

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

# FIREBALL!

VOLUME 29, No. 2  
Spring 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](http://www.ozbourn.org)



## FROM THE BRIDGE

**Happy New Year and New Decade to All,**

This past September saw us enjoying another great ships reunion in Portland, Oregon. Thanks to everyone that attended and to all that were involved in the planning and execution of the great activities

We are now looking forward to 2021 when we can once again come together. The 2021 Reunion will be held somewhere in the Midwest. Several locations being evaluated, include Milwaukee, WI and Memphis, TN. Be sure to review future editions of the "Fireball" for 2021 Reunion updates.

To assure timely deliveries of all of your future "Fireball" Newsletters, please ensure to keep your annual membership dues up to date, (Due every January), along with any address changes.

Hope to see you all in 2021.

I wish to also thank all of the Elected Association Officers for all of their hard work and dedication. I would also like to thank everyone that contributes articles and newsworthy items to the "Fireball".

God Bless the USA.

Guy Posey, President  
USS OZBOURN Association

## USS OZBOURN DD846 2019 REUNION, PORTLAND, OREGON



**OLD SHIPMATES, GREAT FRIENDS and FAMILIES, ENJOYING the REUNION BANQUET**

## 2021 Biennial Reunion

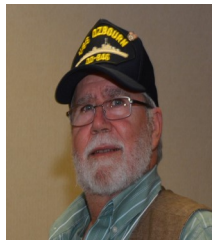
*Jeff Parker, Editor*

During the 2019 Business Meeting a request went out for volunteers to accept the responsibility of planning and organizing the 2021 Reunion. Anyone that has ever been involved in planning one of our great reunions can attest to the large amount of work that goes into planning and executing a reunion. Our Association has been blessed with having **Mike Ward** and **Harold "Mac" McKeehan**, have once again step up to the plate. In addition, **Mark Beaulieu, V.P.**, and **Guy Posey, President**, also threw their hats into the ring. These gentlemen were instrumental in planning and executing the 2015, 2017 & 2019, reunions.

It is never too early to begin planning for and discussing our next reunion. Now that the 2019 Holiday Season, is in the history books, our Reunion Committee is actively seeking out a venue for the 2021 Reunion to be held in the Midwest part of our great nation. Several locations are being discussed such as Milwaukee, WI and Memphis, TN as well as others.

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 PRIVILEGES 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

### President

**Guy Posey (69-71)**  
419 S. Appleway Lane  
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Tel: 405-714-3168  
Email: [ppapaguy@aol.com](mailto:ppapaguy@aol.com)

### Vice President

**Mark Beaulieu (72-74)**  
11731 Bass Lake Ct.  
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### Corresponding Secretary and Fireball Editor

**Jeff Parker (70-74)**  
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### Recording Secretary

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### Treasurer and Historian

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

### 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 2020** 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.

### CAPTAINS NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 14, 1968

Heard from Shipmate **JERRY McKEE, YN2, (66-69)**, longtime contributor to the "Fireball", regarding a February 14, 1968, Captains Newsletter drafted by then Commanding Officer John G. Denham. Excerpts of the newsletter describe spending Christmas in Yokosuka Japan as well as Sea Dragon operations on the Gun Line in North Vietnam. *(Editors Note: The Newsletter is 3-pages in length and unfortunately cannot be published in the "Fireball" for now. However, Jerry went to great lengths in restoring his copy that I am certain would be of interest to all hands. Therefore, until the full newsletter can be published in a future edition of the "Fireball", I would gladly email a copy to any member that wishes one. I can be contacted at my email address, **LJPARKER1@cox.net**)*

### VET TIX, FREE EVENT TICKETS

From the Desk of **MARK BEAULIEU, MM2, (72-74)**, wanted to ensure that all members are aware of a website, VET TIX, that provides free tickets to sporting events and concerts to enrolled veterans. Mark says to enroll, which is easy, just copy the link below into the address bar, press go, and follow the instructions.

