

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 31, No. 3
Summer 2022



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

It is of course a great pleasure to once again address all Shipmates, Family Members and Friends.

I am pleased to announce that after an exhaustive search spanning several search of several States and Cities, that our Reunion Committee is happy to announce that Columbus, Georgia has been selected as the Host City for our 2023 Reunion of our USS Oz-

bourn DD846 Association.

We have selected Columbus based on several factors, costs, interesting sites to visit as well as following the tradition of alternating the location of each of our reunions every two years, East, West and Central of our great nation. Columbus Georgia provides several sites that will be of great interest to those attending to include, the Civil War Andersonville POW Camp, Westville Historic Village, National Civil War Museum and the National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning.

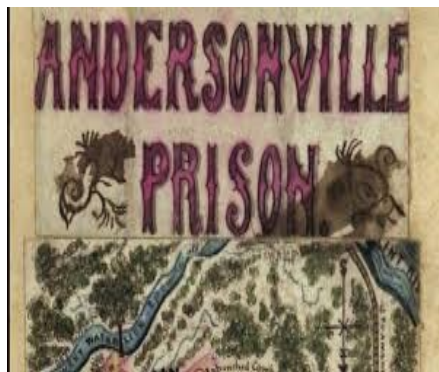
Clearly, those members that have attended past reunions can attest that fun is had by all and they are a gathering where old Shipmates, families and friends can renew and make new friendships. We hope to see you all in Columbus, Georgia.

I wish to thank all of the Officers and the entire membership for the great support of our Association.

Guy Posey, President
USS Ozbourn Association

2023 REUNION, COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

October 4, 2023-October 8, 2023



2023 Biennial Reunion Update

Jeff Parker, Editor

As we are still over a year away, one of the last things on your mind is the 2023 Reunion to be held in the Eastern part of our great nation.

However, its never to early to discuss our next reunion. During the 2021 Business Meeting, a request went out for volunteers to accept the responsibility of planning and organizing the 2023 Reunion. After doing a great job on the 2015, 2017, 2019 & 2021 Reunions, **Guy Posey, President, Harold "Mac" McKeehan, V.P., Mike Ward, Treasurer,** along with **Ed Woodbury,** have once again stepped up to the plate and will be commencing the planning stages for our 2023 Reunion in the near future.

Our Reunion Committee has been very busy and working hard over these past few months as they sought out various locations that would be both fiscally prudent and of interest to those members able to attend. In doing so, the committee reached out to several venues that included Savannah, Georgia, Atlanta, Georgia and Mobile, Alabama, as well as other locations.

It is with great pleasure that they have announced that **Columbus, Georgia,** has been selected as the site for the 2023 Reunion to be held commencing with Check-in at the Hospitality Suite on Wednesday, October 4, 2023 and closing on Sunday, October 8, 2023.

As you can tell, it takes a number of individuals both listed above as well as others to ensure that our reunions are successful. Please watch for additional reunion news in future editions of the "Fireball".

2023 REUNION HOST HOTEL



The Double Tree by Hilton Columbus, Georgia has been selected as the Host Hotel for our 2023 Reunion. The hotel is located at 5351 Sidney Simon Blvd., Columbus, Georgia, 31904. The Reunion Committee has obtained a room rate of \$139.00 + 16% Tax + 5.00 Hotel Tax per night. For those wishing to stay prior to the reunion or after, the hotel will guarantee the above rate three days prior and three days post

reunion. **Those wishing to make reservations must call the hotel directly at (706) 327-6868. Hotel reservations can only be made after October 22, 2022. Be sure that you inform the Reservations Operator that you will be attending the USS Ozbourn Association Reunion.**

SEE PAGE-6 FOR REUNION REGISTRATION INFORMATION

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 Ozbourn shipmates, the deadline for submitting contributions for the **Fall 2022** issue is **September 15th.** Articles may be rewritten for purposes of editorial style. Due to limitations, some materials may be used in a future **Fireball** edition.



