

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

# FIREBALL!

VOLUME 32, No. 2  
Spring 2023



**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

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

Our 2023 Reunion is fast approaching. As one can imagine, we must start letting our host hotel and various tour operators as to the numbers to expect. We have a great agenda planned that include our tours filled with our nations history. We have a great entertainer scheduled for our banquet.

Those in attendance will truly enjoy fellowship with our shipmates and families. Please send your registrations in as soon as possible. Send all Registration Forms to; **Guy Posey, 419 S. Appleway, Glencoe, OK 74032.**

Thanks to all of you for your continued support of the Association and hope to see everyone in Georgia.

Guy Posey, President  
USS Ozbourn Association

## 2023 REUNION, COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

**October 4, 2023-October 8, 2023**



## 2023 Biennial Reunion Update

*Jeff Parker, Editor*

Although it is difficult to believe, as time seems to speed by, it is once again to direct our attention on our upcoming 2023 Reunion being held this October in Columbus, Georgia.

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 are deep into the planning stages for our 2023 Reunion.

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".

Those members planning on attending the 2023 Reunion are requested to submit their Registration Forms and fees to Association President Guy Posey, 419 S. Appleway, Glencoe, Oklahoma 74032.

## 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. Be sure that you inform the Reservations Operator that you will be attending the USS Oz-bourn Association Reunion. Those wishing to make reservations on-line may email me, Jeff Parker, LJPARKER1@COX.NET and I will forward you the information.**

**SEE PAGE-5 FOR REUNION REGISTRATION INFORMATION**

## 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: 909-910-9644  
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 2023** issue is **June 15, 2023**. 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

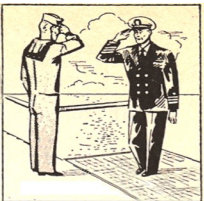
The following letters and emails were received by your Association Officers during the last quarter.

### DECEASED SHIPMATE'S FAMILY SEEKING HELP

We have received an email from Denise Groll, Sister-in-Law of Shipmate Robert A. Carlson, SN, (67-68), requesting assistance to re-open a VA DIC Claim on behalf of Carlson's widow. According to Denise, Carlson, also known as "Bugsy" or "Bob", joined the ship in Yokosuka Japan. While attached to the Ozbourn, Carlson served in Vietnam where the ship conducted Sea Dragon and Yankee Station operations around December 1967-June 1968. Since Carlson passed away in August 1992 in his 30's, after suffering from several illnesses, believed to be related to his military service. Since then, Denise has encouraged her Sister to re-open a denied claim after the Blue Water Navy presumption and service connection for hypertension. According received multiple Air-gun injections, and a tattoo, that required medical treatment. Carlson was treated in Subic Bay at one time; however, those records were unavailable, possibly destroyed in an earthquake. Carlson was also treated on the ship for injuries sustained when the Ozbourn received direct hits from an enemy shore battery.

The Carlson Family is requesting any information related to Shipmate Carlson's injuries and subsequent treatment both on the ship and in Subic Bay to contact them.

*(Editors Note: As your Editor, I have reached out to the Carlson Family for permission to utilize their email address so fellow shipmates with any information that would assist them with their VA Claim could reach out to them. To date, I have yet to receive that authorization. Therefore, if any shipmate believes they have information, please contact me, Jeff Parker at email: Ljparker1@cox.net. I will then pass that info onto the Carlson's. As soon as I receive permission to print the Carlson's email address I shall do so in future "Fireball" Newsletters)*



## WELCOME ABOARD

*The Association wishes to welcome our newest member.*

**DONALD "SMITTY" SMITH, BT3, (70-73)**



## 2023 ASSOCIATION DUES

We wish to thank the many members that have submitted their 2023 Association Dues.

All members are respectfully reminded that the 2023 Association Dues of \$15.00 per year are due in January 2023. Please be sure to submit your dues to in a timely manner. Only those members that are current with their dues will receive the most up to date "Fireball" Newsletters. You may pay for multiple years if you wish. The year with which a member's dues expire is listed adjacent to their name on the address label of each "Fireball".

Members can forward their checks to Association Treasurer Mike Ward, 3836 County Road W40, Decorah, Iowa 52101.



## TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

**"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"**

**ELDON W. RILEY, RD2, (53-56)**

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

## **2023 REUNION SCHEDULE and TOUR DESCRIPTIONS**

### **Wednesday, October 4, 2023**

**Reunion Check-in** 3:00pm — 10:00pm, The Hospitality Room will be open for Reunion Check-in as well as meeting friends and enjoying a beverage and snacks. (Dinner on your own)

### **Thursday, October 5, 2023**

Our motor coach will transport us to the infamous **Andersonville Historical Civil War Prison**.

After our visit to Andersonville we will enjoy a buffet lunch at **Yoder's Restaurant**.

After lunch, we will make our way to the **Westville Historic Village**.

We will then return to our hotel and enjoy gathering at the Hospitality Room. (Dinner on your own)

### **Friday, October 6, 2023**

Our motor coach will transport us to the **National Civil War Naval Museum** where will experience Civil War cannon fire.

After enjoying a box lunch, we will move on to the **National Infantry Museum at Fort Benning**, a very moving experience.

We will then return to our hotel to enjoy snacks and beverages in the Hospitality Room. (Dinner on your own)

### **Saturday, October 7, 2023**

#### **ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING**

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

#### **Roosevelt's Little White House and Peachtree Mall**

Upon conclusion of the Business Meeting, our motor coach will transport us to **President Franklin D. Roosevelt's Little White House**, a National Historical Landmark built by the former President in 1932 while serving as Governor of New York.

