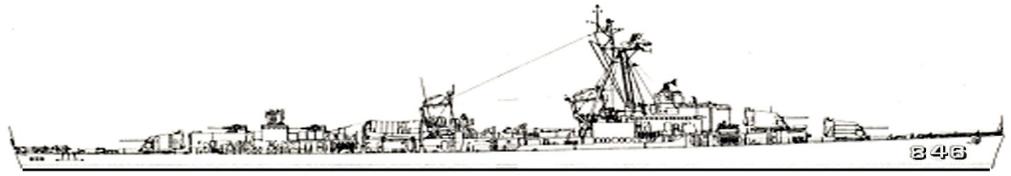




Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn  
Tinian, Marianas Islands  
28 July 1944

# ***FIREBALL!***

VOLUME 23, NO. 3  
Summer 2014



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,**



Hope you all are doing well.

As I have stated so many times before, life-long friendships have developed as a result of our service to our great nation while serving aboard one of the truly finest destroyers in the United States Navy, USS OZBOURN DD846. These friendships and our service both during peace time as well as in conflicts around the world will be evident for generations to come. Clearly, our children and grandchildren will tell stories to their children of the service of others that came before them.

Our thoughts of our fathers, grandfathers, mothers and grandmothers who served before us and walked the steel decks of our fighting ships, merchant marines, landed with troops on hostile lands, and flew the not-so-friendly skies in defense of freedom-loving people from around the world will always be remembered. We must pledge ourselves to this as we ourselves are no longer young.

May God Bless you, your families, our veterans and those serving our great nation.

Guy Posey MM3 (69-71)  
President  
USS Ozbourn DD846 Association

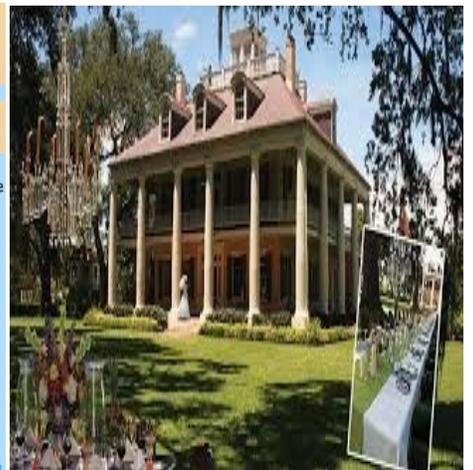
### **2015 REUNION BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA**



**USS KIDD DD-661**



**ALL ROADS LEAD TO  
BATON ROUGE, LA**



**WELCOME TO  
PLANTATION COUNTRY**

## 2015 Biennial Reunion

*Jeff Parker, Editor*

**“ALL HANDS, NOW HEAR THIS”**, **Baton Rouge, Louisiana** has been selected as the Host City for the **2015 Reunion of the USS OZBOURN DD846 Association**. As all hands are already aware, the Association attempts to vary the sites throughout the U.S. as to not make it a burden on those residing around the entire country. As a result of the 2011 Reunion being held on the East Coast, Philadelphia, the 2013 Reunion being held on the West Coast, San Diego, it was time to meet in the central part of the country. After surveying several possible Host Cities, Baton Rouge was ultimately selected.

Clearly, our reunions are a family event and the Association Officers are very grateful for family members that attend and escort those shipmates that may require a little assistance.

We are also very pleased with the number of shipmates who are able to attend the reunions. Clearly, the motto, **“Sailors Once, Shipmates Forever,”** rings very true.

The **HOST HOTEL** for the **2015 Biennial Reunion** has yet to be determined. by the **2015 Reunion Committee**, **Guy Posey, Mike Ward and Harold “Mac” McKeehan**.

*(Please watch for 2015 Reunion updates in future editions of the “Fireball.”)*

## NEWS FROM THE FLEET USS CORONADO LCS-4



The US Navy’s newest Littoral Combat Ship, USS CORONADO LCS-4, gets in a little whale watching in off San Clemente, CA, along with a local whale watching vessel out of Dana Point Harbor. Clearly, the passengers on the whale watching vessel were most likely watching the CORONADO more than the whales. The USS CORONADO passed by en route to San Diego where she was commissioned on April 5, 2014.

### Officers of the Association

#### President

**Guy Posey (69-71)**  
419 S. Appleway Lane  
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Email: ppapaguy@aol.com

#### Vice President

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E-mail: rlh-

#### Corresponding Secretary and Fireball Editor

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San Clemente, CA 92672  
Tel: 949-388-3067  
Email: ljparkar1@cox.net

#### Recording Secretary

**Kenneth E. Keene (71-74)**  
**NOTICE**

Ken is moving. In the interim, anyone wishing to reach Ken, may contact one of the other Association Officers.

