



# The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

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

## SPRING 2020 - EDITION

### SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

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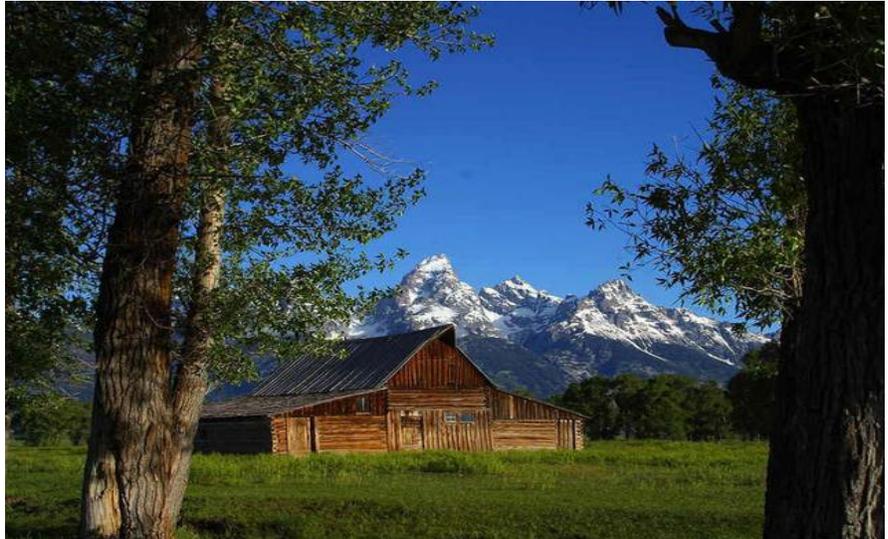
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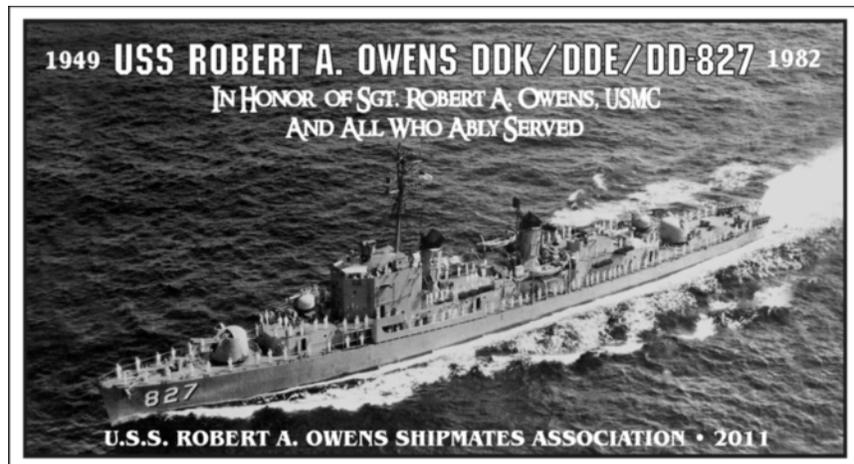
SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

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 2020 Spring Message

As I write this it is rain, sleet, snow and cold outside all in one day. By the time you read this, hopefully, it will be a wonderful Spring day where you are. And I sure hope one here, too! The long holiday season is well over and I trust everyone made it through having a blessed Christmas and a very happy, healthy and prosperous first of the new year.

Here it is 2020 and I look back on a February day in 1969 when I walked across the gang plank onto the DESSUB pier in Norfolk for the last time to catch a cab for the airport and a joyous flight home for the last time. Thinking back, it doesn't seem possible. Occasionally, I still have dreams about being aboard a ship that is just not quite like the one I left and I'm frustrated because I can't find my way around it and can't find my locker. Nobody is the same, everyone is different and I'm a new guy again. I have that same stressful feeling I had the first day I reported aboard OWENS and was assigned to the deck force. I didn't trust what the guys were telling me, not knowing if they were messing with me or being straight. 50 years later those memories are still there. How about you guys, ever dream about being back in the Navy? I'd be surprised if you didn't! Since the last reunion in Charleston I brought up the idea with our executive committee of having a small reunion this year here in Louisville. It was going to be a day at Churchill Downs, a day trip to Maker's Mark on the Bourbon Trail and have a buffet meal catered by Mission BBQ at my local American Legion. However, I could not get this plan to mesh; dates could not line up and the local hotel I wanted to use next to the Legion wanted a group rate of \$179 per night. So I dropped the idea of a "mini-reunion" in an off year and contacted Bill Miller to make sure he was planning our next reunion in Pittsburgh in 2021, which he is. I leave the rest of that arrangement up to him to publish in the Ping.

