



# The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

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

## SUMMER 2020 - EDITION

### SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

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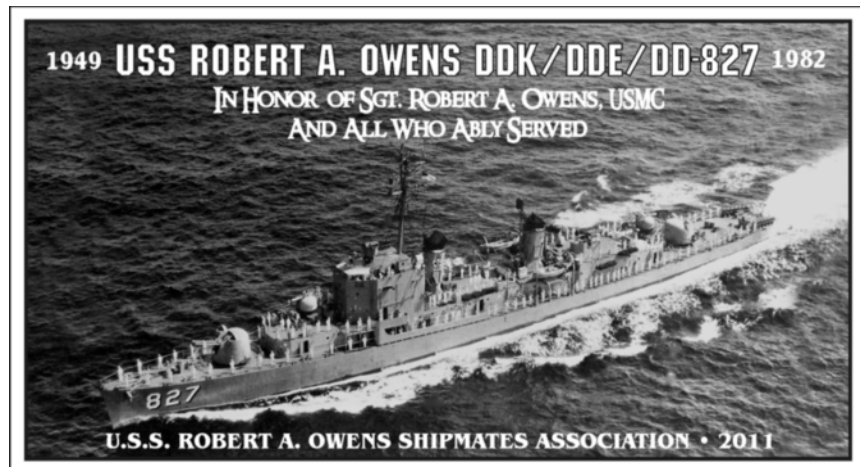
SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

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

## Presidents 2020 Summer Message

Greetings to all my shipmates wherever you all may be. It's fully into summer now and the weatherman has the easiest job in town – "It'll be hot tomorrow with a 20% chance of a showers". Pretty much sums it up. Here in Louisville and in the Ohio Valley area where the air gets stagnant, the heat coupled with the humidity (what they now call the "dew point", whatever that is) and the allergy problems, it gets pretty stifling in the afternoons. I certainly hope you've all held up well in your areas.

As we all feared, and hesitated to really believe, this Covid-19 business has continued to hang around for a few months too long. I remember hearing some of the experts saying back in March that this could carry into next year if a cure isn't found; I listened but I didn't believe. Sure hated to be wrong on that one. Here we are six months into it and it's not getting any better. I certainly hope none of you have been infected by it and have been able to avoid any serious complications. Most of us are at the age now where we just could not fight it like we used to. Please continue to be safe and healthy.

In the past couple of months I've begun to call many of you by phone just to chat and check on you and see how everything is going. Unfortunately, I usually don't get through and end up with a voice mail. I suppose we're all alike, we now have phones that display the incoming number and if we don't know who it is we don't answer. I'm sure most of you look at the 502 area code and figure you don't know anyone from there so don't pick up. I leave a message when possible, so don't be surprised if you hear my voice on your answering machine. For those of you I have been able to speak with, we've had some great conversations, a lot of laughs and it's just good to speak with a number of you.

As we read this in August realize that we're only a couple of months away from election day in November. In the month or so leading up to this we'll be bombarded on TV by political ads singing the praises of one while besmirching the other. As we wade through all this up till November 3<sup>rd</sup>, please be sure you are registered to vote and then to cast your vote for your chosen candidate in the manner that is most convenient to you. Some states may have early voting, absentee voting, mail-in voting or, like me, just go to the polls on election day. Please pay attention and cast your ballot correctly so it will be counted. Kentucky just had mail-in voting for the primary in June for the first time and thousands of ballots were disqualified for various reasons – all of which were errors by the voter. No signatures, two different signatures, unsealed ballot envelopes and, get this, empty envelopes with no ballots were some of the mistakes. Please VOTE!

To each of you, have a wonderful, safe and healthy remainder of the summer and fall. All the best to all of you from Ellen and me.

Larry

## 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



# The Owens' Ping

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## DAILY CHUCKLE

A man went to the doctor, concerned about his wife's hearing. "Go back and say something to her", the doctor suggested. "Tell me how close you are when she hears you."

The man went home and saw his wife in the kitchen, cutting carrots. From 15 feet away he said, "Honey, what's for dinner?" Nothing. He walked halfway to her and repeated the question. Nothing. Concerned, he stood right behind her and asked again, "What's for dinner?"

She turned around and exclaimed, "For the third time, Beef Stew!"

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A child was taken to the dentist for a checkup, then told she'd have to have a filling. "What kind of filling would you like for that tooth?" The dentist asked her mother.

