



# The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

*USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827*

## SPRING 2019 - EDITION

### SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

**President:**

**Larry McCoskey**

*Larrymc3140@gmail.com*

**VicePresident**

**Jack Wanko**

*Johnwanko71@msn.com*

**Secretary:**

**Bobby Williams**

*Bobbywms@embarqmail.com*

**Treasurer:**

**Ed Green**

*Gab66@frontiernet.net*

**Ships' Store Manager:**

**Keith Totsch**

*Ktotsch@comcast.net*

**Chaplains:**

**Bobby Williams**

*Bobbywms@embarqmail.com*

**Membership Committee:**

**Robert Kopec**

*Rhk4912@verizon.net*

**Reunion Committee:**

**Larry McCoskey**

*Larrymcc3140@gmail.com*

**Bobby Williams**

*Bobbywms@embarqmail.com*

**Audit Committee:**

**John Wagner** *johnwagner451@gmail.com*

**Gary Parks** *blwgp@hotmail.com*

**Ron Pervere** *ron@pervere.net*

**PING Manager/Editor**

**WEB Site Manager**

**Jerry Jackson**

*Namwarrior41@yahoo.com*

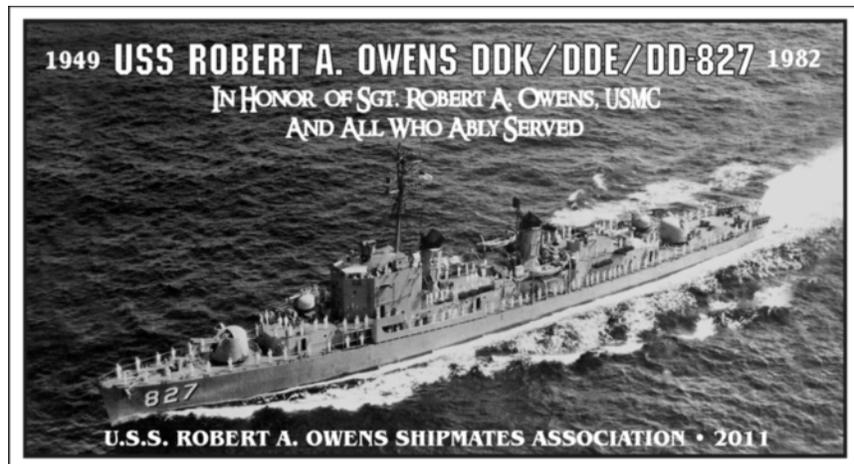
SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

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..



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:**

**[www.ussrobertaowens827.org](http://www.ussrobertaowens827.org)**



**Commissioned  
1949**

**Decommissioned  
1982**



# The Owens' Ping

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## Presidents 2019 Spring Message

Good day and warm wishes to all my shipmates for a glorious upcoming Spring season! I love the Springtime because it seems like everything seems to be renewed, things begin to kick-off with many activities, we can go outdoors again and enjoy all that nature has to offer us. It seems like during the winter months my activity goes down and my weight goes up – two bad combinations for a person my age! But mentally it seems like the springtime perks me up, makes me want to get more active. I hope it has the same effect on you.

I hope each of you made it through all the holidays with a minimum amount of anxiety and stress. Ellen and I enjoyed Thanksgiving at our house for all the family, then to our daughter's house for Christmas. Our daughter is the only one with young children, so we go there for the day and enjoy the little ones bouncing around from toy to toy enjoying what Santa brought them. I wish I had that energy!! We had a great time throughout the holidays and had plenty of time to rest when they were over.

I've been putting in some time early this year on the reunion. I've relied on Bobby Williams for advice and help when needed and certainly appreciate him greatly. We're looking forward to this year's time in Charleston with everyone. Charleston is a great city with a lot of history. We have a couple of tours planned as well as the banquet on Thursday, but there is much more to do there. I hope all of you can attend. You may want to research Charleston a little further and plan on doing some other things while there in addition to our scheduled tours. The two tours we selected were for a few reasons: first, we wanted something "Navy" for one of them, we wanted something that can show us a lot of the city and we tried to pick a couple that were affordable for everyone. There were a lot of tours from which to choose and many of them had some sizeable price tags attached. That being said, we didn't just pick our two because they were the cheapest, because they weren't. We wanted quality, quantity, affordability, and something that was within our time frames each day. This left all of us some free time to pursue other interests. There are many plantations, Ft. Sumpter tour, etc. I think Bobby and I have done well and everyone attending will enjoy all that we have planned for the group.

