

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 29, No. 4
Fall 2020



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

Our 2021 Reunion plans are nearly complete. Our Reunion Committee has selected Colorado Springs, Colorado, as our reunion's Host City and has arranged lodging at the beautiful Hotel Elegante as our Host Hotel. Information related to making Hotel Reservations, Schedule of Events and Reunion Registration can be found on the following pages of this and future editions of the "Fireball". **Please take note of the very important Reunion Notice on Page-2.** We of course hope you all will be able to attend the 2021 Reunion and look forward to seeing you and your families there.

It is with a heavy heart that I must report the passing of Association Vice President Mark Beau-lieu due to deteriorating health. As a result of Mark's Passing and citing the Association By-Laws, I have appointed Harold "Mac" McKeehan as an interim Association Vice President. "Mac" comes to us as a longtime member as well as a veteran of several past Reunion Committees. During the Business Meeting held during the 2021 Reunion, the membership will have an opportunity to nominate and vote for a permanent Vice President.

Please stay safe and healthy. God bless each of you and your Families. Keep safe. God Bless us All.

Guy Posey, President

USS OZBOURN Association, New Email Address: gtp68483@gmail.com

USS OZBOURN DD846, 2021 REUNION, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO

September 29, 2021-October 3, 2021



**FLYING W
CHUCKWAGON SUPPERS
& WESTERN STAGE SHOW**

2021 Biennial Reunion

"ALL HANDS, NOW HEAR THIS", Colorado Springs, Colorado, has been selected as the Host City for the **2021 Reunion of the USS OZBOURN DD846 Association**. As all hands are already aware, the Association attempts to vary the sites throughout the U.S. so as not to place a burden on those residing around the entire country. As a result of the 2017 Reunion being held in Norfolk, VA, and the 2019 Reunion being held in Portland, Oregon, it was once again time to meet in the Mid-Western part of the country. After surveying several possible Host Cities, **Colorado Springs, Colorado** 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 who may require a little assistance. We are also very pleased with the number of shipmates who are able to attend the reunions.

Our Host Hotel for the 2021 Reunion is the **Hotel Elegante**, 2886 S. Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Reunion Committee worked very hard and has negotiated an excellent daily rate of \$119.00 plus tax, double occupancy, that also includes a daily breakfast for two and complimentary Airport Shuttle. The hotel has also agreed to offer the same rate for three days prior and three days after the reunion for those wishing to arrive early or stay a little longer, based on availability. The hotel can be contacted by dialing **(800) 981-4012**. When making reservations be sure to tell the operator that you are requesting the **USS Ozbourn Reunion Group Rate, Reservation #2721327**. **The cut off date to make hotel reservations is August 30, 2021**. The reunion commences on **Wednesday, September 29, 2021**, with check-in and the Hospitality Room will open at **2:00 pm**. On the final day, **Sunday, October 3, 2021**, Hospitality Room will close at **8:00 am**.

The **2021 Reunion Committee**, **Guy Posey**, **Mike Ward**, and **Harold "Mac" McKeehan**, continue to work very hard to ensure that our 2021 Reunion will be one of the truly great ones. Don't miss out, register early. ***Please see the Reunion Schedule and Registration Forms located on Page 4 & 5.***

PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE REUNION?

*******VERY IMPORTANT INFO NEEDED*******

DUE TO THE CURRENT SITUATION, YOU MUST CONTACT GUY POSEY IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE REUNION.

Although there are still so many unknowns regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Reunion Committee continues to work very hard in planning the 2021 Reunion. Therefore, we are attempting to ascertain the number of members and guests that plan on attending the 2021 Reunion. We of course realize, that due to Covid-19, many of you may wish to forgo travel plans. We also understand that some members who indicate that they plan on attending, may be unable to attend by the time September 2021 arrives. Your safety and health is important to all of us.

Please notify **GUY POSEY**, Tel. **(405) 714-3168**, or Email: **gtp68483@gmail.com** or **ppapaguy@aol.com** or forward a quick note to Guy at **419 S. Appleway Lane, Glencoe, OK 74032**

Association Officers

President

Guy Posey (69-71)
419 S. Appleway Lane
Glencoe, OK 74032
Tel: 405-714-3168
Email: **gtp68483@gmail.com (NEW)**

Vice President

Harold "Mac" McKeehan (70-72) NEW
7360 Township Line Road
Waynesville, OH 45068
Tel: 513-897-2208
Email: **cowboy1220@centurylink.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

Mike Ward (72-75)
3836 County Road W40
Decorah, Iowa 52101
Tel: 563-735-5585
Email: **ward6770@gmail.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**

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 **Winter 2021** issue is **November 15th, 2020**. Articles may be rewritten 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.

