2.50 per hour, loading 100 pound bags of cement on trucks for delivery. But the married sailors that had children? Their wives and kids stayed back home with their mother. Yet clearly, we were luckier than most married sailors.

It was during peace. Glad and gained a lot, I had my time in the Navy.

---=Hal Rosenthal, YN2

## **DERIVATION OF THE NAME PEACOAT**

The origin of the word/ "Pea coat" is supported by the US naval forces. According to this version, Marines used to wear a coat made of "pilot" cloth (again made from thick blue fabric of twill weave withpile on one side) in cold and wet weather. The term derives from Petty Officer of the Royal Navy: towards the end of the 19th century, there was a strong need to dress these.

The term "Pea coat" came from the Dutch word pijjekker or pijjakker, in which "pij" meant the name of the cloth, which was used to make Peacoats. It was a special fabric of rough twill weave, of blue colour, with pile on one side.

---=Hal Rosenthal

# Mount Washington

Mount Washington, NH, set a record Feb.4, 2023 for coldest wind chill ever recorded at minus 108 degrees. The air temperature was minus 47. -NY Times

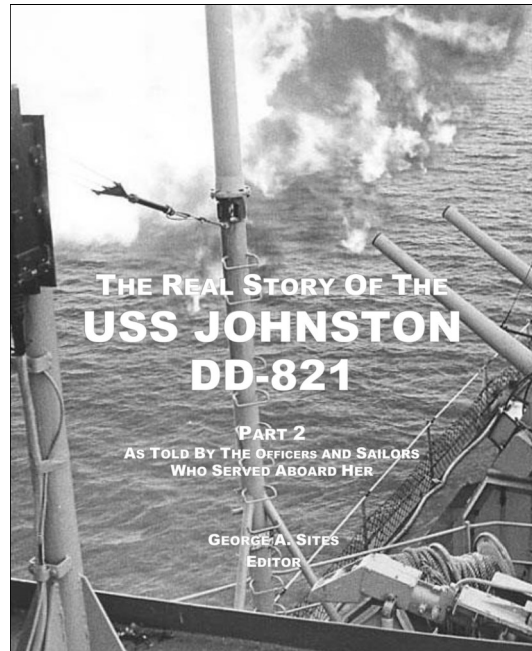
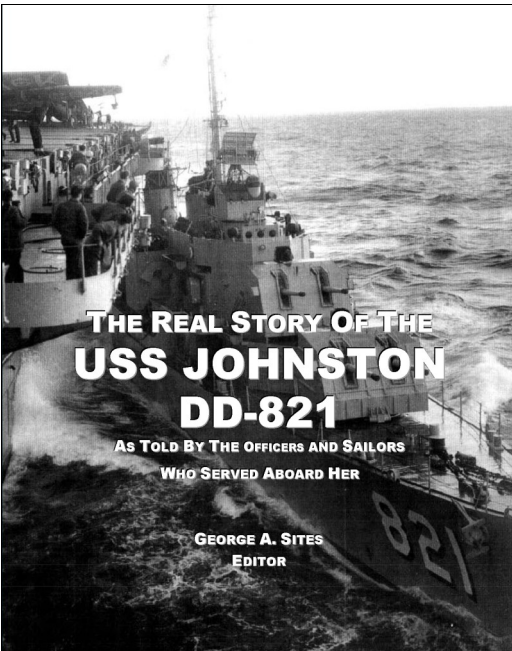
As a legal Yeoman, US Navy, I was assigned to accompany two SP sailors to Mt. Washington in 1956. On the top back then there was a secret site operated by the Navy listening to Russia. At 6.000 feet it was the highest point over the globe to Russia. An AWOL sailor had been captured in a town below and delivered to the facility. Stationed at Brunswick, ME, Naval Air Station, we were the closest known Naval base. I found a series of one story buildings with chains going over their roofs anchoring them to the ground. We were invited to stay for lunch before returning with our prisoner. We noticed a growing sound outside like many trains.

When ready to leave, an officer ordered, you're staying the night. He took me to one of the few windows. Drawing its metal curtain I saw heavy snow blowing sideways, not down. He said our truck like all vehicles had been anchored to keep it from blowing away. The air temperature he reported was -52. They didn't note wind chill factor back then. Because of the loud rumbling sound, I was unable to sleep. The next day, a bright sunny day, a gang of base sailors dug out our truck from four feet of snow as bulldozers cleared the road. Loading our prisoner, we got the hell off of that mountain and back to base as fast as we could.

---=Hal /I'm not baking bread. I'm spreading yeast.



# STILL AVAILABLE!



In May, 2009 during our reunion, I decided to put together a book with stories and pictures from former USS Johnston DD-821 sailors and officers. I felt it would be a waste to allow all of our sea stories to go away. 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: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 Each (includes shipping)

NUMBER OF COPIES "Part 2" ORDERED: \_\_\_\_\_ @ \$30.00 Each (includes shipping)

TOTAL AMOUNT INCLOSED \$ \_\_\_\_\_ (\$30.00 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](http://amazon.com) in printed, digital, and audible formats if you prefer to order that way!

The 2026 USS Johnston Reunion will be our 35th year and will be held in Las Vegas. The information will be provided in a future newsletter. 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 due to Covid
30	2021	Las Vegas, Nevada
31	2022	New Orleans, Louisiana
32	2023	Savannah, Georgia
33	2024	Jacksonville, Florida
34	2025	Pensacola, Florida
35	2026	Las Vegas, Nevada

X3	Charleston, SC
X3	Pensacola, FL
X2	Virginia Beach, VA
X5	Las Vegas, NV
X2	San Antonio, TX
X2	San Diego, CA
X3	Savannah, GA
X2	New Orleans, LA
X2	Jacksonville, FL

## USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

11746 Goombay Ct.  
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george.sites@gmail.com

Webmaster: Toby Mack  
Newsletter Editor: George Sites

**WWW.USSJOHNSTON.ORG**

### Board Members

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

**Vice President/Historian**—Charles  
Copeland, 3227 Battlefield Rd, Strasburg,  
VA 22657   cicbnc@shentel.net

**Secretary**—John Argonti, 2515 Madison  
St, Cambria, CA 93428  
johnarg123@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 in it's 17th year already!

As we start the 17th 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 17th 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 has proved to be popular in past issues. 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. Hand written or typed is ok!

Secondly if you have not already paid your 2025 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 continue to have our USS Johnston website. We've had to discontinue mailing the newsletters due to the cost increasing year over year and less income each year to offset those increases. Your extra donations have been our saving grace. Those receiving the newsletter IN COLOR via email in the past 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

## 2025 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 additional & generous donations help us cover the cost of producing our newsletter 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 **16%** of the known Johnston shipmates as paying members. Our roster has **249** 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*, President/Treasurer

USS Johnston DD-821 Association

**USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION**  
**2025 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 **2025** 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, 2025.

Make Check Payable To: **USS Johnston DD-821 Association**

Send To: **USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION**  
**C/O GEORGE A. SITES, PRESIDENT / TREASURER**  
**11746 Goombay Ct.**  
**Venice, FL 34292**