



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

SPRING 2016 EDITION

SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

SECTION 2: To promote the bond of friendship between all of the crew members who served in her during the years of commissioned service through newsletters, web site, Internet, and reunions..

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MEMBERSHIP & DUES

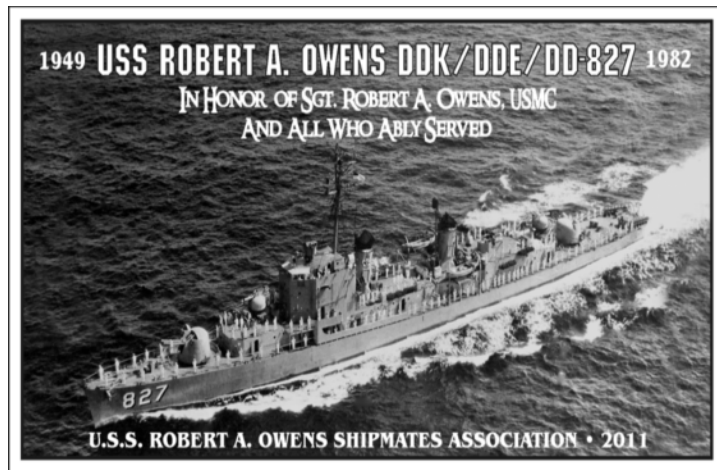
Please pay attention to your dues status. Those members that are behind on their dues are considered inactive and may be removed from the mailing list which would include the PING. If you are in doubt about your status, or if you dispute the information shown behind your name, please contact the Treasurer and check with him: (Please note page of late dues)

Ed Green

186 Maple Drive SW

Labelle, FL 33935

(863) 234-1943



Commissioned
1949

Decommissioned
1982

Membership...319

April 2016



The Owens' Ping

The Presidents 2016 Spring Message

Winter has been upon all of us for a while now and Spring is on the foreseeable horizon. I hope each and every one of you got through the rough weather without any illness or injury. It does seem that the older one gets the harder it is to avoid both of those things. But then we all know getting old isn't for the faint of heart and we just have to sometimes "tough it out".

In the past months we have lost a few of our shipmates and we have tried to recognize each and every one of them with a card to the family and a donation to Navy Relief in their name. Jerry Jackson, our Ping Editor and web site manager, has been diligently keeping our web site up to date with this information. I would suggest each of us look at this and keep abreast of all our recent updates.

With the passing of Corwin Wherrett we were left with only one auditor on our board of directors. I extended an offer to a couple of shipmates to fill those two vacant positions and to date I have filled one with the addition of Gary Parks to the board. Gary was a Signalmen on board the OWENS from 1968-1971 and now resides in Ohio. Many of you met Gary and his wife, Betty, at our last reunion and know he will be a great asset to our organization. Thanks, Gary, for agreeing to do this for us. If anyone else would like to serve in the position of auditor please contact me.

I got an email from a lady a few weeks ago, Ms. Cassandra Cook, who was looking for information about her grandfather's time on board the OWENS. His name was Elmer Cook and to the best of her knowledge he was on board sometime in the early 1950s. This was all the information she had, but was interested in contacting anyone of our shipmates who knew him. If you have any information regarding Mr. Cook, please contact Ms. Cook at c.cook1993@yahoo.com.

I know many of you belong to veteran's organizations around the country as do I. I have been a member of the American Legion (with broken time) ever since I got off active duty in 1969. It's a very good organization and I certainly appreciate the time I spend with the other members. There are many organizations – American Legion, VFW, Tin Can Sailors, Am. Vets, etc. – and all do good works for the community and for the veterans. If you don't belong to one of them I would encourage that you do so. While we don't just sit around and tell war stories, we do engage in great conversation, occasionally have wonderful meals, entertainment and, of course, a cool beverage of one's choice!

Jack Wanko has already been working on our 2017 reunion to be held in Valley Forge, PA. A contract has been signed with the hotel so we have our base of operations solidified. Please read the information in this Ping regarding the reunion and plan on attending. It's never too early.

The one and only complaint I ever receive regarding our Ping is that there isn't enough interesting information in it. So this month I'm going to try and add a few things and hopefully many of you will pick up on it and begin to add your stories. I think it's interesting how people ended up where they were and where they are now. Life hands all of us many interesting twists and turns and we'd like to hear yours. If you have something you'd like to share with us all please send it to Jerry Jackson for inclusion in future Pings.

