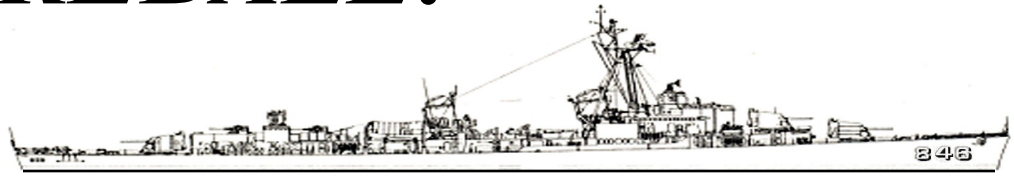


Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn
Tinian, Marianas Islands
28 July 1944

FIREBALL!

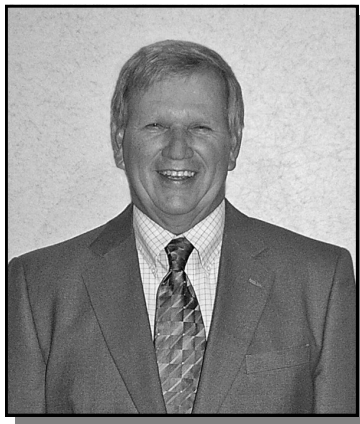
VOLUME 21, NO. 1

WINTER 2012



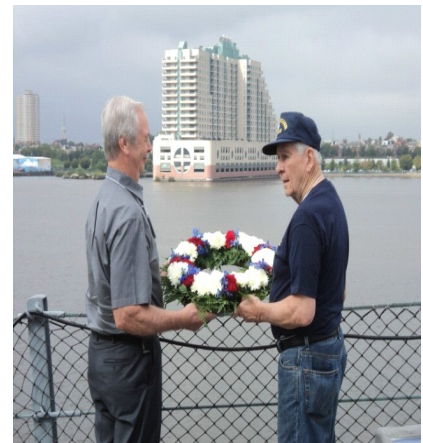
The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn (DD 846) Association
Dedicated to perpetuating the memory of a gallant Marine and the history of a fine ship
Visit our website at www.ozbourn.org

FROM THE BRIDGE



Greetings to all Shipmates

Once again we had a great reunion in Philly. The reunion committee did a grand job in planning and coordinating all the activities. For those who were not able to attend, we toured the USS NEW JERSEY, where we were served lunch on the mess decks and we were entertained by three sisters performing a USO show. They were great. We also had a very somber memorial service under the forward 16" gun mount. Paul Logan, thank you for the material, you were missed. Thanks to all for attending and sharing their stories and great memories.



MMCM Philip Roberts (L), incoming Treasurer/Historian and Warren Zschach outgoing Treasurer/Historian prepare to cast the Memorial Wreath into the Delaware River, from the deck of the USS NEW JERSEY.

2013 11th Biennial Reunion

The 2013 Reunion Committee, Jeff Parker, Steve Skinner and Guy Posey are working to locate the next host city in the West. We will keep you informed in future "Fireballs".

We toured historic Philadelphia, saw the Liberty Bell, Constitutional Hall, the US Constitution and of course found time for our very loyal wives to shop. Our dinner cruise on the Delaware River was top notch. A big **THANK YOU** to the reunion committee. Our next reunion will be out West.

Our new Association Officers were elected and are filling the following posts for 2011-2013. President Guy Posey, Vice President Randy Humphries, Treasurer Master Chief Philip Roberts, Recording Secretary Ken Keene, and Editor for the "Fireball" newsletter Jeff Parker. Please help Jeff by sending in stories and photographs.

A special **THANKS** to all the outgoing officers for their many years of service to the Association.

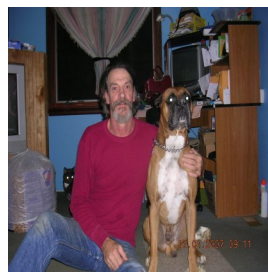
Please support our troops, veterans and their families. God Bless us all and the USA.

