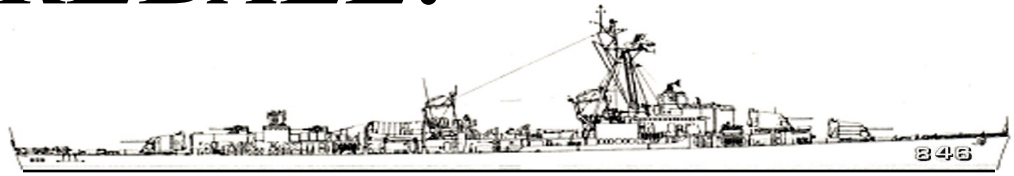


Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn  
Tinian, Marianas Islands  
28 July 1944

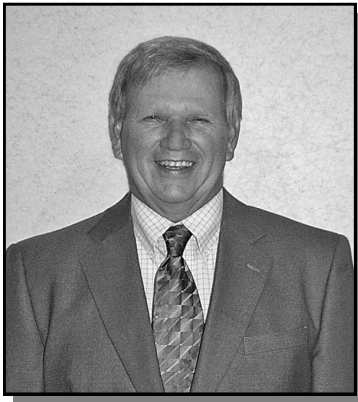
# ***FIREBALL!***

VOLUME 22, NO. 2  
Spring 2013



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](http://www.ozbourn.org)

## **FROM THE BRIDGE**



Greetings to all Shipmates, Wives and Friends,

As you will see later in this edition of the "Fireball", the Reunion Committee, Jeff Parker, Steve Skinner and Guy Posey, have been hard at work to put together an excellent agenda for our upcoming 2013 Reunion in beautiful San Diego, California. Please start making your plans to attend.

I am very excited to return to San Diego, as that is where my Navy adventure commenced when I attended Boot Camp at the Naval Training Center. Coming from a small town in Oklahoma, to boot camp then reporting aboard the "OZ" was one of the many true highlights of my life. I met some of my best friends ever on the "OZ" and visited places that I would have never been able to see if not for the Navy.

We of course worked very hard, played hard and did what was needed done to accomplish our mission.

Now once again, I am able to visit and enjoy California with Shipmates, their wives and friends from the "OZ". Another great adventure. You will not want to miss it.

Please remember to make those pre-reunion purchases from our Ship's Store as well as at the reunion.

Let us not forget to hug a member of our Armed Forces, our fellow Veterans and especially our families.

God bless our great country.

Guy Posey, President  
USS OZBOURN Association

**2013 BIENNIAL REUNION  
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA , SEPTEMBER 25-29, 2013**



**NOW HEAR THIS, LIBERTY CALL FOR ALL HANDS IN BEAUTIFUL SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA COMMENCING ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 25-29, 2013, AT THE KONA KAI RESORT ON SHELTER ISLAND. REGISTRATION FORM ON PAGE-5**

**KONA KAI RESORT HOTEL**  
1551 Shelter Island Drive, San Diego, CA 92106  
Phone: (619) 221-8000 Fax: (619) 819-8101  
Reservations: (800) 566-2524

The **Kona Kai Resort Hotel** is located on Shelter Island overlooking San Diego Bay. The Kona Kai is a full service hotel, providing complimentary airport/train station transportation. All rooms have either a view of San Diego Bay or the marina. The Kona Kai has set an excellent rate of \$109.00 + taxes per night, double occupancy, and includes a **complementary fully cooked breakfast each morning**. The above rate has been guaranteed for three days prior and three days following the reunion for those wishing to arrive a little early or extend their stay in San Diego. Reservations may be made by calling 1-800-566-2524. Tell the operator you are attending the USS Ozbourn Reunion.



## **KONA KAI RESORT HOTEL, SAN DIEGO BAY**

### **2013 REUNION UPDATE**

The Reunion Committee wishes to update all the members as to what is currently being planned for the 2013 Reunion in San Diego, California, on September 25-29, 2013.

We are currently planning visits to the following sites that we believe all members, including the very loyal Ozbourn wives and other family members will enjoy.

#### **USS Midway Museum**

**City tour that will include Coronado, the Gaslamp Quarter (Old Sailor Town), shopping at Seaport Village, Lunch at the Bali Hai Restaurant overlooking San Diego Bay and the Cabrillo National Monument**  
**Old Town Sightseeing and Shopping**  
**Private dinner cruise on San Diego Bay aboard the "Emerald Hornblower"**  
**A private tour of an active warship stationed at the San Diego Naval Station with lunch at Tom Lams Lighthouse Restaurant**

Fear not, there will be a great deal of time to relax with old shipmates in our hospitality room at the Kona Kai Resort Hotel.

