

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 23, NO. 1
Winter 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

FROM THE BRIDGE



Greetings to All Shipmates,

WOW!!! What a great reunion we had in San Diego, California.

We had a total of 104 in attendance that included 21 shipmates attending their first reunion. It was sure great to meet and renew so many friendships from so many years past.

We had the great privilege to tour the USS Wayne E. Meyer DDG 108, a guided missile destroyer. Sure was an improvement from the "OZ". Our guides, LTJG Foster and Ensign Guy were very knowledgeable and true professionals. Our Navy should be very proud of these young men and women. We were all very impressed.

I would like to provide a briefing on each tour; however, I will just say it was a great reunion and very educational.

Thanks to the 2013 Reunion Committee for the planning and those shipmates, family members and friends that were in attendance. Without shipmates participating, we have no reunion. Thanks again to all.

Wishing you all a healthy and joyous 2013 Holiday Season.

Guy Posey, President
USS Ozbourn DD846 Association

2013 REUNION, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA



Shipmates Alan Walker (45-46), Plank Owner and Mike Ward (72-75), prepare to place the Memorial Wreath honoring our past shipmates into San Diego Bay.



United States Naval Sea Cadets of the Coronado Battalion presenting the colors during the 2013 Reunion Banquet.



Shipmate and Reunion Bugler Ray Loney (66-67), plays taps during the 2013 Reunion Memorial Service overlooking San Diego Bay.

2013 Biennial Reunion

Jeff Parker, Committee Chairman

The 2013 Reunion Committee, **Jeff Parker, Guy Posey, Phil Roberts** and **Steve Skinner**, as well as the Association Officers wish to thank all those shipmates and wives that lent so much of their time and effort to assist in so many ways during our great reunion in San Diego, California. The committee also wishes to thank all of the shipmates, wives, family members and friends who chose to spend the five days at the beautiful Kona Kai Resort visiting with old friends and shipmates.

The committee also wishes to relay a special thank you to **Bob Whitten** who spoke as to the history of the USS Ozbourn Association; along with **Terry Cristiano, David Vrba, Rudy Boff** and although unable to attend **Norm Seidel**, for adding to the cache of door prizes. As usual, **Ken Keene, Rudy Boff** and **Warren Zschach** were ever present working very hard. A big thank you goes out to **Reed Jones** who rallied support from several of the Commissioned Officers.

A special thank you to all of the Ozbourn wives and family members who without you, our lives would not be complete.

On behalf of Association President Guy Posey and myself, I would like to thank our wives, **Sallae Posey** and **Lisa Parker** for their never ending support, hard work and patience in setting up the 2013 Reunion. Who could ask for better partners in life, thank you.

2015 Biennial Reunion

Well here we go again. The suitcases have just barely been put away, the last of the ice has just melted in the Hospitality Room and we are all sitting back preparing for a wonderful 2013 Holiday Season.

As anyone involved in the planning of the past eleven reunions can tell you, it involves several shipmates, wives and family members working very hard together to ensure that we all have a wonderful time meeting up with old friends and their families. We of course are very grateful for their efforts. 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 planning for the **2015 Biennial Reunion**, to be held at a location, yet to be determined, in the center of country, is well underway under the direction of the **2015 Reunion Committee, Guy Posey, Mike Ward and Harold "Mac" McKeehan**.

Be sure to be on the lookout for 2015 Reunion Updates in future "Fireballs".



Guy & Sallae Posey



Mike Ward



"Mac" McKeehan

Fireball Winter 2014

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: rlh-

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)
9995 Perry Highway
Meadville, PA 16335-6445
Tel: 814 337 3197
Email: kkeene@windstream.net

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 **Spring 2014** issue is **March 15th**. Articles may be rewritten for purposes of editorial style. Due to space limitations, some materials may be used in a future **Fireball** edition.

NOW HEAR THIS, MAIL CALL

TO ALL HANDS

Jeff Parker, Editor

A note was received from **Shipmate Alan Walker (45-46), Plank Owner**, at the conclusion of the 2013 Reunion. "I was very honored and proud to be recognized at the 2013 Reunion Memorial Service. I helped bring the OZ on its shakedown cruise. She turned into a great ship. I was so sorry to be transferred and not go to the Pacific with her. You are all a great bunch from the Ozbourn's crew. Hope I'm around for the 2015 Reunion."