Guy Posey
President, USS Ozbourn Association

MEET YOUR 2011-2013 USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION OFFICERS



GUY POSEY
President
(69-71)



RANDY HUMPHRIES
Vice President
(72-73)



JEFF PARKER
Fireball Editor
(70-74)



KEN KEENE
Recording Secretary
(71-74)

Photo Unavailable

PHIL ROBERTS
Treasurer
(68-72)

Minutes of the 2011 10th Biennial Reunion Business Meeting in Philadelphia

The meeting was called to order by President Guy Posey at 0830 hours on Saturday, September 24, 2011.

Members joined in the **Pledge of Allegiance** to the Flag.

Minutes of the 2009 meeting were read by Secretary Ken Keene. **Motion** was made and seconded; vote to approve minutes was passed by majority.

Treasurers Report was presented by Treasurer Warren Zschach.

On 9-15-2011 the Association had a starting balance of \$10,482.81. It was estimated that there were \$2,444.19 of unpaid expenses which would leave a balance of \$8,038.62 in the treasury after payments. **Motion** was made and seconded; vote to approve Treasures Report was passed by majority.

Editor's Report was presented by "Fireball" Editor Rick Johnson.

Mailing expenses for the newsletter and the possibility of delivering the "Fireball" by Email or by notification that the "Fireball" was available on-line was discussed. Secretary Ken Keene pointed out there are less than half of the required Email addresses in the database and that people are constantly changing addresses and not notifying the association. This and the fact that some of our members are not internet savvy showed that electronic distribution of the "Fireball" was not feasible at this time.

Motion was made and seconded; vote to approve the Editor's Report was approved by majority.

Reunion Committee Report was presented by Chairman Rudy Boff.

Several cities were considered for the 2011 reunion. Philadelphia was selected due to the cost as well as the number of venues to be visited.

The Reunion Financial Report was given by Committee member Ken Keene detailing the monies collected from the Reunion attendees and the Reunion expenses.

Reunion Committee Report (cont)

Collected was \$16,793.00 and expenses were \$15,620.65 for profit of \$1,173.35. It was explained that the profit was mostly due to the fact that the actual cost of the bus was \$720.00 less than the estimate and that more attendees participated in the tours than anticipated.

Motion was made and seconded; vote to approve the Reunion Committee report was passed by majority.

Old Business

Rudy Boff reported that he had been in contact with the great grandson of Joseph Ozbourn and learned that the Herrin III VFW was successful in having County Route 2 entering Herrin named "The Joseph W. Ozbourn Memorial Parkway" in recognition of the Medal of Honor Recipient and namesake of the USS Ozbourn (DD-846). Rudy said he would seek additional updates about the progress of placing of signs along the parkway.

An inquiry was made as to the status of plaques being placed in home ports of the USS Ozbourn. It was pointed out that at the St. Louis meeting it was determined that the cost was too much for the Treasury and the action was voted down.

No other old business was brought to the floor.

New Business

Ken Keene gave a report on the decision of the Association Officers to join the American Military Reunion Foundation and the cost and benefits of joining. By being part of AMRF, we are now a 501C 19 nonprofit veterans organization. For the cost of \$29.95 per month, AMRF will file the required tax return with the IRS, furnish us a checking account and supply the treasurer with an annual report of our account which uses The AMRF EIN. They will also allow us access to liability insurance for our reunions at a steep discount.

It was reported that Warren Zschach turned over the duties of Historian to Phil Roberts. There was a discussion about what to do with the large amount of material which has accumulated over the years.

