

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 27, No. 2
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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, Families and Friends

I hope that all have had a great 2017. It is time to look forward to another great year in 2018.

To all that were unable to attend our last reunion in Virginia Beach, VA, we had a great time and you were all missed. Our Reunion Committee is already working hard and we are hoping to see everyone somewhere out West in 2019.

As we progress into the New Year, please utilize the great talents of Rudy Boff and make those purchases from the Ship Store. Also, please send Jeff Parker any articles that will be of interest to our shipmates that you would like to see published in future editions of the "Fireball".

I would like to thank all of the Association Officers for their dedication to all of our members.
God Bless the USA.

Guy Posey, President
USS OZBOURN Association

USS OZBOURN DD846 2017 REUNION, VIRGINIA BEACH-NORFOLK, VA



Color Guard, First Colonial & Cox
High School Navy Junior ROTC



Arleen Boff, Caye Hoots, Rudy Boff,
Tom Hoots & Jack Huppert



Andy & Carol Smith & Ken Keene

2019 Biennial Reunion

Jeff Parker, Editor

During the 2017 Business Meeting a request went out for volunteers to accept the responsibility of planning and organizing the 2019 Reunion. After doing a great job on the 2015 & 2017 Reunions, **Mike Ward** and **Harold "Mac" McKeehan**, have once again stepped up to the plate. In addition, **Mark Beaulieu, V.P.**, and **Guy Posey, President**, also threw their hats into the ring. **Mark Beaulieu** was selected as Chairperson for the 2019 Reunion.

It is never too early to begin planning for and discussing our next reunion. Now that the 2017 Holiday Season, is in the history books, our Reunion Committee is actively seeking out a venue for the 2019 Reunion to be held in the Western part of our great nation.

One location that is being discussed is Portland, Oregon, the last homeport of the "OZ". *(Editors Note: Most members are already aware that the USS Ozbourn DD846 was transferred to the Reserve Fleet in 1973 and stationed on Swan Island located on the Willamette River near downtown Portland, OR.)*

The committee will continue to seek out a venue that will provide the membership and families with exciting and interesting sites.

Watch for updates in future editions of the "Fireball".



Mark Beaulieu Guy Posey Harold McKeehan Mike Ward

JUST A REMINDER

MILITARY EXCHANGE PRIVLEDGES TO ALL VETERANS

Jeff Parker, Editor "Fireball"

As a reminder to All Hands, the Department of Defense policy change regarding access to Military Exchanges is now in place. As reported by **Reed Jones, Lt. (65-67)**, in the 2017 Spring Edition, the new policy affords all Honorably Discharged Veterans from all branches of the U.S. Military, that had not previously had been given this benefit, eg: Retirees, can now register for **ON-LINE** access to the various military exchanges. You may now register with the exchange to make purchases on-line. *(Editors Note: I have personally registered by typing in "Military Exchange" and then follow the instructions. Once registered you may make purchases.)*

Association Officers

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Past Presidents

Years served aboard OZ/Assoc. President
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 2018** issue is **May 15th**. Articles may be re-written for purposes of editorial style. Due to limitations, some materials may be used in a future **Fireball** edition.

MAIL CALL



The following letters and emails were received by your Association Officers during the last quarter.

BATTLE STARS

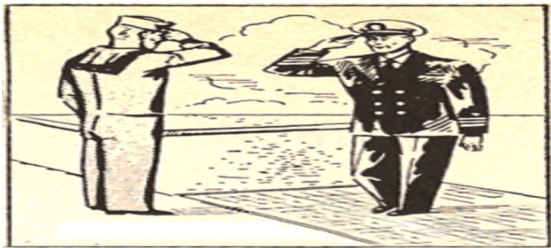
Shipmate **Dave Vrba, EM2, (69-72)**, reported that he has been doing research on the number of Battle Stars and ribbons that were won by the "OZ" during all conflicts. We of course are looking forward to Dave's research.

OPERATION LINEBACKER

Our Association Vice President, **Mark Beaulieu, MM2, (72-74)**, is currently conducting research while drafting a multi-page research paper regarding the USS Ozbourn's participation in Operation Linebacker during its final deployment to Wespac in 1972. Operation Linebacker involved several units of the 7th Fleet including the "OZ", conducting Naval Gunfire Support Missions from the DMZ to the northern most portions of North Vietnam. The paper will be published in future editions of the "Fireball". *(Editors Note: As I was onboard the "OZ" during Operation Linebacker, I look forward to viewing Mark's research. As this operation took place during the Ozbourn's final overseas deployment, I am confident that all Shipmates will find Mark's article extremely interesting no matter what period they had served onboard.)*

APOLOGY FROM "FIREBALL" EDITOR JEFF PARKER

As the Editor of the "Fireball", I strive to publish an excellent newsletter for all of our shipmates. Periodically, the photographs that I insert are distorted and for this I apologize. In this edition and future editions, I will attempt to use photographs that are clearer and depict individuals as they truly appear.



