



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

SUMMER 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: (Temp)

Larry McCoskey

Larrymc3140@gmail.com

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

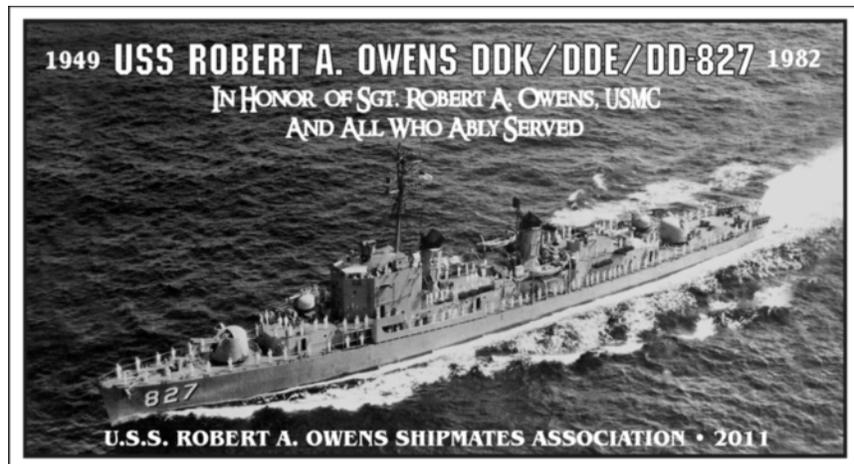
SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

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



**Commissioned
1949**

**Decommissioned
1982**



The Owens' Ping

Presidents 2019 Summer Message

Good day to everyone! I hope you are all enjoying your summer as I write this on June 21, the first day of summer and the longest day of the year. I remember Ellen and I vacationing in Alaska in mid-June a few years ago, we were by Denali National Park and it barely got dark for just a couple of hours. Not that good in Louisville, but we only have about 9 hours of darkness this time of year. However, it's been so rainy here that we haven't been able to get out and enjoy things as much as we want. I'm sure many of you are experiencing the same wet Spring we have had.

Speaking of the rainy season, I want to share a little safety message with everyone. We constantly see where someone in a car, a bus or truck gets swept off the road by high, fast water. The water doesn't appear that deep so they feel they can drive through it – too many times this is a tragic mistake. Water is very heavy, weighing 62.5 lbs. per cubic foot. When water is moving at 9 mph it exerts 600 lbs. per square foot on an object. So I did some calculations on my own car, a Chevy Malibu, mid-sized sedan weighing about 2000 lbs. I measured my tire and it was 27" in diameter which gave it right at 4 square feet per tire. Now, if I drive through swift water going 9 mph and the water is ½ way up on my tires, the water is exerting 1200 lbs. on each tire – pushing my car sideways. I have 4 tires which means there is 4800 lbs. pushing on a 2000 lb. vehicle. The laws of physics say the water will win. Now, if the water got higher and was pushing against the side of my car's body, I don't stand a chance. Think of how large tires are on SUVs, buses, trucks, etc. Of course the vehicles weight more, but there's more force pushing it sideways. So the moral of this story is.....guess what? Don't drive through high and moving water unless you like taking chances with your and your passenger's lives. Think about it.

I hope you all made it through the Memorial Day Weekend unscathed. It's a busy time of year and one where we reflect on those who sacrificed everything for our freedom. Each of us answered the call and gave years of our lives for our country; and I don't think any of us regret what we did. In fact, I know we all should be proud of our service and take satisfaction out of knowing we did what we had to do and did it well. Now we're approaching July 4th when we can celebrate our nation's birthday. We'll be 243 years old on that day if my math is correct, so let's celebrate what we have and vow to protect it for all our generations to come. It is said our children and grandchildren are our messengers into a future we will never see. Let us endeavor to instill the same pride and patriotism in them that we now carry so that their future will be as secure and bright as ours has been.

Ellen and I hope to see you all at the reunion this year in Charleston, SC. Our numbers have fallen a little in years past and I'd love to see them rise again so that we can renew old friendships and make many new ones. One never has enough friends.

All the best to you and your families for a happy, fun and safe summer. See you in Charleston.

