

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

# ***FIREBALL!***

VOLUME 23, NO. 4  
Fall 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,**



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

Our 12th Biannual Reunion, September 23-27, 2015 is fast approaching. The Host Hotel for our 2015 Reunion, is the Holiday Inn South, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This is a 4 Star hotel. All hands are encouraged to make their reservations early. The hotel's Reservation System can be contacted at (225) 924-7021 or online at [www.holidayinn/br-south.com](http://www.holidayinn/br-south.com). When calling use Group Code OSB.

We will tour the USS KIDD and museum, have our Memorial Service at the Square of the Eternal Flame, which is part of the USS KIDD Memorial.

Several other excursions are currently in the planning stages to possibly include, a swamp tour and a famous plantation with lunch on location. Several museums are being considered, plus a possible trip to New Orleans for lunch at Bubba Gump Shrimp Company.

The Reunion Committee is working hard to make our 2015 Reunion one of the great ones. Please start making plans to attend. Hope to see everyone there.

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

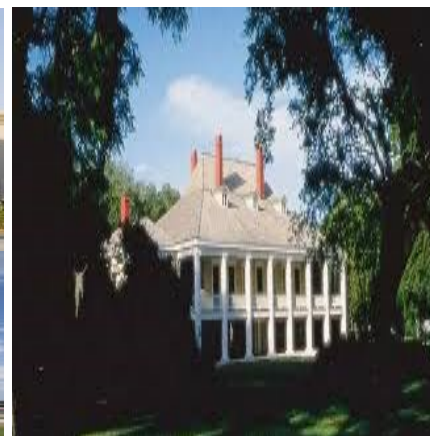
## **2015 REUNION BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA SEPTEMBER 23-27, 2015**



**USS KIDD DD 661 MEMORIAL**



**HOLIDAY INN  
BATON ROUGE, SOUTH**



**OLD PLANTATIONS**

## 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.

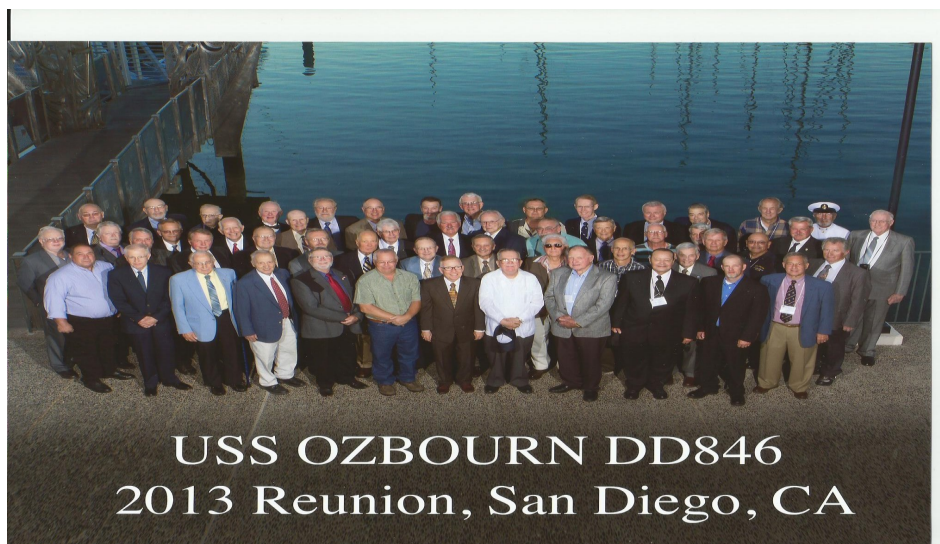
We are also very pleased with the number of shipmates who are able to attend the reunions. Clearly, the motto, **“Sailors Once, Shipmates Forever,”** rings very true.

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](http://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. **(Note: Reservations may be made after October 15, 2014.)**

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.”)*



### Officers of the Association

#### President

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

#### Vice President

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#### Corresponding Secretary and Fireball Editor

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#### Treasurer and Historian

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2608 Bentwood Drive  
Palestine, TX 75803  
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Email: [swabby54@hotmail.com](mailto: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 **Winter 2015** issue is **December 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.

### “SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER”



In March, 2014, Bill Thomas FN (69-73), along with his lovely wife Kay paid a visit to California from their home in Austin, Texas. During their visit, Bill & Kay joined Jeff Parker MM3 (70-74), and his wife Lisa, for lunch in Newport Beach, CA.

As is very much the routine, Bill & Jeff spent the vast majority of time reminiscing about the great days on the “OZ”. Fortunately, both Kay & Lisa are dear friends and were the true champions of the day by allowing a couple of old sailors to catch up.

