

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 32, No. 1
WINTER 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



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. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all of you.

As you know, you may start making reservations at the Double Tree Hotel in Columbus, Georgia for our upcoming 2023 Reunion.

All those planning on attending the reunion may send their Registration Forms to me at 419 S. Appleway, Glencoe, Oklahoma 74032.

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

Guy Posey, President

2023 REUNION, COLUMBUS, GEORGIA

October 4, 2023-October 8, 2023



2023 Biennial Reunion Update

Jeff Parker, Editor

As we are less than 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 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".

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

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Past Presidents

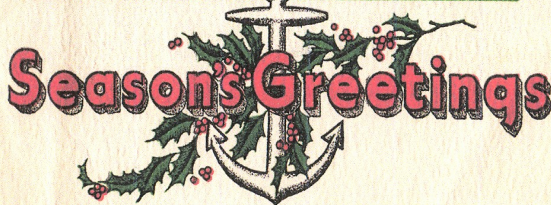
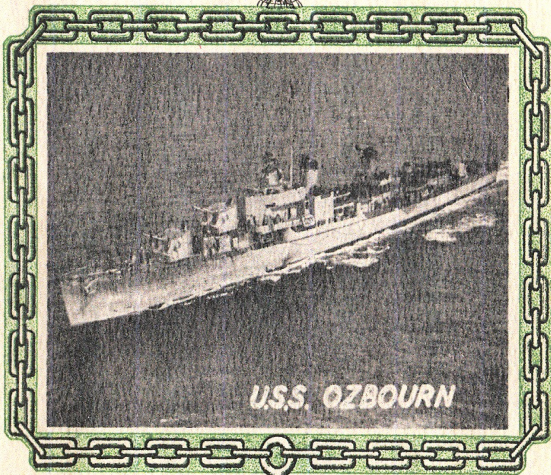
Years served aboard OZ/Assoc. President
Robert Whitten Jr. (50-52) (93-99)
Cupertino, CA
W.D. Minter (52-55) (99-03)
Texarkana, TX
Rudy Boff (52-55) (03-07)
Pittsburgh, PA

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 **Spring 2023** issue is **March 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.

U. S. S. OZBOURN, DD-846

U.S.N



SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA



Christmas Day Dinner - 1947

U. S. S. OZBOURN



CREAM OF TOMATO SOUP	CRISPY CRACKERS	
RIPE OLIVES	SWEET MIXED PICKLES	QUEEN OLIVES
ROAST TEXAS TURKEY		
MUSHROOM DRESSING	GIBLET GRAVY	
CRANBERRY SAUCE		
BUTTERED PEAS	BEETS PIQUANTE	
CANDIED YAMS	SNOWFLAKED POTATOES	
HOT PARKER HOUSE ROLLS	BUTTER	
MINCE PIE	PUMPKIN PIE	
FRUIT CAKE	ICE CREAM	
BANANAS	ORANGES	APPLES
ASSORTED CANDIES	MIXED NUTS	
CIGARS	CIGARETTES	
CAFE NOIRE		



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 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"

As we enter this Holiday Season, one cannot help but remember all those past Shipmates, Family and dear Friends that we have lost over the past year. May God Bless all.

"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 (Includes Box Lunch)	\$30.00	_____	_____
National Infantry Museum	\$20.00	_____	_____

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2023

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

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

Roasted Boneless Pork Chop with Garlic Mashed Potatoes topped and Rosemary Demi	\$32.00	_____	_____
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Grilled Scottish Salmon with roasted vegetable orzo in white wine & lemon butter	\$38.00	_____	_____
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Grilled Chicken Breast with cream of spinach and Parmesan creamy potatoes	\$32.00	_____	_____
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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.

REMEMBERING COLLISION

Submitted by Jim Machocky-Adair, SOG2, (60-61)

I was aboard the "OZ" when we collided with the USS Hornet, while refueling off San Diego in the Fall of 1960. We had lost the load on the port screw and were pushed into the starboard side of the Hornet. I was down in Sonar sitting with my back to the port side bulkhead when we collided and the bulkhead just bent in and then out behind my back. I was pretty scared at the time.



WHAT SOME WILL DO JUST FOR A HOT SHOWER

Submitted by Jerry McKee

I recall the helo incident in May 1968, off of the coast of Vietnam. Word came down from the bridge of an inbound helo; however, the purpose was unknown. The crew set up for a helo transfer but to their surprise a Huey came in and landed on the DASH Deck causing everyone to scatter. The pilot jumped out with a towel and asked where the showers were. There was no one else on the Huey.

Captain Denham wrote a letter to higher command and requested our own Huey. The request was denied.



MUSICAL AMBASSADORS OF GOOD WILL



Musical Ambassadors of Good Will are these three U.S. Navy Destroyermen all of the USS Ozbourn.

When the Ozbourn visited Brisbane, Australia, they returned the tremendous welcome given by the “Diggers”.

Once was when they entertained visitors to the ship with afternoon concerts of swing and country music on the fantail.

Les Andrews, General manager 4KQ Radio heard of them and invited the three to appear on the nationwide hour long “South Coast Calling” program.

Fireman Gaylon Jacobs, Gunners Mate 3rd Class Jay Farlow and Seaman Lyle Harnden did six numbers on the program and were such a success that the audience refused to leave when the program ended, so they sang and played for another 35-minutes on tape for a broadcast to the ship at sea later. While steaming for Guadalcanal they were able to tune in to the farewell transmission. *(Editors Note: I unfortunately was unable to identify the source of the aforementioned press release and photo published by an unknown agency in Australia.)*

FARLOW REVISITS AUSTRALIAN PERFORMANCE 58 YEARS AGO

When 82-year-old Jay Farlow wished his wife of 56 years happy anniversary on the radio, he wasn't speaking on a local station. He was on 4KQ Radio in Brisbane, Australia, a station he and his band had wowed a live audience 58 years ago.

The call transported Farlow back to the time when he was serving as a Gunners Mate on the USS Ozbourn in Japanese waters.

In the afternoon, he and his band, “The High Seas”, entertained visitors with swing and country music on the ship's fantail.

The 4KQ Radio General Manager in Brisbane heard about the band and invited the three sailors to perform live on an hour-long program called “South Coast Calling”.

After hearing the group perform six numbers on the program, the audience refused to leave, so Farlow and band members Gayton Jacobs and Lyle Harnden sang and performed Elvis Presley hits and country songs for another 35 minutes. The day the group left Brisbane, the radio station recorded another 20 minutes on tape for broadcast to U.S. ships at sea later.

All Navy Magazine picked up the story and it went all over the world, according to Farlow.

Fifty-eight years later, close to his wedding anniversary, Farlow was looking through a log book and came across the photos and the original press release from the performance. He decided to write the station and send copies of those items to it. He even found the station on the Internet and listened to its broadcast.

On March 22, two of the station's DJs interviewed him live on the radio, speaking with him, his wife, Charlotte, and grandson, Lance. The DJs were thrilled to talk with Farlow and tell his story of that performance so long ago. *(Editors Note: The aforementioned article, written by Karen Murphy, appeared in the Thomasville, Georgia Times Enterprise on March 30, 2016.)*

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

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

