

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 24, NO. 1
Winter 2015



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,

Good Day to all Shipmates, Spouses, Families and Friends,

I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all for keeping our family in their prayers over the last few years as we cared for our son Chris as he fought cancer. Christopher has lost his battle with cancer and Sallae and I, along with the entire Posey family wish to thank you all for the sympathy cards and emails after his passing. Thanks to you all.

The planning stages for the 2015 Reunion to be held in Baton Rouge, LA are well underway. The hotel is currently taking reservations, tours are planned and the buses are warming up. The registration form and sign-up sheet for tours, will be published in the next edition of the "Fireball" due out in early 2015.

Be ready to sign up EARLY and plan on another fun time together with your old shipmates, friends and family.

We will be touring the USS KIDD, have our Memorial Ceremony at the Eternal Flame, tour the Louisiana State Building and/or the Louisiana History Museum. We will also have an opportunity to get up close with alligators and other wildlife in the swamp. Visiting one of the many old plantations and touring the World War II Museum and the French Quarter are also on the agenda.

Let us also not forget to thank all of our veterans and those currently serving in our military.

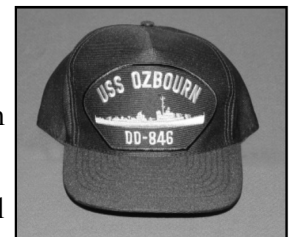
Guy Posey MM3 (69-71)
President, USS Ozbourn DD846 Association

USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE Open 24 Hours, 7 Days a Week



One of the truly unsung heroes of our Association, Past Association President and current Ship's Store Proprietor **Rudy Boff**, (52-55).

Along with all of the Association Officers, Rudy wanted to remind all shipmates, family members and friends, to make their Ship's Store purchases early to ensure timely deliveries for the Holidays and the 2015 Reunion. Great gifts can be found for all the old salts and the entire family. Buy your "OZ" gear now. (See Ship's Store Products and ordering information on Page-7).



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.

Our Host Hotel for the 2015 Reunion is the **Holiday Inn, Baton Rouge-South**. The Reunion Committee worked very hard and has negotiated an excellent daily rate of \$92.95 plus tax, double occupancy that also includes a daily breakfast. The hotel has also agreed to offer the rate of \$92.95 for three days prior and three days after the reunion for those wishing to arrive early or stay a bit longer, based on availability. The hotel can be contacted by dialing (225) 924-7021. Ask for In-House Reservations, utilizing the **Group Code OSB**. Members can also make reservations online at www.holidayinn/br-south.com. A block of 40 guest rooms have been set aside for our members. Don't delay, make your reservations today.

The reunion commences on Wednesday, September 23, 2015 with check-in and the Hospitality Room will be open. On the final day of the reunion, Sunday, September 27, 2015, there will be a farewell breakfast or coffee clutch, before checking out.

The **2015 Reunion Committee, Guy Posey, Mike Ward and Harold “Mac” McKeehan**, continue to work very hard to ensure that our 2015 Reunion will be one of the truly great ones.

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

PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE REUNION?

“Fireball” Editor, Jeff Parker

As all of you that have been involved in the planning of one of the great biennial reunions already know, 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 and “Mac” McKeehan, we are attempting to ascertain the number of members and guests that plan on attending the 2015 Reunion. 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, be sure to make your hotel reservations as early as possible. This will allow the committee to add to the number of blocked rooms if necessary.

If you have not already done so, please notify **Guy Posey**, Email: ppapaguy@aol.com or forward a quick note to Guy at **419 S. Appleway Lane, Glencoe, OK 74032**.

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
Niagara Falls, NY 14305-2249
Tel: 716-807-6049
E-mail: rlhdriver@roadrunner.com

Corresponding Secretary and Fireball Editor

Jeff Parker (70-74)
1036 Calle Venezia
San Clemente, CA 92672
Tel: 949-388-3067
Email: ljparker1@cox.net

Recording Secretary

Kenneth E. Keene (71-74)
255 Farmwood Drive
Statesville, NC 28625-8570
Tel: 704-380-2052
Email: kkeene51@twc.com

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 Ozboorn shipmates, the deadline for submitting contributions for the **Spring 2015** issue is **January 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.