Captain John G. Denham, USN, (Ret) December 12, 1925 - October 10, 2013

This report comes to all shipmates with a very heavy heart. We have lost Captain Denham.

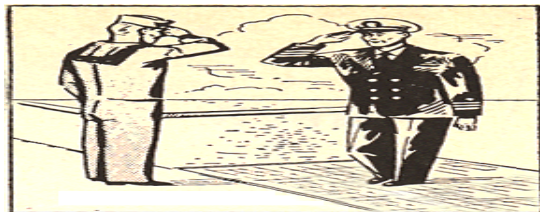


Many of those who had the privilege to have served with Captain Denham, as well as those honored to meet him at the 2013 Reunion in San Diego, knew the Captain as not only an outstanding Naval Officer but also a wonderful husband, father, friend, shipmate and author of a number of outstanding books.

As a member of the 2013 Reunion Committee I had inquired of Captain Denham if he would say a few words at the Reunion Banquet. Utilizing great humor as well as a true personal touch, Captain Denham spoke of his great admiration for the crew of the USS Ozbourn.

Those of us that had the privilege of meeting Captain Denham are truly blessed. Our thoughts are of course with the Captain's wife of 54 years, Dottie, along with his daughters Kathleen and Susan, as well as the entire Denham family.

May God Bless You All



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

**Marty Zipser MD, (65-66) LT.
Eugene Mitchell, (61-63) LTJG
John Ornelas, (63-65) RDSN
Charles Maples, (71-74) RM2
Richard Terrell, (72-74) SH1
Mark D. Nelson, (Associate Member)**



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

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

Captain John G. Denham, USN, (Ret.)

Malcom E. Hooper, (68-71), RD2

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

Minutes of the 11th Biennial Reunion Business Meeting

28 September, 2013 - San Diego, California

Submitted by Ken Keene, Association Recording Secretary

At 0830 hours, 28 September 2013, the Business Meeting of the USS Ozbourn DD-846 Association was called to order by Association President Guy Posey with 37 shipmates in attendance. All in attendance joined in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag.

The minutes of the 2011 Business Meeting held in Philadelphia were read by Recording Secretary Ken Keene. With no additions or corrections, motion was made to approve the minutes as read; vote to approve passed by the majority.

In the absence of the Association Treasurer, the Treasurer's Report was given by Guy Posey. The current balance of the Treasury to date is \$11,630.74 with an outstanding reunion debt of approximately \$2,000.00 leaving an approximate post reunion balance of \$9,630.74. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Treasurer's Report as read; vote to approve passed by the majority.

Jeff Parker, Corresponding Secretary, gave a report on the "Fireball" newsletter. When the cost of mailing the "Fireball" was reported, a discussion of e-mailing was brought to the floor. It was pointed out that it still is not practical as was determined in the previous meeting due to the lack of correct e-mail addresses. Also in discussion of non-profit mailing rates, it was pointed out that there is a minimum number of units that must be mailed at a time and we are very close to that minimum. All non-profit mailing must be done from a USPS Distribution Center which could be impractical for the Editor. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Corresponding Secretary Report as read; vote to approve passed by the majority.

Rudy Boff, the Ship Store Operator reported that he has reviewed the costs of merchandise and the shipping costs. It is necessary at this time to increase both the prices of items in the ship store and the shipping costs in order to show a small profit. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Ship Store Report as read; vote to approve passed by the majority.

The Reunion Report was given by Jeff Parker. The preliminary finances were \$24,089.00 collected from 104 registered guests. Expenditures were broken down to what each tour cost, as well as the Banquet and the Hospitality Room. There were some refunds made to guests who had to cancel. The final balance will not be known until after the reunion and final bills are totaled. Jeff reported that the Reunion will finish in the Black with a few hundred dollars profit. Motion was made and seconded to approve the Reunion Report as read; vote to approve passed by the majority. ***Note: The 2013 Reunion did indeed end in the Black with a positive balance of \$115.59.***

Old Business

Signage on the Joseph W. Ozbourn Memorial Highway:

At the 2011 Business Meeting, Rudy Boff reported that a family member of Joseph Ozbourn had informed him that the Herrin, IL. VFW had been successful in having County Route 2 named "The Joseph W. Ozbourn Memorial Highway" and would seek further updates about signage. Randy Humphries reported that a former shipmate travelling in the Herrin, IL. area informed him that the signs designating the main highway leading to the city "The Joseph W. Ozbourn Memorial Highway" are in place.