Larry



2019 Reunion - Advance Tentative Planning

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.

TIME IS SHORT...IF YOU INTEND TO ATTEND DO IT NOW!



The Owens' Ping

2019 REUNION, CHARLESTON, SC

Shipmates:

The reunion committee has been rather quiet for the past couple of months. Very few reservations are arriving and we're starting to worry. We guaranteed the hotel a modest 40 participants and as of the end of June we only have 24 registered and paid. Please, if you're going to attend, make your reservations direct with the hotel (if you can't come you can cancel the reservations with no charge), complete the reservation form in this issue of the PING and send it to the name and address on the form along with a check made out to "USS R. A. Owens Shipmates Assn." Much of the work has been done and all the planning was completed months ago. Now we need YOUR participation.

If you've never run one of the reunions you don't know the time involved and the stress that comes when people wait till the last minute. For instance, in August I have to begin sending checks to the tour and bus companies with a number of participants in order for them to know if we need one or two buses. They need to know how many will be attending the lunch aboard the ship. I have to send an advance check and number to the hotel so they can plan the food and needed personnel to serve at the banquet. It would be nice for us to know so we can plan on how heavily to stock the hospitality room.

I totally understand that we're an aging group and our numbers will dwindle as years pass. Many have said they have health issues and need to wait and see if they are able to attend. And then there are some who just wait. I've begun calling and talking with some of our shipmates that I haven't seen at some of the last reunions that always attended before. I've really enjoyed talking with all of you whether you can attend or not. Hopefully, some of you will call some of your old shipmates and try to meet them in Charleston.

I hosted the reunion in Louisville in 2007 and we had 125 people attend. In 2015 we had 25, in 2017 we had 50. I would certainly love to see these numbers go up again.

Read the information in this issue of what we have planned. I think the trips a good ones and should provide really nice days for us. We hope to see many of you again this year, so please submit your reservations as soon as you can.

Larry



The Owens' Ping

2019 REUNION 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 at:

www.thetownandcountryinn.com

or by calling the hotel at (800) 334-6660. Group code: USSROA.

REUNION FUNCTIONS AND COSTS

Number of persons attending: _____

Name(s): _____

Phone where you can be contacted: _____

Dates Aboard OWENS: _____ Rank/Rate: _____

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

(Make checks to: USS ROBERT A. OWENS SHIPMATES ASSN.)



The Owens' Ping

ATTENTION: Please contact Keith by phone or email before sending in any order to ensure the proper mailing address

**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

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



ATTENTION Members:

Our Treasurer, Leroy (Ed) Green is under the weather at the moment so our President, Larry McCoskey, is assuming temporary Treasurer tasks in the interim. If you have time, drop a note of encouragement to Ed and let him know to get well soon.

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 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.

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, 18th 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***





The Owens' Ping



PICTURED ABOVE

The USS R.A. Owens DDK/DDE/DD 827 following transfer to the Turkish Navy as the TCG Alcitpe D346. Seen here pier side in Newport R.I.

A LITTLE OWENS HISTORY

The USS Robert A. Owens was a Gearing-class destroyer of the United States Navy, in service from 1949 to 1982. The Robert A. Owens was decommissioned on 16 February 1982 and transferred to the Republic of Turkey through the Security Assistance Program (SAP) that same day. She served as the TCG Alcitepe (D-346) with the Turkish Navy until early 1999 when she was decommissioned and scrapped.

Robert A. Owens was laid down on 29 October 1945 by the Bath Iron Works Corp., Bath, Maine; Launched on 15 July 1946; Sponsored by Miss Patricia Hannegan; reclassified dDK-827 on 28 January 1948; and commissioned at Boston on 5 November 1949, Commander Rexford V. Wheeler, Jr., in command. She was named for United States Marine Corps Sergeant Robert A. Owens (1920-1943), who was awarded both the Navy Cross and Medal of Honor posthumously for his heroic actions in the Battle of Empress Augusta Bay.

Orhan Sengul stated the following on our Owens facebook page:

"I was one of the original Turkish Crew that took over from the US Navy...TCG Alcitepe was just as vibrant as USS Owens....Great ship, great crew on both sides and great times in Newport RI"