

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 35, No. 1
Winter 2025



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.

Our 2025 Reunion is fast approaching. As one can imagine, we must start letting our host hotel and the various tour operators to know 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.

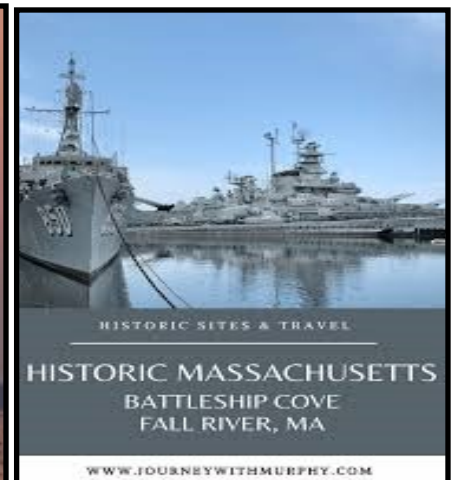
Those in attendance will truly enjoy fellowship with our shipmates and families. Please send your registrations in as soon as possible. Send all Registration Forms to; **Guy Posey, 419 S. Appleway, Glencoe, OK 74032.**

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

Guy Posey, President
USS Ozbourn Association

2025 REUNION, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

September 10-13, 2025



2025 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 2025 Reunion being held this September in Warwick, Rhode Island.

After doing a great job on the 2015, 2017, 2019 & 2021 Reunions, **Guy Posey, President, Harold "Mac" McKeehan, V.P., Mike Ward, Treasurer**, have once again stepped up to the plate and are deep into the planning stages for our 2025 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.

It is with great pleasure that they have announced that **Warwick, Rhode Island**, has been selected as the site for the 2025 Reunion to be held commencing with Check-in at the Hospitality Suite on Wednesday, September 10, 2025 and closing on Sunday, September 14, 2025.

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 2025 Reunion are requested to submit their Registration Forms and fees to Association President Guy Posey, 419 S. Appleway, Glencoe, Oklahoma 74032.

2025 REUNION HOST HOTEL



The Crown Plaza Hotel, Warwick, Rhode Island, has been selected as the Host Hotel for our 2025 Reunion. The hotel is located at 801 Greenwich Avenue, Warwick, Rhode Island, (401) 732-6000. The Reunion Committee has obtained a room rate of \$149.00 + 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. The nightly rate includes Daily Breakfast, Complimentary Airport Shuttle, (PVD) and Free Parking. **Those wishing to make reservations must call the hotel directly at (401) 732-6000. Be sure that you inform the Reservations Operator that you will be attending the USS Oz-bourn Association Reunion.**

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 2025** issue is **March 15, 2025**. 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.

SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER

As your "Fireball" Editor, I sometimes find myself in a position of great honor when I am contacted by many of our former shipmates. On 16 October 2024, I was on the receiving end of the privilege to speak telephonically with **NORMAN UHLIR**. As you can imagine, I find it one of the perks of my humble position to correspond with all members of the Association and their Families. Clearly, I believe you will also find this particular call very special.

As many of us with today's technology, cell phones, emails and more, my cell phone rings multiple times a day, most calls being telemarketers that of course never leave a message. However, on this day it was to be different, a message was left on my phone from **Norman Uhlir**. Although it was difficult to understand Norman's message, I was able to discern that he had served aboard the "OZ". I of course immediately set out to identify Norman through our Association Roster, locating an up to date telephone number. I of course contacted Norman and here is the special part. It turned out that Norman reported aboard the Ozbourn when it was still at the Bath Iron Works being readied for Sea Trials. Norman informed me that he had actually helped carry the radar equipment onto the ship and assisted in its installation in CIC.

During our conversation, Norman was very excited and proud to be a member of the USS Ozbourn DD846 Association. At the age of 97, Norman relayed to me that he was very proud of the years he had served on the "OZ", 1945-1946. He was also very proud of being a Captain for the Sonoma, Arizona Volunteer Fire Department.

I was truly honored to speak with Norman and he informed me that he could hardly wait for the next edition of the "Fireball".

FLYING TO THE 2025 REUNION

The following information is to assist those flying to the 2025 Reunion

The closest airport to Warwick, RI, is Rhode Island T.F. Green International Airport, (PVD), located a short distance from the Host Hotel, in Providence, Rhode Island

All members are reminded that the Crown Plaza Hotel Warwick, provides a complementary shuttle from PVD to the hotel.