**Don't miss the 2013 Reunion, it will certainly be one of the great ones. We are all looking forward to seeing you in beautiful San Diego.**

*Fireball Spring 2013*

### **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)**  
3008 Rhode Island Avenue  
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Tel: 716-807-6049  
**E-mail: rlh-**

#### **Corresponding Secretary and Fireball Editor**

**Jeff Parker (70-74)**  
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#### **Recording Secretary**

**Kenneth E. Keene (71-74)**  
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#### **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 Summer 2013 issue is **June 11th**. 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.

## TO ALL HANDS

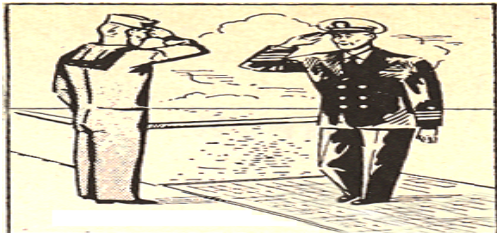
*Jeff Parker, Editor*

All Shipmates are respectfully reminded regarding the procedure to request a donation by the USS Ozburn Association to any other organization. If anyone wishes to propose a donation be made by the USS Ozburn Association to any organization during the Business Meeting at the 2013 Reunion in San Diego, they are requested to have specific information as to the history and mission of that organization.

## USS OZBURN COMMANDING OFFICERS

The USS Ozburn has had 18 different commanding officers during its 29 year history. Do you remember which skippers you served under? If you have an interesting story about any of the Ozburn's commanding officers to share with fellow shipmates, please forward your experience for possible inclusion in a future issue of the *Fireball*.

CDR. B.A. Smith	March 1946-October 1947	LCDR. D.V. Gorman	March 1961-December 1961
CDR. N.E. Blaisdel	October 1947-March 1949	CDR. W. Lancaster	December 1961-October 1963
CDR. R.E. Freeman	March 1949-September 1950	CDR. D.W. Berger	October 1963-July 1964
CDR. C.O. Akers	September 1950-April 1951	CDR. N.D. Nelson Jr.	July 1964-April 1966
CDR. W.B. Fargo	April 1951-April 1954	CDR. J.G. Denham	April 1966-September 1968
CDR. H.T. Scott Jr.	April 1954-November 1955	CDR. R.L. Stewart	September 1968-June 1970
CDR. A.J. Toulon Jr.	November 1955-September 1957	CDR. E.W. Numbers	June 1970-December 1971
CDR. C.A. Kuhl	September 1957-July 1959	CDR. K.L. Costilow	December 1971-March 1974
CDR. W.W. Turner	July 1959-March 1961	CDR. F.J. Furtado	March 1974-May 1975



## WELCOME ABOARD

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

**John J. Leahy PHM3 (48)**

**Geoffrey Walker QM2 (66-68)**



## TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

### “SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER”

The Association is saddened to report the passing of the following long time -friend, member and Shipmate.

**Ralph Phelps RD3 (52-55)**

## TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Thursday September 26, 2013

### USS Ozbourn Memorial Service

We will all join together on the Kona Kai Resort's open air patio and greenbelt area overlooking the beautiful San Diego Bay Marina to remember those "Shipmates" that remain with us in spirit.

**9:00 am-9:45 am**

### City Tour of San Diego/Lunch/Cabrillo National Monument

Our group will depart the Kona Kai aboard a climate controlled motor coach with step on guide narration, travelling to Coronado, Balboa Park, Gaslamp Quarter, downtown, with an hour stop at Seaport Village with time to browse on foot, purchase souvenirs and enjoy this bayside village. The luncheon will be at the famed Bali Hai restaurant, with sweeping views of San Diego Bay. We will re-board our coach and continue on to the Cabrillo National Monument for more great views of San Diego before returning us to the Kona Kai Resort.

**10:00 am Bus departs Kona Kai .....1:00 pm Lunch.....3:00 pm Bus returns to Kona Kai  
\$59.00/Person, Includes City Tour/Bayside Lunch/Cabrillo Monument**

### Hawaiian -Themed Dinner Cruise and Tour of San Diego Bay

After enjoying evening cocktails in our Hospitality Room, the beautiful "Emerald Hornblower" will arrive at the Kona Kai Resort Marina, just a few steps from our Hospitality Room. We will board the "Emerald Hornblower" for a fabulous buffet dinner and private sunset tour of San Diego Bay. **(Cash Bar)**.

**6:15 pm Board the "Emerald Hornblower" .....Buffet Dinner.....9:15 pm Return to Kona Kai  
\$90.00 /Person Includes Private Dinner Cruise and Entertainment**

Friday, September 27, 2013

### Old Town San Diego and USS Midway Tour

After boarding our climate controlled motor coach, we will drive to Old Town San Diego with 2-1/2 hours to explore this rustic California site, the first Catholic Mission, browsing the many shops and a wonderful lunch on your own in many of the excellent restaurants. We will then re-board our motor coach for transfer to the USS Midway Museum. The USS Midway is handicap friendly with elevators and park benches throughout. Complimentary light weight audio sets allow our group to fan out to visit their favorite exhibits.