Here's hoping all of you have a wonderful Spring and Summer ahead of you.

Larry



2017 Reunion Preview & Planning

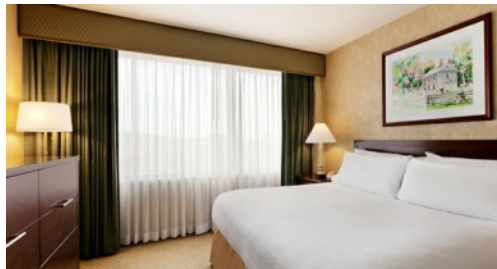
Although it is 18 months away yet, John Wanko has begun the process of planning and developing the “2017 Reunion”. It will be held in **Valley Forge, PA**. The dates for the reunion will be **Sept 6th 2017 thru Sept 9th 2017**.

We will be staying at the **Embassy Suites** in Valley Forge. The rate is \$119.00 per night which includes a fully cooked breakfast each morning and a “managers reception” each night from 5pm to 7pm. The reception includes wine, beer, cocktails, and snacks. All of the rooms are suites and quite suitable for entertaining as well as an excellent residence while you are at the reunion. (See Pictures below). Room reservation will have a cut off date of August 17th, 2017

John is working on having the following events/tours and will have confirmation of dates, times, and costs at a later date:

- Visit to Constitution Center, the Liberty Bell and Independence Hall with lunch at world famous Reading Terminal Market.
- Tour of Valley Forge National Battlefield Park and Freedom Foundation where the plaque for **Sgt. Robert A. Owens** USMC is located.
- There will be a ladies tour of QVC studio (guys, watch your wallets!) and lunch at Hershey Mills CC.
- John is also checking into the possibility of a tour of the USS New Jersey but that is still tentative at this point.

As John obtains confirmations of these tentative tours and activities we will post them on the website and do updates in the subsequent PING issues as we go along. Start getting ready now by putting the dates on your calendars and looking ahead to see as many people as possible attend. Until the next update...be well





The following are members that have failed to keep up with the annual dues. If you find your name listed below, please contact Association Treasurer at gab66@frontier.net -or- 186 Maple Drive SW, Labelle, FL 33935 (863) 234-1943

