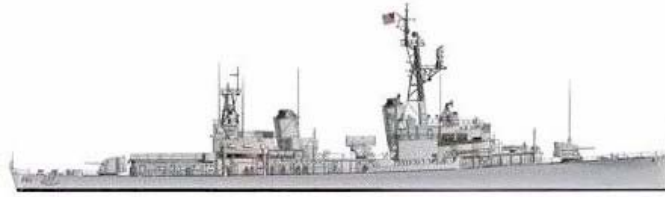


USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 2, Issue 2

June 2010

In this issue

- 2010 Reunion, San Diego, California is a Hit!
- 2011 Reunion in Pensacola, Florida
- Scenes from Johnston's 2010 Reunion
- USS Johnston DD-557 Survivor Bob Hollenbaugh speaks at DD-821 reunion.
- 2010 Ocean Cruise?
- USS Johnston DD-821 Association
- Call for Johnston Officer's & Sailor's biographies

2010 Reunion, San Diego, CA is a Hit!



The lure of San Diego, the Chamber of Commerce claims the sun shines at least 350 days a year. This sparkling city proved to be an excellent locale for the JOHNSTON's 2010 reu-

ion. Fair weather clouds floated in a beautiful azure sky as attendees enjoyed the sights, the food and the camaraderie of yet another gathering of shipmates.

Arrival day, Thursday April 29 featured the Welcome Banquet, made even more special by the appearance of USS JOHNSTON DD-557 survivor (continued on page 3)

2011 Reunion in Pensacola, Florida

The 2011 USS Johnston DD-821 Association reunion will be held in Pensacola, Florida. Your board is still working out the details to make sure we have the best possible deal for our crew. The oil spill in the Gulf has slowed us down a little but we are convinced it will have little to no effect on the reunion.

Currently the plans are being made for the reunion to start on Thursday May 5 and finish on Sunday May 8. This is one week later than normal and is due to the Pensacola Naval Air Station having a celebration during our normal weekend.

Ralph Hocking is in charge

of the 2011 reunion planning and is doing a great job. He has just about finished gathering information and we will be sending another newsletter with all the details.

Be sure to block out that time for the 2011 reunion. See you there!



Scenes from Johnston's 2010 Reunion



2010 Reunion, continued from Page 1

Bob Hollenbaugh, a San Diego resident.

Friday the group toured the USS MIDWAY CV-41, a visit shared by some 6000 Vietnamese. It seems this was a celebration of the 35th anniversary of the MIDWAY's rescue of 3,000 Vietnamese refugees from that war-torn land.

Saturday our group was treated to a tour of downtown San Diego, an

Inspirational stop at the Mt. Soledad Veterans Memorial in LaJolla and lunch on the waterfront of the picturesque town of Coronado.

Between arrival at the Town and Country Resort (a special place indeed) and departure on Monday, a number of shipmates and guests rode the electric-train to downtown as well as a festival in Old Town, itself a real attraction.

At Sunday's business meeting, Pensacola was the choice for our 2011 reunion. The three selections to be voted on at the 2011 reunion as the site for the 2012 get-together are Boston, Washington DC and Savannah, Georgia.

Back to San Diego, good weather, good food, good tours and GREAT fellowship—it don't git no better than this! See you in Pensacola.

USS Johnston DD-557 Survivor Bob Hollenbaugh Speaks at DD-821 Reunion

The Welcome Banquet at our 2010 Reunion was highlighted by the visit of Bob Hollenbaugh, one of the survivors of the USS JOHNSTON DD-557. A resident of San Diego, the 89-year old with the firm handshake graciously accepted our invitation to attend the banquet. Association President Bob Nava provided the transportation for our special guest.

A member of an Amish family in Indiana, Hollenbaugh enlisted in the Navy prior to World War II. Following his discharge after some five years and five months of service to his country, Bob attended college in Michigan and then taught high-school mathematics in San Diego. Retirement in 1984 led to the purchase of a motorhome, which allowed Bob and his wife to enjoy traveling before settling down for seven years in Coos Bay, Oregon. The Hollenbaughs subsequently returned to San Diego. Sadly, Bob's wife passed away several years ago.

One-time Electrician's Mate First-Class Hollenbaugh shared with us some of his recollections of the Battle of Leyte Gulf and the harrowing three days he'd spent in the water as a result of the sinking of the DD-557 during that battle. His words served to once again remind us of those who are, and were, the Greatest Generation. May we never forget the debt we owe to those who sacrificed so much; those who are leaving us at the rate of some 1200 per day.

A couple of side-notes:

(1) At our 1997 Virginia Beach Reunion, we were



Bob Hollenbaugh (seated) with Association President Bob Nava

Privileged to be joined by former Electrician's Mate Allen Johnson, another survivor of DD-557. Hollenbaugh and Johnson, a resident of Alabama, still keep in touch.

- (2) If you have not already done so, read "The Last Stand of the Tin Can Sailors" by James D. Hornfischer. This marvelous book chronicles the events and people of the Battle of Leyte Gulf. The USS JOHNSTON DD-557 and her skipper, Ernest Evans are featured in the book as an integral part of what has been called the U.S. Navy's Finest Hour.

Written by: Ralph Hocking

USS JOHNSTON DD-821 ASSOCIATION

5653 Haydens Reserve Way
Hilliard, OH 43026

Robert "Bob" Nava, President
USS Johnston Association DD-821
541 Heswall Ct.
Henderson, NV 89014
E-mail: usnavy821@cox.net

Webmaster: Duane Mallast
Newsletter Editor: George Sites

www.ussjohnston.org

2011 Cruise

At the San Diego Reunion, there was some interest in having a second gathering in the form of a cruise. If you are interested in joining a cruise group to either Alaska in July/Aug of 2011, or a New England fall foliage cruise in Sept/Oct 2011, please contact John & Donna Argonti at Johnnarg@juno.com or 805-927-9677 as soon as possible. This is not a commitment, but we need to know if there is enough interest.

**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 AND IS OPERATED 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 SHIPMATES.

Call for Johnston Officer's & Sailor's biographies

Did you ever want to tell your life's story? Here is your chance. As newsletter editor, my job is not only to put the newsletter together, but to keep it interesting and provide you with information you want and will enjoy.

I am hoping many of you will be willing to put your life story down in words and forward it to me for inclusion into the Johnston Association Newsletter. My goal is to include one officer and one enlisted in each issue.

I am sure we can do it and I'm sure you would like to know what happened to that particular sailor or officer that you remember from your Johnston days. I've found while putting the Johnston book together, we have a lot of interesting life sto-

ries to share.

I can't do this without the help of each of you. The more of you that get involved, the more interesting the newsletter will be.

What I need is a short story about your life starting as a young man, where you were born and where you went to school. Did you play any sports? Why did you join the Navy? What did you do in the Navy? What have you done since leaving the Navy? Were you a career sailor or did you do something else in life?

You should limit your story to about a full page type written with a size 10 font. Pictures of you "now and then" would be extra nice. Anything that helps to tell your story.

I will do the rest. I will type or retype and format your story so it fits the newsletter. Your story can

come to me in any format you want. If you type, then type it, if not put it down in longhand. Make sure you label any pictures you send (do it lightly on the back so you don't put indentations on the picture). Please send copies of the pictures so I don't have to send them back.

Send the stories to me via the US Postal Service or via email; george.sites@gmail.com. My address is:

USS Johnston DD-821 Association

c/o George A. Sites

5653 Haydens Reserve Way

Hilliard, OH 43026.

If you have any other ideas for the newsletter, just let me know.