The child piped up, "Chocolate, please."

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A man goes ice fishing for the first time. All of a sudden, he hears a loud voice: "There are no fish under the ice!"

He ignores it and moves to another area, cuts a hole, and tosses his line in. Again, he hears the booming voice: "There are no fish under the ice!"

The man looks up nervously and asks, "Lord? Is that you?"

"NO, this is the rink manager!"

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*Supplied by Bill Miller from the American Legion monthly.*

**Welcome to our newest member:** Steven (Andy the Cook) Anderson MS3 (Sept 75 - May 78)



# The Owens' Ping

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## FROM THE TREASURER:

**Hi everyone,**

**We have approx.. 241 members listed on the roster and 120 of those members have not paid their dues which is only \$10. In the two prior Ping's I have listed the names of those who have paid, however, this time I am listing those who have not paid and will be dropped from the rolls after September 1<sup>st</sup>:**

**Thomas Anderson, Robert Barnett, Salvatore Barone, William Barr, Gregory Barriere, Rodger Bergeron, Ernest Berry, Mark Borys, Thomas Brauner, Paul Britten, Russell Broadbent, Gerald Brookman, John Care, Richard Chichester, Steve Clendenning, James Clendenning, Patrick Click, William Connolly, Ronald Cornett, Robert Corsnitz, Myron Cross, William Crouch, Thomas Culp, Bruce Curtis, Bill Davis, Larry Delaney, Robert Deppe, Larry Distad, Edward Dittamo, Douglas Ensman, Paul Eversole, Eric Falk, Roger Faulkner, Herbert Faundez, Richard Finnegan, David Fish, Claude Fisher, Joseph Fisher, David Fitts, Alan Flanagan, Ronald Gigliotti, Don Grass, Leroy Green, William Harris, Robert Harrell, Gus Haynes, Donald Heck, Edward Hendrickson, Joseph Herbert, Wayne Hicks, John Hjls, Kenneth Howell, David Hubert, John Ignatovich, Kenneth Iverson, Robert Jazzkowski, Denton Jordan, Alan Juhl, Jim Kaczorowski, Ed Kahrs, Frederick Kaschmitter, Russell Kauffman, Jack Keller, John Keller, Thomas Kelley, Thomas Kinberg, Paul Krachey, John Lacreta, F.T. Landrum, Richard Lansing, Donald Lawson, Roberto Leandado, Bill Legg, Edward Levey, Richard Luzier, Edward Malick, William Maraugh, Joseph Martin, Ellezar Martinez, Charles Mcateer, Kenneth Mckinney, Randolph Mcmichael, Wilbur Mowen, Albert Mumma, James Neuman, Joseph Newcomb, Roger Nichols, James Owens, Albert Pittis, Ed Postal, John Rafferty, Billy Ratcliff, Richard Reimer, Jerry Rhude, Richard Rickett, Gary Rikoon, Robert Rozecki, Michael Santoro, Rick Schopp, Bill Schrader, R Schwartzkopf, Howard Shipman, Edward Spagnolo, William Stancliff, Edward Stzalkowski, Norman Suelflow, Glenn Taylor, Patrick Thompson Sr, Don Tiemeier, Joseph Toth, David Tumulo, Stephen Wagner, Deldrich Wasserbauer, Kenneth Watson, John Weachock, James Weimer, Phillip Wesley, Donald Whaley, Steve Woinicki, William Woodward.**

**Please send your check payable to Gary Parks for \$10 per year to: Gary Parks, 3166 Marietta Road, Chillicothe, OH 45601 before September 1<sup>st</sup>. Any questions, feel free to call me at 614-216-4449. Thank you.**

**"I got gas today for \$1.39, unfortunately it was at Taco Bell"**



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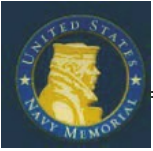
## 2021 Ship's Reunion

**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.





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***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)	4	\$13.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	(3XL)	4	\$13.00
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(Small)	12	\$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		9	\$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		5	\$2.00
Book, "Owens Saga		93	\$8.00
Book, "Sea Tales" (Second Edition)		10	\$7.00
Challenge Coins		60	\$10.00
Coffee Mugs		10	\$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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## KNOWLEDGE v. WISDOM

For those of you who belong to the American Legion you may have read the article in the April, 2020 issue titled "The Wisdom Gap". It is an extremely interesting article about the data and the knowledge we receive every day as opposed to years ago. It makes me think about the data and the knowledge that our children and grandchildren are getting and whether they can absorb it all intelligently.

