

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 36, No. 2
Spring 2026



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

Hope all are well and doing great.

Soon we will start making our plans for our 2027 Reunion. As you are all aware, our reunions are held every two years. When planning future reunions, we alternate between the West, Middle & Eastern side of our great United States. As the 2023 Reunion was held in Colorado Springs, Colorado, and the 2025 Reunion being held in Warwick, Rhode Island, our 2027 Reunion will be scheduled somewhere out West. The very first reunion of the USS Ozbourn DD846 Association was held in Reno, Nevada, in May, 1993. The Reunion Committee is considering a return to Reno for our 2027. If anyone has any suggestions, please do not hesitate to email me,

gtp68483@gmail.com

PLEASE NOTE MY NEW HOME ADDRESS:

Guy Posey, President

890589 S. 3550 Road, Stroud, OK 74079

USS Ozbourn Association

2025 REUNION MEMORIAL SERVICE, USS MASSACHUSETTS BB-59



PAT BARNES— MEMORIAL WREATH--RUDY BOFF



PRESIDENT GUY POSEY & RICHARD JOHNSON

2027 Biennial Reunion

Jeff Parker, Editor

Although our 2027 Reunion is less than two years away, a great deal of planning is required to set up a successful reunion. As we all know, that time seems to speed by and research will begin very shortly by our 2027 Reunion Committee as to location, dates, etc.

After doing a great job on the 2015, 2017, 2019, 2021 & 2025 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 2027 Reunion.

Our Reunion Committee will be exploring various options related to the 2027 Reunion. As it stands "currently", if our 2027 Reunion is indeed hosted by us, the USS Ozbourn Association, most likely it would be held in the Western Part of our great Country. However, it should be noted that a great deal of research will now be taken on by our 2027 Reunion Committee. *Note: Please watch for updates regarding the 2027 Reunion in future editions of the "Fireball"*



2026 ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

All members are reminded that our 2026 Annual Dues of \$15.00 per year are due in January 2026. Many members pay for several years in advance. If you are unsure if you currently owe dues for 2026, review the date on your "Fireball" mailing label. The year that you are paid is listed on the label.

Dues paying members will receive the quarterly "Fireball" Newsletter.

Those owing dues for 2026, may send their payment to **Association Treasurer Mike Ward, 3836 County Road W40, Decorah, Iowa 52101**. (*Note: Make Checks out to the USS Ozbourn Association*)

Please remember to forward any address changes to **Recording -Corresponding Secretary Ken Keene, 504 Swaim Court, Salisbury, NC 28147-1352**. Email: kekeene51@aol.com

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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 2026** issue is **June 15, 2026**. 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.

NATIONAL CEMETARY OF THE PACIFIC "PUNCH BOWL" MARCH, 2026 Private Joseph W. Ozbourn, USMC, Section "F", Site "77"



While visiting Hawaii, Association President Guy Posey and Sallae Posey visited Pvt. Joseph W Ozbourn's final resting place.



RICHARD JOHNSON—PAT BARNES—GUY POSEY



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

RICHARD LANGE, LT, (65-67)

TOM DABNER, BT1, (54-57)

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

SHIPMATES COMPLETES PROJECT

Submitted by Shipmates Gene Stagner, LtJg, (66-69) & Reed Jones, LtJg, (65-67)

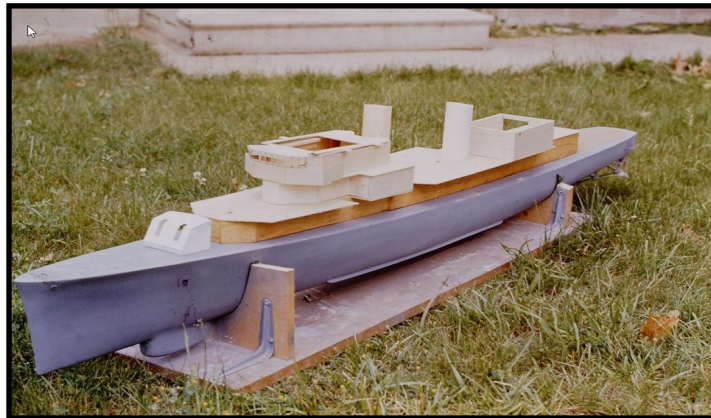
The USS Ozbourn DD846 Association is extremely proud of Shipmate Gene Stagner for his many years of dedication to honor the USS Ozbourn DD846, by completing not one, but two incredible models.

In a recent communication from Gene to Reed Jones, a longtime “Fireball” Contributor, Gene described his passion of building the models of our “OZ” for all to appreciate.

The following description provided by Gene, provides a glimpse into the process of building the models over several years.

Gene stated that he started a radio control model of the OZ in the mid-1970s, when he resided in Michigan. The model was about six feet in length.

When Gene moved from Michigan in 1981 and the model travelled with him. At that time as a result of work and a busy home life, the model, had not been completed as evidenced by the attached photograph.