Officers of the Association

President

Guy Posey (69-71)
419 S. Appleway Lane
Glencoe, OK 74032
Tel: 405 747 0686
Email: ppapaguy@aol.com

Vice President

Randy Humphries (72-73)
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Niagara Falls, NY 14305-2249
Tel: 716-807-6049
E-mail: rlh-

Corresponding Secretary and Fireball Editor

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Email: ljparkar1@cox.net

Recording Secretary

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Tel: 814 337 3197
Email: kkeene@windstream.net

Treasurer and Historian

Philip M. Roberts (68-72)
2608 Bentwood Drive
Palestine, TX 75803
Tel: 903-723-5719
Email: swabby37@hotmail.com

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)/(03-07)
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 Spring 2012 issue is **Monday, March 12**. Articles may be rewritten for purposes of editorial style. Due to space limitations, some materials may be used in a future **Fireball** edition.

Continued from page 2

New Business (cont)

Rick Johnson suggested contacting the Herrin, Ill VFW and The Museum of the Pacific War in Fredericksburg, TX, to see if they would be interested in displaying some of the artifacts. John Scanlon suggested that all photos could be scanned for easy storage. It was pointed out that these scanned photos could be placed on a disc and made available for sale in the ships store.

A committee of volunteers, Bill Thomas and Phil Roberts will work to find a suitable place for some of the collection to be placed on display. **Motion** to approve the committee was made and seconded; vote to approve the committee was passed by majority.

In the discussion of the next reunion, it was determined that it should be held in the western part of the country in keeping with Section VII (7) paragraph 2 of the Association By-Laws. Volunteers for the committee for the 2013 reunion are Jeff Parker, Steve Skinner, and Guy Posey. The importance of the committee visiting the host city and doing a site inspection of potential hotels and tour locations was discussed. The custom of the Association providing the availability of up to \$500.00 to cover committee expenses was discussed. **Motion** was made and seconded; vote to approve the committee and the \$500 in funds was approved by majority.

Election of Officers

Guy Posey agreed to stay on as President, Randy Humphries volunteered to run for Vice President to replace Vice President Rudy Boff, Ken Keene agreed to stay on as Recording Secretary, Phil Roberts volunteered to run for Treasurer to replace resigning Treasurer Warren Zschach, Jeff Parker volunteered to run for Editor/Corresponding Secretary to replace resigning Editor Rick Johnson. There were no other nominations from the floor for any of the offices. **Motion** was made and seconded; vote was taken and the nominated officers passed by majority.

Requests for donations were made by Ken Keene, \$500.00 to Tin Can Sailors. Guy Posey, \$500.00 to the Disabled American Veterans Association. John Jackowski, \$300.00 to the Wounded Warrior Project. A discussion followed as to what each proposed recipient actually used our donated monies for. There was also a discussion about requiring a financial report from an organization to be considered for a donation in the future. This would be to insure that our donated monies were indeed being put to good use. **Motion** was made and seconded to approve the donations; vote was taken and approved all donation requests.

Jeff Parker, the new "Fireball" Editor, thanked Rick Johnson for all of his assistance in passing information about publishing the newsletter. Jeff also made forms available for members to submit stories and articles to him for consideration for publication in future editions of the "Fireball".

Following a call for any other business, the meeting was adjourned at 1030 hours. by President Guy Posey.

Ken Keen, Recording Secretary



MAIL CALL

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

To all of the "Wizards of OZ",

I respectfully request your patience as I attempt to fill the very large shoes of Richard "Rick" Johnson who has done an outstanding job as the Editor of the "Fireball" Newsletter over a period of many years. Without Rick's vast amount of experience, knowledge and support, I would have never even attempted such a task. We truly owe Rick a debt of gratitude for his exemplary service to the association.

I will be truly dependent on input from every shipmate as to the content of each edition of the "Fireball". Therefore, I wish to remind all shipmates that any input would be very much appreciated.

Sincerely,
Jeff Parker, Editor

TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

Robert Barr (SN-50-54) Mrs. Barr reported that Robert passed away on October 3, 2007. According to his Wife, Robert enjoyed being a member of the USS Ozbourne Association.

Bob Ash, (BM-62-66), of Woodland, WA. passed away on November 14, 2011.

Carl Philip Ihme Jr (46-48) passed away on June 18, 2011 after an extended illness. According to Carl's daughter, he treasured his memories of serving on the "OZ" and thoroughly enjoyed the reunions.