The article, written by Alan W. Dowd, begins, "Before the 20<sup>th</sup> century, human knowledge doubled every hundred years. By the middle of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, it was every 25 years. Today, it's doubling every 13 months. In the near future, experts predict knowledge could double every 12 hours." The article claims that we are producing 2.5 million terabytes of data every day. To put that in perspective, researchers claim one (1) terabyte of data equals about 85 million pages of printed text!

To really shrink and paraphrase this article does not do it justice. It needs to be read. But the guts of the article relates all that data as something to be transferred by us into knowledge. But it is what we do with that knowledge that makes it critically important. The author states that the knowledge is not that helpful unless used with wisdom. Dowd quoted Professor James Kelly who told his students, "Knowledge is to wisdom as the raw material is to the manufactured article – crude and comparatively worthless." Therefore, wisdom is the key as to how well one uses the knowledge.

Using religion as examples, Dowd quotes everything from Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and even Confucius as lauding wisdom. He says wisdom is not defined by a formula nor can be attained by a course of study. It is not an exact science, it's an imprecise quality. However, we all recognize it when we see it or hear it.

There is a "wisdom gap", as Dowd puts it, being created today in young people with all the social media, need for instant gratification, etc., that leaves them at risk to be swayed by anything or anybody. It is a generation that devalues and disregards faith, history and pillar institutions. It will be difficult for them to produce leaders with wisdom.

Wisdom is a quality we generally associate with age and living experience. This is true to an extent, but not always. Some people never learn! The good news is that it can be learned and passed along to future generations. It's up to us to do that. Please read Dowd's article. It would be wise of you to do so!



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## FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

In 1989, Jim Holden Jr., began the USS R.A. Owens Shipmate Association. At that time, there were only a few people that were members but even so, he (and they) persevered and it is what it is today. They set the annual dues at a level that everyone could meet without difficulty (\$10.00 per year) and still allow the Association to do the things it would like to do. Things like donating to Navy Associations that assist our active and retired brothers and sisters in need. This is done each time one of our members passes and in their name. It has helped with the costs of the reunions, thereby decreasing the cost to the attending members each time. And it has paid for the printing of the PING newsletter all these years. The PING began in 1989 and has continued every year since that time. The web site began about 2005 and has been on the internet since that time. Both of these information items are for the benefit of the shipmates and their loved ones. However, they both cost the association hundreds of dollars per year which is just one more way the annual dues are used.

Currently we have 239 “active” members. Of those members, 167 receive their PING newsletter emailed to them by me each time it is published and if for some reason they miss it, they can look on the website and not only see the current edition, but several years of the PING as well. The balance of the membership (72) have no email capabilities (or have not informed us that they do) and receive a printed copy of the PING mailed to them at the Associations expense. I give you the numbers because of the following:

The last PING cost the \$392.00 for 72 people which averages out to \$5.45 per individual. At three times per year this would equate to \$16.35 per person. That means that the association is losing money each printing for each of those 72 people.....it amounts to \$457.00 loss per year. Now comes the major problem...26 of those 72 people have not paid dues but are still on the rolls. If those 26 are dropped from the rolls due to not paying their dues, it will mean that the cost per person of the PING being mailed out to the remaining 46 will be \$8.57 per copy to those remaining. See the problem?? You have seen the notices from Gary Parks and myself about dues, and most have responded favorably, but it takes ALL of us to keep the Association afloat and viable.

Please, if you are receiving the PING (either through the mail or online) and are not sure where you stand on your dues, please contact Gary Parks (his information is on page 4) and find out.

### **NOW A QUESTION:**

For those of you receiving the PING in print, is there a family member, a close friend, a close by relative that has email capability that we could send the PING to. They could then print the PING onto paper and give it to you to read at your leisure. This would be a great help in reducing the cost outlay per month. If there is someone that is willing to do this for you, please have them contact me at [namwarrior41@yahoo.com](mailto:namwarrior41@yahoo.com) and let me know who they would be receiving the PING for so that I can change the rosters to reflect this information.

Jerry Jackson, PING Editor & Web Site Manager

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