

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

# FIREBALL!

VOLUME 30, No. 2  
Spring 2021



**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, Families and Friends**

Wow! What a year 2020 was. I hope that you are all well and safe.

I am praying that the Covid-19 virus is all under control early this year, that all travel restrictions are lifted and our Great Nation is once again united together.

As you have been reading in past "Fireballs", our upcoming 2021 Reunion in September, has some great tours planned and a fantastic host hotel. I spent three days, two nights at the Hotel Elgante. The hotel staff worked very hard to provide us with all of the concessions that we require. The food is fantastic, the staff are friendly and very willing to help if any problems should occur during our stay. Please make your reservations for the hotel and forward your reunion registrations to me as soon as possible.

I have requested a dear friend of mine that I have known since my days in school to honor us with his presence and provide the banquet entertainment. He does a variety show of oldies and comedy.

Please plan to attend. All information can be found in the "Fireball" Newsletter and on the USS Ozbourn Association website at [Ozbourn.com](http://Ozbourn.com).

Please stay safe and we look forward to seeing you this September in Colorado Springs.

Guy Posey, President  
USS Ozbourn Association

## **"WHERE ARE YOU GOING?"**

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

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

### **OCTOBER 1962**

We left port at 0800 on October 11. The Ozbourn was conducting operations with the local Formosa Chinese Navy in ships once owned by the U.S. Navy. What a mess! Not only were there language and cultural barriers between the two navies, the Chinese lacked basic seamanship skills.

During one of the maneuvers, which were supposed to be conducted in close synchronization, the Chinese destroyer headed straight for the Ozbourn. I told the CIC (Combat Information Center) officer of the watch, that by my calculations, the Chinese ship was on a collision course with us. The information was relayed to the bridge.

The captain of the Ozbourn radioed the captain of the Chinese man-o-war of the pending collision. Unable to understand either English or the ability to cipher the Allies Code Book on ships' maneuvering, the Chinese kept coming toward us, closing the gap at an alarming rate. Repeated radio and signal flag messages to the Chinese vessel regarding the perilous course upon which the foreign ship had taken, failed to convince the Sino sailor to alter his ship's course. In a state of sheer panic, the Ozbourn's skipper ordered an immediate hard to starboard and full speed ahead in an effort to avoid a certain catastrophe. In a voice that was both bewildered and embarrassed, the Chinese commanding officer wondered where we were going. He pleaded for us to return to the operating area, even as we headed over the horizon line.

## 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.

### PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE REUNION?

**DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS PANDEMIC, IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE REUNION, PLEASE CONTACT GUY POSEY, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.**

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**

#### Vice President

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

#### Recording Secretary

**Kenneth E. Keene** (71-74)  
504 Swaim Court  
Salisbury, NC 28147-1352  
Tel: 704-380-5756  
**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 **Summer 2021** 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** **WELCOME HOME USS OZBOURN, WESPAC, SEPT. 1968**

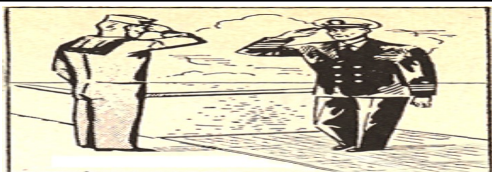
*Submitted by Jerry McKee, YN2, (67-68)*



### **May of 72**

*Submitted by Jon Herfindal, SH3 (70-72)*

We received a great email from **Jon Herfindal SH3, (70-72)**, describing the events of 9 May 1972, when the "OZ" came under fire from North Vietnamese shore batteries. The "OZ" was cruising just off shore in the Gulf of Tonkin, supporting units laying mines in the mouth of Haiphong Harbor. No hits were sustained. *(Editors Note: As space in future editions of the "Fireball" becomes available, I plan on including the entire, very descriptive and well written document prepared by Jon.)*



### **WELCOME ABOARD**

**DAN PETERS, MM3, (75)  
ANTHONY PASBRIG, MM3, (67-68)**

**All of your Shipmates wish to welcome you aboard.**



### **TAPS FOR SHIPMATES**

**"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"**

**DAVID "SED" SEDLACEK, MM3, (70-73)**

*"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\***

## 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>
<b>Thursday,</b>	Peterson Air and Space Museum.....	\$20.00	_____	_____
<b>Thursday, PM</b>	Flying W Ranch Dinner & Show.....	\$60.00	_____	_____
<b>Friday,</b>	Royal Gorge Train Ride & Box Lunch.....	\$80.00	_____	_____
<b>Saturday,</b>	Tour Garden of the Gods & Old Colorado City..... (Shopping and Lunch on your own)	\$25.00	_____	_____
<b>Saturday,</b>	Banquet ( <b>Please select your Entrée Below</b> ) <b>Cash Bar</b>			
	#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	_____	_____
	<b>All dinners include Salad, potatoes, Tea &amp; Coffee, and desert.</b>			
	<b>Non-Refundable Registration Fee Per Person.....</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>	_____	_____
	<b>Total Amount Payable to: USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION .....</b>	<b>\$</b>	_____	_____

