

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 35, No. 2
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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. Please make plans on attending. As everyone is aware, our 2023 Reunion was cancelled as a result of diminishing numbers in attendance. We clearly, are no longer young that makes attending the 2025 Reunion even that more important. We have a great agenda planned that include our tours filled with our nations history. Our Host Hotel is a fantastic venue.

During the Business Meeting to be held during the reunion we will have a serious discussion regarding the status of our great Association. 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 Ozborn 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 **Summer 2025** issue is **June 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.

“GRAYHOUND” SHOULD NOT BE MISSED

Reed Jones, Ltjg, (65-67)



As your Editor, I totally agree with Reed Jones, that “Grayhound”. based on the book “The Good Shepherd” by C.S. Forester, a story of a United States Destroyer on Convoy Duty during the Battle of the North Atlantic is one of the greatest motion pictures of WWII Naval Action. You don’t want to miss this one. Very well done.

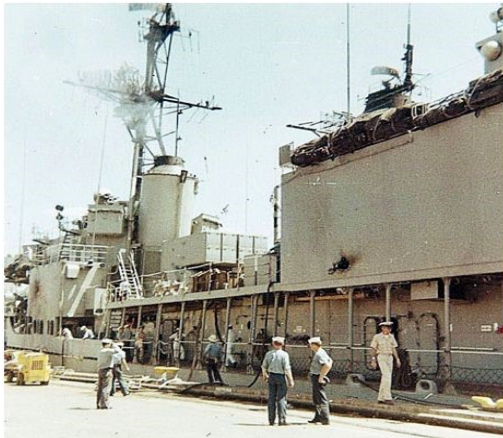
VIDEO OF THE OZBOURN GOING IN HARMS WAY

Eugene Stagner, Ltjg, (66-69)

All members wish to thank **Eugene Stagner, Ltjg, (66-69)**, for bringing our attention to a short video related to NGFS Missions being conducted by the USS Blue DD-744 and the USS Ozbourne DD-846, off the coast of North Vietnam, on December 4, 1967. Battle Damage and Casualties were sustained onboard the USS Ozbourne.

All shipmates may view the video by conducting a Google Search, You Tube, USS Blue and USS Ozbourne Firing Mission off of Vietnam..

(Editors Note: The Battle Damage depicted in the attached photo, occurred on March 25, 1967)



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 complimentary shuttle from PVD to the hotel.

2025 DONATION RECOMMENDATIONS

All members are reminded that any recommendations regarding donations of Association Funds to any organization must be presented in writing to any of the Elected Board Members at least 90-Days prior to the reunion’s Business Meeting. Requests for the donating of funds should include information regarding the organization who would be on the receiving end of any Association Funds.

There will be discussions regarding the donation proposals during the Business Meeting.



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

“SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER”
Let us always hold a special place in our hearts for all of our Shipmates who are no longer with us.

“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 OZBOUN Reunion.

SOUTH CHINA SEA, FOOTPRINT

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

As many of you know, my Wife Lisa and I, travel as frequently as we can, depending on the balance in the bank account. During a recent 14-day voyage throughout Southeast Asia, commencing in Keelung, Republic of China, Taiwan, it truly warmed our hearts to encounter two forward based United States Warships in two ports within the Republic of the Philippines. Although the Subic Bay Naval Base was decommissioned several years ago, our Navy continues to have a very large presence in the region.

Our first encounter was with the USS Higgins, DDG-76, an Arleigh Burke Class Guided Missile Destroyer assigned to Desron-15, based in Manila, Philippines. The second encounter was with the USS Savannah, LCS-28, a Littoral Combat Ship, docked in Puerto Princessa, Philippines. Seeing our Navy as we travel the globe is truly heart warming and makes us extremely proud. *(Editors Note: All Shipmates are encouraged to submit stories and photos of their experiences while traveling the globe.)*



USS HIGGINS DDG-76



USS SAVANNAH LCS-28

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.

Don't forget to make those purchases in plenty of time for the upcoming 2025 Reunion.

HISTORY, USS OZBOURN DD-846

25 March 1967 Nuclear Incident

Submitted by Michael Krause, Lt. (67-68)

(Editors Note: Although the following Nuclear Incident had been documented in past editions of the "Fireball", that information was derived from on-line Department of Defense Documents. Clearly, we now have an eyewitness account from Shipmate Michael Krause, Lt 67-68), the Weapons Officer on board the "OZ", when the incident occurred. We are very grateful to Michael for documenting the incident for the benefit of all Association Members. Although I will be publishing the entire 4-page document, I unfortunately, due to the length of Michael's description of the historical incident, I am only able to publish the first page in this edition)

BACKGROUND:

The USS OZBOURN (DD-846) or the "OZ", as the crew referred to her was a Fleet Rehabilitation and Modernization Version 1 (FRAM-1), Gearing Class DD with twin 5"/38 cal. mounts, one fore and another aft on the main deck. She also carried two Drone Anti-Submarine Helicopters (DASH); six MK 44 Torpedo tubes; and an Anti-Submarine Rocket (ASROC) launcher with eight cells. Payloads for ASROC were either MK-44 acoustic homing torpedoes or Rocket Thrown Depth Charges (RTDC) armed with MK-44 Nuclear Warheads. The DASH could carry either a MK-44 Torpedo or an MK-44 Depth Charge. The ASROC launcher cells were normally loaded with four RTDCs in the center four cells and the four MK-44 torpedoes in the outboard cells. The "OZ" was unique as she carried DASH drones called "Snoopy" fitted with TV cameras used as an observation platform for shore bombardment on Sea Dragon operations in North Vietnam. The drone was tracked by the MK-37 RADAR so we knew the observers location. The drone's gyro compass provided the Observer Target Line (OTL). When the OTL was combined with the known location of the drone, the MK-1A Gun Fire Control System (GFCS) was able to compute the Gun Target Line (GTL) to targets identified by "Snoopy". It was effective but we lost several drones throughout the deployment due to enemy fire and crashes. We had even rigged drones to drop hand grenades from the weapons racks.

On the date of the incident, I was a Lieutenant USN serving as Weapons Officer aboard the "OZ". The Ozbourn was home-ported in Yokosuka, Japan in Destroyer Division 92 and was the Division Commander's flag ship. During our deployment, the OZ participated in several counter battery incidents with North Vietnamese batteries and was hit twice-this incident and another on 4 December 1967 when two men were killed. My memory of the incident remains clear after these many years. The following is drawn from my personal experiences and are accurate to the best of my recollection. I never saw an official report of the incident, and if there is one, perhaps these recollections can be confirmed as fact. There was a mention of the incident in *Stars & Strips* when the 4 December engagement was reported as follows:

"Last March 25 the Ozbourn was hit while operating just south of the Demilitarized Zone.

The ship suffered minor damage in the earlier shelling, but no casualties."

TO BE CONTINUED:

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 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.

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
CDR E.W. Numbers	June 1970-December 1971
CDR K.L. Costilow	December 1971-March 1974
CDR F.J. Furtado	March 1974-May 1975

