



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

SUMMER 2021 - EDITION

SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

President:

Larry McCoskey

Larrymc3140@gmail.com

VicePresident

Jack Wanko

Johnwanko71@msn.com

Secretary:

Bobby Williams

Bobbywms@embarqmail.com

Treasurer:

Gary Parks

Biwgp@hotmail.com

Ships' Store Manager:

Keith Totsch

Ktotsch@comcast.net

Chaplains:

Bobby Williams

Bobbywms@embarqmail.com

Membership Committee:

(Vacant)

Reunion 2021 Committee:

Bill Miller

Billmiller15644@gmail.com

Audit Committee:

John Wagner johnwagner451@gmail.com

Bill Miller billmiller15644@gmail.com

Ron Pervere ron@pervere.net

PING Manager/Editor

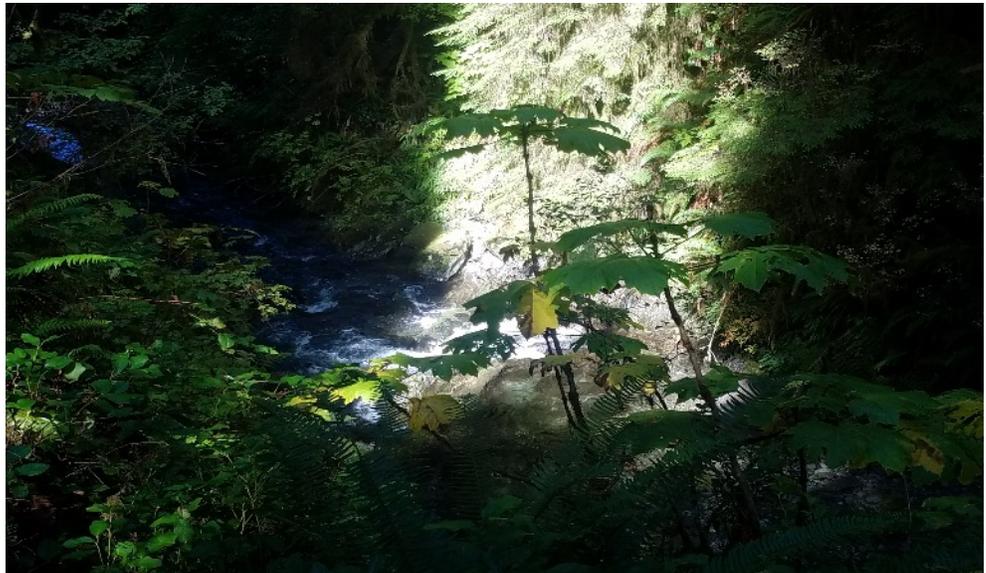
WEB Site Manager

Jerry Jackson

namwarrior41@yahoo.com

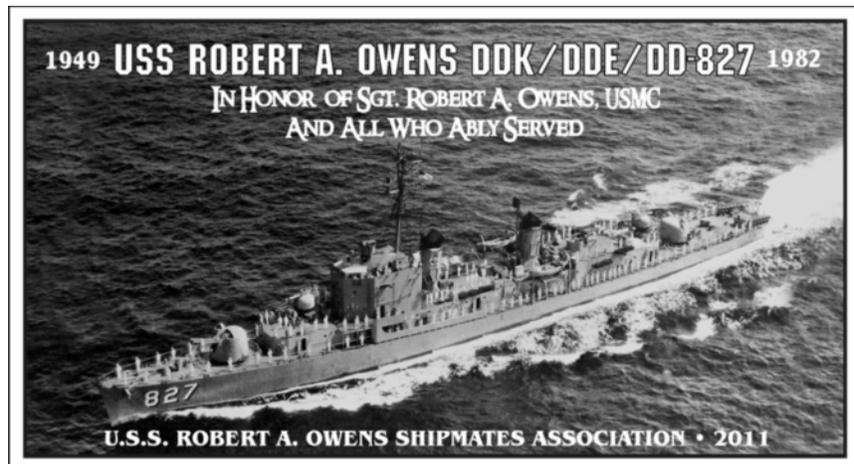
SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

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..