MAIL CALL

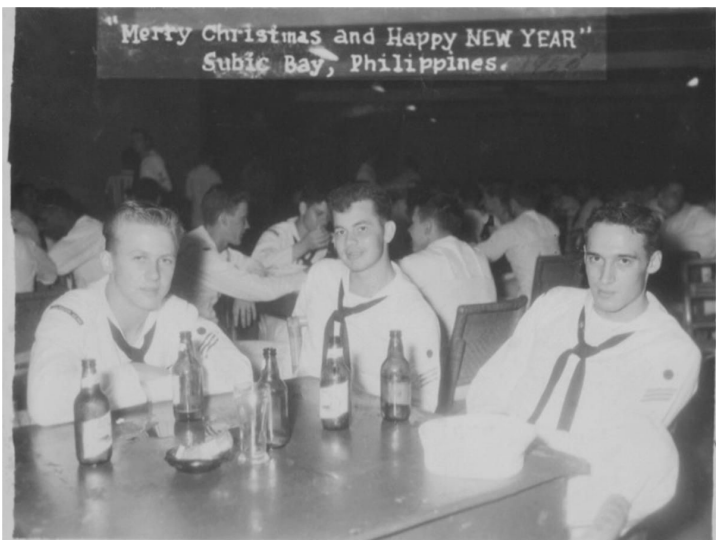
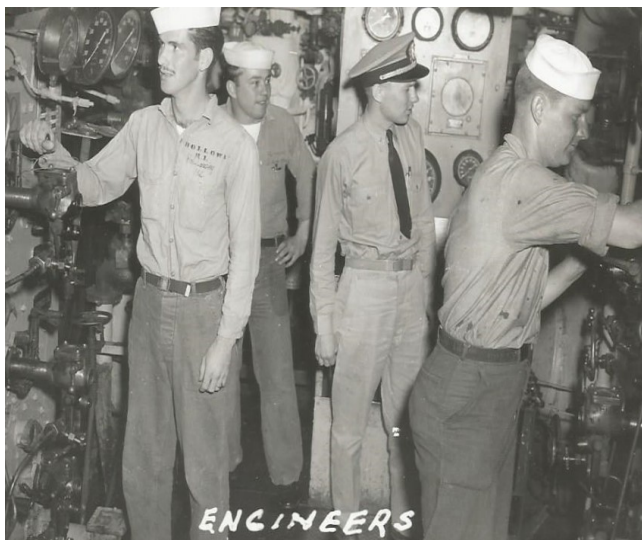
The following letters and emails were received by your Association Officers during the last quarter.

SHIPMATE SEEKING HELP LOCATING DECK LOGS

Heard from Geoff Walker, QM2, (66-68), who was Quarter Master of the Watch or helmsman when the "OZ" was struck by North Vietnamese shore batteries, 12/67, and the engagements that followed. Geoff reported that he was at his GQ Station in after steering when the ship was hit. Anyone that might be able to help please contact Geoff at
Email geoffkona@gmail.com

LOSS OF HONORARY MEMBER

The Association is saddened to hear that on April 5, 2022, Ronald Ozbourn, Grandson of Private Joseph Ozbourn passed away. Ronald and other members of the Ozbourn Family are Honorable Members of the USS Ozbourn DD846 Association. (We are grateful to Ron's Brother-In-Law Fred Weishaupt for notifying us.)



2023 REUNION NEWS

As you will no doubt note, the 2023 Reunion Registration Form can be found on Page-6 of this edition. As it has been a challenge for the Reunion Committee, in the current economic climate, to locate a host city, host hotel as well as contracting with other venues such as transportation companies, the Association believes it is important to get as much information to the members as possible.

Therefore we have published the Registration Form without the normal Reunion Schedule and Tour Descriptions page in this edition. The full Reunion Schedule will be available along with the Registration Form in the 2022 Fall Edition.

We Thank You for your patience.



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

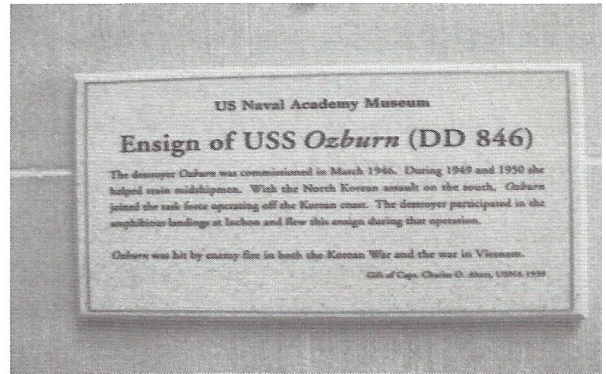
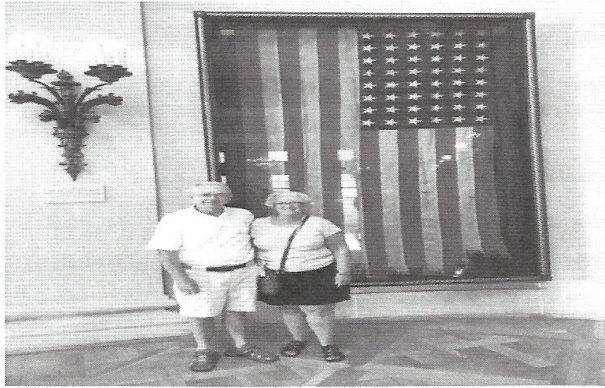
MICHAEL O. TITUS, FTG-2, (65-68)