NAME	YEAR DUES LAST PAID	Comment	NAME	YEAR DUES LAST PAID	Comment
BARR, William	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response	BARRIERE, Gregory	2009	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
BIHUNIAK, Michael	2013	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	BOUDREAU, Earnest	2009	E-mail Sent
BOWMAN, Raymond	2013	E-mail Sent - No Response	BRAUNER, Thomas	2012	E-mail Sent
BRILLA, Larry	2011	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	BROADBENT, Russel	2013	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
BROOKMAN, Gerald	2009	E-mail Sent - No Response	BUFFUM, David	No Data	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
BUREL, James	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response	STROUP, Keith	2010	
CANN, Howard	No Data	E-mail Sent - No Response	CARE, John	2013	E-mail Sent - No Response
CHAPKLIN, George	No Data	No E-mail, No Phone			
CHURCH, Frederick	2013	E-mail Sent - No Response	COLLINS, Brock	2013	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
CORNETT, Ronald	2011	E-mail Sent - No Response	CORSNITZ, Robert	2012	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
CROSS, Myron	2012	Responded to email - not paid	CURTIS, Bruce	No Data	E-mail Sent - No Response
CUSTER, Joseph	2013	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	DAVIS, Bill	2013	E-mail Sent - No Response
DELANEY, Larry	2012	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	DICK, Donald	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response
DISSLIN, Ernest	2010	Returned Email - No Good	ELLIS, Chester	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response
ENSMAN, Douglas	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response			
EVERSOLE, Paul	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response	FALK, Eric	2011	E-mail Sent - No Response
FAULKNER, Roger	2013	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	FARDAL, John	2012	No E-mail
FLANAGAN, Alan	2011	E-mail Sent - No Response	FONTAINE, R	2010	No E-mail, No Phone, Address
GIBSON, Stuart	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response	GRAPE, Terry	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response
GRASS, Don	2011	E-mail Sent - No Response	HADFIELD, Leon	2010	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
HARRIS, William	2012	Responded to email - not paid	HART, Ray	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response
HENDRICKSON, Ed	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response	HENSLEY, Hasel	2011	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
IGNATOVICH, John	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response	IVERSON, Kenneth	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response
JASZKOWSKI, Robert	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response	JORDAN, Denton	2013	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
KAHRS, Ed	2011	E-mail Sent - No Response	KAPPS, William	No Data	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
KENT, George	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response	KLING, Larry	2012	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
KRACHEY, Paul	2011	E-mail Sent - No Response	LAMBRIGHT, Harvey	2011	E-mail Sent - No Response
LAWSON, Donald	2013	E-mail Sent - No Response	LIEGEG, J	2013	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
LUSTIG, Roy	2012	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	LUZIER, Richard	2012	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
LYONS, William	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response	MALINGUAGGIO, Joe	2012	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
MARAUGHA, William	2011	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	MARTINEZ, Eliezar	2010	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
MCKINNEY, Kenneth	2011	Returned Email - No Good	MILLER, G	2010	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
MILLER, Robert	2013	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	MORRIS, Donald	2010	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
MOWEN, Wilbur	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response	MUMMA, Albert	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response
NEWCOMB, Joseph	2014	E-mail Sent -Pd \$10.00	ORENT, Robert	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response
PARIS, Barney	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response	PINE, Emanuel	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response
POLINKAS, Herald	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response	POSTAL, Ed	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response
PUBLICOVER, Tom	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response	RAFFERTY, John	2010	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
REDWINE, Bob	2010	Returned Email - No Good	RHUDE, Jerry	2012	Responded to email - not paid
ROBERGE, John	2010	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	STROUTS, Duane	2012	
ROGERS, Tom	2013	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	ROGUCKI, Frank	2012	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
ROZECKI, Robert	2013	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	SANTORO, Michael	2011	E-mail Sent - No Response
SCIARRATTA, R	2010	No Way To Contact	SHADE, Eugene	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response
SMARTT, John	2012	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	SMITH, Melvin	2012	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
SPAGNOLO, Edward	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response	STANDCLIFF, William	2011	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent
STEFFENS, Fred	2010	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	SUELFLOW, Norman	2013	E-mail Sent - No Response
THOMPSON, Patrick	2010	E-mail Sent - No Response	TISHEU, Jack	2012	Responded to email - not paid
WASSERBAUER, D	2011	E-mail Sent - No Response	WATSON, Kenneth	2012	Responded to email - not paid
WEACHOCK, John	2010	No E-mail - Need Letter Sent	WEST, Harry	2013	E-mail Sent - No Response
WHALEY, Donald	2012	E-mail Sent - No Response	WILLINGHAM, Kensell	2013	No E-mail, No Phone
WILLIS, John	2013	No E-mail, No Phone			



STORY OF THE BAGPIPER

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life.

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man.

He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around.

I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I'm still lost....it's a man thing.

When you have stopped laughing be sure to forward this on to others who would enjoy a good story.

Sent in by Ed Green

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE ASSOCIATION:

Lt. Jim Kaczorowski, Ops Div, Oct 1970-Sep 1972

BT2 Ronald Wertman, Eng Div, Apr 1959-Dec 1962



Presidential Snippets #1

I saw in the latest issue of *Tin Can Sailors* where our organization was listed as making the donation we voted to give at the St. Louis reunion. Thanks to everyone in attendance at that meeting; the vote was unanimous, but it was less than what had been originally recommended.

I also read in the last issue of *Tin Can Sailors* where our sister ship, the USS CARPENTER (DD-825) has their reunion scheduled for this coming May in Branson, MO. I remember a couple of years ago they reached out to us as invited any of us interested in attending their last reunion. If any of you are going to be visiting Branson in late May you may want to drop in on these guys and say hello.

Like all of you, I constantly see advertisements on TV and written advertisements in the American Legion Magazine regarding a settlement for mesothelioma. During our Myrtle Beach reunion one of our members brought this up at the business meeting and stated he had applied and received a benefit from that settlement. I would advise any of you who suffer respiratory problems that could be linked to your time in the service (or anywhere else for that matter) to at the very least look into this. I can remember in late 1967 while preparing to go into dry dock for an overhaul all the snipes (no offense meant) dragging everything from bricks to asbestos out to the pier dumpsters prior to being towed to Portsmouth Naval Shipyards. There was a white cloud seemingly forever in the engine rooms that had to have a negative effect on anyone working there. It never hurts to ask and there really is a huge sum of money in escrow for payment for this disability. There are two web site links for the mesothelioma organizations located on the Associations web site (Links page) to help you get in touch with those groups if you are looking to do so.

