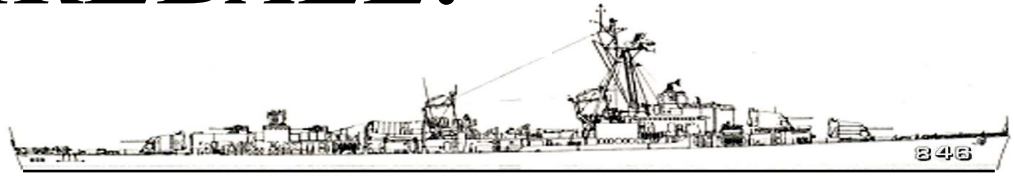




FIREBALL!

VOLUME 17, NO. 3

SUMMER 2008



Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn
Tinian, Marianas Islands
28 July 1944

The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn (DD 846) Association
Dedicated to perpetuating the memory of a gallant Marine and the history of a fine ship
Visit our website at www.ozbourn.org

FROM THE BRIDGE

The "From the Bridge" column will not appear in the summer issue of the *Fireball*. USS Ozbourn Association President Guy Posey will resume his "From the Bridge" column in the next issue.

SELECTION OF 2009 REUNION SITE DUE BY END OF SEPTEMBER

The Ozbourn Association's reunion committee, comprised of Ray Loney, Ken Keene, Tom Perkins and Jim McDaniel, have narrowed the search for the Association's 2009 biennial reunion site down to two locations.

"During the 2007 reunion in Seattle, the reunion committee was directed to focus on locations in mid America," said Loney. "The committee is currently looking at St. Louis, MO and Mobile, AL to hold our next reunion."

According to Loney, Mobile is the home of the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial and is under consideration as a possible tour site. NAS Pensacola, FL is only 45 minutes from Mobile. St. Louis is centrally located in the U.S. and has several military museums to visit. Below the Gateway Arch is a huge museum devoted to the Lewis and Clark Expedition.

GET INVOLVED IN YOUR OZBOURN ASSOCIATION

It's never too early to give some serious consideration to becoming an officer of the USS Ozbourn Association. Two positions are opening within the next 15 months and will be voted upon during the 2009 biennial reunion.

The two positions opening up for change starting after next year's reunion include:

- Treasurer, which is currently held by Warren Zschach; and
- Corresponding Secretary and Editor of the *Fireball*, which is currently held by Rick Johnson.

Any shipmate interested in assuming either of the two above listed positions should contact USS Ozbourn Association President Guy Posey at:

18101 Chisholm St.
Stillwater, OK 74075
Tel: 405 377-6122
E-mail: ppapaguy@aol.com



Shown above is the USS Alabama, BB 60. The dreadnaught sits in Mobile Bay and is part of the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial.

We're on the Web at www.ozbourn.org

The following information can be found on the Association's Web site: Mission statement, complete history, current and past newsletters, a list of Ozbourn shipmates, historical photographs, the ship's store for ordering Ozbourn memorabilia, how to join, and special links.



The famous Gateway Arch looms large over the St. Louis skyline. There is a monument located below the base of the Arch and above the Mississippi River marking one of the river's historic flood levels

E-MAIL ADDRESS UPDATES

For any of those shipmates who have been frustrated trying to contact either Rudy Boff, proprietor of the USS Ozbourn's ship's store or Rick Johnson, publisher of the *Fireball* newsletter, here are some updates as to the correct e-mail addresses of both shipmates.

Rudy Boff's e-mail address was recently changed and appeared in the spring issue of the *Fireball*. Any shipmate wanting to order something from the ship's store should e-mail Rudy at: boffrudy@verizon.net.

Any shipmate who wants to share their memories of their time aboard the Ozbourn with stories, photos or documents, should contact Rick Johnson at: johnsonsimivalley@yahoo.com. In the column listing the Officers of the Association, Rick's e-mail address was broken with a hyphen, which normally doesn't appear in e-mail addresses.

Gedunk Call!