“SHIPMATE REQUESTING HELP”

The Association has been contacted by one of our shipmates and long time member who had served aboard the “OZ”, (1967–1969), regarding his being a Prostrate Cancer survivor. Our shipmate suspects that the use of Agent Orange in Vietnam may have been the possible source of his illness. As he is working closely with the Department of Veterans Affairs as well as the Association in determining his exposure, he is requesting that any member who may recall a port visit to Da Nang for refueling around May-June 1968, to please notify the Association on his behalf. We are all working toward obtaining documentation of the port visit. Any member with information is requested to contact Association Secretary Ken Keene Email: kkeene51@twc.com or “Fireball” Editor Jeff Parker Email: Ljparker1@cox.net.

“VERY IMPORTANT SMART PHONE WARNING-FLASHLIGHT APPLICATION”

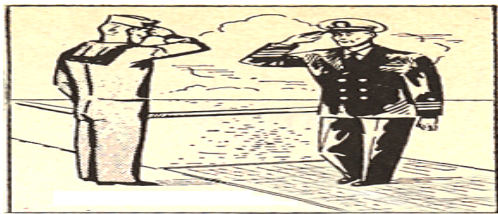
Submitted by Shipmate Bill Jones RD3 (51-52)

This warning applies to the top 10 Flashlight Applications that many Cellular Smart Phone users have downloaded onto their I-Phones. If you have a Flashlight Application on your Smart Phone, you may wish to check the following website for important information.

<https://www.youtube.com/embed/Q8xz8xKEFvu>

Editors Note: The Association wishes to thank Bill Jones as well as all of the other members that have submitted warnings and alerts that could have an adverse impact to our shipmates. As most of us are no longer young, we must all remain vigilant for those that may wish to take advantage of our members, families and friends.

Editors Note: All hands are encouraged to forward before and after photos of your shipmates, articles of interest and any information that would be of interest to all of our members to Jeff Parker, to be included in future issues of the “Fireball”.



WELCOME ABOARD

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

JAMES MACHOCKY SOG2 (60-61)

JOE STANFORD SK2 (71-73)

FLOYD HILL (45-46)



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

“SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER”

The Association is saddened to report the passing of the following long time Friends Member and Shipmate.

WALTER “LARRY” MAURER LTJG (64-66)

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

LITTLE KNOWN TIDBIT OF NAVAL HISTORY

Submitted by Reed Jones Lt. (65-67)



The USS Constitution (Old Ironsides), as a combat vessel, carried 48,600 gallons of fresh water for her crew of 475 officers and men. This was sufficient to last six months of sustained operations at sea. She carried no evaporators (i.e. Fresh water distillers).

However, let it be noted that according to her ship's log. "On July 27, 1798, the USS Constitution sailed from Boston with a full compliment of 475 officers and men, 48,600 gallons of fresh water, 7400 cannon shot, 11,600 pounds of black powder and 79,400 gallons of rum." Her mission: "To destroy and harass English shipping."

Making Jamaica on 6 October, she took on 826 pounds of flour and 68,300 gallons of rum.

Then she headed for the Azores, arriving there 12 November. She provisioned with 550 pounds of beef and 64,300 gallons of Portuguese wine.

On 18 November, she set sail for England. In the ensuing days she defeated five British men-of-war and captured and scuttled 12 English merchant ships, salvaging only the rum aboard each.

By 26 January, her powder and shot were exhausted. Nevertheless, although unarmed she made a night raid up the Firth of Clyde in Scotland. Her landing party captured a whiskey distillery and transferred 40,000 gallons of single malt Scotch aboard by dawn. Then she headed home.

The USS Constitution arrived in Boston on 20 February 1799, with no cannon shot, no food, no powder, no rum, no wine, no whiskey, and 38,600 gallons of water.

GO NAVY!

A Little-Known Benefit for Aging Veterans

<http://www.vvachapter1075.org/vietnam-vet-help-page>

Submitted by Shipmate Fred Kane Ens. (58-61)

As veterans age, many are unfamiliar with a benefit that can help pay for care at home or in assisted living or a nursing home.

Here's a riddle: When is a government benefit that pays for caregivers, assisted living and nursing home not a benefit? The answer, "When hardly any people know they're entitled to it."

