

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

FIREBALL!

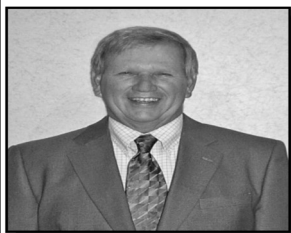
VOLUME 30, No. 3
Summer 2021



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

Our Reunion Committee continues to work very hard to finalize the plans and logistics for our 2021 Reunion this September in Colorado Springs, CO. Our host hotel is fabulous. The food is great and the hotel has an excellent bar and a fantastic staff.

As the USS Oklahoma Association will also be celebrating their reunion at the hotel on the same dates, please ensure that when making your room reservations that you advise the operator that you are with the USS Ozbourn Association. Clearly, there will be a great number of old sailors around. Just think of sea stories that will be told in beautiful Colorado.

Please come and enjoy and renew the old friendships as well as make new ones from so long ago. It is very important that if you are planning on attending the 2021 Reunion that you mail your registrations ASAP so that final numbers may be provided to the vendors.

Looking forward to another great reunion.

Hope all are well and may God Bless you all, our Great Country and all Americans.

Guy Posey, President

IMPORTANT NOTICE



Clearly, our entire Nation and the World have experienced significant changes as of February 2020 when the Covid-19 Pandemic was unleashed on mankind. Many of our shipmates and families have been directly impacted by this terrible virus. It is very important to know that as we begin to see the light at the end of the tunnel that we do not forget about everyone that



has been impacted. One such impact has the potential to cause changes in the various excursions and venues that are planned for our 2021 Reunion. Clearly, all military installations remain shut down and the Reunion Committee requests that if you are attending the reunion, to have patience in the event changes are required to the current schedule. Hope to see you all in September.

2021 Biennial Reunion

"ALL HANDS, NOW HEAR THIS", Colorado Springs, Colorado, has been selected as the Host City for the **2021 Reunion of the USS OZBOURN DD846 Association**. As all hands are already aware, the Association attempts to vary the sites throughout the U.S. so as not to place a burden on those residing around the entire country. As a result of the 2017 Reunion being held in Norfolk, VA, and the 2019 Reunion being held in Portland, Oregon, it was once again time to meet in the Mid-Western part of the country. After surveying several possible Host Cities, **Colorado Springs, Colorado** was ultimately selected.

Clearly, our reunions are a family event and the Association Officers are very grateful for family members that attend and escort those shipmates who may require a little assistance. We are also very pleased with the number of shipmates who are able to attend the reunions.

Our Host Hotel for the 2021 Reunion is the **Hotel Elegante**, 2886 S. Circle Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado. The Reunion Committee worked very hard and has negotiated an excellent daily rate of \$119.00 plus tax, double occupancy, that also includes a daily breakfast for two and complimentary Airport Shuttle. The hotel has also agreed to offer the same rate for three days prior and three days after the reunion for those wishing to arrive early or stay a little longer, based on availability. The hotel can be contacted by dialing **(800) 981-4012**. When making reservations be sure to tell the operator that you are requesting the **USS Ozbourn Reunion Group Rate, Reservation #2721327**. **The cut off date to make hotel reservations is August 30, 2021**. The reunion commences on **Wednesday, September 29, 2021**, with check-in and the Hospitality Room will open at **2:00 pm**. On the final day, **Sunday, October 3, 2021**, Hospitality Room will close at **8:00 am**.

The **2021 Reunion Committee**, **Guy Posey**, **Mike Ward**, and **Harold "Mac" McKeehan**, continue to work very hard to ensure that our 2021 Reunion will be one of the truly great ones. Don't miss out, register early.

PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE REUNION?

DUE TO THE COVID-19 VIRUS SITUATION, IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE REUNION, PLEASE CONTACT GUY POSEY, IF YOU HAVE NOT ALREADY DONE SO.