Every shipmate who spent at least one day at sea has fond memories of Navy chow below on the mess deck. Yummy meals such as S.O.S., runny scrambled eggs, roast beef and mashed potatoes, corned beef and cabbage that tasted like roast beef and mashed potatoes, reconstituted milk, individually packaged breakfast cereal labeled with a five-year past due date, and of course the ultimate Navy gourmet meal, the soup sandwich.

The Gedunk Call for this issue of the *Fireball* is, “What are the ingredients of the soup sandwich?” Send your answer to Rick Johnson at johnsonsimivalley@yahoo.com.



BEER PARTY — Several shipmates from the Ozbourn enjoy a beer party on Midway Island in May of 1952. Those were the days when beer was sold in tin cans and only the strongest men could crush one with his bare hands.

Gedunk Call Answer!

The Gedunk Call for the spring 2008 issue of the *Fireball* was, “Why do the side numbers of U.S. Navy ships look to be faded or washed out?”

Shipmate Tom Perkins provided the correct answer by saying, “The elimination of black and white colors previously found on Navy vessels, to include hull numbers and draft marks, reduces the average contrast of the ship to the horizon, thus helping to mitigate the probability of detection and targeting.” Bravo Zulu Tom.

The two historic photos of the USS Ozbourn show a digitally altered photo taken in the 1950s and the look of the traditional hull number of the ship in a photo taken in 1964.



Faded Hull Number —

The photo at left shows the Ozbourn’s hull number faded or washed out. The photo was taken sometime during the 1950s. The hull number was digitally faded to approximate what it would look like in today’s modern Navy.

Ozbourn at Sea —

The photo above was taken of the OZ in 1964 showing the traditional black and white 846 hull number.



Officers of the Association

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Past Presidents

Years served aboard ship/Assoc. Pres.
Robert Whitten, Jr. (50-52)/(93-99)
Cupertino, CA
W.D. Minter (52-55)/(99-03)
Texarkana, TX
Rudy Boff (52-55)/(09-07)
Pittsburgh, PA

PUBLICATION DEADLINE

If you have a letter, story or photo you would like to share with other Ozbourn shipmates, the deadline for submitting contributions for the fall 2008 issue is **Monday, September 15**. Articles may be rewritten for purposes of editorial style. Due to space limitations, some materials may be used in a future *Fireball* edition.

MAIL CALL



The following letters and e-mails were received by your Association Officers during the last quarter.

Hi Rick:

I happened to have been surfing on the Net looking for people I served with in the Navy back in the 60s. I found that a CDR David W. Berger was skipper of the USS Ozbourn from 1963 to 1964. I served under a CDR David W. Berger, USN, who in 1966-1967, was the reactor officer aboard the USS Enterprise (CVAN-65). Could these two have been the same person?

The CDR Berger I worked under left the ship mysteriously in January 1967 while on Yankee Station, N. Vietnam, during combat operations. I have never been able to find out what happened and where the CDR Berger I knew ended up.

This is still somewhat incredible, but my father served on Tinian during WWII with the 4th Marine Division and most likely knew well of PVT Joseph Ozbourn, USMCR.

Bob Keller
Sacramento, CA
E-mail: keller67@citolink.net

Responses to Bob Keller's e-mail

I served aboard the Ozbourn between November 1961 and May 1964. I served under three captains while aboard the Oz. The three captains I served with included LCDR D.V. Gorman, March 1961-December 1961, CDR W.W. Lancaster, December 1961-October 1963, and CDR D.W. Berger, October 1963-July 1964.

CDR Berger relieved CDR Lancaster as the ship's CO on October 3, 1963. CDR Berger was immediately faced with some serious situations and incidents as the Ozbourn's new skipper. On October 9, a quartermaster chief died aboard the USS Hollister. The Oz had to highline the division doctor to the Hollister at about 0300. On October 10, one of the Ozbourn's snipes had his appendix rupture. Members of the Ozbourn's deck crew had to highline him to the USS Yorktown (CV 10) for an emergency medical operation. On October 10, the Ozbourn and the Yorktown had a collision at sea while on refueling station.