#### Treasurer and Historian

**Philip M. Roberts (68-72)**  
2608 Bentwood Drive  
Palestine, TX 75803  
Tel: 903-723-5719  
Email: swabby54@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 **Fall 2014** issue is **September 15th**. 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*

### “SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER”

After 49 years, John Montoya RD3 (64-65) (left), met up with past “OZ” Shipmate John (Mike) Ornelas RDSA (62-65), aboard the USS Iowa BB 61 Museum Ship located in San Pedro, CA. Montoya reported that Ornelas can still tell a good sea story. Upon seeing Montoya, Ornelas stated, “You haven’t changed”. Montoya pointed out that he has gained 60 pounds, aged 49 years and is bald. *(Editors Note: I believe John Montoya must be looking into my mirror since that is what I see in myself.)*

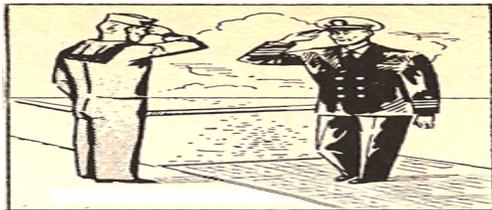


## KOREAN WAR

The Association received a request from author and non-member, Archie T. Miller, to notify members of a new book he has written; “**The Forgotten War Begins**” A Novel of the Sea War in Korea. This new book, published in May, 2014, is available at Amazon.com.

## KEN KEENE, ASSOCIATION SECRETARY CONTACT INFORMATION

Our extremely hard working Association Secretary Ken Keene is in the process of re-locating to North Carolina. As of the printing of this edition of the “Fireball”, Ken’s contact information has been removed from Page-2 as he is in the process of change of residence, telephone number as well as email address. In the interim, please contact any of the remaining Association Officers.



## 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.

**GERALD OTT EM2 (70-72)**

**LYLE THOMPSON SN (57-59)**

**JOHN D. FLEMMING GM3 (54-57)**

**LARRY ECKERS LTJG (70-72)**

**ROBERT HAYSLIP SN (71-72)**

**JOHN TODD GMG3 (66-69)**

**AL COON ET3 (74-75)**

**GAYLON JACOBS EM3 (56-58)**



## TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

### “SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER”

The Association is saddened to report the passing of the following long time Friends, Members and Shipmates.

**PATRICK MICHAEL SULLIVAN MM3 (68-72)**

**RONALD D. PARKER MM3 (54-57)**

*“May fair winds and calm seas be with you always”*

## JUST IN CASE YOU MISS BEING AT SEA

Submitted by Rudy Boff

*Editors Note: This is one of those articles that would never be seen in the waiting room of your local USN Recruiting Office.*

This describes what it's like to be on a ship...and its pretty accurate.

This guide was designed for the ex-sailor who misses the good old days and wants to bring a little of his or her past into their current life. It is also designed for those who would like to experience living aboard a U.S. Naval vessel for an extended period of time. Too many people believe life in the Navy is a Top Gun existence and hang onto every detail of JAG. It is not a glamorous life, but it can be very enjoyable and eventful.

The following are a few suggestions on how to experience the real Navy life, right in the comfort of you own home.

1. When commencing this simulation, remember to board up all windows, and lock friends and family outside. You can communicate only with letters that your neighbors will hold for two weeks before delivering, losing one out of every five. Have a friend or neighbor yell "Mail Call" at your door. Four out of five times, he will snicker and say, "You didn't get anything."
2. Raise the thresholds and lower the top sills of every doorway. From this point on, refer to them as knee knockers and overheads. Make sure you smash your knees on the knee-knockers and ram your head against the overhead every time you pass through one of them.
3. Surround yourself with 5,000 people you either don't like or don't know. These people will chain-smoke, fart loudly, snore like a Mack truck on a uphill grade, complain constantly, seldom shower, wear clean clothes, or brush their teeth and use expletives in speech the way kids use sugar on cold cereal.
4. Unplug all radios and televisions to completely cut yourself off from the outside world. Have your neighbor bring you a Time or Newsweek magazine from two or three months ago, and a Playboy magazine with the pictures cut out.
5. Study the owners manual for all appliances in the dwelling. If you don't have a manual, have someone who knows nothing about the item write one.
6. Monitor all operating home appliances hourly, recording all vital parameters (plugged in, light functions when door opens, etc.). If not in use, log every four hours as "secured". Study the owner's manual for these appliances and at regular intervals, take one apart and put it back together again, then test operate it at the extremes of its tolerance.
7. Do not flush the toilet (s) for the first three days to simulate the smell of forty people using the same commode. After that, flush once daily. Install a shower nozzle on a short hose, making sure it is one with a button which must be pressed constantly to make the water come out. Install a device which irregularly varies the setting on the hot water heater and room thermostats, especially at night and while you are showering. During showers, which must be either ice cold or scalding hot, arrange periodically to have the water shut off once you are soaped up. Also arrange to have someone steal personal hygiene products, shower shoes, towels, and anything else not locked up.
8. Only shop at a store which closes at odd times, for no apparent reason, and is out of stock of important items like personal hygiene products, etc. (See #7 above.)
9. Lock the bathroom door twice a day for a four-hour period.
10. Wear only approved coveralls or proper uniforms (no special or cut-off T-shirts). Even though nobody really cares, once a week clean and press one uniform in the dark on a broken ironing board (or a towel on the floor) and wear it for 20 minutes while standing at attention. After this, change back into coveralls, catch and rip the sleeve of your shirt on a sharp object on your way to change, curse and yell, then wad it up and throw it in a smelly locker.