**USS Ozbourn DD 846 (1970)    Newport Beach, CA (2014)**

*Editors Note: All hands are encouraged to forward before and after photos of your shipmates to Jeff Parker, to be included in future issues of the “Fireball”.*

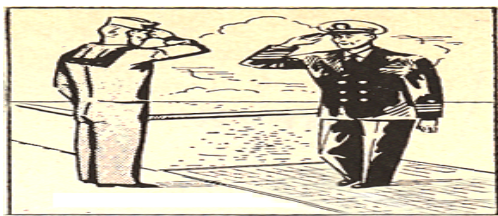
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#### KEN KEENE, ASSOCIATION SECRETARY NEW CONTACT INFORMATION

Our extremely hard working Association Secretary Ken Keene has relocated to Statesville, North Carolina. Ken’s new contact information is as follows; **Ken Keene 255 Farmwood Drive, Statesville, NC 28625-8570, Tel: (704) 380-2052, email kkeene51@twc.com.** We all of course wish Ken well at his new residence.

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The Association received word from **Reed Jones, Lt (65-67)** that long time friend and shipmate **Brian Bucholz, Lt (62-65)**, recently underwent surgery and is recovering well. Our thoughts are certainly with Brian and his wonderful wife Jo Ann.



## 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.

**LAWRENCE SWIENCKI MM3 (63-66)**

**DONALD R. SMITH BT3 (70-72)**

**MARK HUNTER E-4 (72-75)**



## TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

### “SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER”

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

**WALLACE “WALLY” DEETER PN2 (48-49)**

**TERRY ARNOLD SK3 (71-72)**

## JUST IN CASE YOU MISS BEING AT SEA

Submitted by Rudy Boff

( Continued from 2014 Summer "Fireball")

*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 your own home.

23. Prepare yourself for an emergency that will require you to evacuate the premises knowing that if you exit, the biker gang that you hired will cutoff your arms and legs to simulate sharks. Study an ancient first aid book to learn how to handle wounds and control bleeding until you can quote it verbatim.
24. Since you will have no doctor or get any medical care, stock up on the following: Band-Aids, aspirin, antacids, Robitussin, Acti-Fed, Pepto-Bismol, Motrin, and suppositories. These have been proven cures for every disease known to man.
25. Buy a gas mask, smear the seal with rancid animal fat, and scrub the faceplate with steel wool until you can't see out of it. Wear it for two hours every fifth day (even in the bathroom) and run rapidly from one side of the house to the other while wearing it.
26. Remove all plants, pictures, and decorations (except vulgar photographs). Paint all furnishings and walls gray, white or green shade of hospital scrubs. Use a special "fading" paint that will require you to do it all again in three months. Stencil everything with numbers.
27. Put lube oil in your humidifier instead of water and set it to "High" to produce the genuine shipboard smell.
28. To make sure you are living in a clean and happy environment, sweep and dust twice daily. Once every week clean from top to bottom, working hard all day even if it is only a three hour job, repeating your efforts as often as possible. Occasionally, tell yourself that you missed some dust and your floor looks like crap. When completed, inspect your work, criticizing everything as much as possible. Never be satisfied with good effort or exceptional work. Twice a day (or more if there is no need) get several people together in as small a room as possible (a closet or bathroom should do) and have a meeting to listen to someone tell you what you did all day.
29. On one lone TV monitor, located in the worst possible place, connect three channels. The first should play old TV shows that even a "normal" station won't play. The second channel plays eight movies a month over and over and over. The last channel plays "training" films on such engaging topics as small engine repair, proper blender operation, paperwork routing procedures, etc. Each channel must randomly go off the air, preferably when there is finally something you wanted to watch.
30. Once a day, watch a videotaped movie that you walked out on a year ago. Then watch an episode of Charlie's Angels that you didn't like the first three times you saw it. Make sure you pause it just at the peak of action so you can sweep the floor or listen to someone talk loudly about something stupid.
31. To achieve the permanent, smelly, dingy, wrinkled look in your clothes, have the plumber connect the washer to a sewer line. Tightly cram your clothes into a nylon bag and wash whole. Throw the bag in a corner for two days and then without removing the clothes from the bag, dry it. It helps if your clothes are tied in tight knots before cramming into a bag. For best results, add two or three ink pens to each bag.

*(Continued on Page-5)*

**Fireball Fall 2014**

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

32. Every six weeks to simulate liberty in a foreign port, go out directly to the city slums wearing your best clothes. Enter the raunchiest bar you can find and ask the bartender for the most expensive imported beer he carries. Drink as many of these as fast as you can in four hours, then hire a cab to take you home by the longest route possible. Tip the cab driver after he charges you double because you were dressed funny and lock yourself back in your dwelling for another six weeks.
33. Just for kicks, about once a month try to flush an old tennis shoe, a sack of cement, or a bowling ball down the com mode. Ignore the mess, someone else will surely take care of it. Call the plumbers, but only if they have no spare parts, and are notoriously slow and unreliable.
34. Every so often, throw your cat into the swimming pool, and shout, "Man Overboard, Starboard Side!"
35. For maximum pleasure during simulation, station people with metal sheets, sledge hammers, pneumatic tools, paints, and aromatic solvents, with instructions to use the aforementioned items only when you are trying to eat, sleep or work. Run a loud blender in every room at a constant high speed to simulate the constant whine of the ship's machinery and have the biker gang you hired pound on the roof and walls to simulate recovering and launching aircraft.
36. During periods of high heat and or humidity, shut off all ventilation and air conditioning. Bring in your lawnmower, and after removing the muffler, fire the sucker up and let it run for 8-10 hours.
37. Put on the headphones from your stereo, but don't plug them in. Hang a paper cup around your neck with a piece of string. Go and stand in front of your stove and say, to nobody in particular, "Stove manned and ready." Stand there for three or four hours, then say, once again to nobody in particular, "Stove secured." Roll up the headphone cord and put the headphone and paper cup in a box.