Although there are still so many unknowns regarding the Covid-19 Pandemic, the Reunion Committee continues to work very hard in planning the 2021 Reunion. Therefore, we are attempting to ascertain the number of members and guests that plan on attending the 2021 Reunion. We of course realize, that due to Covid-19, many of you may wish to forgo travel plans. We also understand that some members who indicate that they plan on attending, may be unable to attend by the time September 2021 arrives. Your safety and health is important to all of us. Please notify **GUY POSEY**, Tel. **(405) 714-3168**, or Email: **gtp68483@gmail.com** or **ppapaguy@aol.com** or forward a quick note to Guy at **419 S. Appleway Lane, Glencoe, OK 74032**.

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: 949-388-3067
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 **Winter 2022** issue is **November 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.

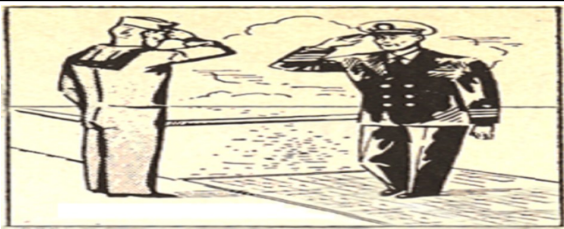
USS OZBOURN SEA TRIALS, EARLY 1946

(Editors Note: Take note of the shipyard workers on the bow and the 5 inch 38 gun mount barrels yet to be installed)



U.S.S. Ozbourn (DD-846) Launched From North Ways on December 22

Super Destroyer Christened by Mrs. Joseph W. Ozbourn, Widow of Marine Corps Hero



WELCOME ABOARD

The Association wishes to Welcome Aboard the following shipmate as our newest member.

MATHEW MILAS, E-5, (68-72)



HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

The Association requests that each member that has had an address change to please notify "Fireball" Editor Jeff Parker, email: Ljparker1@cox.net or by calling (949) 388-3067. In recent months, several "Fireball" Newsletters mailed to members have been returned by the USPS as undeliverable due to unreported address changes.



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER"

CLARENCE G. MURPHY, SN, (46-48)

RONALD H. MUIR, BT3, (70-73)

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

***** **PLEASE NOTE THE SCHEDULE CHANGES** *****

2021 REUNION SCHEDULE and TOUR DESCRIPTIONS

Wednesday, September 29, 2021

Reunion Check-in: 2:00pm—10:00pm, The Hospitality Room will open for Reunion-Check In as well as meeting friends and enjoying a beverage and snacks. (Dinner on your own).

Thursday, September 30, 2021

PETERSON AFB AIR and SPACE MUSEUM

Our motor coach will transport us from the hotel the **Peterson AFB Air and Space Museum**. Enjoy the self guided tour and static displays of military aircraft, before returning to the hotel.

Thursday, September 30, 2021

FLYING W RANCH DINNER and WESTERN SHOW

Our motor coach will transport us from our hotel to the **Flying W Ranch** where we will enjoy dinner and a western style show. (Cash Bar).

Friday, October 1, 2021

TOUR GARDEN OF THE GODS and OLD COLORADO CITY for SHOPPING (Lunch on your own)

Our motor coach will transport us to the Garden of the Gods Visitors Center where we will enjoy a tour as well as exhibits. Don't forget those cameras. We will then travel to Old Colorado City for an afternoon session for shopping and lunch on your own before returning to our hotel. (Dinner on your own.)

Saturday, October 2, 2021

ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING

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

Saturday, October 2, 2021

ROYAL GORGE TRAIN JOURNEY and BOX LUNCH

Our motor coach will transport us to Canon City, Colorado, where we will board the Royal Gorge R.R. for a two hour journey through the Colorado Rockies with a box lunch provided. (Box Lunch will include a ham, turkey, beef or veggie sandwich, fruit cup, cookie and water. Please advise of your choices on the Registration Form, Page-5)

Saturday, October 2, 2021

REUNION BANQUET

We will gather at the Hotel Elegante for our Reunion Banquet that will include entertainment and our guest speaker. (Cash Bar). (Note: The Hospitality Room will be closed during the Banquet).

(5:00pm , Social Hour, 6:00pm Dinner, followed by Entertainment, and Guest Speaker)

Sunday, October 3, 2021

The Hospitality Room will close at **8:00 am**. Farewell until 2023.