Probably the most serious situation that occurred during CDR Berger's tenure as CO of the Ozbourn happened on November 22, 1963 the day President John F. Kennedy was assassinated. I remember being at sea off the coast of Southern California when general quarters sounded. This would not normally be an unusual event except when the words, "general quarters, general quarters, this is not a drill, this is not a drill, all hands man your battle stations, now, now, now!" were barked over the 1MC.

Rick Johnson (61-64)

I called Eddie Newman (one of four Marines whose life was saved by the brave action of PVT Joseph W. Ozbourn) to find if he knew Keller's father. He had no recollection of the name but was going to look him up in his Marine "Red" book. Eddie is 86 years old and doing well.

He filled me in on his memories of island landings he made. It was an interesting conversation as his memory is very good as to dates and events. He had an hour and half of his 37 days on Saipan memories taped for the National Archives. There was one clip inserted into Ken Burns WWII documentary. Newman said the clip was about him hiding behind a dead cow and when he shot his first Japanese soldier. He is going to mail me a copy of the tape.

Newman would like to attend another of our reunions, but his wife is blind and has dementia and is unable to travel much.

I also e-mailed Bob Keller and found out his father was a Drum Major in the 24th Regiment Band with the 4th Marines and was used to bring wounded marines to aid stations and to recover and bury dead Marines. Eddie Newman, Herman Schwab, Tex Freeman and Delbert Fliar were all wounded the same day that Joseph Ozbourn was killed. So it's possible that Keller's father assisted in part or in whole with the evacuation of all four Marines.

Warren Zschach (52-55)

Editor's Note:

There was some confusion among some shipmates as to whether this was the same CDR David Berger that served as the Ozbourn's skipper and then transferred to the USS Enterprise. While this is not a pressing issue with the USS Ozbourn Association and its historians, any further information relative to this issue may be reported in future issues of the *Fireball*.

Rick:

I received my spring copy of the *Fireball* and another great issue.

As with other articles, I enjoyed the "Ship's Log by Donald Dodd." I was aboard during this cruise (46-47). Dolan was an MM2 and stood the throttle watch in the forward engine room as I did. Butler was an EM2 and worked for Paul Hecht.

I remember our stop at Shanghai and our four-day visit to Hong Kong. Whew...that was over 60 years ago.

Paul Logan (46-47)

WELCOME ABOARD



Siras Browning

SKSN (48)

Reed Jones

Lt. Jg. (65-67)

John Wilson

Lt. Jg. (67-69)

SHIP'S LOG BY DONALD DODD

Listed below are more excerpts from a journal that was kept by RD1 Donald Dodd while serving aboard the Ozbourn in 1947. The ship's log by Donald Dodd was hand printed. Every effort to decipher Dodd's printing style has been made to bring back his special memories.



Shipmate Donald Dodd served aboard the Ozbourn between 1946 and 1948. He was a RD1. Donald Dodd passed away on January 11, 2003.

The information used in these periodic reports are being shared by Donald Dodd's family. Permission to use all or portions of Dodd's journal was graciously granted by his daughter Susan Dodd.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 1947

Underway for Hong Kong

They made us get up at 0515. Why I don't know. Had chow at 0545. Set special sea detail at 0615 and (got) underway at 0700.

Mr. Snure was transferred to San Diego for F.D.O. school so I have to take over a watch section. Don't think much of that because the officers try to rub it in too much. Turned the radar on at 0530 and everything seems to be working good.

Good chow but not enough of it (and) am a little hungry. We have bag inspection in the morning. Boy this ship is sure getting regulation. I hate every minute of it.

The ANAPCS are not working right and had a little trouble getting top antenna hooked up. But seems ok now.

I have two rolls of film I want to get printed when we get to Hong Kong. Pay day is the first (of the) month. I sure could use some money.