2025 ASSOCIATION DUES

We wish to thank the many members that have submitted their 2025 Association Dues.

All members are respectfully reminded that the 2025 Association Dues of \$15.00 per year are due in January 2025. 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".



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

BILL THOMAS, MM3, (69-73)

WILLIAM L. CRAYTON, SK2, (71-75)

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

2025 REUNION SCHEDULE and TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday, September 10, 2025

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, September 11, 2025

Our motor coach will transport us to Battle Ship Cove, Fall River, MA. You may tour the USS Kennedy, USS Massachusetts, PT-617, PT-796, with the Memorial Service and a Buffet Lunch on board

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

Friday, September 12, 2025

Our motor coach will transport us to North Kingston, Rhode Island, where we will board a boat for the scenic tour of 10 lighthouses, and beautiful scenic shoreline. We will then enjoy dinner at the Quonset O Club. Dinner will include a choice of New England Baked Scrod, Breaded Chicken Cutlet with lemon sauce, garlic roasted potatoes, sauteed green beans, butter & rolls and a fudge brownie with ice cream.

We will then return to our hotel to enjoy snacks and beverages in the Hospitality Room.

Saturday, September 13, 2025

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

The Business Meeting will be held at the Crown Plaza Hotel at **8:30am**.

USS Constitution Tour

Upon conclusion of the Business Meeting, our motor coach will transport us to the USS Constitution, the oldest commissioned ship in the U.S. Navy, for a tour and museum. **(PHOTO I.D. WILL BE REQUIRED.)**

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

Saturday, September 13, 2025

REUNION BANQUET

We will gather at the Crown Plaza 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, September 14, 2025

The Hospitality Room will close a **8:00am**. Farewell until 2027.

ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

USS OZBOURN REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all Registration, Tour and Banquet costs for our 2025 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** August 1, 2025. 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, SEPTEMBER 11, 2025

Battleship Cove, Tour, Memorial Service

Including Lunch	\$67.25	_____	_____
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FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 2025

10 Lighthouse Tour and Dinner at

Quonset O Club	\$75.00	_____	_____
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SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025

USS Constitution Tour	\$35.00	_____	_____
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(Lunch on your own)

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2025 REUNION BANQUET (Please select your Entrée below) Cash Bar

CHICKEN

Sauteed Chicken Breast Saltimbocca	\$45.00	_____	_____
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Prosciutto & Swiss cheese, -or-

Boneless Chicken Breast with and Apple	\$45.00	_____	_____
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Stuffing

FISH

Baked New England Scrod,	\$45.00	_____	_____
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lemon herb butter

BEEF

Petite Sirloin with Roasted Shallot	\$54.00	_____	_____
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Burgundy Demi Glaze

VEGETARIAN

Mushroom Ravioli	\$45.00	_____	_____
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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 Crown Plaza Hotel Yes _____ No _____ Arrival Date _____

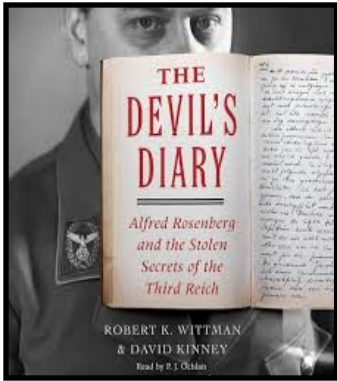
YOU MUST MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS BY CONTACTING THE CROWN PLAZA HOTEL, WARWICK at (401) 732-6000. Be sure to tell the operator you are attending the OZBOURN Reunion.

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 "The Devils Diary Alfred Rosenberg and the Stolen Secrets of the Third Reich" written by Robert K. Whitman & David Kinney. *(Editors Note: Marty continues to be an avid reader and our Association is grateful for his fantastic recommendations.)*



"ZUMWALT CLASS -VS- GEARING CLASS"

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



USS ZUMWALT DDG-1000



USS OZBOURN DD-846



An excellent perspective of the size comparisons between the USS Ozbourn DD846 and the USS Kittyhawk CV63, being refueled by an unidentified Fleet Oiler AO.

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.