OUR THOUGHTS & PRAYERS

Heard from **Reed Jones, Ltjg, (65-67)**, that Marybeth Smith, Wife of Shipmate **Phil Smith, Ltjg, (65-67)**, reported that Phil is putting up a heroic fight against cancer.

Clearly the entire crew wishes to extend our thoughts and prayers to Phil, Marybeth and the entire Smith Family during this battle.



INTERIM VICE PRESIDENT, USS OZBOURN DD846 ASSOCIATION

The entire Crew of the USS Ozbourn Association is proud to announce the appointment of **Harold "Mac" McKeehan, EM2, (70-72)**, as the Interim Vice President of the Association. We are all looking forward to working with "Mac" and having his great leadership skills that will be a true asset to our great Association.



ANOTHER GREAT LOSS

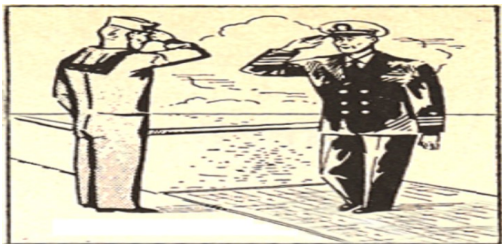
The Association recently received very sad news from Craig Whitten, Son of the First Association President and Founding Member **Robert C. Whitten, CDR. (50-52)**, passing. Every member of the Association wishes to thank the entire Whitten Family for sharing Robert with us. The fact that our Association exists to this day is as a direct result of Robert's and other Charter Members efforts on behalf of us all. We are all very grateful.



FALLEN, BUT NEVER FORGOTTEN

The entire Crew and Elected Officers of the USS Ozbourn DD846 Association were truly blessed for having **MARK BEAULIEU, MM2, (72-74)**, as a dedicated Shipmate, Association Vice President and a great Friend in our lives. Our

thoughts and prayers go out to Mary and the entire Family.



WELCOME ABOARD

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

NORMAN "BILL" BLATT, Ens. (68-69)

TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

ROBERT C. WHITTEN, CDR, (50-52)
Association Founding Member & Past President

MARK "BLUE" BEAULIEU, MM2, (72-74)
Association Vice President

BILLY J. WYATT, FT2, (50-53)
"May fair winds and calm seas be with you always"

2021 REUNION SCHEDULE and TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Reunion Check-in: 2:00pm—10:00pm, The Hospitality Room will open for Reunion-Check In as well as meeting friends and enjoying a beverage and snacks. (Dinner on your own).

Thursday, September 30, 2021

PETERSON AFB AIR and SPACE MUSEUM

Our motor coach will transport us from the hotel the **Peterson AFB Air and Space Museum**. Enjoy the self guided tour and static displays of military aircraft, before returning to the hotel.

Thursday, September 30, 2021

FLYING W RANCH DINNER and WESTERN SHOW

Our motor coach will transport us from our hotel to the **Flying W Ranch** where we will enjoy dinner and a western style show. (Cash Bar).

Friday, October 1, 2021

ROYAL GORGE TRAIN JOURNEY and BOX LUNCH

Our motor coach will transport us to Canon City, Colorado, where we will board the Royal Gorge R.R. for a two hour journey through the Colorado Rockies with a box lunch provided.

After returning to the hotel, Friday evening will be designated for relaxation in the Hospitality Room. (Dinner on your own).

Saturday, October 2, 2021

TOUR GARDEN OF THE GODS and OLD COLORADO CITY for SHOPPING (Lunch on your own)

Our motor coach will transport us to the Garden of the Gods Visitors Center where we will enjoy a tour as well as exhibits. Don't forget those cameras. We will then travel to Old Colorado City for an afternoon session for shopping and lunch on your own before returning to our hotel.

Saturday, October 2, 2021

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting will be held at the Hotel Elegante at **8:30 am**.

Saturday, October 2, 2021

REUNION BANQUET

We will gather at the Hotel Elegante for our Reunion Banquet that will include entertainment and our guest speaker. (Cash Bar). (Note: The Hospitality Room will be closed during the Banquet).

(5:00pm , Social Hour, 6:00pm Dinner, followed by Entertainment, and Guest Speaker)

Sunday, October 3, 2021

The Hospitality Room will close at **8:00 am**. Farewell until 2023.

ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

TIMES of DEPARTURE and RETURN TO OUR HOTEL will be ANNOUNCED in FUTURE "FIREBALLS"

USS OZBOURN REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour and banquet costs for the reunion. Please enter the number of persons who will be participating in each event, meal choice and the total cost. Send this form and your **check payable to USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION** to: **Guy Posey, 419 S. Appleway Lane, Glencoe, OK 74032**. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payment must be received by mail before **August 1, 2021**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form for your records before mailing.