I spoke with Gary Parks, our Treasurer, and he told me that the reminder notices he sent have been quite successful and many of you have forwarded your 2020 dues and then some. I strongly urge everyone to send dues to Gary, which really helps our organization continue to provide communications to everyone via the Ping and our web site. Our biggest expense is printing and mailing the Ping, so I would strongly encourage all of you to insure we have a correct email address to which we can send it electronically. If you don't have an address yourself, maybe you could use someone else's to where we could send the Ping, have them print it and give it to you. It's quicker, cheaper and much easier on our Ping editor and web site manager, Jerry Jackson.

Keith Totsch told me the ship's store is moving rather slowly. This may be a good time to order a couple of summer golf shirts with the RAO logo on it. He added a really nice white one in stock prior to the last reunion; I get a lot of comments on mine. And I enjoy my morning coffee in my RAO mug! Keith does a very nice job with the store and I'd love to see more of you support it.

All the best to you from Ellen and me for a wonderful Spring and Summer season. Get outdoors, play some golf (or play at it like I do), hike, walk or do something to get out and get some exercise. I think that's the key to remaining a little healthier. Let us know if you're going to be in Louisville. Ellen and I are good tour guides!

Larry



# The Owens' Ping

## CORONA VIRUS

Yes, I know, we're all very tired of hearing about the Corona Virus and equally tired of all the news conferences on TV listening to our elected leaders answering a few good questions, many repeat questions and even more dumb questions. But this is what life has given us over the past many weeks. I just wanted to add in this issue of the Ping that I hope all of you are heeding the advice of those experts in the field and taking all precautions to remain safe and healthy. By the time you read this I'm hoping most of the bad times will be coming to an end, but, being cautious, I'm not sure it will have. So please continue to be patient and do the right thing to keep you and your families safe. I (and I'm sure you, too) have done enough stupid things in my life that could have turned out much worse than it did. So, let's not repeat; we may not be as lucky next time!

From Ellen and me, all the best for a safe and healthy Spring and early Summer!

Larry

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## U.S. Mint United States Navy Bicentennial Medal Available

The United States Navy was established by the Continental Congress on October 13, 1775 to intercept ships carrying supplies to the British army in America during the American Revolution. More than two centuries later the Navy remains committed to safeguarding our Nation with Pride and courage.

The U.S. Mint has gifts honoring all branches of the military. The US Navy Bicentennial Medal depicts the sloop "Alfred", the flagship of the First American Fleet, on the obverse and the modern nuclear Navy of today on the reverse. Find the perfect military gift on our military appreciation page.

Type in the address below in your computer and go directly to the military appreciation coin section.



‡ <https://catalog.usmint.gov/curated/military-history/>



# The Owens' Ping

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## ***FROM YOUR FRIENDLY TREASURER:***

Greetings everyone. First of all, I would like to thank everyone who has sent in their 2020 dues. An even bigger thank you to those who sent in more than one year. I really appreciate it since I am just a volunteer like everyone else. As of 3-24, the following members (in alpha order) have paid their 2020 dues: Leslie Arnold, Gerald Baillargeon, Stanley Baranski, Charles Baumrucker, Larry Baxa, Michael Bihuniak, Zollie Bowling, Tommy Bradley, Walter Brewer, David Bronson, Edward Burch, Robert Burns, Jerald Butler, Clarence Chambers, John Chisum Jr, Carmen Clinton, Brock Collins, Alex Colvin, Louis Corbett, Henry Couch, Leroy Crocker, Harry Davidson, Roy Dowis, Richard Eichlin, Richard Enderly, Terrance Egeman, Mark Errico, John Faral, Joseph Garvansites, Ronald Genovese, James Gottsch, Homer Gowen, Michael Grant, Terry Grape, Jamie Gunnin, Leroy Hoeft, Arnold Ingold, Jerry Jackson, Clare Keeney, William Kellner, Lloyd Krueger, Roy Ladegaard, Donald Lee, William Leonard, Ken Lloyd, Joseph Luque, David Mabie, Brian Macleod, Joseph Malinguaggio, Harry Marker, Lowen Marshall, Larry McCoskey, John McNaught, William Miller, John Myette, Hilbert Neuberger, Julius Nyul, Robert Orent, Gary Parks, Robert Parnoff, Ronald Pervere, Steve Pitura, Reginald Ritter, John Roberge, William Rockey, Frank Rogucki, Derwood Roland, Stephen Rosenthal, Neil Roth, Michael Rud, Wesley Ruppel, James Rush, Roger Scherer, Jack Scott, John Scott, George Sillett, Richard Simcoe, John Smartt, Carl Smith, Melvin Smith, Bill Talley, Kenneth Talley, James Taylor, Keith Totsch, Laurence Triplett, John Wagner, David Walbert, John Wanko, Robert Weachock, Ronald Wertman, Harry West, Bobby Williams and James Williamson.

