

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 32, No. 2
Spring 2024



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

FROM THE BRIDGE

Greetings to All Shipmates, Families and Friends

Hoping this note finds you all doing well.



Due to the decline in our membership, we have made a decision to combine our reunions with the Tin Can Sailors Association. This will ensure that we are able to maintain our Association for the foreseeable future.

Tin Can Sailors has scheduled their next reunion for September 8-12, 2024, in New Orleans, Louisiana. The Jung Hotel will be the host hotel. We of course will strive to have our own Hospitality Room. Please mark your calendars and plan on attending. Watch for additional information in the Spring Edition of the "Fireball".

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

TIN CAN SAILORS ASSOCIATION

The Tin Can Sailors Association was founded in 1976. The mission of Tin Can Sailors is threefold:

1. To educate and broaden the public's understanding of the contribution made by destroyers and those who served aboard them and to promote and to preserve destroyer history.
2. To support today's destroyer Navy and to encourage understanding of its importance and mission
3. To promote camaraderie among our members through many events, our magazine, library, website, social media and by facilitating reunions of former shipmates



(Editors Note: The Tin Can Sailors Association website is destroyers.org)

2024 Reunion Committee

Jeff Parker, Editor

As noted in Association President Guy Posey's Letter From the Bridge on page-1, due to the low number of registrations necessitated the cancellation of our 2023 Reunion. Therefore, the USS Ozbourn DD846 Association will be joining the Tin Can Sailors Association Reunion to be held in New Orleans, September 8-12, 2024. Although the primary planning of the 2024 Reunions will be handled by the Tin Can Sailors Association, we will still retain our Associations Reunion Committee for the purposes of seeking an independent Hospitality Room and coordinating with the Tin Can Sailors Association.

Our Reunion Committee, **Guy Posey, President, Harold McKeehan, Vice President, and Mike Ward, Treasurer**, will once again will once again be stepping up to handle the coordination required for a successful 2024 Reunion with the Tin Can Sailors Association. Watch for additional information in future editions of the "Fireball" Newsletter.

ASSOCIATION TREASURERS REPORT

January 10, 2024

As a result of the 2023 Reunion having to be cancelled, hence, no Association Business Meeting taking place, the Association's Elected Officers believed it to be prudent to have Mike Ward, Treasurer, prepare a report describing the fiscal health of the Association. The following information, although fluid due to members submitting their Annual Dues, reflects the fiscal status of the Association between October 31, 2021 to December 31, 2023.

On October 31, 2021, the balance of the Associations Account was \$15,688.76, ending with a balance of \$15,016.49 on December 31, 2023.

During this period, the following expenses were incurred by the Association.

Earthlink Internet \$999.45

Ships Store \$221.95 for postage

"Fireball" Newsletter \$1140.00

Expenses for the 2023 Reunion \$982.78, travel, lodging meals, etc.

Donations to Tin Can Sailors, DAV and Wounded Warrior Project totaled \$1,000.00

Additional expenditures for non-refundable deposits related to the cancelled 2023 Reunion included \$1,013.25

Association Officers

President

Guy Posey (69-71)
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Vice President

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Recording Secretary

Kenneth E. Keene (71-74)
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Salisbury, NC 28147-1352
Tel: 704-380-5756
Email: kekeene51@aol.com **(NEW)**

Treasurer and Historian

Mike Ward (72-75)
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Fireball Editor

Jeff Parker (70-74)
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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 **Summer 2024** 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

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

NEW EMAIL ADDRESS

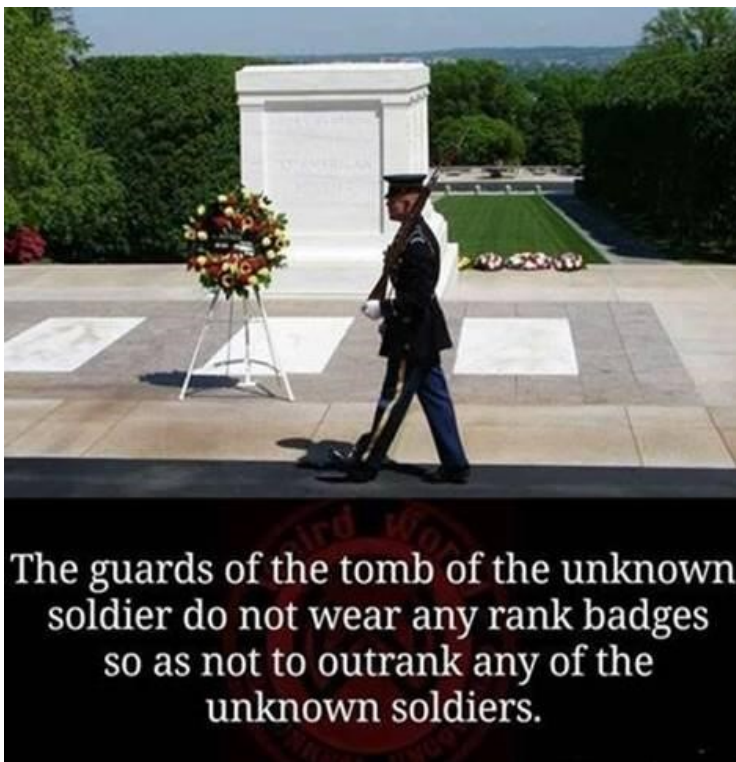
Please note that Association Secretary Ken Keene's email address has changed. Ken's New Email Address is **kekeene51@aol.com**