We will then proceed to the **Peachtree Mall** for shopping and lunch on your own.

Upon returning to our hotel, enjoy the Hospitality Room or a short nap before our Reunion Banquet. )

### **Saturday, October 7, 2023**

#### **REUNION BANQUET**

We will gather at the Double Tree Hotel for our Reunion Banquet and Entertainment, Cash Bar. (The Hospitality Room will be closed during the banquet)

**(5:00pm, Social Hour, 6:00pm Dinner, followed by Entertainment)**

### **Sunday, October 8, 2023**

The Hospitality Room will close a **8:00am**. Farewell until 2025.

**\*ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE\***

## USS OZBOURN REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all Registration, Tour and Banquet costs for our 2023 Reunion of the USS Ozbourn 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.

<u>TOUR AND BANQUET CHOICES</u>	<u>Price Each</u>	<u>#Of People</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
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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	_____	_____
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with Garlic Mashed Potatoes topped and Rosemary Demi

Grilled Scottish Salmon	\$38.00	_____	_____
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with roasted vegetable orzo in white wine & lemon butter

Grilled Chicken Breast	\$32.00	_____	_____
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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 Ozbourn \_\_\_\_\_ If Ret, Last Rate/Rank \_\_\_\_\_

Spouse Name (If Attending) \_\_\_\_\_ Guest's Name \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_ Tel # \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

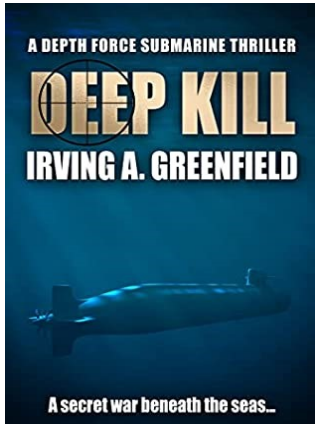
City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

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.**





## **RECOMMENDED READING**

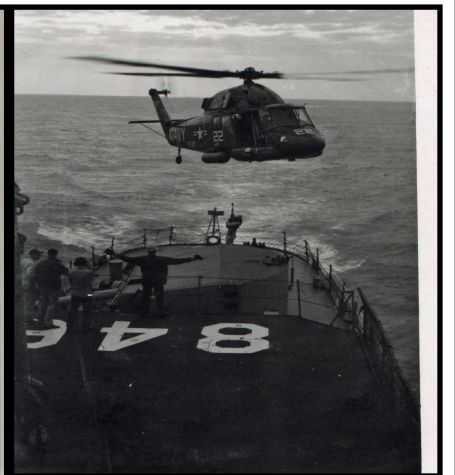
*Submitted by Reed Jones, Ltjg, ((65-67) and Marty Zipser, (48-49)*

As you all know, periodically a book or publication is brought to the attention of the Association by a fellow shipmate that recommends it as a good read.

Once again, Shipmate Marty Zipser wished to highlight a great read. This is the case of "Deep Kill" number six of an eight volume set known as the "Depth Force" written by Irving Greenfield. Marty has read several of the set that would certainly be of interest to all submarine enthusiasts.

## **"FILLER UP PLEASE--DON'T FORGET THE MAIL"**

As every shipmate will remember the multiple Vertical and Underway Replenishments that the entire ship's company was involved with. No matter if it meant carrying case after case of food, pulling a line across attached to a fuel hose or lugging 5-inch shells from the ASROC Deck, all extremely critical for the operation of the ship. However, one would always put a big smile on everyone's face, seeing orange bags containing mail being lowered onto the fantail by helo.





## MILITARY BEST-USS OZBOURN DD846



As many members will recall, several months ago, after serving in many capacities within the Association, not only as a past President but also as the latest Proprietor of the Ships Store, Rudy Boff has hung up his spurs and is now retired. The Ships Store is CLOSED.

As promised, our Association President Guy Posey has reached out to various venues with which our members, family and friends can still find those ever important products related to the USS Ozbourn DD846.

Guy has successfully contacted Bob & Lisa Freeman of **MILITARY BEST** that can be counted on to provide products related to the Ozbourn such as caps, shirts, jackets etc. Military Best is offering a 10% Discount on all purchases. When making your orders, reference Coupon Code oz10.

Those shipmates, family members and friends interested in ordering products can locate the Military Best website at [www.MilitaryBest.com](http://www.MilitaryBest.com).



### SAIPAN & TINIAN, SO CLOSE, BUT NOT TO BE

*Submitted by Jeff Parker, MM3, (70-74)*

As many members will recall, as your "Fireball" Editor, I have published photographs in past newsletters of the final resting place of Private Joseph Ozbourn, USMC, located in the National Cemetery of the Pacific on O'ahu in the Hawaiian Islands. I have visited the site on many occasions while in Hawaii.

Recently, I had an opportunity to sail from San Diego on a trans-Pacific voyage to Yokohama Japan. The true highlights included stop overs in Hawaii, along with the Northern Mariana Islands that included Guam and Saipan, en route to Japan. I was especially excited to visit Saipan as I had never been there before. I had made arrangements to take the short ferry ride to Tinian to view the area that Private Ozbourn was killed. However, as we laid off of the very narrow harbor entrance to Saipan, Mother Nature had other plans and the Captain of the vessel advised that the wind and current was much too strong for a port visit.

Although disappointed, clearly, my visit to Tinian was not to be.

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 22 or 23. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 22 means 2022, 23 means 2023, 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