Well about eleven o'clock tonight, we got orders to go to Tsingtao. I wonder what is up. At least I will save some money. We are now steaming 025.

THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1947

Clear and warm — sea smooth

Underway for Tsingtao, China on course 025. Got up at three-thirty this morning and had the four-to-eight watch. Poncho and two guys on watch with me.

Had two cups Maxwell House. Much good good chow this morning. We are due to arrive in Tsingtao at 0800 tomorrow morning.

Not much doing on watch this morning. Woodrow forgot to change course at 0500 so he had to edge back on station at 0700. So what the old man doesn't know won't hurt him.

Picked up a few fishing boats and some junks. No excitement. A dead watch. Changed course at 0500 to 000 true. Wrote the folks this morning.

HAWAII SUPERFERRY APPOINTS TOM FARGO AS PRESIDENT AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

On April 25, 2008, Hawaii Superferry, Inc. announced that the board of directors had appointed Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, USN (Ret.) as president and chief executive officer starting April 28.



Admiral Fargo, who has resided in Hawaii for the past nine years, served as both the Commander of the U.S. Pacific Command and as Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet. In addition to his responsibilities as a managing Director of J.F. Lehman & Company, Admiral Fargo is a member of the board of Hawaiian Airlines, Hawaiian Electric Industries and USAA. He was previously president of Trex Enterprises Corporation, a privately held technology firm with significant operations in Hawaii. Admiral Fargo serves the community on the boards of Iolani School, Hawaii Pacific University and the Japan-American Society.

"We are excited to have such a talented leader as Admiral Fargo join our Hawaii Superferry management team," said Tig H. Krekel, vice chairman of J.F. Lehman & Company, the majority investor in Hawaii Superferry. "During his 35 years of naval service, Tom was an outstanding manager of complex maritime operations and facilities."

Hawaii Superferry currently has one voyage daily from Oahu to Maui and from Maui to Oahu. Beginning May 9, a second voyage will be added four days a week on Sundays, Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The above information was excerpted from a news release supplied by Hawaii Superferry. The news release was issued April 25, 2008.

Admiral Thomas B. Fargo, USN (Ret.), was last year's featured speaker during the Ozbourn's biennial banquet in Seattle. The admiral is the son of CDR W.B. Fargo who was the captain of the Ozbourn between April 1951 and April 1954.



WINE FOR TODAY, SHIPMATES FOR LIFE AND THE NAVY FOREVER — Don Sacco, left (51-55) and Art Rainville (52-55) share some wine at a plaza in Verona, Italy.

SUBPONA AND SULLONS EXTRAORDINARY
THE ROYAL HIGH COURT OF THE RAGING MAIN

Region of the South Seas ss.
Domain of

To Whom May Come These Presents Greetings and Bowers

WHEREAS, The good ship OZBOURN, bound southward of the Equator, has once before entered our domain; and
 WHEREAS, the aforesaid ship carries a large and loathsome cargo of landlubbers, beach-combers, guard-rats, sea-lawyers, lounge lizards, portor-dunigans, plow-deserters, park-bench warmers, chicken-chasers, hay-tossers, four-flushers, cross-word puzzle bugs, bridge sharks, San Diego sheiks, Fike cowboys, asphalt arabs, and other foul creatures of the land, falsely masquerading as seamen, of which low scum you are member, having never appeared before us; and
 WHEREAS, THE ROYAL COURT of the RAGING MAIN will convene on board the good ship OZBOURN, on the 9th day of May, 1950, at longitude 160° 00' 00" W; and WHEREAS, an inspection of our Royal Muster shows that it is high time your sed and wandering nautical soul appears before OUR AUGUST PRESENCE;

BE IT KNOWN, That we hereby summon and command you PERKINS, T.
 Now a PO2 U. S. Navy, to appear before the Royal ~~High Court and Our August Presence~~ on the aforesaid date at such time as may best suit OUR pleasure, under penalty of ~~several flogging~~.