Final resting place of Private Joseph W. Ozbourne, USMC, National Cemetery of the Pacific "Punchbowl", Honolulu, Hawaii.

2011 PHILADELPHIA REUNION PHOTOS



David "Sed" and Linda Sedlacek have just finished a great meal on the Mess Decks of the USS NEW JERSEY and are awaiting the start of the fantastic USO show.



All smiles — The Rueth's, Cathy and Don, are all smiles as they attend another reunion.



As in past reunions, shipmates from the Engineering Department were well represented. L-R, "Mac" McKeehan, Jeff Parker, Mark "Blue" Beaulieu and Ken Keene. **Editors Note:** After serving on the "OZ" as an MM2, Mark retired from the Navy as a Lieutenant and was aboard the USS New Jersey as part of her decommissioning crew.



The three sisters providing our USO show were fabulous as well as a great deal of fun.

OUR LIBERTY BELL

The reunion gave many of the attendees their first opportunity to visit the **Liberty Bell**.

Facts: When originally cast in 1752 in Whitechapel, England, the bell weighed 2080 pounds.

The bell can be viewed 24 hours daily, through large windows, even when the center is closed.

Over 1,500,000 visitors from around the world visit **Our Liberty Bell**.



All shipmates and their loyal wives in attendance during the Reunion Banquet were extremely proud of the Honor Guard from **USCG STATION PHILADELPHIA**.

Editors Note: Yes, we were this young once.



Sailors, all female, from the Royal Danish Navy Training Ship "DANMARK", on liberty in downtown Philadelphia encountered a wayward Ozbourn crewman in the form of Jeff Parker.

2011 PHILADELPHIA REUNION PHOTOS



Shipmates reunite after 1964 Wedding: The 2011 Reunion found old “OZ” shipmates coming together after being a great part of Steve and Babbs Skinner’s Wedding on December 7, 1964. The top photo, L-R, Steve’s lovely Bride Babbs, Ens. Steve Skinner, Best Man Ens. John Scanlon,, Groomsman Ens. Al Sherman and on the far right Groomsman Ens. Brian Bucholz. Bottom photo form this years reunion, L-R, Steve, John, Al and Brian.

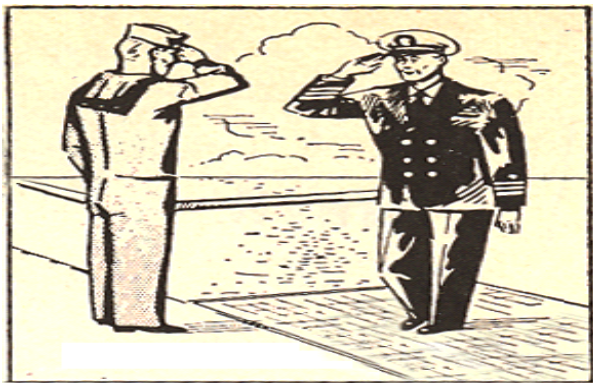
Master Chief Phillip Roberts and his lovely wife Pat enjoying their first Ozbourn Reunion. **Editors Note:** Chief Roberts, (68-72) was a true mentor and friend for those of us fortunate to have served with him on the “OZ”.

Gedunk Question from Summer 2011

The Gedunk Call Question for Summer 2011 was: **What does five for seven mean and is it legal according to Navy regulations?** The term was used during the early to mid 1960s and may not have been used prior to or after this time period.

Answer: The answer to the **Gedunk Call** question for Summer 2011 is-five for seven meant that one shipmate loaned another shipmate five dollars for seven dollars due upon the next payday. The “loan” amounted to a 40% interest rate which is considered usury. The practice of five for seven was illegal according to Navy regulations.

Editors note: It is clear from the number of shipmates that responded correctly to the five for seven **Gedunk Call** question that the practice continued through the remainder of the 1960s well into the 1970’s. The names have been changed to protect the innocent.