**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**



## 2021 Membership DUES Are Now Due

The Association requests that each member ensure that their \$15.00 2021 Annual Dues are paid to assure the fiscal health of our Association and to receive their "Fireball" Newsletter in a timely manner. The success of the USS Ozbourn DD846 Association rests with all of us. We thank you for all of your great support over these many years. (See Page-8 directing you where to send your dues)

### **DESTROYER SAILORS**

Submitted by Alan Swinger, LtJg (66-68)

*(Editors Note: We wish to thank Alan for sharing this well written story published by Tin Can Sailors. Although not specific about the "OZ", the author is certainly on the mark as it relates to serving aboard a Destroyer. One can only look at our own USS Ozbourn DD846 Association to confirm the camaraderie and lifetime friendships that continue to this day. Thank you Alan.)*

## It's a Part of Who You Are

By LCDR John Ventura, USNR  
USS New Orleans (LPH-11),  
USS Damato (DD-871),  
USS Albert David (DE-1050)

After meeting with scores of Destroyer Veterans over the past few years, it's striking to witness how deeply, and how similarly, their service at sea influenced them. These are the kinds of comments you hear repeatedly:

"I had the best years of my life aboard that ship..."; "I'm still good friends with many of my old shipmates..."; "Being at sea on that destroyer really grew me up..."

You smile at the pure pleasure and satisfaction in their faces as they sit around the table, coffee in hand, and share sea stories: "Did you ever pull liberty in Yokosuka?"; "Could you believe how she'd roll in a beam sea?"; "One night I was standing Starboard lookout while we were at plane guard off Gibraltar and..."

Since the ancient Greeks, throughout history sailors have enjoyed a special status among all people because so few humans have ever known or understood the mysteries -- the frights and the pleasures -- of going to sea. That's why, even today, those who wear Navy (and Coast Guard) Blue are unique among our armed forces.

And there's even another hierarchy, another unspoken level of respect, among Navy salts, too. You see, it's one thing to sail aboard a "heavy" -- a carrier or an amphib. It's quite another to take serious weather while standing watch on the lurching deck of a destroyer, and every USN sailor who ever watched a destroyer shoulder her way through the big water knows this is true.

That's why destroyer sailors -- DesVets -- belong to a very small and well-respected club. And this club touches their soul, because it brings them into close contact with comrades who unmistakably share a part of their very core.

Every man and woman who's been to sea on one of these ships, who's stood the watches, and held the lives of their shipmates in their hands, who've completed their tough daily duties despite fatigue and stress and danger and discomfort, holds their kindred DesVets in the highest esteem.

You observe this almost magical mutual respect at every meeting and convention of our organization, and you sense it in every member letter and comment in our magazine. How can this be so?

Quite simply, service in destroyers changes your life, and it becomes a permanent part of who you are forever after. You'll always cherish the values and lessons that service brought and taught you. And you'll always cherish being in company with the small and special tribe who shares your deep, deep pride. ♪



USS Damato (DD-871) is a Gearing-class destroyer that was laid down 10 May 1945, at Staten Island, by Bethlehem Steel Corporation, launched 21 November 1945, and commissioned 27 April 1946. In the photo Damato makes a refueling approach in heavy seas during NATO OPS in the North Atlantic in the Fall of 1971. Tin Can Sailors member and writer, John Ventura, is on the ship during this photo. He wrote this about serving as a destroyerman, "Quite simply, service in destroyers changes your life, and it becomes a permanent part of who you are forever after." Photos courtesy Damato crewmember Radioman 2nd Class Steve Campi.



# 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

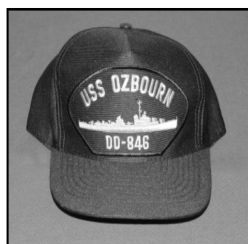
The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address at left.

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

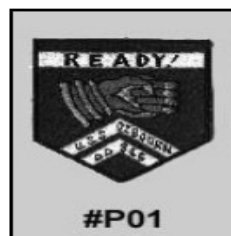
← Long sleeve. \$35 ea.



## 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



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 21. This number indicates the last year you were current with 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, Iowa 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 M.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