*(Continued on Page-5)*

**MISS BEING AT SEA** *(Continued from Page-4)*

11. Cut your hair weekly, making it shorter each time until you are bald or look like you tangled with a demented sheep-shearer. Have a friend or neighbor loudly tell you to get a haircut at least once every week, whether you need one or not.
12. Work in 18-hour cycles, sleeping only four hours at a time to ensure your body doesn't know or care if its daytime or nighttime.
13. Listen to your favorite cassette six times a day for two weeks, then play music that causes acute nausea until you are glad to get back to your "favorite" cassettes.
14. Cut a three-inch thick twin-sized mattress in half length –wise. Place it in a metal box with one opening on the side. The roof should be low enough to prevent you from sitting in any position (18 inches is perfect). Place the metal box on a platform so that it is at least six inches from the floor. Attach blue curtains across the opening, making sure they are opaque enough to let plenty of light through. Place a dead animal under your sheets to simulate the smell of your bunkmates, the laundry and shipboard life. Whenever possible, and without warning, have someone take your pillow or blanket (or both) to simulate that special camaraderie that exists only on-board an U.S. Naval warship. *Editor's Note: These luxuries must be part of the modern Navy.)*
15. Six hours after you go to sleep, have someone stumble around loudly, whip open your rack curtain, shine a flashlight in your eyes, and mumble "Sorry, wrong rack." Set your alarm clock to go off at the five minute "snooze intervals for the first hour of sleep to simulate the various alarms of watch-standards and night crews waking up to go on duty and at odd times just to wake you up. Place your metal box on a rocker to ensure that you are tossed from side to side for the remaining three hours of sleep. Alternately use a custom alarm clock that sounds like a fire alarm, police sirens, and a loud punk rock band combined to simulate various drill alarms on-board the ship, so you will get accustomed to ignoring your regular alarm clock.
16. Prepare all food while blindfolded, using all the spices that you can grope for, or none at all, to simulate shipboard food. Remove the blindfold and eat as fast as humanly possible. If the food does not stick to an inverted plate when cold, use more lard. If the food contains more than one part per thousand of fiber, dispose of it. Always take more than you can possibly eat to keep up the waste standards of the Navy. Beat your plate enthusiastically against the side of a trash can when disposing of your leftovers. Remember over-cooking or under-cooking is preferable to proper cooking. Also combining old food to new food is also encouraged. Have week-old fruit and vegetables delivered to your garage between two and four in the morning by helicopter and wait two weeks before eating them.
17. When making coffee, use 18 scoops of generic coffee per pot and allow it to sit for 5-6 hours before drinking.
18. When making cakes, prop up one side of the pan while it is baking. Then spread icing really thick on one side to level off the top.
19. Run into the kitchen and sweep all pots, pans and dishes off the counter and onto the floor. Yell at yourself for not having the kitchen "stowed for sea".
20. Buy 50 cases of toilet paper and lock up all but two rolls. Give the key to a friend going on vacation to Tierra del Fuego. Ensure one of the two rolls is wet all the time.
21. Periodically have a neighbor shut off power at the main breaker and send a muscle bound seventeen year old psychopath with a funny haircut and loaded rifle (simulated Marine) running through your house, repeatedly yelling at the top of his lungs "Get Down! Get Down!" If, at this point, you don't lie face down on the floor with your hands on top of your head fast enough, you will be beaten to a pulp while the psychopath continues to scream "Don't Move!"
22. Randomly start small fires and practice putting them out. When you do this, have the same neighbor shut off power at the main breaker again. Run around screaming "Fire in the main space! Fire in the main space!" Do this until you sweat profusely or lose your voice, then restore power.