There was no further Old Business brought to the floor.

(Continued on Page-5)

Fireball Winter 2014

New Business

Dues:

Association Vice President Randy Humphries brought up the subject of Membership Dues. The dues have been set at \$10.00 per calendar year since the inception of the Association in 1991. Due to the increase in postage, printing the newsletter, dues in the American Military Reunion Foundation and the cost of maintaining the Association Web Site, it was determined by the Association Officers that \$10.00 is no longer sufficient to cover the costs of the Association. It was pointed out that all current paid dues will be "Grandfathered" with no additional payment necessary. On recommendation of the Association Officers, motion was made to increase the dues to \$15.00 per calendar year effective immediately; vote to approve passed by majority.

Membership:

Jeff Parker opened a discussion of an Associate Member. He had received dues payment from a shipmate to have the son of a former Commanding Officer of the USS Ozbourn included on the roster of members and to receive a newsletter. Ken Keene read Section 3, Paragraph B from the Association Bylaws which states this is permissible upon majority vote by the Association membership. It was also pointed out that since we are a 501 C 19 non-profit veteran organization that 90% of the membership must be veterans. The Recording Secretary assured that we are well above the IRS veteran membership requirements. The secretary is to contact the Associate Member to determine if he is a veteran or not. Motion was made and seconded to accept the Associate Member; vote to approve passed by majority.

Next Reunion:

President Guy Posey pointed out that the 2015 Reunion should be held in the center part of the country in keeping with Section 7, Paragraph 2 of the Association Bylaws. A request for volunteers to serve on the next reunion committee was made. Mike Ward, Harold McKeehan and Guy Posey volunteered with Guy Posey being the chairman.

Election of Officers:

It was pointed out that none of the current slate of Association Officers had expressed a desire to resign. A request for volunteers or nominations from the floor for President, Vice President, Recording Secretary, Treasurer, and Corresponding Secretary yielded no candidates for any of the offices. Motion was made and seconded to approve the current slate of Association Officers for another 2-year term; vote to approve passed by majority.

Donations:

Members were reminded that at the 2011 Business Meeting there was a discussion of requesting a financial report from the proposed recipient to insure that our donated monies were used for the purpose which the Association intended. In addition, the reminder was printed in the Summer 2013 edition of the "Fireball". Ken Keene gave a brief report on the use of funds donated to the "Tin Can Sailors", Thomas J. Peltin Destroyer Museum Grant Fund and requested a \$500.00 donation, the same amount as donated in previous years. No other financial reports were available and no other donation requests were made.

Guy Posey reported that the Association Officers believed that a revision to the Association Bylaws should be made limiting the total amount of donations to a percentage of the Treasury Balance and requiring proposals for donations of the Association monies be made 90 days prior to the business meeting accompanied by a financial statement. The