This simulation must run a minimum of six months to be effective. The exact date of the end of the simulation will be changed no less than seven times without your knowledge. This is done in the hopes of screwing up any plans you have made or would like to make. On the last day of this simulation, remove the boards from the windows but do not go outside, have your loved ones stand across the street, and you face them while standing at attention for four hours. This will simulate having duty on the day you return.

*(Editor's Note: How I miss the good times on the greatest ship afloat, USS Ozbourn DD846.)*

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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. 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, please be sure to make your hotel reservations as early as possible (**Available after October 15, 2014**). This will allow the committee to add to the number of blocked rooms if necessary.

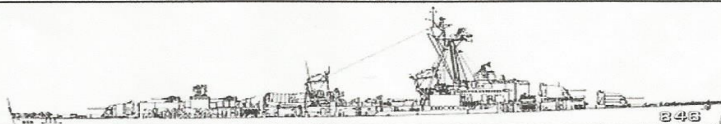
If you have not already done so, once you decide one way or the other if you are planning on attending, please email **Guy Posey** at [ppapaguy@aol.com](mailto:ppapaguy@aol.com) or forward a quick note to Guy at **419 S. Appleway Lane, Glencoe, OK 74032**. Please indicate the number of persons that will be attending.

**Don't forget to contact Rudy Boff at the Ship Store for all of your pre-reunion gear and Holiday gifts.**

*Fireball, Fall 2014*

## HAVE YOU EVER WONDERED?

Have you ever wondered where we receive a great part of our stories and photographs for inclusion in our Associations "Fireball" Newsletters. The answer is simple, "YOU" and your shipmates. Please submit your stories, old and new photos, "Seeking old Shipmates", and whatever you would like to see printed in future editions of the "Fireball".



## USS OZBOURN FIREBALL NEWSLETTER STORY FORM

The **USS Ozbourn Association** Officers are requesting that each shipmate attending this year's reunion submit a story and/or photos for inclusion in a future ***Fireball*** newsletter. Every shipmate probably has a story for every day they spent aboard the Ozbourn. If you have time to finish your story before you leave this year's reunion, that would be great! If you need more time to write your story or would like to share some of your photos from the days you spent aboard the Oz, that would be even better. **Your story and photos are very important and should be in a future issue of the Fireball.** Your shipmates want to read about you.

Return your story to Jeff Parker before you leave this year's reunion or mail your form to Jeff Parker, 1036 Calle Venezia, San Clemente, CA 92672 **Email:**

**Email:**  
**Ljparker1@cox.net**

Thank you for your cooperation.

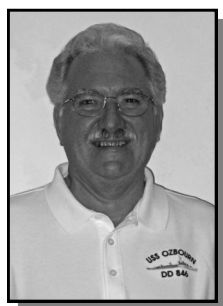
**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Rate/rank:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Years on Oz :** \_\_\_\_\_ **Nick name:** \_\_\_\_\_

## YOUR STORY

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are approximately 20 lines visible. The paper appears to be a standard notebook page or a sheet of stationery. There is no handwriting or other markings on the page.

# USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

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



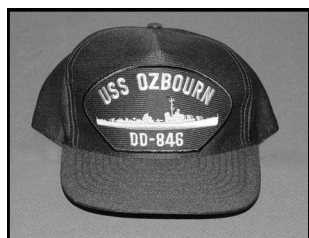
Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourn Web site at [www.ozbourn.org](http://www.ozbourn.org) under the heading Ship's Store.

Orders may be placed with:

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

Tel: (412) 833-0572

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 Ozbourn 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

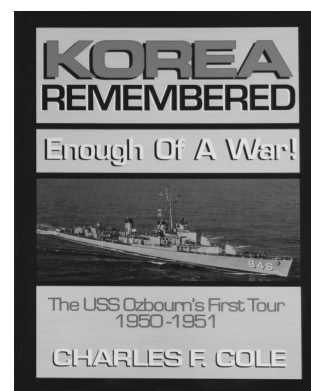
Long sleeve \$35 ea. Item# T02



Logo detail

The book *Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!, the USS Ozbourn'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.



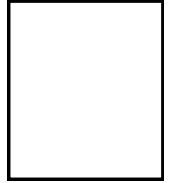
**"Korea Remembered: Enough of a War!,  
The USS Ozbourn's First Tour, 1950-1951  
By Charles F. Cole**

**\$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>SHIPPING AND HANDLING</u>	
<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