That seems to be the story with the Department of Veterans Affairs benefit called the Aid and Attendance and Housebound Improved Pension benefit, known as A & A, which can cover the costs of caregivers in the home (including sons and daughters who are paid to be caregivers, though not spouses) or be used for assisted living or a nursing home.

The benefit is not insignificant: up to \$2,019.00 monthly for a veteran and spouse, and up to \$1,094.00 for the widow of a Veteran.

Surprised that you've never heard of it? You're not alone.

"Its probably one of the lesser-known benefits," said Randal Noller, a Veterans Affairs spokesman in Washington. Of the 1.7 million World War II veterans alive as of 2011, who were in need of caregiving assistance and thus eligible, only 38,076 veterans and 38,685 surviving spouses were granted A&A benefit that year, according to Mr. Noller.

Mr. Noller is not the first to acknowledge A&A is a well-kept secret. Jim Nicholson, former Secretary of Veterans Affairs, said in a December 2006 news release that "not everyone is aware of his or her potential eligibility" for the program, which he called an "underused" benefit.

Not much has changed. A search of the Veterans Affairs Web site for evidence of public information efforts in the six years since came up blank.

There are additional sites, including "The Veterans Aid Organization, (<http://www.veteranaid.org/faq.php>), that may be of further assistance for those shipmates and family members wishing additional information regarding this little know benefit.

One note of warning: Scams abound. The Department of Veterans Affairs forbids anyone to charge to help veterans fill out the challenging form, yet a growing number of companies, many of which, on a Web search for "Aid and Attendance" pop up with waving flags and red-white-and blue banners. They offer to "help" veterans fill out the forms for free, then charge thousands of dollars for financial consultation. (*Editor's Note: Although the information provided issued the aforementioned warning, clearly there are many organizations that truly wish to assist our many veterans in a positive way.*)

“To Kill an American”
Written by an Australian Dentist
Submitted by Reed Jones Lt. (65-67)

The following editorial, submitted by Reed Jones and authored by an unidentified Australian Dentist was in response to an article published in a Pakistani newspaper offering a reward to anyone who killed an American, any American. So the Australian Dentist wrote this editorial the following day to let everyone know what an American is so they would know when they found one.)

An American is English, or French, or Italian, Irish, German, Spanish, Polish, Russian or Greek. An American may also be Canadian, Mexican, African, Indian, Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Australian, Iranian, Asian, or Arab, or Pakistani or Afghan.

An American may also be Comanche, Cherokee, Osage, Blackfoot, Navaho, Apache, Seminole or one of the many tribes known as Native Americans.

An American is Christian, or he could be Jewish, or Buddhist, or Muslim. In fact, there are more Muslims in America than in Afghanistan. The only difference is that in America they are free to worship as each of them chooses.

An American is also free to believe in no religion...For that he will answer only to God, not to the government, or to armed thugs claiming to speak for the government and for religious self righteous groups that they claim to speak for God.

An American lives in the most prosperous land in the history of the world. The root of that prosperity can be found in the Declaration of Independence, which recognizes the God given right of each person to the pursuit of happiness.

An American is generous....Americans have helped out just about every other nation in the world in their time of need, never asking a thing in return.

When Afghanistan was over-run by the Soviet Army 20 years ago, Americans came with arms and supplies to enable the people to win back their country!

As of the morning of September 11, Americans had given more than any other nation to the poor in Afghanistan....The national symbol of America, The Statue of Liberty, welcomes your tired and your poor, the wretched refuse of your teeming shores, the homeless, tempest tossed. These in fact are the people who built America. Some of them were working in the Twin Towers the morning of September 11, 2001, earning a better life for their families. It's been told that the World Trade Center victims were from at least 30 different countries, cultures and first languages, including those that aided and abetted the terrorists.

So you can try to kill an American if you must. Hitler did. So did General Tojo, and Stalin, and Mao Tse-Tung, and other blood-thirsty tyrants in the world. But in doing so you would just be killing yourself. Because Americans are not a particular people from a particular place. They are the embodiment of the human spirit of freedom. Everyone who holds to that spirit, everywhere, is an American.