I'm sure most of us are already sick of all the presidential campaigns, the mud-slinging, the TV ads and everything that goes along with it. I can remember as a kid this kind of thing didn't start until much later, but now it seems as though as soon as one election is over the campaigning for the next one begins. Regardless of your politics or beliefs, I would certainly urge each of you to be sure you're registered to vote and then get out and cast your ballot in the primary and in the November election. It's not only our right to vote, but it's just as much our responsibility. I get disgusted like everyone else, but I can truthfully say I haven't missed voting in an election since I turned 18. I may not get things changed, but it's not for lack of trying!

As spring arrives with the publish date of our next issue of the Ping, please enjoy the outdoors, travel safely and keep in touch.

Larry



The Owens' Ping

The Ship's Store
Keith Totsch Manager

USS Robert A. Owens (DD827) Shipmates Association- Ship's Store Inventory

ITEM	ON HAND	RETAIL
	8/24/2014	
Shirt, Polo/Golf, blue, medium	7	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo/Golf, blue, XL	23	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo/Golf, blue, XXL	3	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo/Golf, blue, XXXL	10	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo/Golf, gray, medium	1	\$23.00
Shirt, Tee w/pocket, blue, small	21	\$18.00
Shirt, Tee w/pocket, blue, medium	12	\$18.00
Shirt, Tee w/pocket, blue, XL	8	\$18.00
Shirt, Tee, long sleeve, blue, XXL	1	\$19.00
Cap, baseball style, wool, winter	10	\$17.00
Cap, baseball style, summer, mesh	24	\$17.00
Ship's patch, 1949-64	19	\$3.50
Ship's patch, 1964-82	1	\$3.50
Patch, plank owner	1	\$3.00
Book, Owen's Saga	102	\$15.00
Book, Sea Tales	2	\$7.00
Pins, US Navy/Flag	4	\$3.00
Magnets	39	\$2.00

If anyone has any suggestions for items to be added to the ship's store, please notify Keith at ktotsch@comcast.net or by phone at 847-445-9597.

Any and all suggestions are appreciated.

As always, to place an order for items; please list the items by name, quantity desired, and price with a total. Make your check payable to: Robert Owens Shipmates Association.

Mail your order and payment to:

Mr. Keith Totsch
200 Sheridan Ct.
Waukegan, IL 60085

Ktotsch@comcast.net



The Owens' Ping



Many of the items available through the Ships Store (now overseen by Keith Totsch) were on display at the reunion for purchase by the attendees..

ATTENTION MEMBERS

Please note that the official website address is <http://www.ussrobertaowens827.org>

This is a bit of a change from the old website because of the hull number 827 being added to make it unique. All new Association news, pictures, and information will be found on the new official website. You can still go to the old website that is maintained privately by Bob Bucettas using the old address. Please take note that the user name and password are the same in both sites.

Please help me fill in the blanks for the PING and the web site.....send in your stories, thoughts (non-political please) and pictures that will keep others informed and entertained.

Jerry Jackson, PING Editor



FROM THE PING EDITOR:

The Ping is the newsletter FROM all of us TO all of us. It is your way to communicate with each other, to share your current or past experiences, and in general to keep in contact with the other shipmates of the “Bobby O”. Your memories make this Association the brotherhood that it is. Please submit your thoughts, stories, and memories to me in email or regular mail for submission to the PING or to the website.

Each of us was aboard her for only a short time, some for months, others for a few years but none of us were on her for the entire time of her commission with the US Navy. So we all missed a little of her life, parts you may know about that the rest of us would love to hear. My memories include the USS Wilson heading out to hurricane anchorage with parts of the Owens life line attached, and standing a Mail Bouy watch, and the Med Cruise that year.....

Without your input, the PING and the Website will grow stagnant and boring...with your stories and jokes and suggestions, it can continue to live and grow. Please help by submitting your thoughts.

Thanks.....As always, your shipmate

Jerry Jackson
1107 Colorado Street
Manhattan, KS 66502

jerryjackson@ussrobertaowens827.org
namwarrior41@yahoo.com



James Alfred CANFIELD

- April 25, 1934 - March 23, 2016
- Orange Park, Florida

We send prayers to his family and from those of us that were shipmates we pray for his smooth sailing. Go in Peace shipmate.



The Owens' Ping



Peter "Chief Pete" Coutroubis

January 07, 2016

Peter "Chief Pete" Coutroubis USN GMGC Ret., 83 passed away at home surrounded by his loving family on Thursday, January 7, 2016. A life-long resident of Fall River, he was the son of the late Charles and Bessie (Anagnastopoulos) Coutroubis. He leaves behind his wife of 57 years, Madeline (Correia) Coutroubis.