ALL TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE

USS OZBOURN REUNION ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below are all registration, tour and banquet costs for the reunion. Please enter the number of persons who will be participating in each event, meal choice and the total cost. Send this form and your **check payable to USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION** to: **Guy Posey, 419 S. Appleway Lane, Glencoe, OK 74032**. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. All registration forms and payment must be received by mail before **August 1, 2021**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form for your records before mailing.

	<u>TOURS and BANQUET CHOICES</u>	<u>Price Each</u>	<u># of People</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
Thursday,	Peterson Air and Space Museum.....	\$20.00	_____	_____
Thursday, PM	Flying W Ranch Dinner & Show.....	\$60.00	_____	_____
Friday,	Tour Garden of the Gods & Old Colorado City..... (Shopping and Lunch on your own)	\$25.00	_____	_____
Saturday,	Royal Gorge Train ride & Box Lunch.....	\$80.00	_____	_____
Saturday,	Banquet (Please select your Entrée Below) Cash Bar			
	#1) Grilled Angus Steak with Peppercorn Relish.....	\$55.00	_____	_____
	#2) Chipolte Lime Chicken w/Blk Bean Roasted Corn Sauce ..	\$55.00	_____	_____
	#3) Vegetarian Plate, either a Pasta Dish w/veggies..... or Veggie Wellington (Hotels Choice depending on Weeks Menu)	\$55.00	_____	_____
	All dinners include Salad, potatoes, Tea & Coffee, and desert.			
	Non-Refundable Registration Fee Per Person.....	\$25.00	_____	_____
	Total Amount Payable to: USS OZBOURN ASSOCIATION	\$	_____	_____

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY, Are You Flying? ☐ Driving? ☐ RV? ☐ **E-MAIL ADDRESS** _____

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Nick Name for Tag _____

Years on Board 19__ to 19__ Last Rate/Rank Held on Ozbourn _____ If Ret. Last Rate/Rank _____

Spouse Name (if attending) _____ Guest Name _____

Street Address _____ Tel No. _____

City, State ,Zip _____

Must you be lifted hydraulically onto the bus while seated in your wheelchair in order to participate in bus trips?
YES _____ No _____ (We cannot guarantee availability)

Emergency Contact _____ Tel No. _____

Are you staying at the Hotel Elegante? Yes _____ No _____ Arrival Date _____

YOU MUST CONTACT THE HOTEL ELGANTE 2886 S. CIRCLE DRIVE, COLORADO SPRINGS, CO, TEL. (800) 981-4012 TO MAKE YOUR ROOM RESERVATIONS. SEE THE HOTEL RESERVATION SHEET ON PAGE-2 FOR DETAILS
REFUNDS FOR TOUR AND BANQUET CANCELLATIONS WILL BE MADE BEFORE AUGUST 15, 2021

NORTH VIETNAMESE ATTACK ON USS OZBOURN DD846

NORTH VIETNAM, 9 MAY 1972

Submitted by Jon Herfindahl, SH3, (70-72)

The events in this article are from my personal memory recounting events from the USS Ozbourne's 1972 West Pac cruise.

On board the USS Ozbourne DD846 the morning of 9 May 1972, in the Gulf of Tonkin just off the coast of North Vietnam, at Haiphong Harbor. We were to be within range of the harbor to support the mining of the entrance to the harbor. The ship was to go to General Quarters (GQ) at 0800, (which was strange to schedule GQ).

My assignment when in GQ was senior messenger on the bridge and I was to stay within earshot of the Captain at all times. This gave me a great vantage point to observe the combat operations on the bridge of a United States Warship, a Gearing Class Destroyer.

Prior to going to GQ, I went up to the Chiefs Quarters with a buddy to get a frozen Milky Way candy bar we had stashed in their private refrigerator freezer. We went up on deck by the bow and we were starting to cut the frozen candy bar in half by using my buck knife and the steel post that was part of the railing/life line. We both commented that it was weird being a few thousand yards off the coast of North Vietnam, like we were just cruising along. As I was raising my fist to hit the back of my Buck knife to split the Milky Way, my buddy, SN James Bender, was holding what would be two halves of the frozen bar on top of the 1 1/2" steel post. As I was taking aim with my knife and hand, we heard the whistle of an incoming projectile. Jim and I locked eyes and the next moment we were wet from the shell just missing the port side of the bow hitting the water and splashing both of us. I slammed my hand down on the back of my knife, grabbed half of the bar from Jim and we both broke into a dead run for our GQ assigned places. As I shot through the hatch of the wave break wall, I saw the next two shells land along the port side of our ship, one at mid ship and at the fan tail. I would say that was the fastest our ship ever got to General Quarters.