You will accept most heartily and with good grace the pains and penalties of the awful tortures that will be inflicted upon you to determine your fitness to be one of our Trusty Shellbacks and answer to the following charges:

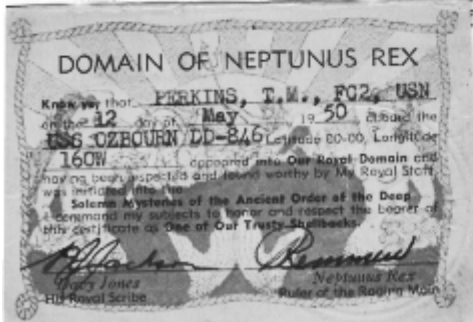
CHARGE I. In that you have hitherto willfully and maliciously failed to show reverence and allegiance to our Royal Person, and are therein and thereby a vile landlubber and pollywog.

CHARGE II. Ye did utter defamatory and belittling remarks about His Royal Majesty Neptunus Rex.

CHARGE III. Ye did consistently refuse to make coffee in the plotting room not with-standing being well known that said black fluid is the life's blood of all good and trusty shellbacks.

CHARGE IV. Ye did try to imitate a trusty shellback, by word and action, such conduct being an abomination in the eyes of all trusty shellbacks.

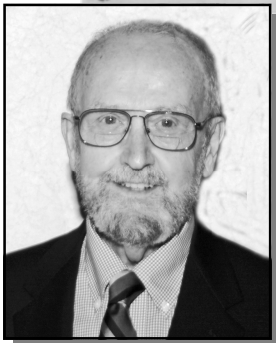
CHARGE V. Ye did refuse to rig and unrig movies with the rest of the slimy pollywogs when ordered to do so.



Disobey this Summons Under Pain of Our Swift and Terrible Displeasure.
 Our Vigilance is Ever Wakeful, Our Vengeance is Just and Sure.

Given Under Our Hand and Seal

Neptunus Rex
 NEPTUNUS REX,
 Ruler of the Raging Main



The above document is a copy of the summons bestowed upon Tom Perkins on the occasion of his Crossing the Line when he was aboard the Ozbourn. Tom became a Shellback on May 12, 1950 when the Ozbourn crossed the Equator. "It was all good fun—especially for the Shellbacks of course," said Perkins as he reminisced about the event that happened more than 58 years ago. Tom Perkins in photo at left as he looked at the 2007 biennial reunion in Seattle.

CAN YOU DATE THESE INCIDENTS?

Shipmate Mel Hargrove (51-53) is sharing these three newspaper articles with us. "Too bad I didn't get the dates of these (incidents)."

Well Mel, maybe some of our readers can help us with the dates and let us know in time for the next issue of the *Fireball*. Please submit your responses to Rick Johnson at johnsonsimivalley@yahoo.com. by Monday, September 15.

Air Force 'Copter Rescues 14 Japanese

TOKYO (Wednesday) (AP). — A U. S. Air Force helicopter crew windmilled several times through 30 knot winds Monday and rescued 14 crewmen of the Japanese freighter Handa Maru that ran aground off Honshu Island and broke up in 40-foot waves.

The U. S. destroyer Ozbourn rescued three crew members of the capsized Shinya Maru No. 2 from a liferaft 70 miles off the Choshi peninsula, 60 miles northeast of Tokyo. The three reported that 21 other hands of the Shinya Maru were lost.

Still another Japanese ship, the Chiyoda Maru No. 12, was reported missing with its crew of 18.

At least five fishing boats were believed missing off northern Japan.

The 1,339-ton coal-carrying Handa Maru broke up off Hachinohe, near the northern tip of Honshu Island, in pounding seas and 65 mph winds.

The U. S. Air Force sent an H19 helicopter to the scene when the blow abated.

And, in the Sea of Japan last January, Seaman Bobby D. Parrack leaped from his ship, USS *Ozbourn* to save two men from a screening ship who had been washed over the side in a gale. Making his way through the rough and frigid seas, he proceeded to tow them to the side of his ship.