(Editor's Note: As the Editor of the "Fireball", out of respect for each member of the Association or any reader of the "Fireball", I traditionally avoid printing articles related to politics, religion or any other subject matter that one may find offensive. However, in my humble opinion, the only individual(s) who may be offended by the printing of the following article, would be those spewing hatred against Americans.)



VETERANS DAY 2014

How proud we all should be as we belong to a very exclusive club. We are all United States Navy Veterans.
God Bless AMERICA and all of our Veterans.



Fireball, Winter 2015

HAVE YOU EVER BEEN ASKED?

Jeff Parker, Editor



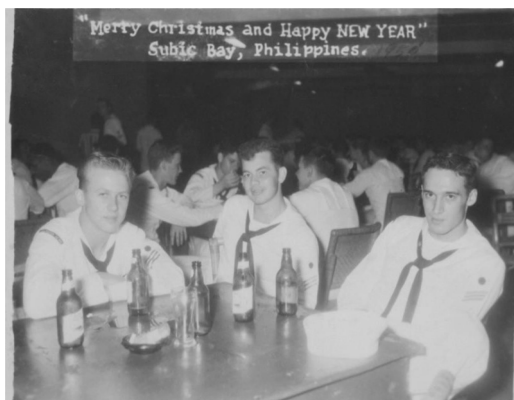
As you have journeyed through life, have you ever been asked by any number of people, especially your family members, spouse, children, grandchildren or even great grandchildren, what you did while serving in our great Navy? Clearly, most of us have been asked this very question on several occasions. I know that I proudly answer that I served aboard one of the greatest ships afloat, the USS OZBOURN DD846.

The next question is something to the effect, “What kind of ship was the Ozbourn and what is “DD” indicate? The simple answer is of course the Ozbourn was a Gearing Class Destroyer, one of the truly hardest working vessels in any Navy and one of the toughest to serve aboard; however, with great pride.

An additional question seems to be, “How big was the Ozbourn”? Now to the attached photograph. An easy, visual answer to anyone asking is this aerial photograph above showing the Fleet Oiler, USS KAWISHIWI AO-146, refueling the USS KITTY HAWK CVA-63 and the USS OZBOURN DD846 while underway.

When showing the photograph to those asking these questions, the response is usually, Wow, the Ozbourn was very small. Yes, but pound for pound the Ozbourn along with all of the Destroyers was one of the toughest fighting forces in our Navy’s inventory between 1945-1975.

Christmas and the Holidays Far From Home

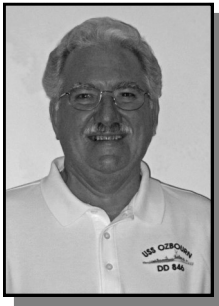


Three “OZ” sailors enjoying “Liberty Call”, in Subic Bay, Republic Philippine Islands, clearly during one of the many Holiday Seasons separated from those at home. Once again, the importance of having great friends and shipmates made those days far from home a little easier to handle, especially, during the Holidays. **“Sailors Once, Shipmates Forever.”**

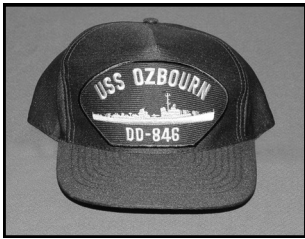
(Editor’s Note: I would suspect that the bottles of San Miguel beer, most likely left behind by the previous occupants of the table, were also part of the celebration of the Holidays)

Fireball, Winter 2015

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 \$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”

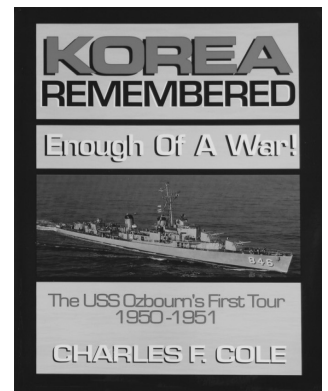


T-shirt short sleeve Navy & white with embroidered logo left side. \$25 ea. Item# T01
 Long sleeve \$35 ea. Item# T02



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.

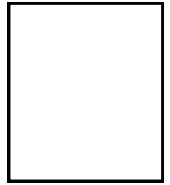


**“Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!,
 The USS Ozboourn's First Tour, 1950-1951
 By Charles F. Cole
 \$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping & handling**

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 14 or 15. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 14 means 2014, 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**

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