

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 30, No. 1
Winter 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



FROM THE BRIDGE



Greetings to All Shipmates, Families and Friends

During these trying times for our Great Country, I truly hope that you are all doing well and staying healthy.

We are of course looking toward the future to our 2021 Reunion being held in Colorado Springs, Colorado at the Hotel Elegante. Hope to see you all there. It will be a great time.

As we have continued to provide updates in the past "Fireball" Newsletters, I wanted to advise that our Memorial Service at the reunion will take place on one of the evenings in our Hospitality Room. I would like to request those of you planning on attending the reunion to bring photographs of those Shipmates that we have lost that you may have served with and holds special memories about. The photographs will be displayed on the memorial table each evening.

I would also like to wish you all a very Happy Holiday Season and to remind you all that the Ship Store managed by Rudy Boff is open for holiday purchases.

Stay safe and may God Bless you all, our Great Country and all Americans.

Guy Posey, President
USS Ozbourn Association



VERY IMPORTANT INFO NEEDED

PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE REUNION?

DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS SITUATION, 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**

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 Ozbourne 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.



USS KAWISHIWI AO-146 services the "OZ" and USS KITTYHAWK CVA-63 (1966)

Association Officers

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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 Ozbourne shipmates, the deadline for submitting contributions for the **Spring 2021** issue is **February 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.

USS OZBOURN COMMANDING OFFICERS

*****CORRECTION*****

Heard from Jerry R. Woods, CDR (Ret), who pointed out a typo in CDR N.D. Nelson's name.

I served aboard the Ozbourn from 1963 to 1967, first two years mostly as Communications Officer D.W. Berger and M.D. Nelson, and the last two years as Staff Ops for COMDESDIV 92, Captain Ardwin Frach. As I recall, CDR. Nelson's first name was Marvin so listing in the Fireball should be M.D. Nelson Jr. and not "N.D". LCDR Nelson, who was Executive Officer of Ozbourn at the time, succeeded CDR. Berger as CO of Ozbourn at sea during Ozbourn's July 1964 transit to WESTPAC from Long Beach. CDR. Berger suffered a serious back injury during the transit and was high lined at sea to a passing MSTs ship for treatment and further transfer to a Naval Hospital. We never saw him again. LCDR. Nelson became one of the youngest, if not the youngest, CO of a WESTPAC Destroyer.

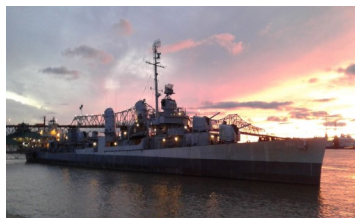
Consequently, Ozbourn rendered honors to almost every passing Navy ship except maybe minesweepers. Nelson was soon promoted to Commander and completed the WESTPAC tour on Ozbourn. (*The Commanders First Initial has now been changed to M. Thank You Jerry for the correction.*)

"USS KIDD DD661 DAY"

Submitted by Reed Jones, Ltjg, (65-67) on behalf of Vince & Kelly Nahr

For those who attended the 2015 Reunion in Baton Rouge, you will recall touring the USS Kidd, DD661, Museum Ship. The Mayor of Baton Rouge, Sharon Weston Broome, has recently honored the USS Kidd who played a starring role in the television movie "Greyhound" by naming July 10, 2020, as **USS KIDD DD661 DAY**.

(Editors Note: Clearly, this is just one example of the need to support all those supporting our nation's Museum Ships.)



"GREYHOUND"

Fireball Editor Jeff Parker

As your Editor, I believe it is one of my roles to highlight media, books, television as well as motion pictures that would interest all Shipmates and their families.

The television movie "Greyhound" is one of those truly action packed films, starring Tom Hanks that I believe you would all enjoy. The movie, set in the North Atlantic during WWII should not be missed.



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

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

VERNON BUSSARD, CDR/XO, (68-70)

RICHARD T. LaFOND, SN, (46-48)

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



Membership Recruiting Drive

The Association requests that each member reach out to those they served with, that have yet to join the Association and request they do so. 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.

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>
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, OPEN HOUSE YOKOSUKA, JAPAN, JANUARY, 1968

Submitted by Jerry McKee, YN2, (66-69)



TOURING-FN Bill Warren shows child sights from ship's signal bridge during open house.



ALL ABOARD---SRF workers and families board Ozbourne for open house.

open house held for yard workers

The Seventh Fleet destroyer USS Ozbourne (DD-846) recently held an open house for the workers of the Yokosuka Ship Repair Facility and their families to give them a first hand look at the finished product of a six-week maintenance period.

The Japanese workers and their families were invited to tour the ship as a goodwill gesture.

Over 120 guests toured the ship with guides selected from the crew. Interpreters from the Ship Repair Facility were used to bridge the language barrier.

Although the Japanese employees are on U. S. Navy ships a great deal of the time, they seldom have an opportunity to see the entire ship when it is ready for sea. The open house also provided an opportunity for the families of the workers to see where their husbands and fathers work.

OZBOURN HOSTS FAMILY CRUISE

"All lines on deck....."

With one prolonged blast from the ship's whistle, friends and families of the destroyer USS Ozbourne (DD-846) were underway for a day at sea.

Over 120 dependents, friends and special guests were on board for the cruise in Tokyo Bay. The visitors were invited to spend a day at sea following the ship's six-week maintenance period in Yokosuka, Japan.

During the morning the guests toured the ship and were introduced to the jobs the sailors perform. At the end of the tour all guests joined the mess line for a ration of Navy food.

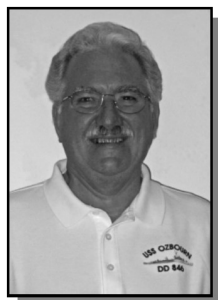
In the afternoon ship's equipment, such as gun mounts and torpedo tubes, was explained and their operation demonstrated for the guests.

Throughout the day guests strolled on the main deck taking in the salt air and sunshine. Many were at sea for the first time and enjoyed the sensation of speeding through the water at 25 knots as the Ozbourne completed calibration tests.

When the ship's commanding officer, John G. Denham, eased the ship into her berth at Yokosuka the guests all agreed that keeping a "ready" destroyer ready is a big job and an important one.

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

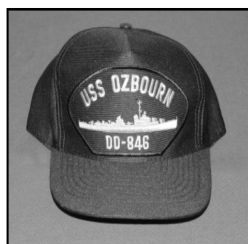
The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address at left.

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.

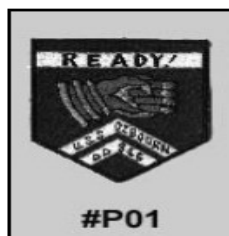


AUBURN COACH'S JACKET

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

All shipmates, family and friends are encouraged to get their Ship's Store orders in early for delivery in time for the 2020 Holiday Season.



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

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