WELCOME ABOARD

Welcome aboard to the below listed shipmates. The USS Ozbourn Association officers and members hope that you will become involved in the planned activities.

Michael Dent
SFM2 — (65-68)

Edward Woodbury
RM2 (64-66)

Randall Robinson
EMFN — (72-73)

Paul Lawless
EW3 (71-72)

Eugene Stagner
Ltjg- (66-69)

Chris Taylor
RM3 (62-66)

Gedunk Question for Winter 2012

The Gedunk Question for this issue of the *Fireball* is a two part question.

First, what does the term “Heave out and trice up” refer too. Secondly, what terminology always followed the aforementioned announcement over the IMC? Clue: Most shipmates did not look forward to either of these terms.

“THE NIGHTMARE OF NOVEMBER 23/24 ,1948

A continuing story provided by Siras “SI” Browning SKSN 1948

(Continued from “Fireball” Summer 2011 Edition)

All the other ships stopped and awaited orders to assist in anyway they could.

My first thought after the collision was that OZBOURN would probably sink since we had lost approximately fifty feet of our ship. My nervousness in those initial minutes is difficult to describe. At my General Quarters station, I used a sound-powered telephone to communicate with the Gunnery Officer. That simple phone system had a chest plate which is strapped around the user’s neck by a woven fabric strap. In my initial panic, I could visualize my ship sinking and me going down with her because I could not find the hook that connected me to the chest plate. Somehow, I was able to get the strap and chest plate over my ears and head without disconnecting the strap. I remained on the e line, but I vowed I was not going down with the OZBOURN attached to the ship by that damned telephone line. (I tried many, many times before I left OZBOURN to get that telephone strap over my head without unbuckling it in the normal way, but I was unable to do it.)

The ship did not sink because of our heroic repair station crews and our engineering department. Since we were at General Quarters the OZBOURN had the highest possible level of watertight integrity. This saved the OZBOURN from the fate that every seaman fears, the loss of his ship at sea.

I could hear the bridge communications with the various stations throughout the ship. Repair Station One, in the forward part of the ship and the one nearest the damage, reported to the Captain that the ship was not taking on water. All systems aboard OZBOURN were directed to report damage and injuries to the bridge. All of my gun crew was present and accounted for. I reported this to my Gunnery Officer at the end of my telephone line. I heard all the reports from the gun mounts and directors throughout our weapons system. All equipment was undamaged and all personnel were accounted for with one exception. I heard the mount director in the forward 5” gun report that he could not establish communications with the personnel in the handling room directly below his mount. There were two of our crewmembers assigned that station. The forward repair station was directed to check on the station. In a few minutes I could hear the report from the repair station that they had checked the handling room, and no personnel could be found. I could hear the Captain ask the Gunnery Officer which personnel were assigned to duties in the handling room. The answer came back to the bridge that the two sailors, Meeks and Williams, could not be contacted.

The bridge passed the word over the OZBOURN’S public address system directing Meeks and Williams to call the bridge. No call came. Then the announcement was made for anyone who had seen Seaman Meeks or Williams to call the bridge. No calls came..

I heard Captain Blaisdell report to the Division Commander that OZBOURN was in no danger of sinking. He also reported that two of our crew members who had duty stations in the vicinity of the damage could not be found. The other three ships commenced an immediate search for our two crew members. The strong signal lights from the bridge searched around the ship for any indication of the two sailors. There was a tremendous amount of debris floating in the water about our ship. All of us on the topside decks were all straining to see our shipmates who we hoped were floating in the sea waiting rescue.

Our three sister ships immediately launched their whale-boats to assist in the search and rescue of Meeks and Williams. All debris that could be found was picked out of the water by the boat crews.

In a few minutes reports started coming from other ships that their boat crews had reported that they had found pieces of human flesh floating in the collision area. There was no sign of our ship’s bow, which sunk immediately after it was crushed away from the ship.