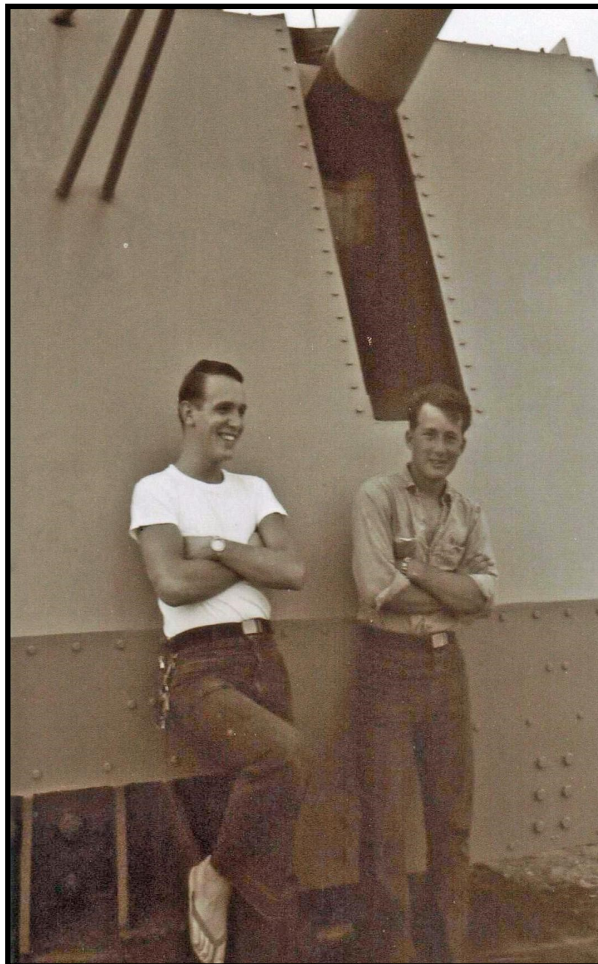
Those shipmates, family members and friends interested in ordering products can locate the Military Best website at www.MilitaryBest.com.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

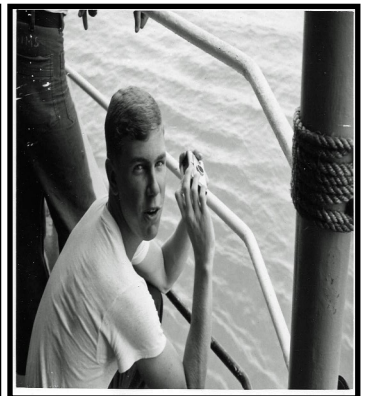
Submitted by Jerry McKee, YN2, (66-69)



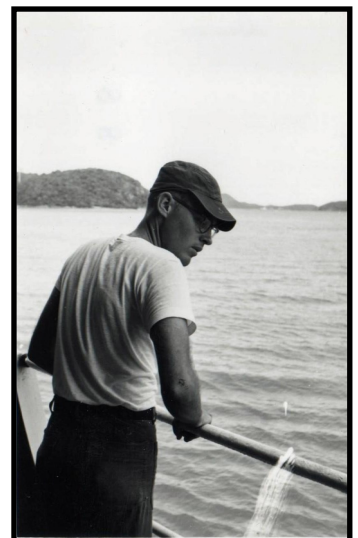
Proud Shipmate and Ozbourn Sailor **Jerry McKee, YN2, (66-69)**, never without his Ozbourn Baseball Cap, as he continues to sail the seas on luxury cruise ships.



SN RICHARD STERLING & SN MIKE BROWN



RICHARD KRAFT, YN3



SN WILLIAM SIMS

Jeffrey Parker
1036 Calle Venezia
San Clemente, CA 92672



Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourn
USMC
Congressional Medal of Honor

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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 23 or 24. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 23 means 2023, 24 means 2024, 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 YOUR 2025 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.

SHIP AWARDS RECEIVED BY THE USS OZBOURN

- Combat Action Ribbon
- Navy Unit Commendation
- Meritorious Service Medal
- China Service Medal
- World War II Victory Medal
- Navy Occupation Service Medal w/ Asia Clasp
- National Defense Service Medal w/ bronze Star
- Korean Service Medal w/5 Bronze Stars
- Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal w/2 Bronze Stars
- Vietnam Service Medal w/2 Silver Stars
- Republic of Vietnam Meritorious Unit Citation (Gallantry Cross Color with Palm)