According to Gene, the incomplete model, packed in its own wooden coffin, traveled with him in four cross country moves.

In 2012, Gene finally shipped the unfinished model to Association President Guy Posey in Oklahoma. Guy then forwarded the model to Norm Seidel, LtJg, (63-65), in North Carolina. Before Norm passed away, he sent it on to Charles Lamm.

Charles, a known model builder. According to Gene, he had been watching Charles who took on the project and completed the powered model. Gene was invited to watch the powered model of the USS Ozbourn DD846, running on a pond in Rocky Mount. (See Photos on Page-5)

Gene stated that Charles did a great job who told him that he was going to write an article about building it for a model building magazine. Charles will also be seeking a permanent location for the model in a year or so. Charles will be displaying the model during an event being held on the USS North Carolina in Wilmington later this year or next.

Given the failure to complete the model described above, Gene was actually able to complete two smaller versions of the “OZ”. Gene had purchased a smaller one as a kit during COVID.

Gene reported that when Norm Seidel passed away, he obtained a, unfinished model twice the size that he had started. Both models are now complete and on display in Gene’s home. (See Page-5 for photographs of the two completed models)



Motorized model of the USS Ozbourn DD846, six feet in length, started by Shipmate Gene Stagner, finished by Charles Lamm, underway on a pond in Rocky Mount, North Carolina.



The two completed models of the USS Ozbourn DD846, proudly being displayed in Gene Stagner's home. As Gene had indicated, the larger of the two was started by Norm Seidel; however, Norm had not yet completed it when he passed away. Gene completed both models.

(Editors Note: The entire Association is grateful to Gene, Norm and Charles Lamm for their dedication in honoring our great ship. I will continue to follow up with Gene as it relates to any future article written by Charles Lamm.)



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

HAPPY HONEYMOON BY SHIPMATE MARVIN BLUTO, BM3. (70-72)

western union		Telegram
212A CST <u>APR 11 72</u> KAO40 SSD022		
K CCBO15 (AT 102CC230015) PD IPMJANA NYK	0257A EST04/11/72	
LCZC048 M SYA365 GOVT PD PLATTSBURGH AFB APR 5 1105A EST		
TOMBM3 MARVIN R BLUTO		
BOX 56 ST ALBANS BAY VT		
BT		
UNCLAS		
YOUR LEAVE CANCELLED. RETURN IMMEDIATELY TO USS		
OZBOURN AT LONG BEACH, BUT NOT LATER THAN 0600 MONDAY,		
<u>10 APRIL 1972</u> IF OZBOURN NOT IN PORT, REPORT TO		
COMCRUDESPACREP LONGBEACH		
FM USS OZBOURN		

WENT HOME TO GET MARRIED, WE JUST LEFT V-NAM THE OZ LEFT 0600 10TH APRIL 72. THE TELEGRAM CAME ON APRIL 11-72 THE DAY WE GOT MARRIED. ON THE 12TH OF APRIL, DAY AFTER OUR WEDDING I WAS HEADED FOR THE AIR PORT. FLEW FROM VERMONT TO CALIFORNIA GOT TO THE BASE WHERE THEY PUT ME ON A SHIP TO ALASKA. THERE THEY PUT ME ON A SHIP THAT WAS TO REFUEL THE OZ. WE MET UP WITH THE OZ OUT IN THE OCEAN, WHERE THEY PUT ME IN A METAL CHAIR AND TRANSPORTED ME OVER TO THE OZ. AS SOON AS I WAS ON BOARD THEY TOLD ME TO GET READY FOR CAPTAIN'S MASS. WHERE THEY DOCKED MY PAY FOR 6 MONTHS. THE OZ LEFT LONG BEACH ON THE 10TH OF APRIL I GOT THE TELEGRAM ON THE 11TH THE DAY AFTER THE OZ LEFT. THEN I TRAVELED HALF WAY ACROSS THE WORLD TO CATCH THE OZ. I HAVE BEEN ON THREE TOURS TO V-NAM ON THE OZ. ONE IN 1970 - 1971 - 1972 THE LAST TWO WERE BACK TO BACK WHEN MY LEAVE WAS CANCELLED.

MARVIN BLUTO BM3 (HAWK)

WESPAC 1972, UNREP & VERTREP

Submitted by Shipmate Marvin Bluto, BM3, (70-72)



Marvin Bluto, BM3, Boatswain Mate of the Watch

The "OZ" approaching USS Hancock CV19 & USS Camden AOE2, to take on fuel, stores and ammunition



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 25 or 26. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 25 means 2025, 26 means 2026, 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 2026 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.	Nov1955-September 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 N.D. Nelson, Jr.	July 1964-April 1966
CDR J.G. Denham	April 1966-September 1968
CDR R.L. Stewart	September1968-June 1970
CDRE.W. Numbers	June 1970-December 1971
CDR K.L. Costilow	December 1971-March 1974
CDR F.J. Furtado	March 1974-May 1975

