

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

FIREBALL!

VOLUME 36, No. 1
Winter 2026



The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourne (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

Just wrapped up our 2025 Reunion. A great time to reminisce with shipmates and visit with family members. We held our memorial service on the fantail of the USS Massachusetts, had lunch in the ward room and toured the USS Kennedy DD850. Brought back fond memories. We enjoyed a cruise around the area and viewed 10 lighthouses, then had a wonderful lunch at Richards Restaurant and Pub.

Thanks to everyone that attended and we sincerely missed the ones that could not attend.

Hope to see everyone at our 2027 Reunion.

Guy Posey, President
USS Ozbourne Association



2025 REUNION, WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2025



USS KENNEDY DD850

2027 Biennial Reunion

Jeff Parker, Editor

Although our 2027 Reunion is two years away, a great deal of planning is required to set up a successful reunion. As we all know all to well, 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.

As you will note on Page-6, **Future Reunions**, 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: kkeene51@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

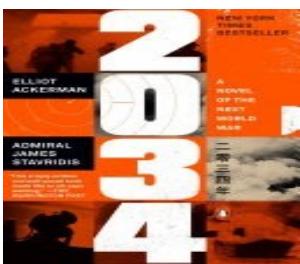
Publication Deadline

If you have a letter, story or photo you would like to share with other Ozbourn shipmates, the deadline for submitting contributions for the **Spring 2026** issue is **March 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.



ANOTHER GREAT BOOK RECOMMENDATION

Submitted by Reed Jones, Ltjg.

Once again, long time “Fireball” contributor and Shipmate Reed Jones has sent along a recommended read for all members. The NY Times Best Seller “2034” authored by USN Admiral James Stavridis and decorated Marine Elliott Ackerman.

The novel is a cautionary tale about how world events with todays technology and fragmented international relations could result in world shaking catastrophes. Reed states that it is very realistic, very threatening, and hopefully provokes meaningful assessments.

SIXTY YEARS AGO TODAY, AUGUST 9, 1965

Submitted by Shipmate Marty Zipser on August 9, 2025

Shipmate Marty Zipser recalled that on August 9, 1965, the USS Ozbourne DD846, was pier side docked in Nagasaki, Japan on the 20th anniversary of the dropping of the atomic bomb known as “Fat Man” on the City of Nagasaki. Ultimately leading to the unconditional surrender of Japan to end World War II.

Marty reported that no one of the ships company was permitted to leave the ship. There were peaceful protesters on the pier who chanted and carried signs to ban the bomb. Fortunately, there were no incidents

A VERY PROUD OZBOURN SAILOR'S SHADOW BOX

As reported in Taps for Shipmates, we lost Robert “Bob” Benson who passed away at 97 years old. Bob’s Wife Mayonne Benson spoke as to how important Bob’s service aboard the OZ was to him as well as the entire Benson Family.



TAPS FOR SHIPMATES

“SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER”

ROBERT L. BENSON, QMSN, (48-49)

“May fair winds and calm seas be with you always”

Minutes of the 16th Biennial Reunion Business Meeting

2025 REUNION IN WARWICK, RHODE ISLAND

SEPTEMBER 10-13, 2025

Meeting was called to order 13 September 2025, at 0803 by President Guy Posey, with 18 members in attendance.

The minutes of the 15th Biennial Business Meeting in Colorado Springs 1 October 2021, were read by Secretary Ken Keene.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the minutes as presented. Report approved by majority.

In the absence of Treasurer Mike Ward, Guy Posey read the Treasurers Report.

Beginning Balance: \$21,509.19

Reunion Expenses: \$12,024.33

Ending Balance: \$9,484.86

After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded. Report approved by majority.

The Fireball Newsletter report given by Guy Posey in absence of Fireball Editor Jeff Parker.

The expense for producing the 14 "Fireball" Newsletters since the 2021 Reunion meeting, totaled \$2,204.50.