Chief Pete graduated from BMC Durfee High School in 1955. He received his Associates Degree from New England Tech. In 1953 Peter enlisted in the US Navy and spent 38 distinguished years serving his country. During his career, he served in the Korean Conflict, Vietnam War, and Grenada on billets on the USS Missouri BB-63 and the USS Robert A Owens DD 827. He received many awards: Korean Service Medal, United Nations Service Medal, China Service Medal, Navy Occupation Service Medal (European Clasp), National Defense Service Medal, 4 Good Conduct Awards, 3 Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medals, 2 Armed Forces Medals, 5 Gold Wreath Awards, and the Navy Achievement Award. The last 16 years of his service was dedicated to recruiting stationed at Fort Rodman in New Bedford, MA. During that time, he enlisted many young men and women to careers in the Navy which resulted in many long lasting friendships. In February of 1989, when Chief Pete retired he was piped off the USS Battleship Massachusetts in a special ceremony attended by family, friends, and fellow servicemen.

As a gunners mate in the navy, Chief Pete used his expertise with guns as an avid hunter and target shooter. In retirement his hobbies included model trains, reading, and military history. He was a lifetime member of the Fall River Rod and Gun Club, the NRA, USS Missouri Alumni BB-63, the American Legion, Naval Enlisted Reserve Assoc. and Federal Reserve Assoc. He was also a bus driver for Tremblays Bus Co for many years driving the Diman bus route.

Besides his wife, Madeline, he is survived by his 4 children: Pauline D. Botelho of Fall River, Paula D. Kaylor (husband Bill) of Westport, Peter D and Paul D (wife Tina) of Fall River; his grandchildren: Peter J Coulombe (wife Shannon) of Westport, Kristen Schersten (husband Damon) of Boston, Bryana L Donnelly, Andrea L. Donnelly, Alexis Coutroubis, David Coutroubis, and Dean Coutroubis of Fall River; and great-grandchildren Lily and Aiden Coulombe and many nieces, and nephews. He was the brother of the late George Coutroubis.

His funeral will take place from the Manuel Rogers & Sons Funeral Home 1521 N. Main St. Fall River on Monday here at 9 A.M. followed by a Mass at St Demetrios Greek Orthodox Church at 10 A.M. Interment in Oak Grove Cemetery. Calling hours on Sunday from 4-8 P.M. In lieu of flowers please make donations to Homes for Our Troops, 6 Main St., Taunton, MA 02780 www.rogersfuneral.com



The Owens' Ping

Corwin "Corky" Wherrett (1941 - 2016)

Obituary



Corwin "Corky" Wherrett

Asheville - Corwin J. "Corky" Wherrett, III, 74, of Asheville, passed away Saturday, January 2, 2016 at the Care Partners John F. Keever, Jr. Solace Center.

A native of Detroit MI, Mr.

Wherrett had resided in Buncombe County for over 30 years. He was currently employed with Endot Industries of Greeneville, TN. Mr. Wherrett was a veteran of the US Navy, and was an avid sailor, being a member of the Big Water Sailing Club, the [V.F.W.](#), and AMVETS.

Mr. Wherrett was the son of Corwin J. Wherrett and the late Lillian Mae Sinclair Wherrett Bowling. He was also preceded in death by his step-father, Emmett Bowling, and brother, Bob Wherrett.

In addition to his father, surviving are his wife of 25 years, Martha Sue Ducker Wherrett; son, Michael Wherrett of Florida; brother, Don Wherrett of California; and a host of special close friends, including Bob and Mary Burnette, as well as many beach friends and sailing companions.

Funeral services will be held at 2:30 PM Thursday in the chapel of Anders-Rice Funeral Home, with the Rev. Otis Wilson officiating. Burial will follow in Snelson Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 1:00 - 2:30 PM Thursday at the funeral home.

Memorial donations may be made to Care Partners Hospice, PO Box 25338, Asheville, NC 28813, or to Brother Wolf Animal Rescue, PO Box 8195, Asheville, NC 28814.

To sign Mr. Wherrett's guestbook online, please go to "Memorials" at www.andersrice.com.

Guest Book

"Our sincerest condolences to the family of Corky from all..."

- Larry McCoskey

[View](#)

[Sign](#)

Anders-Rice
Funeral Home & Cremation Center