Alarms Residents

A Navy ship apparently laying a smoke screen off Pacific Beach shortly after noon today alarmed residents, who thought it might be a fire.

The destroyer Ozbourn was operating in an area off Mission Bay and La Jolla on an independent exercise, a spokesman for Cruiser - Destroyer Force, Pacific Fleet, said.

He said shore-based Navy aircraft were operating independently in the area also.

HOW MUCH ARE MY DUES AND WILL I RECEIVE A REMINDER WHEN MY MEMBERSHIP IS UP FOR RENEWAL?

Probably the most frequently asked questions (FAQ) posed to your Ozbourn Association Officers are, "How much are the Association's annual dues?" The answer is \$10. "Will I receive a reminder when my membership is up for renewal?" The answer is no. The Association does not send reminders of membership renewal in the US mail, by phone, or by e-mail. It is the responsibility of each shipmate to be sure to renew their membership in a timely manner.

For the \$10 fee, you get the quarterly *Fireball* newsletter and the right to vote for the slate of Association Officers and specific issues at the biennial reunion. Check the mailing label on the most recent issue of the *Fireball* to verify the status of your membership. For instance, if the number 08 appears in the lower left-hand corner of the mailing label, your membership is good through 2008. You can extend your membership to any length you wish for just \$10 each year.

We're on the Web at www.ozbourn.org

The following information can be found on the Association's Web site: Mission statement, complete history, current and past newsletters, a list of Ozbourn shipmates, the Ship's Store for ordering Ozbourn memorabilia, how to join, and special links.

USS OZBOURN (DD 846) ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP FORM

This form is intended as a reminder for payment of dues and to update your personal information in the Association's data base.

Association dues are \$10 per year and the membership period runs from 1 January through 31 December each year. Your dues' status is indicated by a two digit number or letter combination on the mailing label found on the outside cover of the *Fireball* newsletter. For example: "08" indicates a regular member is paid-up through 2008 and so on. The letter "n" indicates a new member with membership in process. The letter "c" indicates a complimentary copy or honorary member. Please complete this form when renewing your annual dues.

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER: _____ **E-MAIL** _____

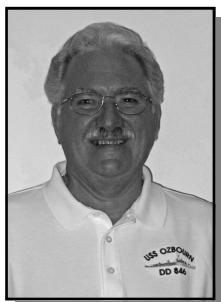
YEARS SERVED ON THE SHIP (i.e. 50-51) _____ **HIGHEST RANK/RATE HELD** _____

AMOUNT PAID — \$ _____ **Make checks payable to the USS Ozbourn Association**

Complete this form and mail it along with annual dues payment to: **Warren Zschach**
1311 Ponderosa Drive
Petaluma, CA 94954-0469

USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

Open 24 Hours, 7 Days a Week — Rudy Boff, Proprietor



Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourn Web site at www.ozbourn.org under the heading Ship's Store. Orders may be placed with:

Rudy Boff — 1036 Connor Road
Pittsburgh, PA
15234-1033

Tel: (412) 833-0572

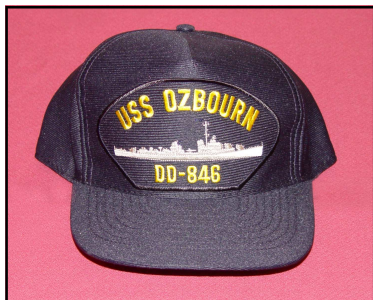
New email: boffrudy@verizon.net

SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address at left.

Micro-fiber Jacket, fleece lined-water repellent	\$90
Twill Jacket, fully lined with full front zip	\$80
Windbreaker, mesh lined and full front zip	\$60
Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, assorted colors	\$40
T-shirts, both long and short sleeve	\$35 and \$20
Golf shirts	\$30

All items have ship's name and hull number embroidered in gold letters.