A motion was made and seconded to approve the "Fireball" Report. Report approved by majority.

President Guy Posey also announced that Jeff Parker no longer wished to fill the duties of the Corresponding Secretary. After a brief discussion, it was decided to combine the duties of the Corresponding Secretary and the Recording Secretary into one position.

A motion was made and seconded to combine the two positions. Motion passed by majority.

President Guy Posey inquired of the members if they had any old business.

As no old business was brought to the floor, President Guy Posey moved on to the next item.

NEW BUSINESS:

Election of Officers of the USS Ozbourn DD846 Association

Treasurer & Historian-Currently held by Mike Ward

A motion was made and seconded. Approved by majority.

Vice President-Currently held by Harold "Mac" McKeehan

A motion was made and seconded. Approved by majority.

Recording and Corresponding Secretary-Currently held by Ken Keene

A motion was made and seconded. Approved by majority.

Minutes of the 16th Biennial Reunion Business Meeting (Cont.)

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

Election of Officers of the USS Ozbourne DD846 Association (Continued)

President-Currently held by Guy Posey

A motion was made and seconded. Approved by majority.

“Fireball” Editor-Currently held by Jeff Parker

A motion was made and seconded. Approved by majority.

Disbursement of Donations of the USS Ozbourne Association campaign for 2025-2027.

The amount recommended for this years campaign was a total \$1,000.00, with the following recipients and amounts.

\$500.00 to Tin Can Sailors

\$250.00 to the Wounded Warrior Project

\$250.00 to The Disabled American Veterans (DAV)

Following a brief discussion a motion was made and seconded. Approved by majority.

Reunion Committee Expenses

Brought to the floor by President Guy Posey.

Currently, the amount of \$1,000.00 is allotted to the Reunion Committee to cover expenses to prepare for our reunions. Guy pointed out that the actual expense to prepare for the 2025 reunion was \$1,057.59.

A short discussion to reimburse the committee the \$57.59 followed. A motion was made and seconded. Approved by majority.

Since expenses have increased in recent years, a discussion continued regarding increasing the allowance for the Reunion Committee to \$1,500.00 for the 2027 Reunion. A motion was made and seconded. Approved by majority.

2027 Reunion Committee

The following members once again volunteered to set up the 2027 Reunion.

Guy Posey, Harold “Mac” McKeehan and Mike Ward. A motion was made and seconded. Approved by majority.

Minutes of the 16th Biennial Reunion Business Meeting (Cont.)

NEW BUSINESS (Continued)

Future Reunions

A discussion regarding future reunions took place. This included a lengthy discussion of the possibility of partnering with Tin Can Sailors for future reunions. The cost advantages and disadvantages as well as our By-Laws may need to be changed due to the loss of ability to choose the reunion locations were part of the conversation. In the end, it was agreed to allow the 2027 Reunion Committee to research and decide on the best action regarding the 2027 Reunion.

Prior to closing, all members joined President Guy Posey in the Pledge of Allegiance to our Flag
President Guy Posey adjourned the 2025 Business Meeting at 0910 hours.



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.



Mike Machalleck, John Glick &
Gene Stagner



President Guy Posey & Salle Posey
with The Pawtucket Rangers



Gene and Gail Stagner

2025 REUNION BANQUET



ALWAYS FAITHFUL AND SUPPORTIVE "OZ" WIVES



"SAILORS ONCE, SHIPMATES FOREVER

Jeffrey Parker
1036 Calle Venezia
San Clemente, CA 92672



Pvt. Joseph W. Ozbourne
USMC
Congressional Medal of Honor

FIREBALL! The official newsletter of the USS Ozbourne 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 Ozbourne shipmates, historical photos, Ship's Store and how to Join the Association.

USS OZBOURN COMMANDING OFFICERS

The USS Ozbourne 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 Ozbourne'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.	Nov 1955-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	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