WELCOME ABOARD

The Association wishes to Welcome Aboard the following shipmate as our newest member.

RICHARD HEATH, BT3, (65-68)

TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

THOMAS M. PERKINS, CDR, (50-53)
JOSEPH "JOE" CRIDDLE, SM3, (55-57)
ART RAINVILLE, EM3, (52-55)

"May fair winds and calm seas be with you always"

2017 Reunion, Virginia Beach, VA

The always faithful Wives, oh and Daughter's Club of the USS Ozbourn Association. The patience displayed by this very exclusive club is nothing short of a miracle. We are all very grateful, thank you.



PLANK OWNER HONORED AT 2017 REUNION

During the 2017 Reunion Banquet, **Norm Seidel, LtJg, (63-65)**, honored USS Ozbourn DD846 Plank Owner **Al Walker, SN1c, (46)**, with a USS Ozbourn "Ready" plaque that Norm had manufactured in his shop at home.



(Editors Note: The Association is grateful for Norm's dedication to all of the "OZ" Shipmates. At the 2015 Reunion held in Baton Rouge, LA, Norm had presented one of these great plaques to all in attendance. Great Job Norm, Thank You.)

2017 Reunion, Virginia Beach, VA



Honoring our Korean War Vets



Honoring our Vietnam War Vets



TORPEDO LAUNCH, TARGET, SAN CLEMENTE ISLAND

Submitted by Tom Dumstorf, FT2, (52-54)



DIRECT HIT

USS OZBOURN DD846 PHOTO GALLERY

The following photographs of an active UNREP for ammunition taking place in 1968 were provided by long time "Fireball" contributor **Jerry McKee, YN2, (66-69)**.



The following photographs of the USS Wisconsin BB64, were provided by longtime member and shipmate **Tom Dumstorf, FT2, (52-54)**. The photos were taken from the "OZ" as she operated with the Wisconsin off the coast of the Republic of Korea, during the Korean War. As Tom toured the Wisconsin during the 2017 Reunion in Norfolk, VA, he recalled the Ozbourn transferring 160 bags of mail to the battleship. Tom stated what a great experience it was to tour this great battleship after operating with her so many years ago.



USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

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

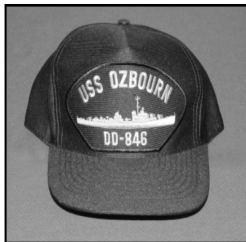


Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourn website at www.ozbourn.org under the heading Ship's Store. Orders may be placed with:
 Rudy Boff — 1036 Connor Road
 Pittsburgh, PA
 15234-1033
 Tel: (412) 833-0572

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"



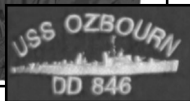
CAP cotton twill Navy blue, brilliant gold letters & Destroyer silhouette. 1 size fits all. Item #C01, \$14 ea. Embroidery on back: Korea, #C01K \$16 ea. Vietnam, #C01V \$16 ea.



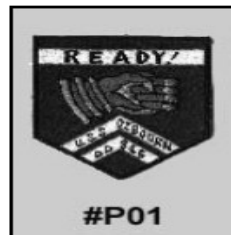
T-shirt short sleeve, White or Navy Blue with embroidered logo left side. \$25 ea. Item #T02
 ← Long sleeve. \$35 ea.



AUBURN COACH'S JACKET
 Navy Blue 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. Item #P01

SHIPPING AND HANDLING	
<u>COST OF ITEM</u>	<u>COST OF POSTAGE</u>
\$0.01 – 15.00	\$3.00
15.00 – 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

A big thank you goes out to Rudy Boff for all of his years of service to the Association, both as a Past President and Operator of our Ship's Store. Well Done Rudy!!!!



Jeffrey Parker
 1036 Calle Venezia
 San Clemente, CA 92672



Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn
 USMC
 Congressional Medal of Honor

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DUES ALERT!

Are you overdue on your annual dues? Only dues paying members receive the *Fireball* newsletter. Look at your mailing label on your most recent newsletter and find a number such as 17 or 18. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 17 means 2017, 18 means 2018, etc. If you wish, you may pay for multiple years.

Membership dues are **\$15.00** annually and are due in January of each year. Please make checks payable 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 website: Mission Statement, a list of Ozbourn shipmates, historical photos, Ship's Store and how to Join the Association.

USS OZBOURN COMMANDING OFFICERS

The USS Ozbourn 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 Ozbourn's commanding officers to share please forward your experience for possible inclusion in a future issue of the *Fireball*.

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