**10:00 am Bus departs the Kona Kai for Visit to Old Town and Lunch on Your Own  
1:00 pm Bus departs Old Town for transfer to the USS Midway  
4:00 pm Bus departs USS Midway and returns to the Kona Kai  
\$39.00/Person, Includes Transportation and USS Midway Museum**

### Hospitality Room Activities

Friday evening will be spent at the Hospitality Room with a variety of activities, raffle and visiting with our former shipmates

Saturday, September 28, 2013

### Bayside Luncheon and Tour of Active Warship

After boarding our motor coach, we will travel to Harbor Island where we will enjoy a bayside lunch at Tom Lams Lighthouse. After lunch, we will travel to Naval Station San Diego for our private tour of an active US Navy warship. **(Govt. Issued Photo I.D. Req.)**.

**10:30 am Bus departs Kona Kai, returning at 4:00 pm  
\$56.00/Person, Includes Transportation, Lunch and Warship Tour**

Sunday, September 29, 2013

**7:00 am-8:00 am**

Farewell Coffee Clutch in the Hospitality Room

## USS OZBOURN REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour and banquet costs for the reunion. Please enter how many people will be participating in each event, meal choice and the total amount. Send this form and your **check payable to USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION** to: **Jeffrey Parker, 1036 Calle Venezia, San Clemente, CA. 92672.** Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail before **August 10, 2013.** After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form for your records before mailing.

<u>TOURS AND BANQUET CHOICES</u>	<u>Price Each</u>	<u># of People</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
<b>Thursday,</b> City Tour of San Diego/Bayside Lunch.....	\$59.00	_____	_____
<b>Thursday,</b> San Diego Bay Private Evening Dinner Cruise.....	\$90.00	_____	_____
<b>Friday,</b> Old Town State Park/USS Midway Tour.....	\$39.00	_____	_____
<b>Saturday,</b> Lunch Lam's Lighthouse/ Tour of Active Warship.....	\$56.00	_____	_____
(Govt. Issued Photo I.D Req.)			
<b>Saturday Banquet (Please Select Entrée Below) Cash Bar</b>			
Chicken Piccata .....	\$45.00	_____	_____
London Broil.....	\$45.00	_____	_____
Grilled Filet of Salmon.....	\$45.00	_____	_____
<b>Non Refundable Registration Fee Per Person.....</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	_____	_____

**Total Amount Payable to : USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION.....\$ \_\_\_\_\_**

**PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY,** Are You Flying? \_\_\_\_\_ Driving? \_\_\_\_\_ RV? \_\_\_\_\_ **E-MAIL ADDRESS** \_\_\_\_\_

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Nick Name for Tag \_\_\_\_\_

Years on Board 19 \_\_\_\_\_ to 19 \_\_\_\_\_ Last Rate/Rank Held on Ozbourn \_\_\_\_\_ Is this you first reunion? \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name (if attending) \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Guest Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Disability / Dietary Restrictions? \_\_\_\_\_

Must you be lifted hydraulically onto the bus while seated in your wheelchair in order to participate in the bus trips?

Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ (We cannot guarantee availability)

Emergency Contact \_\_\_\_\_ Phone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Are you staying at the Kona Kai Resort Hotel? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_ Arrival Date \_\_\_\_\_

Departure Date \_\_\_\_\_

**You must contact the Kona Kai Resort Hotel directly to make your room reservations.** See Hotel Information Sheet for details. Tour and banquet cancellation refunds will be made before **August 10, 2013.**

**All hands are reminded that if they have signed up to visit the ACTIVE WARSHIP on Saturday, September 28, 2013, they must have Government Issued Photo I.D. with them. As an example, State issued Drivers License or I.D., etc.**

**SKIPPER IN THE SPOTLIGHT**  
**COMMANDER MARVIN DERWOOD NELSON Jr. USN**  
**Commanding Officer, USS Ozbourn (64-66)**  
Submitted by John M. Crowley FTG-2, (62-65)



Commander Marvin D. Nelson Jr. USN, enlisted in the Navy on June 25, 1946 under the Naval Aviation Midshipman Program. He attended Oklahoma State College and was commissioned ensign on June 6, 1950.

His duties in the “Brown Shoe Navy” included tours on the aircraft carriers USS Boxer CV-21 and USS Essex CV-9 during the Korean conflict as part of Air Group 101 and Air Task Group Two. Documents from the Boxer state that at 0615 hours, 22 June 1951, “Ensign Marvin D. Nelson Jr. parachuted from his flak damaged F4U-5NL (Corsair) plane over Won-san Bay, southeast of Yo-Do Island and was safely recovered by a helicopter from LST-79.