I spoke with Keith Totsch yesterday and he's adding some new items to the ship's store getting ready for the reunion. Late last year he added a beautiful "Challenge Coin" with a replica of our ship on one side and the ship's patch on the other. In the last "Ping" I told you the story of the challenge coin. Keith is doing a great job with the store and I certainly appreciate all his hard work maintaining it. Please be sure to check the store's inventory in this issue or go online to our web site and view it. Better yet, order something! Most of the items are well priced and are great gifts for birthdays, etc.

I also spoke with Jerry Jackson last month regarding our web site and the Ping. He's doing a great job with both and we all appreciate the work he does when we get our issues delivered. We are now online with our web site for 5 more years. If you're having difficulty or not getting your Ping issues, please contact Jerry. Any time you change your email address or move and change your mailing address he needs to be notified. Of course, the easiest way and cheapest way for the organization to get you your issue of the Ping is via email, so please advise Jerry of your email address so he can get that to you in a timely manner and save us the cost of printing and postage.

All the best to each of you and your families. If you need anything please contact me. Ellen and I are looking forward to seeing all of you once again in Charleston for our 2019 reunion.

Larry



## *2019 Reunion - Advance Tentative Planning*

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### **2019 REUNION INFORMATION & UPDATES**

**REUNION DATES:** September 30 to October 4, 2019. We'll check-in on Monday, 9/30, side trips on Tuesday and Wednesday 10/1-2, business meeting and banquet on Thursday, 10/3 and check-out from the hotel on Friday 10/4. Of course, you can come early and stay late if you want, just let the hotel know the extra dates. But be advised, there is a significant increase in the room rates for Friday and Saturday.

**HOTEL:** Town and Country Inn and Suites  
2008 Savannah Highway  
Charleston, SC  
www.thetownandcountryinn.com

**You may make your reservations now by calling the hotel or making them online. The group code is: USSROA. There is also a Hotel Reservation Form on page #6 of this edition of the PING. As of now the hotel has reserved 25 rooms for us; if we don't fill them all we have no obligation to pay for the remainder. Make your reservations now; 25 rooms will go quickly.**

**SIDE TRIPS:** We have two trips scheduled. Tuesday 10/1, we will be doing the Patriots Point w/ lunch in the CPO lounge on the USS YORKTOWN. This trip includes the transportation, guides, and lunch and is \$65 per person. The Day in Historic Charleston Tour" on Wednesday includes transportation, tour guide, and we will be on our own for lunch in the Old City Market where we can eat and shop. The cost for this trip is \$40 per person.

**BANQUET:** Our banquet will be a buffet style dinner held in Salons B, C, and D on Thursday evening at 6:00pm. A guarantee of 40 or more people is required. The cost is \$45 per person. The menu is:

- Southern Fried Chicken (a house specialty)                      Lemon Layer Cake
- Chopped Sirloin Steaks    Pecan Pie
- Charleston Red Rice (a house specialty)
- Southern Lima Beans
- Stir Fried Vegetables

**SUMMATION:** As you can see, most of the things we do depend on the membership supporting the reunion. The costs of our trips is based on a minimum of 35 people participating and the cost of the banquet is based on a minimum of 40 persons in attendance. The reunion committee has done it's best to control the prices of the trips, banquet, etc. Each trip includes transportation in a nice, air-conditioned tour bus with driver provided, tour guides, some food, the cost of the tours and the charge for the tour company. For the banquet, it's the food, wait staff, gratuity, tax, 3 banquet rooms: and somewhere we have to remember the "free" hospitality room. Nothing we do is mandatory so you are not obligated to participate in everything but the committee feels as though each item is a good value compared to anything or anywhere else.

We cannot stress attendance enough. The reunion is about 6 months away. We only do this once every other year, so please plan to attend and make this a memorable reunion. As of this writing we have about 20 persons registered and paid, so please forward your reservations as soon as you can. Please use the pre-printed reservation form in this issue.



# The Owens' Ping

## President's Note

For those of you who are members of the American Legion (but you don't have to be a member), the United States Mint is issuing a set of commemorative coins recognizing the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the American Legion on March 14 of this year. There are several different offerings from gold coins, silver coins and clad coins individually or combined in sets. Pricing will be accordingly (as of this writing the prices have not been posted). The mint usually places these on sale at noon of the day of offering (3/14). If interested, please go to the mint's web site at the following: [www.usmint.gov](http://www.usmint.gov). You can order online with a credit card.

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PATRIOTS POINT NAVAL & MARITIME MUSEUM

*charlestonly.com*

♦ Patriots Point Naval & Maritime Museum, located in Mt. Pleasant, is home to the "Fighting Lady," the aircraft carrier USS Yorktown. Commissioned in 1943, she was the fourth ship to bear this name and participated in several campaigns in the Pacific Theater, earning 11 battle stars and the Presidential Unit Citation.