The night the collision occurred the seas were smooth. I recall standing at my duty station viewing our ships searchlight playing over the sea looking for our shipmates. As the lights penetrated the water I could see masses of huge jellyfish just under the surface. Jellyfish were everywhere, and most of them were huge, appearing more than four feet in diameter.

By midnight many more pieces of human flesh had been recovered along with many personal items which belonged to the Chief Petty Officers (CPO) on our ship. The bow of the ship was the living quarters of our Chiefs. After all debris had been recovered the search was discontinued. I do not know at what time that actually happened. I do recall that it was about midnight before we were released from General Quarters and I was able to return to my compartment.

There was much sadness among all of the crew, and especially by those of us who had been living in the compartment with Meeks and Williams. For the remainder time on board, the collision and the loss of our shipmates was the primary subject of our discussions.

To be continued

**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.

USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

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



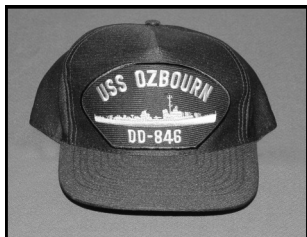
Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozboourn Web site at www.ozboourn.org under the heading Ship's Store.

Orders may be placed with:

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

Tel: (412) 833-0572

New email: boffrudy@verizon.net



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 ea.



Windbreaker mesh lined with full front zipper. Navy blue jacket with ship profile in silver thread and lettering in gold thread. \$60 ea.

Item# J01



Logo detail



PATCH fabric, \$6 ea.

Original design, Item #P01

Revised design, Item #P02



Can holder made of foam. Navy blue body with white base. USS Ozboourn logo in white. \$3.00 ea. or two for \$5.00. Item# K01



FRAME, license plate Item# F01 \$5 ea.

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

Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, assorted colors \$40

Golf shirts \$30

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



T-shirt short sleeve Navy & white with embroidered logo left side. \$20 ea. Item# T01

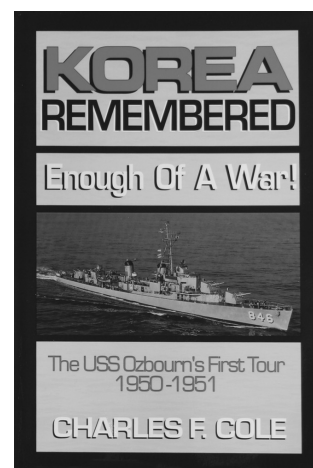
Long sleeve \$35 ea. Item# T02



Logo detail

The book *Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!*, the *USS Ozboourn'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 near the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C.



**"Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!,
The USS Ozboourn's First Tour, 1950-1951**

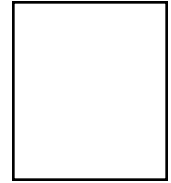
By Charles F. Cole

\$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping & handling

SHIPPING AND HANDLING

| <u>COST OF ITEM</u> | <u>COST OF POSTAGE</u> |
|---------------------|------------------------|
| \$0.01-15.00 | \$3.00 |
| 15.01-25.00 | 4.00 |
| 25.01-35.00 | 5.00 |
| 35.01-45.00 | 7.00 |
| 45.01-55.00 | 8.00 |
| 55.01-65.00 | 10.00 |
| 65.01 or more | 11.00 |

Jeffrey Parker
1036 Calle Venezia
San Clemente, CA 92672



Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn
USMC
Congressional Medal of Honor

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 most recent newsletter and find a number such as 11, 12 or 13. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 11 means 2011, 12 means 2012, 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.

SHIP AWARDS RECEIVED BY THE USS OZBOURN

- Combat Action Ribbon
- Navy Unit Commendation
- Meritorious Service Medal
- China Service Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Navy Occupation Service Medal w/Asia Clasp
- National Defense Service Medal w/bronze Star
- Korean Service Medal w/5 Bronze Stars
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal w/2 Bronze Stars
- Vietnam Service Medal w/2 Silver Stars
- Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross Color with Palm)
- United Nations Service Medal