Once at my station on the bridge, the intensity of the attack felt like everything all of a sudden was in slow motion. My adrenaline was pumping and I started hearing commands, right full rudder, all ahead full. We were changing course and speed on timed intervals to the second. I walked out on the port lookout off the bridge and watched shells dropping in our wake. The ground attack from the North Vietnam coastal defense was intense. I would see shells dropping in our wake, each one getting closer. The ship would make a hard turn just before the next shell would have hit the aft end of the ship, this happened numerous times. Not once did our 5 inch 38 caliber guns return fire.

The USS Chicago was about 45 miles off the coast and provided support. I heard radio chatter and then watched the Chicago launch 5 to 7 SAMs, (Surface to Air Missiles) at MIG jets that were scrambling to get in the fight.

This attack lasted for 28 minutes and took our ship 12 miles out from the coast before we were out of range. When GQ was stopped I remember taking off my helmet and life vest and leaning back to the bulkhead and feeling my knees give way as I slid down in a kimchi squat to the deck. That was earning our \$45.00 combat pay for the month.

I think back on oall of the endless drills we ran for weeks before heading overseas. I now understand and appreciate the importance of doing a task or function in seconds. Everyone of the ship's personnel performing their assigned to the second on this day. Thanks for all of my shipmates for making this day a distant memory

This is how I remembered the 9th Day of May in 1972!

USS OZBOURN SHIP'S STORE

Open 24 Hours, 7 Days a Week — Rudy Boff, Proprietor

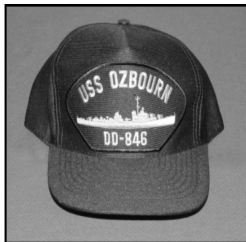


Photos and additional ordering information can be found on the Ozbourn website at www.ozbourn.org under the heading Ship's Store. Orders may be placed with:
Rudy Boff — 1036 Connor Road
Pittsburgh, PA
15234-1033
Tel: (412) 833-0572

SPECIAL ORDER ITEMS

The following items are special order only. Contact Rudy Boff at Ship's Store address at left.

Micro-fiber jacket, fleece lined-water repellent \$95
Jerzees Super Sweatshirt, White or Navy Blue \$40
Golf shirts, White or Navy Blue \$35
All items have ship's name and hull number embroidered in gold letters. "Add \$5.00 for size 2XL"



CAP cotton twill Navy blue, brilliant gold letters & Destroyer silhouette. 1 size fits all. Item #C01, \$14 ea. Embroidery on back: Korea, #C01K \$16 ea. Vietnam, #C01V \$16 ea.

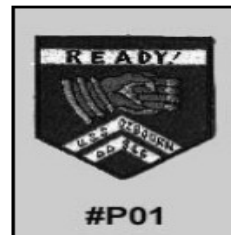


T-shirt short sleeve, White or Navy Blue with embroidered logo left side. \$25 ea. Item #T02
← Long sleeve. \$35 ea.



AUBURN COACH'S JACKET
Navy Blue with fleece lining, six matching metal snaps, profile of the ship in silver thread and lettering in gold. \$45 ea. Item #J01

← Logo detail



PATCH fabric, \$6 ea. Item #P01

SHIPPING AND HANDLING

<u>COST OF ITEM</u>	<u>COST OF POSTAGE</u>
\$0.01 –15.00	\$3.00
15.00 — 25.00	4.00
25.01 — 35.00	5.00
35.01 — 45.00	7.00
45.01 — 55.00	8.00
55.01 — 65.00	10.00
65.01 or more	11.00

NOTE FROM YOUR "FIREBALL" EDITOR

I wish to inform all members that I will be absent for the entire month of May as I assist family members in the State of Hawaii. If anyone needs to reach me please do so by emailing me at Ljpar-ker1@cox.net. Thank You.



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 20 or 21. This number indicates the last year you were current with Association dues: 20 means 2020, 21 means 2021, 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