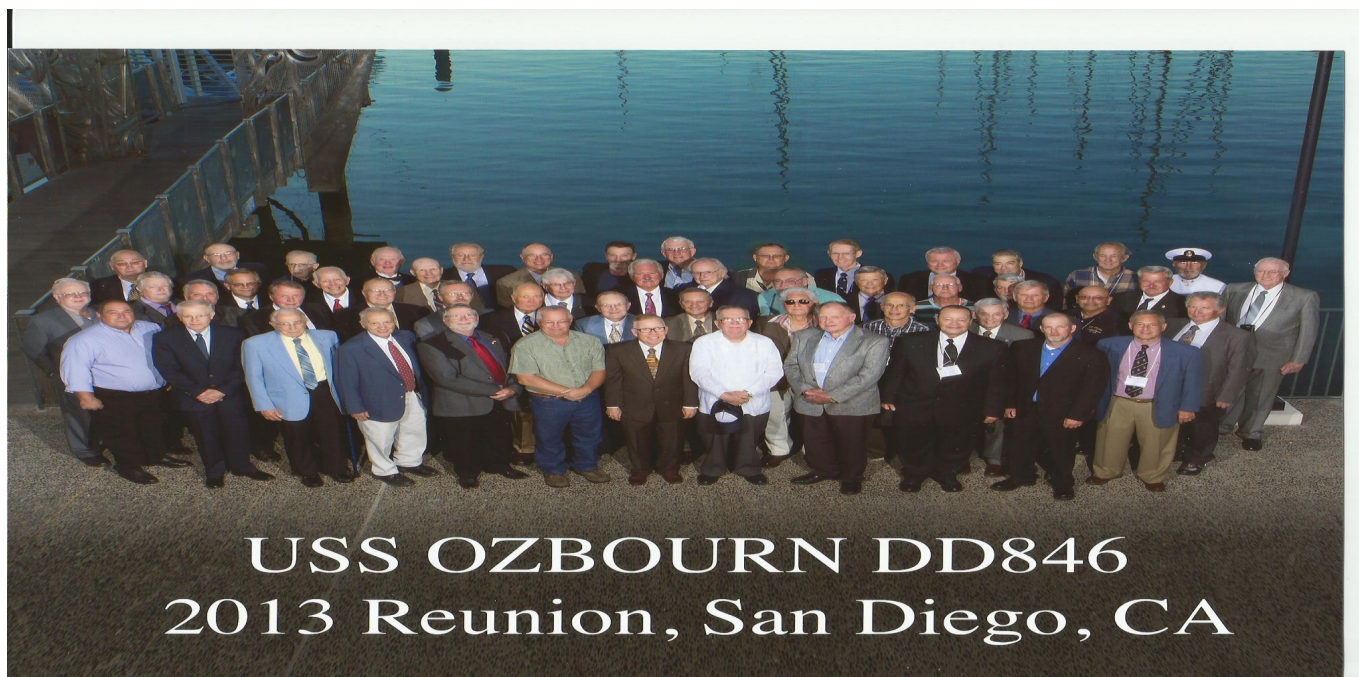
Association Officers would then review all requests to determine the legitimacy of the recipient and determine if the total dollar amount of all requests is in line with the percentage of the Treasury Balance rule. The proposed change to the

Association Bylaws will be presented at the 2015 Business Meeting for member vote to approve or reject. Motion was made and seconded to donate \$500.00 to the Tin Can Sailors and Thomas J. Peltin Destroyer Museum Grant Fund; vote to approve passed by majority.

Agent Orange:

Ken Keene read an article about Navy ships and presumed exposure to Agent Orange. The Ozbourn is presumed to have been exposed on dates in 1965, 1966 and 1971. Not only is it important to veterans with Agent Orange related disability claims but it can make a veteran eligible for a higher priority for care in the DAV health care system.

With no further **New Business** brought to the floor, the 2013 Business Meeting was adjourned at 1002 hours.



USS OZBOURN DD846 2013 Reunion, San Diego, CA



Jeff Parker and Ken Keene check Pete and Cathy Cormack in at the Hospitality Room.



Captain John G. Denham and his beautiful Admiral Dottie enjoying the Hospitality Room.



Tom Dumstorf looks on, as Don Rueth, (R), provides Jeff Parker guidance.



Trifon & Georgia Tripsas were big winners at the door prize drawing.



Randy Humphries making Bob & Sally Whitten very happy with their newly won USS Ozbourn license plate frame.



LTJG Caitlin Foster, Navigator, USS Wayne E. Meyer DDG 108, briefs several shipmates.



Vicki Cooper (center) shows how OZ wives can truly dance Polynesian style. Who said sailors couldn't dance.

The Association is grateful to Shipmate **John A. Montoya, RD3, (64-67)**, who although attending his first reunion, acted as the Reunion's Official Photographer.....Thanks, John, for the great photos.

Fireball, Winter 2014

USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

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



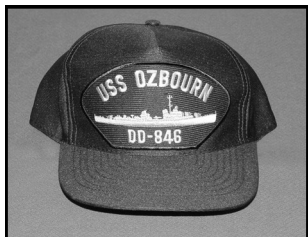
Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourn Web site at www.ozbourn.org under the heading Ship's Store.

Orders may be placed with:

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

Tel: (412) 833-0572

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 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

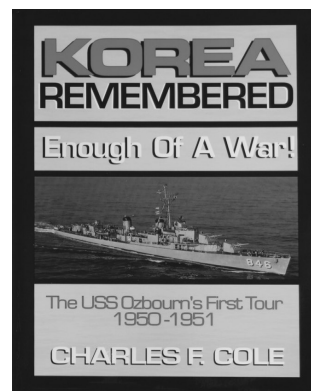
Long sleeve \$35 ea. Item# T02



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

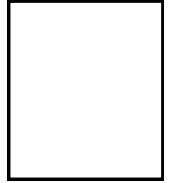
\$15.00 plus \$3.00 for shipping & handling

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

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 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.

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