**PLEASE**, send your check for \$10 (per year) payable to Gary Parks at 3166 Marietta Road, Chillicothe, OH 45601 by May 1<sup>st</sup> so we can keep you on the roster. Any questions, call me at 614-216-4449. Thank you.

Also, I would like to acknowledge a very generous donation to the association from Christine Steffens in memory of her late husband Fred Steffens who passed away last year.

On a lighter note on blood donation. I tried donating blood yesterday and NEVER AGAIN! Too many stupid questions.

\*Whose blood is it?            \*Where did you get it?    \*Why is it in a bucket?



# The Owens' Ping

## 2021 Ship's Reunion

**Save the dates—Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021,**  
for our next ship's reunion, in Pittsburgh, PA.

At one time, Pittsburgh was known as a dark and dirty city, because of all the steel making facilities. The street lights had to be turned on during the day to be able to see, but not anymore. As you can see from the photo, Pittsburgh is a beautiful city located at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers to form the Ohio River. It has gone through 2 renaissances to be rebuilt and some believe it's in its third renaissance, right now.

October is when the Steelers and Penguins are playing games. Who knows, maybe there will be a game during, or around, our reunion we can get tickets for. So please save Monday, October 4<sup>th</sup> thru Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, for the next ship reunion. We're planning an enjoyable and affordable reunion. I look forward to seeing everyone.





# The Owens' Ping

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

R. A. Owens Inventory 04/01/2020

Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(Medium)	3	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XL)	16	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(3XL)	5	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	(XL)	16	\$13.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf White	(2XL)	6	\$13.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	(3XL)	6	\$13.00
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(Small)	13	\$8.00
Shirt, Tee w/Pocket, Blue	(Medium)	11	\$18.00
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(XL)	9	\$18.00
Cap, Baseball Style, (Winter) Adjustable		14	\$20.00
Cap, Baseball Style, (Summer)Adjustable		17	\$20.00
Ships Patch, 1949-1954		7	\$3.50
Ships Patch, 1964-1982		39	\$3.50
Ships Magnet		14	\$2.00
Book, "Owens Saga		93	\$8.00
Book, "Sea Tales" (Second Edition)		10	\$7.00
Challenge Coins		63	\$10.00
Coffee Mugs		23	\$10.00

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: Gary Parks

Mail your order and payment to:

**Mr. Keith Totsch**  
**2001 W. Eagle Ridge Drive**  
**Waukegan, IL 60087-5756**

**847-445-9597**      **ktotsch@comcast.net**



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## The Tired Sailor

By the time the sailor pulled into a little town every hotel room was taken. "You've got to have a room somewhere," he pleaded. "Or just a bed, I don't care where."

"Well, I do have a double room with one occupant – an Air Force guy," admitted the manager, "and he might be glad to split the cost. But to tell you the truth, he snores so loudly that people in adjoining rooms have complained in the past. I'm not sure it'd be worth it to you."

"No problem," the tired Navy man assured him. "I'll take it."

The next morning, the sailor came down to breakfast bright-eyed and bushy tailed. "How'd you sleep?" asked the manager. "Never better." The manager was impressed. "No problem with the other guy snoring?" "Nope. I shut him up in no time," said the Navy guy.

"How'd you manage that?" asked the manager.

"He was already in bed, snoring away, when I came in the room," the sailor explained. "I went over, gave him a kiss on the cheek, and said, 'Goodnight beautiful,' ...and he sat up all night watching me."

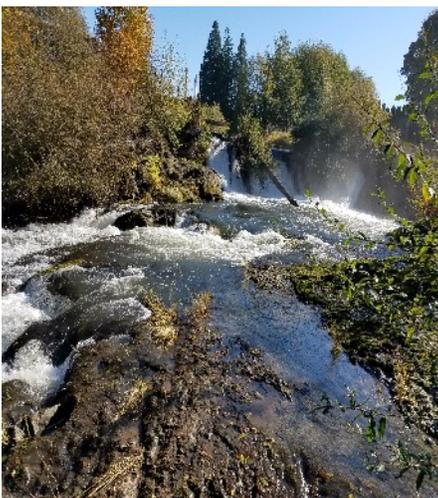


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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

Its been a quiet time for all of us that are under orders to remain at home for a time while waiting out the COVID-19, and many are having problems trying to figure out what to do with themselves. Reading has occupied a lot of my time and enjoying the company of my wife and cat has occupied the rest of my time. I do have the luxury of having the beauty of Washington state all around me and living in the woods has given me a place to relax and mingle with nature. The wife and I have adopted a herd of deer (does and bucks) as well as smaller critters (below) and we have them to spoil each day with treats of apples and seeds. I hope you all can look around during this forced inactivity and find the beauty that we all too often rush past and miss seeing.

Jerry Jackson



**Please stay safe, wash your hands often, practice social distancing, and be well**