

USS Johnston (DD821)



Volume 2, Issue 2

June 2010

2010 Reunion, San Diego, CA is a Hit!

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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 reun-

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)

Call for Johnston Officer's & Sailor's Biographies

A new feature in our last newsletter was to feature a biography of a former Johnston sailor and/or officer. In our January issue, we featured former Johnston Captain, Rear Admiral Mike McCaffree. The positive comments over this article were overwhelming and we would like to continue. We

have room for more than one biography in the newsletter. With that said, it would be great to feature both an enlisted and an officer's biography in the same issue. That means, get your pens out or your computers fired up and write it down and send it to:

George A. Sites

c/o USS Johnston DD-821 Association

5653 Haydens Reserve Way

Hilliard, OH 43026



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. Solidad 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

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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.

2011 USS Johnston DD-821 Reunion in Pensacola, Florida

The 2011 USS Johnston DD-821 Association reunion will be held in Pensacola, Florida about a week later than we typically do. This is due to other events in the area that has the majority of the hotels booked solid. We are confident the Gulf oil spill is not going to be an issue next year.

The 2011 reunion will start on Thursday night May 5th, with a welcome dinner. Friday and Saturday will be filled with excursions. Sunday we will have our annual business meeting and a banquet Sunday night. Most guests will depart on Monday, May the 9th. We have negotiated a hospitality room for the length of the entire reunion. It will be open from early morning to late night so we can continue to share our sea stories.

Your association has picked the Cabana Inn on Pensacola Beach.

Ralph Hocking has done a great job and has negotiated an incredible nightly rate of only \$85.87 which includes taxes, free parking and a free continental breakfast.

The Cabana Inn is located at 40 Fort Pickens Rd, Pensacola Beach, Florida. The phone number is 850-934-5400. When making reservations, please mention the USS

Johnston reunion to get the special rate. This rate is good for two days before and 2 days after the reunion. We are requesting you to book as early as possible since the association has to guarantee a certain number of rooms.

More reunion information will follow in the next newsletter once the details have been finalized. We hope to see you all there!