*To be continued.....*

# *The Men Who Sail Below*

*Submitted by Tom Perkins FCI (50-53)*

*Now each of us, from time to time, have gazed upon the sea, and watched the warships pulling out, to keep the country free. And most of us have read a book, or heard a lousy tale, about the men who sail these ships, through lightning, wind and hale.*

*But there is a place within each ship, that legend fails to teach, its down below the water line, and takes an awful toll, a red hot metal hell, those sailors call the hole. It houses engines run by steam, that make the shafts go round, a place of fire, noise and heat, that beats your spirit down. Where boilers make a hellish heat, with blood of angry steam, and molded gods without remorse are nightmares in your dreams.*

*Where threat from the fires roar, is like living in doubt, that any minute, would with scorn, escape and crush you out, where turbines scream like tortured souls, alone and lost in hell. Those men who keep the fires lit and make the engines run, are strangers to the world of night, and rarely see the sun.*

*They have no time for man or beast, no tolerance for fear, their aspect pays no living thing the tribute of a tear. For there's not much that men can do, that these one's haven't done, below the decks, deep in the hole, to make those engines run. And every hour of every day they keep the watch in hell, for if the fires ever fail, their ship's a use-less shell.*

*So if you ever write their song or try to tell their tale, the very words will make you hear, a fired furnace wall. And people as a general rule, don't hear of men of steel, so little's heard about this place, just inches from the keel. But I can sing about this and try to make you see, the hardened life of men down there, cause one of them is me.*

*I've seen these sweat soaked heroes fight, in superheated air, to keep their ship alive and right, though no one knows they're there.*

*And thus they'll fight for ages on, till warships sail no more, amid the boilers mighty heat and turbines hellish roar. So when you see a ship pull out, to meet a warlike foe, remember faintly if you can "the men who sail below".*

*Author Unknown*

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## **PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE 2015 REUNION?**

*"Fireball" Editor, Jeff Parker*

As all of you that have been involved in the planning of one of our great biennial reunions already knows, it takes a great deal of work to arrange a host hotel, motor coaches, excursions, banquets, guest speakers, entertainment, gifts and of course, our hospitality room.

On behalf of the 2015 Reunion Committee, Guy Posey, Mike Ward & "Mac" McKeehan, we are attempting to ascertain the number of members and guests that plan on attending the 2015 Reunion being held in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Although the dates and the host hotel have not been determined, the reunions traditionally take place mid to the latter part of September. We of course realize that some members who indicate that they plan on attending may be unable to in 2015, as well as those not committing may do so later.

In addition, when making plans, once a host hotel and dates are locked in, please be sure to make your hotel reservations as early as possible. This will allow the committee to add to the block of rooms if necessary.

Once you decide one way or the other if you are planning on attending, please email **Guy Posey** at **ppapaguy@aol.com** or forward a quick note to Guy at **419 S. Appleway Lane, Glencoe, OK 74032**. Please indicate the number of persons that will be attending.

***Fireball, Summer 2014***

**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 \$16 ea.  
 Vietnam, #C01V \$16 ea.



**AUBURN COACH'S JACKET** Navy Blue, 100% nylon shell with fleece lining, six matching metal snaps, profile of the ship in silver thread and lettering in gold. \$45 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 \$95
- Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, White or Navy Blue \$40
- Golf shirts, White or Navy Blue \$35

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

“Add \$5.00 for size 2XL”

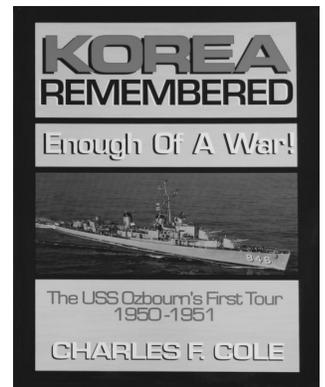


**T-shirt** short sleeve Navy & white with embroidered logo left side. \$25 ea. Item# T01  
 Long sleeve \$35 ea. Item# T02



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.

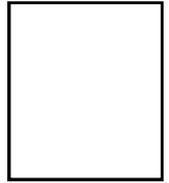


**“Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!,  
 The USS Ozboourn's First Tour, 1950-1951  
 By Charles F. Cole  
 \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping & handling**

DVD used in Memorial Service in San Diego listing names of shipmates that have passed away. \$15.00

<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 13 or 14. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 13 means 2013, 14 means 2014, etc.

Membership dues are **\$15.00** 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, TX 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