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Below is a picture of the outside of the Town & Country Inn and Suite that we will be staying at while in Charleston SC.





# The Owens' Ping

## 2019 REUNION TOUR & EVENT RESERVATION FORM

**Reunion Dates:** September 30 thru October 3, 2019

**Place:** Town and Country Inn and Suite  
2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC  
Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel.

\*\*For information on hotel reservations please see the  
"2019 Reunion Hotel Reservation Form" for instructions

### REUNION FUNCTIONS AND COSTS

Number of persons attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone where you can be contacted: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates Aboard OWENS: \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion Fee, \$20 per person: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday side trip to Patriot's Point w/ lunch in the CPO mess on the USS YORKTOWN,  
including transportation, \$65 per person:

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday side trip "A DAY IN HISTORIC CHARLESTON", a tour of the city, including  
transportation w/ free time in the Old City Market, \$40 per person:

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday night banquet, \$45 per person:

Number attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Total Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this completed form and remittance by 8/15/19 to:

**Larry McCoskey**  
**4110 Dolphin Rd.**  
**Louisville, KY 40220-4701**



# The Owens' Ping

## USS ROBERT A. OWENS

September 30 Through October 4, 2019

### 2019 REUNION HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

Town & Country Inn & Suites

2008 Savannah Highway, Charleston, SC 29407

Tel: 843-571-1000 Toll Free: 800-334-6660 Fax: 843-766-9444

www.thetownandcountryinn.com

**\$105.00** + 14% tax per room per night, Sunday through Thursday evenings.

**\$169.00** + 14% tax per room per night, Friday or Saturday evenings.

Group rates are not subject to further discounts or any current promotions.

A Credit Card number is required to guarantee this reservation\*\*.

The Town & Country Inn and Suites is a non-smoking Hotel.

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ # Rooms: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Room Type Preferred: \_\_\_\_\_ Contemporary King \_\_\_\_\_ Contemporary Two Queens

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Although we cannot guarantee special requests, every effort will be made to meet your request. Group reservations are blocked several days prior to arrival. Although the Hotel makes every effort to pre-block group reservations as close as possible, we do not guarantee the proximity of rooms due to numerous variables, including varying arrival dates and room types.*

Deposit Enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_ **OR**

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Card Holder Signature Authorizing Hotel's Use of Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* (PLEASE NOTE: Those guests sending a check deposit should be aware that a credit card imprint and valid, state-issued ID will be necessary upon check in. Should you wish to pay for your stay with cash, a credit card imprint and valid ID will still be required upon arrival to secure your accommodations. All cash payments are accepted upon departure. Never send cash through the mail.)**

Cancellation Policy: 24 hours prior to arrival date.

Check-In Time: 3:00 pm Check-Out Time: 12:00 pm

Group Code: **USSROA**

To confirm accommodations, please return form to the Hotel, or call directly, by August 30, 2019.

The accommodations block will not be held beyond this date.

We look forward to seeing you in September!!



# The Owens' Ping

*Remember to shop the Ships Store for your Christmas Shopping.!!*

**USS ROBERT A. OWENS DDK/DDE/DD-827  
SHIPS STORE INVENTORY EFFECTIVE December 2018**

ITEM		ON HAND	UNIT COST
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(Medium)	5	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(Large)	2	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XL)	18	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XXL)	All Out	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XXXL)	5	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Gray	(Medium)	All Out	\$23
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(Small)	13	\$18
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(Medium)	12	\$18
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(Large)	0	\$18
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(XL)	All Out	\$18
Shirt, Tee, Long Sleeve, Blue	(Large)	All Out	\$19
Shirt, Tee, Long Sleeve, Blue	(XL)	All Out	\$19
Shirt, Tee, Long Sleeve, Blue	(XXL)	All Out	\$19
Sweat Shirt, Hooded, Zip-Up, Blue	(XXL)	All Out	\$30
Cap, Baseball Style, Wool (Winter)	(Adjustable)	0	\$17
Cap, Baseball Style, Mesh (Summer)	(Adjustable)	2	\$17
Ships Patch, 1949-1964		13	\$3.50
Ships Patch, 1964-1982		81	\$6.00
Challenge Coin		81	\$10.00
Patch, Plank Owner		1	\$3
Pin, US Navy/Flag		1	\$3
Ships Magnet		21	\$2
Book, "Owens Saga"		96	\$15
Book, "Sea Tales"	(Initial Edition)	1	\$7
Book, "Sea Tales"	(Second Edition)	9	\$7

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



This is the new ships patch that has been ordered as the 1964-1982 ships patch. Due to inflation over the years and since the last ordering, the price will now be \$6.00

The new shipment has arrived and now in stock with 50 available. Contact Keith Totsch at ktotsch@comcast.net or see the information on the ships stores page in this edition.