SHIPMATE MOVIE RECOMMENDATION

Submitted by Reed Jones, Ltjg, (65-67)



Another great recommendation by Shipmate Reed Jones. This tense motion picture captures life aboard a Guided Missile Destroyer during the height of the Cold War. As this motion picture was filmed in the United Kingdom, one will note that a portion of the movie shows an unidentified ship of the Royal Navy being depicted as a U.S. Navy DDG. *(Editors Note: I suppose only those of us serving in the U.S. Navy would notice such an error. However, this motion picture, starring Richard Widmark, Sydney Poitier and James Macarthur, is "highly" recommended)*



The guards of the tomb of the unknown soldier do not wear any rank badges so as not to outrank any of the unknown soldiers.



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

RICH VLASAK, Ltjg, (67-68)

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

OZBOURN ENGINEERS-1970

USS OZBOURN DD846

(all that would fit on one page)



Lt. Peter F. Scardigno



MMCM Philip Morris Roberts



David "Dave" Cleveland



Robert "Bob" Comella



Harold "Mack" P. McKeeahn



Jeffrey "Jeff" Wayne Parker



Jeffrey "Jeff" N. Stout



Larry "Norm" J. Greenfelder



James W. Gibson



Eugene J. Staley, Jr.



James "Trip" R. Triplett



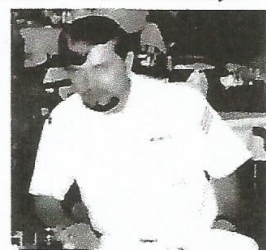
Guy Thomas Posey



Michael T. Cooper



Ronald "Ronnie" S. Quarles



Dave D. "Sed" Sedlacek



Bill "Tu To" Thomas



Daniel "Dan" Eric Brock



Patrick M. "Sully" Sullivan



Steve Morrow



William "Bill" Linton



John J. Delio



Jimmy Wayne Curry



Ed Domoracki



James Mettze Crabbe



John Guerrero

USS OZBOURN DD846, 1947 MEMORIES

Photographs Courtesy of Lois Bell



USS Ozbourn DD846 & USS Wiltsie DD716, Shanghai, China



Paul Logan, FN. (46-47) and
Charles Bell, SN. (46-48)



Photo taken by Charles Bell of three Shipmates Reed,
LaFond & Broaderick enjoying Liberty in San Diego, 1947.



Charles Bell, SN. (46-48), with
OZ Mascot "SPARKIE"

USS OZBOURN DD846 ARCHIVES



'HE'S MY POP!'—With both hands filled with souvenirs from Japan, Quartermaster Lester F. Peich, Torrey Pines Homes, carries son Leroy, 2, piggyback after he arrived home here aboard the USS Ozbourn. (Story on Page a-2.)—Tribune Staff Photo

D 846

SAN DIEGO TRIBUNE
1957



Chief Quatermaster (Ret). Lester Peich

Those Shipmates who attended our 2013 Reunion in San Diego, California, will certainly remember the surprise visit by ex-Ozbourn Sailor, CPO Lester Peich, a long time resident of San Diego. Although Chief Peich could only stay for a short time, he informed us he was en route to work at the San Diego Police Department, it was truly a great honor to meet him at 95 years of age.

(Editors Note: The photograph of Chief Peich and his Son Leroy, published in the San Diego Tribune in 1951, clearly shows the number of the chief's hash marks. Already a U.S. Navy Veteran of at least 16-years in 1951.





Since the closure of our Ship Store, **MILITARYBEST.COM**, has become a trusted source that can be counted on to provide products related to the Ozbourn such as ball caps, shirts, jackets and a number of items that would be of interest to all shipmates and their families.

“MISSING MAN TABLE”

Although the 2023 Reunion was cancelled, it is still imperative that we recognize those Shipmates who are no longer with us. Our Association is the true benefactor in having long time Shipmate and “Fireball” Contributor Richard Johnson, RD2, (61-64), establishing the tradition of the “Missing Man Table” at each of our reunions.



******* IMPORTANT AGENT ORANGE INFORMATION *******

Veterans Affairs “Agent Orange Newsletter”

Submitted by Ken Keene, EN2, (70-74)

The Association has been notified by Ken Keene, Association Secretary, that he has received a copy of the VA’s “Agent Orange Newsletter. Ken has been instrumental over these many years in keeping all shipmates informed regarding who qualifies for VA Benefits/Medical for any exposure to Agent Orange

As the newsletter is quite lengthy, Ken provided the website so we may all be able to review it.

The web address is **<http://www.publichealth.va.gov/exposures/agentorange/publications/index.asp>**

Once you reach the website select **Publications & Reports on Agent Orange**, then; **Latest Issue (2023)**

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