<https://www.vettix.org/ref/2714014>



### ALWAYS IN OUR HEARTS

Heard from **Mary Henry**, Daughter of Shipmate **TOM DUMSTORF, FT2, (52-54)**, a regular at the "OZ" Reunions, reported that Tom is having some health issues. We all need to keep Tom and the entire Dumstorf Family in our prayers for a full recovery.



### WELCOME ABOARD

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

**DOUG SCOTT, YN2, (65-68)**

### TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

**"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"**

**WESLEY O. CRESSEY, BT1, (58-62)**

**DOUG W. FLOWERS, FN, (72-74)**

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

## AGENT ORANGE CLAIMS UPDATE

### BLUE WATER VIETNAM VETERANS ACT of 2019

Clearly, the subject of health related issues is of the utmost importance to us all as we are no longer young. Many of our Vietnam Era Shipmates have contracted varying health problems related to the U.S. Government's use of herbicides such as Agent Orange during the Vietnam War.

Up until June 26, 2019, a veteran suffering from an illness attributed to Agent Orange, was required to show evidence of "Boots on the Ground". This of course included port stops by U.S. Navy ships where there was the possibility that any crewmember may have left the ship for any reason. This of course required requesting deck logs along with any other evidence for a specific date that the ship was in port. Clearly, a long and tedious search was required to prove that a shipmate's illness is related to a specific port visit.

*(Editors Note: On behalf of our members, our **Association Secretary, Ken Keene**, spent several long and tedious hours in requesting Deck Logs and conducting research in an effort to obtain dates, along with other evidence showing the Ozbourne was in a port within Vietnam. We are all grateful for all of Ken's hard work.)*

#### **Great News!**

On June 26, 2019, President Trump signed into law, the **Blue Water Navy Veterans Act of 2019**. As a result of this legislation the VA Benefits have now been extended to Blue Water Sailors. According to the VA.gov, the act guarantees that veterans who served off the shores of Vietnam and were exposed to toxins such as Agent Orange, can access treatment and receive benefits from the VA.

According to the Veterans Administration website, VA.gov, The Blue Water Navy, (BWN), Vietnam Veterans Act of 2019, extended the presumption of herbicide exposure, such as Agent Orange, to Veterans who served in the offshore waters of the Republic of Vietnam between January 9, 1962 and May 7, 1975.

Beginning January 1, 2020, Veterans who served as far as 12 nautical miles from the shore of Vietnam, or who had service in the Korean Demilitarized Zone, are presumed to have been exposed to herbicides, such as Agent Orange, and may be entitled to service connection for any of the 14 conditions related to herbicide exposure.

The VA is also now able to extend benefits to children with Spina Bifida whose BWN Veteran parent have been exposed while serving.

#### **How to Determine if and when the USS OZBOURN DD846, was operating within the 12 Nautical Miles of Vietnam during your dates of service.**

Although there may be several directions a veteran may go in locating information that while serving on a particular U.S. Navy ship, during the required dates and location off the coast of Vietnam, **Association Vice President Mark Beaulieu**, has found a website for **H&P Hill & Ponton Disability Attorneys**, that have included an interactive Vietnam Blue Water Veterans Map. One only needs to pull up the on-line map, insert the USS Ozbourne DD846 and the dates that one served onboard. *(Editors Note: Clearly, the Association cannot endorse any commercial enterprise and would recommend to any member to conduct due diligence when seeking any information from any entity.)*



## 2019 Reunion, Portland, OR





# USS OZBURN DD846 PHOTO GALLERY





## 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](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

### SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

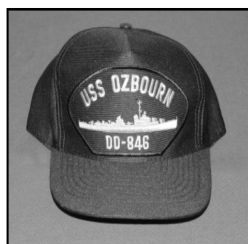
The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address at left.

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

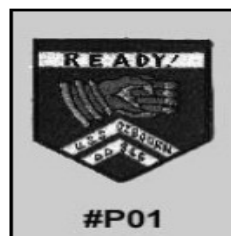
← Long sleeve. \$35 ea.



### 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 19 or 20. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 19 means 2019, 20 means 2020, 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](http://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        |