JAMES CLAY, RM-2, (52-55)

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

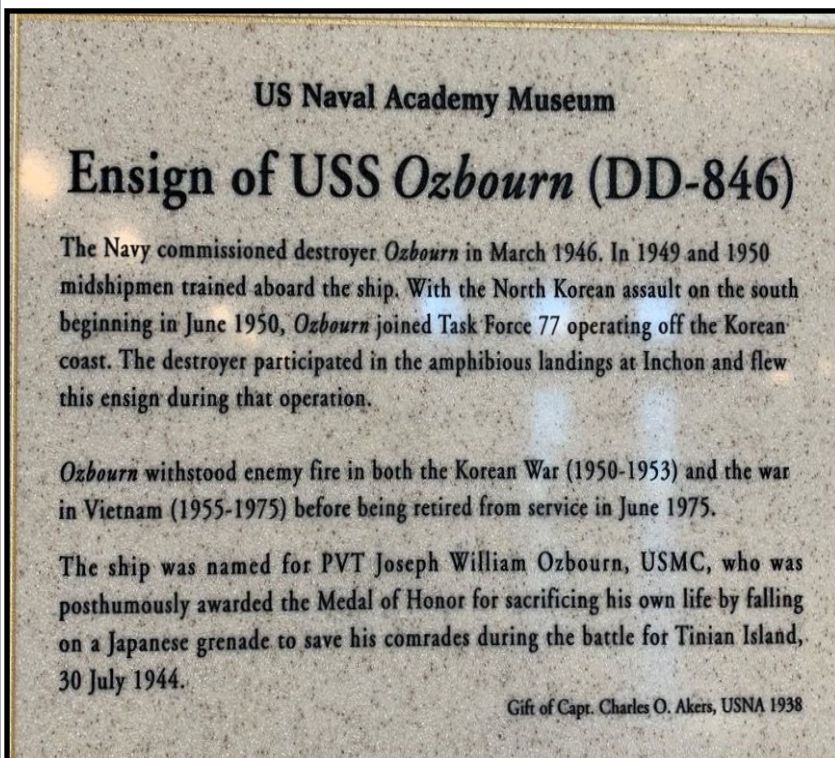
UPDATE to 2018 "FIREBALL" STORY

While en route to the 2017 Reunion, Shipmate Mike Machalleck and his lovely Wife Katha, toured the US Naval Academy. What a surprise when their tour guide directed the group's attention to the Ensign from the USS Oz-bourn DD-846, hanging in Bancroft Hall, the mid shipman's dormitory.



Many of you will remember the above story from the 2018 Winter Edition of the "Fireball" Newsletter depicting the attached photographs of Shipmate Mike Machalleck and his Wife Katha taking a tour overseen by Naval Academy Tour Guide James Minderlein. At that time and as the photograph of the plaque identifying the Stars & Stripes flown on the Ozbourn depicts, that Private Joseph Ozbourn's name is misspelled.

It is with great pleasure that the USS Ozbourn Association has been contacted by Naval Academy Tour Guide James Minderlein who advised that the plaque has been corrected and installed adjacent to the flag flown by the Ozbourn during operations in the Korean War. The flag had been donated to the academy by Captain Charles Akers. *(Editors Note: The Association is very grateful to James Minderlein for his tenacity in ensuring the plaque was corrected.)*



FIVE-0 at SIX-0

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

(Writer's Note: The below article is from the personal ships log of Rick Johnson. This was my first WestPac cruise aboard the Ozbourn. The headline Five-0 refers to Hawaii being the 50th State to join the Union. The Six-0 in the headline refers to sixty years since that WestPac cruise. My retirement flag was flown above the USS Arizona Memorial on January 1, 1991.)