	<u>TOURS and BANQUET CHOICES</u>	<u>Price Each</u>	<u># of People</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Thursday,	Peterson Air and Space Museum.....	\$20.00	_____	_____
Thursday, PM	Flying W Ranch Dinner & Show.....	\$60.00	_____	_____
Friday,	Royal Gorge Train Ride & Box Lunch.....	\$80.00	_____	_____
Saturday,	Tour Garden of the Gods & Old Colorado City..... (Shopping and Lunch on your own)	\$25.00	_____	_____
Saturday,	Banquet (Please select your Entrée Below) Cash Bar			
	#1) Grilled Angus Steak with Peppercorn Relish.....	\$55.00	_____	_____
	#2) Chipolte Lime Chicken w/Blk Bean Roasted Corn Sauce .	\$55.00	_____	_____
	#3) Vegetarian Plate, either a Pasta Dish w/veggies..... or Veggie Wellington (Hotels Choice depending on Weeks Menu)	\$55.00	_____	_____

All dinners include Salad, potatoes, Tea & Coffee, and desert.

Non-Refundable Registration Fee Per Person.....\$25.00 _____

Total Amount Payable to: USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION\$ _____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY, Are You Flying? ___ Driving? ___ RV? ___ **E-MAIL ADDRESS** _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name for Tag _____

Years on Board 19__ to 19__ Last Rate/Rank Held on Ozbourn _____ If Ret. Last Rate/Rank _____

Spouse Name (if attending) _____ Guest Name _____

Street Address _____ Tel No. _____

City, State ,Zip _____

Must you be lifted hydraulically onto the bus while seated in your wheelchair in order to participate in bus trips?
YES _____ No _____ (We cannot guarantee availability)

Emergency Contact _____ Tel No. _____

Are you staying at the Hotel Elegante? Yes _____ No _____ Arrival Date _____

YOU MUST CONTACT THE HOTEL ELGANTE 2886 S. CIRCLE DRIVE, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO, TEL. (800) 981-4012 TO MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS. SEE THE HOTEL RESERVATION SHEET ON PAGE-2 FOR DETAILS

REFUNDS FOR TOUR AND BANQUET CANCELLATIONS WILL BE MADE BEFORE AUGUST 15, 2021

USS OZBOURN DD846 ARCHIVES

BACK TO THE FUTURE OR THE FORETELLING FORTUNE COOKIE

Submitted by Rick Johnson, RD2, (61-64)

The events in this article are from my personal diary recounting events from the USS Ozbourne's 1962 West Pac cruise.

SEPTEMBER 1962

As we approached the southern tip of Formosa on **September 28** (now called Taiwan), we picked up the distinct smell of Kao Hsuing (pronounced Kao Shung). The stench from the open-bay sewer was so odiferous, the town was mockingly called Cow Dung. On **September 29** I went ashore. The streets were lined with bootleg book stores selling counterfeit publications. There didn't seem to be any concern about international copyright laws in the democratic Chinese country.

NOVEMBER 1962

The ship pulled into Kao Hsuing on **November 1** on the first anniversary since I reported aboard the Ozbourne. The next day I had Shore Patrol duty in Kao Hsuing. I met a local resident who wanted to practice his English on me. He talked a lot about politics. He told me that if it weren't for the U.S. Navy, most of the Eastern Hemisphere would be overrun by the Communist Chinese.

He believed that the communist would "island hop" all the way down to Australia and New Zealand and all of the countries in between. He strongly believed that communism would take over the world until only the United States was left. He also told me that when a communist spoke of peace, he meant a peaceful bullet to the head to anyone who wouldn't submit to communist rule. "An appeaser is one who feeds a crocodile, hoping it will eat him last." Sir Winston Churchill.

USS OZBOURN DD846 PHOTO GALLERY

Photographs Donated in 2017 by TOM PERKINS, FC1, (50-53), prior to his passing in 2020



GM3 NEWELL and SN ANDERSON being awarded medals
for rescuing a downed pilot by CDR. AKERS and CAPT. CODLIZ

CAPTAIN C.O. AKERS
C.O. USS OZBOURN DD846 (50-52)

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

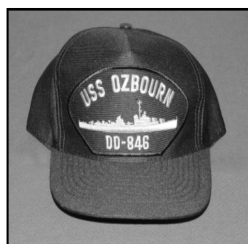
The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address at left.

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

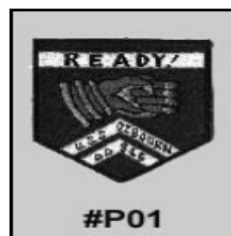
← Long sleeve. \$35 ea.



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

FIREBALL! The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourn Association

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 20 or 22. This number indicates the last year you were current 11th Association dues: 20 means 2020, 21 means 2021, 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 Mike Ward, Association Treasurer, at 3836 County Road W40, Decorah, IA 52101.

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 1952
CDR W.B. Fargo	April 1952-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