## THE NEW "CHALLENGE COIN IS HERE.....!!!!!!

The Challenge Coin has arrived to the Ships Stores and Keith has 100 of them in stock. They sell for \$10.00 each and are available now.

Keith has asked me to tell you to please, when you order them, please include your phone number and email

address so that in the event of a problem with the order, he can check with you immediately. See the above patch Ad for information on how to contact Keith or go to the Ships Stores page of this edition for more info on how to order from him.

## CORRECTED MEMBERSHIP REPORT

- 289 Current members on Master Roster (Includes 10 Spouses)
- 86 Currently are contacted by USPS mail
- 180 Currently are contacted by E-mail
- 24 Currently unable to be contacted by any known means (Please see web site for list of people)
- 231 Currently listed on the Honor Roll



# The Owens' Ping

## ***A DAY IN HISTORIC CHARLESTON***

Tour Charleston's beautiful old historic district and enjoy the charming ambience found in centuries past. During your tour you will see many of the city's historic churches, take a stroll in one of our neighborhood parks, and drive the Military College of South Carolina known as the Citadel. View the lovely antebellum homes along the Battery, 18<sup>th</sup> century Rainbow Row, and magnificent public buildings for which Charleston is known. Throughout the tour, your guide will introduce you to stories of the past and present, magnificent public buildings, and other points of interest. Your tour will end at the Old City Market where you will enjoy free time for shopping and browsing, and lunch on your own at one of Charleston's many fine restaurants.

**Duration:**      *9:00am – 2:00pm*



## ***PATRIOTS POINT TOUR***

Tour Patriots Point, one of the world's largest naval and maritime museums. Visit the **USS Yorktown**, the famous fighting lady of World War II; the destroyer **USS Laffey**, a participant in the World War II D-Day landings at Normandy; the **Vietnam Era Naval Support Base** with its Sea Cobra and Huey helicopters; and the newly renovated **Congressional Medal of Honor** museum.

After you have worked up an appetite, enjoy a traditional hot "Navy" lunch in the Chief Petty Officer's Mess aboard the USS Yorktown!!

**Duration:**      *9:00am – 2:00pm w/Transportation*





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## Grandma is eighty-eight years old and still drives her own car. She writes:

Dear Grand-daughter,

The other day I went up to our local Christian book store and saw a 'Honk if you love Jesus' bumper sticker ..

I was feeling particularly sassy that day because I had just come from a thrilling choir performance, followed by a thunderous prayer meeting.

So, I bought the sticker and put it on my bumper..Boy, am I glad I did; what an uplifting experience that followed.

I was stopped at a red light at a busy intersection, just lost in thought about the Lord and how good he is, and I didn't notice that the light had changed.

It is a good thing someone else loves Jesus because if he hadn't honked, I'd never have noticed. I found that lots of people love Jesus!

While I was sitting there, the guy behind started honking like crazy, and then he leaned out of his window and screamed, 'For the love of God!'

'Go! Go! Go! Jesus Christ, GO !'

What an exuberant cheerleader he was for Jesus! Everyone started honking!

I just leaned out my window and started waving and smiling at all those loving people. I even honked my horn a few times to share in the love!

;There must have been a man from Florida back there because I heard him

yelling something about a sunny beach. I saw another guy waving in a funny way with only his middle finger stuck up in the air.

I asked my young teenage grandson in the back seat what that meant.

He said it was probably a Hawaiian good luck sign or something.

Well, I have never met anyone from Hawaii , so I leaned out the window and gave him the good luck sign right back. My grandson burst out laughing.

Why even he was enjoying this religious experience!!

A couple of the people were so caught up in the joy of the moment that they got out of their cars and started walking towards me.

I bet they wanted to pray or ask what church I attended, but this is when I noticed the light had changed. So, grinning, I waved at all my brothers and sisters, and drove on through the intersection.

I noticed that I was the only car that got through the intersection

before the light changed again and felt kind of sad that I had to leave

them after all the love we had shared. So I slowed the car down, leaned out the window and gave them all the Hawaiian good luck sign one last time as I drove away. Praise the Lord for such wonderful folks!!

Will write again soon,

Love,

Grandma

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**Editors Note:** A quick note to let everyone know that we are always looking for stories, thoughts, and ideas for the PING and the Web Site. If you have something, please submit to Jerry Jackson at: [namwarrior41@yahoo.com](mailto:namwarrior41@yahoo.com) and I will try to make sure it is inserted in the next issue and in the web site ASAP.

Also, if you change your email address or have recently acquired an email address, please advise as I can't send your PING to you without it and it is cheaper to send by email than by USPS. For those of you that have only snail mail address and no email, make sure you keep me informed of any address changes.