At 0923 hours on June 7, 1962, the Ozbourn departed Pier 16 at the Long Beach Naval Station for Pearl Harbor, Hawaii. The weather on that day was cloudy and humid. The Ozbourn was part of the mightiest armada of U.S. ships to leave the West Coast for the Far East since WWII. The lead Flag Ships of the 15 ship convoy included the USS Hornet (CV 12) and the USS Topeka (CLG 8).

As the ships prepared to enter historic Pearl Harbor, Hawaii on June 13th, all hands were ondeck on the port side in service dress whites to render honors to the recently dedicated USS Arizona Memorial (May 30, 1962). The Ozbourn was one of the first U.S. Navy ships to render honors to the soul stirring, stark white memorial, dedicated to the 1,177 men who died during the Japanese attack on December 7, 1941.

With the shrill of the boatswain's pipe over the 1MC, the order was given: **Attention on deck to port, Hand Salute, Two!** With 15 ships entering Pearl Harbor that day, the solemn salute was repeated each time a Navy Man-O-War passed by the sunken battleship.

Ironically, Marine Private Joseph Ozbourn is buried at the National Cemetery of the Pacific not far from the USS Arizona Memorial.



USS OZBOURN REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all Registration, Tour and Banquet costs for our 2023 Reunion of the USS Ozburn DD846 Association. Please enter the number of persons who will be attending each event, meal choice and the total cost. Please return the form and your check payable to **USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION to GUY POSEY, 419 S. APPLEWAY, GLENCOE, Oklahoma 74032**. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payment must be received by mail **BEFORE** September 1, 2023. After that date, registrations will be accepted on a space available basis. We recommend that you make a copy of your registration form for your records.

TOUR AND BANQUET CHOICES

Price Each

#Of People

Total Cost

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 5, 2023

Andersonville Prison	\$25.00	_____	_____
Lunch at Yoders Restaurant	\$25.00	_____	_____
Westville Historic Village	\$25.00	_____	_____

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2023

National Civil War Naval Museum	\$30.00	_____	_____
(Includes Box Lunch)			
National Infantry Museum	\$20.00	_____	_____

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

Roosevelt's Little White House	\$20.00	_____	_____
Peachtree Mall	\$15.00	_____	_____
(Shopping & Lunch on your own)			

SATURDAY REUNION BANQUET (Please select your Entrée below) Cash Bar

Roasted Boneless Pork Chop	\$32.00	_____	_____
with Garlic Mashed Potatoes topped and Rosemary Demi			
Grilled Scottish Salmon	\$38.00	_____	_____
with roasted vegetable orzo in white wine & lemon butter			
Grilled Chicken Breast	\$32.00	_____	_____
with cream of spinach and Parmesan creamy potatoes			
All dinners served with seasonal vegetables, rolls, butter Coffee or Tea			

Non refundable Registration Fee P/P	\$25.00	_____	_____
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Total Amount payable to USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION	_____
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First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nickname on Board _____

Years on board _____ Last Rate/Rank held on Ozburn _____ If Ret, Last Rate/Rank _____

Spouse Name (If Attending) _____ Guest's Name _____

Street Address _____ Tel # _____ Email: _____

City, State, Zip _____

Are you staying at the Double Tree Hotel Yes _____ No _____ Arrival Date _____

YOU MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY CONTACTING THE DOUBLE TREE HOTEL at (706) 327-6868. Be sure to tell the operator you are attending the OZBOURN Reunion.

REFUNDS for cancellations for tours and banquet will be considered before September 1, 2023. After that date, no cancellations will be refunded, unless emergency.

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

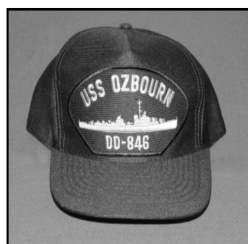
The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address at left.

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

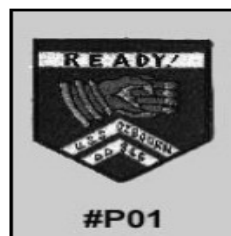
← Long sleeve. \$35 ea.



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 2022 Holiday Season.

SUPPORT YOUR SHIPS STORE TODAY!



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 21 or 22. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 21 means 2021, 22 means 2022, 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