CAP cotton twill Navy blue, brilliant gold letters & destroyer silhouette. 1 size fits all. Item # C01, \$14 ea
Embroidery on back: Korea, #C01K \$15 ea
Vietnam, #C01V \$15



PATCH fabric, \$6 ea
Original design, Item #P01
Revised design, Item #P02



FRAME, license plate
Item #F01 \$5 ea

SAVOR THE REUNION MEMORIES WITH HISTORIC CDs & DVDs

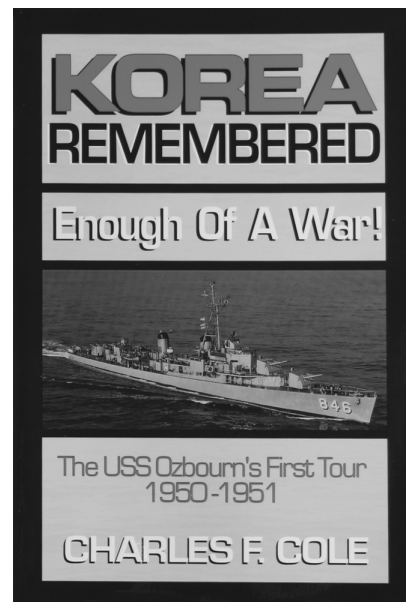
Limited edition photo CDs and DVDs of the USS Ozbourn's Eighth Biennial Reunion are available from the Ship's Store. What better way to relive those special moments with friends and shipmates from our stay in Seattle than to purchase one of these discs. For those shipmates who were unable to attend the 2007 reunion, the purchase of one of these discs is an excellent way to catch up with the history of our Association. The USS Ozbourn Association purchased these CDs and DVDs from the reunion photographer.

- Disc #1 — DVD flowing video of reunion & interviews
- Disc #2 — Photo CD with 500+ digital photos

\$35 for each disc plus \$3 for shipping

The book *Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!, the USS Ozbourn's First Tour, 1950-1951*, is a first-hand account by shipmate Charles F. Cole, as the war "sandwiched between WW II and the War in Vietnam."

Cole's historic account was first published in 1995, just in time for the dedication of the Korean War Memorial, which is in site of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.



While the book mainly focuses on Cole's life aboard the Ozbourn during the Korean War, it also includes some of the time he spent as a UDT team member and his Navy Reserve years. The book is no longer in print through Yucca Tree Press.

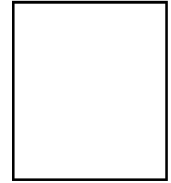
Charles Cole has graciously donated a box of his book *Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!, the USS Ozbourn's First Tour, 1950-1951* to the USS Ozbourn Association. The proceeds from the sale of his book will go into the Association's treasury.

The USS Ozbourn Association wishes to express its gratitude to Charles F. "Pete" Cole for his generous donation.

**"Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!,
The USS Ozbourn's First Tour, 1950-1951
By Charles F. Cole**

\$15.00 plus \$2.50 for shipping & handling

Richard N. Johnson, USN Ret.
5899 North Bronco Lane
Prescott Valley, AZ 86314-5892



Billed as the world's largest digital scoreboard, the Arizona Diamondbacks pay tribute to our nation's military during a game at Chase Field in Phoenix. The Independence Day game featured live tributes on the field as well as taped messages from area members of the military serving in Iraq. The ceremonial first pitch was thrown by a double amputee from his wheelchair. At the end of the game, the audience was treated to a fireworks show.

FIREBALL! The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn Association

DUES ALERT!

Are you overdue on your dues? Only dues-paying members receive the *Fireball* newsletter. Look at the mailing label on your last newsletter and find a number such as 08 or 09 or 10. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 08 means 2008, 09 means 2009, etc. Your Association officers ask you to...

DO THE DUES TODAY!

**We're on the Web at
www.ozbourn.org**

The following information can be found on the Association's Web site: Mission statement, complete history, current and past newsletters, a list of Ozbourn shipmates, historical photographs, the ship's store for ordering Ozbourn memorabilia, how to join, and special links.