His surface duties included serving as Navigator/Legal Officer aboard the attack transport USS Saratoga and Weapons Officer the USS Chevalier (DD 805). He served as Executive Officer of the USS Ozbourn (DD846) later replacing Commander David Berger as Commanding Officer on August 7, 1964 until April 30, 1966.

The Ozbourn departed August 20, 1965 for deployment to the Western Pacific. The ship largely operated in the Gulf of Tonkin and “in country” providing routine “call fire” support missions, plane guarding and other missions which resulted in eight crewmen being recommended for decorations.

The Ozbourn returned stateside February 7, 1966, along with other DesRon 92 ships USS Chandler (DD-717) and USS Mansfield (DD-728). This deployment resulted in the three ships firing 7,000 rounds or 280 tons of 5-inch projectiles at enemy positions. This gunfire damaged or destroyed more than 500 enemy structures, four loaded enemy supply trucks, 18 junks and sampans, seven bridges, three automatic weapons emplacements, three bunkers and a cave. The three destroyers were also credited with killing 125 and wounding over 100 enemy troops.

After departing Ozbourn, Commander Nelson then served with the Branch Office, Office of Naval Records, London, England. Commander Nelson then reported to the U.S. Naval Support Activity Facility Da Nang, Vietnam as Executive Officer. The Da Nang facility reached its peak in 1969. The command controlled 250 ships, landing craft, lighters, tugs and floating cranes that made it the largest concentration of such vessels in Southeast Asia. The command had 450 officers, 10,000 sailors and had a civilian workforce of 11,000 Vietnamese and civilian contractors.

Commander Nelson attended the University of Oklahoma in 1955 to study Aeronautical Engineering. He graduated from the Naval Postgraduate School with a BS in Electrical Engineering.

In addition to campaign medals from Korea and Vietnam, Commander Nelson earned the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Bronze Star with Combat V and the Air Medal.

Upon retirement, the Commander developed an interest in the Brittany dog breed and became an avid field trial and confirmation participant. Along with his daughter Frances Ann, he co-owned a dog that became National Amateur Champion “Rebels Tough Tyrone”.

Commander Nelson was preceded in death by his wife, the former Myra Beatrice Marshall and their daughter Frances Ann. He is survived by sons, Douglas Forrest Nelson and Mark Dougherty Nelson both living in Lincoln, Nebraska. The Commander and Mrs. Nelson are interred at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, (the Punchbowl) in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Additional research regarding the rescue of Commander Nelson after parachuting safely from his aircraft during the Korean Conflict determined that the pilot of the rescue helicopter, LTjg John Koelsch was later downed by North Koreans and taken prisoner. LTjg Koelsch died from malnutrition and dysentery on October 16, 1951 while still in captivity. He was posthumously awarded the Medal of Honor on August 3, 1955. The USS Koelsch (DE-1049) was named in his honor.

*Editors Note: I wish to thank Shipmate John Crowley for all of his hard work related to his research and contacting Commander Nelson’s sons, Mark and Douglas and for their sharing personal information related to their father.*

# USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

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



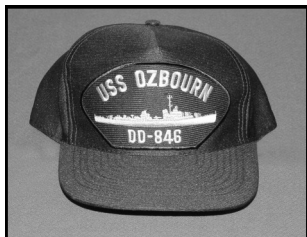
Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozboourn Web site at [www.ozboourn.org](http://www.ozboourn.org) under the heading Ship's Store.

Orders may be placed with:

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

Tel: (412) 833-0572

New email: [boffrudy@verizon.net](mailto: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

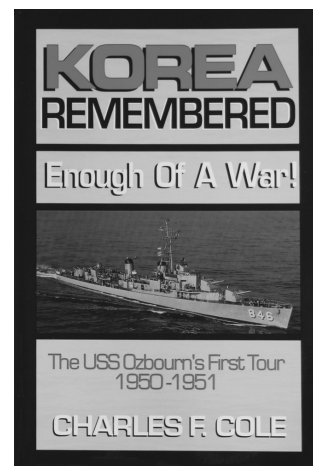
Long sleeve \$35 ea. Item# T02



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**

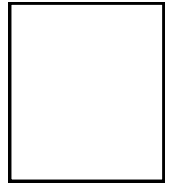
By Charles F. Cole

**\$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 12 or 13. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 12 means 2012, 13 means 2013, etc.

Membership dues are \$10.00 annually and are due in January of each year. Please make checks out to the USS OZBOURN Association and forward them to Philip Roberts, Association Treasurer, at 2608 Bentwood Drive, Palestine, Texas 75803.

Your Association officers ask you to...

**DO THE DUES TODAY!**

**We're on the Web at**  
**[www.ozbourn.org](http://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
- Republic of Vietnam Campaign Medal

*Fireball, Spring 2013*