REMEMBER:

15 AUGUST IS THE REUNION CUT-OFF DATE.



**Commissioned
1949**

**Decommissioned
1982**

AUGUST 2021



The Owens' Ping

Presidents 2021 SUMMER Message

Hello to all my fellow shipmates. We certainly hope everyone has received their vaccines and were able to escape any of the harsh symptoms of the COVID virus. Ellen and I were some of the first in our area to get our shots in January and February – only because we're old!! A few weeks ago I thought I had contracted the disease in spite of the shots, possibly the new Delta strain. It turned out to be pneumonia which had all the same symptoms. I actually went to a local small clinic to be COVID tested and when it came back negative was sent to an emergency room for further diagnosis. It certainly had me down for a couple of weeks.

I'm sure I can speak for everyone that it sure is good to be out again, mostly out from behind the masks for a change (although we still wear one in some places) and able to see all our friends and family up close and personal. 2020 and beyond was certainly a challenge for us all and I was amazed to see how many people obeyed the directives and warnings, but was even more amazed at the people who refused to conform. I have no idea where our sense of responsibility began to fail in some people or where their sense of decency towards other people went. But, it was obvious in so many groups that it made me wonder what some people are thinking – other than of nobody but themselves. I remember the days in the early 50s when polio was such a threat and how people reacted. When it became available I can't remember anyone not wanting to get in line and get the vaccine. We never saw or heard of people refusing to do the responsible thing. Such a different time.

I heard from Bill Miller today that we only have 15 people registered for our reunion in October, which is well below what we need to qualify for rooms, trips, etc. Bill has done a tremendous amount of work and put a lot of effort into making this reunion a memorable one and I feel he deserves a lot more participation from our membership. If we can't turn out more than 15 people, then we need to revisit exactly what it is we want from a reunion. I'll be surveying our leadership in the next day or two and we'll need to come to a decision on what to do next. There's absolutely nothing we can do about the expense; everything is expensive anymore. Everyone realizes that after travel, hotel and reunion trips and expenses that this is a \$1000 vacation. But breaking it down, it's close to \$250 a day which includes hospitality, trip, lodging, transportation, etc. It's as cheap as any other vacation you would take on your own to any destination – probably cheaper than most. If you've had your vaccinations, it's very safe to travel now. So I strongly encourage everyone to send in your reservations and make it a date.

We're all in full swing of summertime now and I hope you're enjoying the great outdoors. The pools are open, the golf courses are all open and the outdoor activities are many. Hopefully, you all got to enjoy some great fireworks for the July 4th weekend, had fun picnics and cookouts with friends and family. It's a wonderful time of year, so get out, be careful, wear your sunscreen and enjoy life!

All the best and I hope to see many of you in Pittsburgh in October.

Larry McCoskey



The Owens' Ping

A VIRTUAL REUNION BUSINESS MEETING

Have you ever thought to yourself, "I would love to attend the Associations business meetings so I could be involved but can't make it this year?"

I have but until now there really hasn't been the method or opportunity to do so. However, that changes this year. We will be having a Zoom Virtual Business Meeting so that more members can at least observe and be aware of what transpires at the business meeting. Here is what is going to happen....

At 0900 hours EST on October 7th, 2021 in Pittsburg, President Larry McCoskey will call the Association Biennial Business meeting to order. Generally the meetings begin with the pledge of Allegiance followed by the Prayer by the Association Chaplain. Because of the limited time that is allowed by us on Zoom, outside (virtual attendees) members will not be present, but approximately at 09:10 hour, the Zoom meeting will kick in and invitees will be able to attend.

As I am limited to 100 people at a time to be virtually present, the first 100 people that click in at the beginning of the time announced will be able to sign in and attend. The balance of the people attempting to sign in will be assigned to the "waiting room" and as people drop out of the meeting, the next person in the queue will be advised that they can enter the event.

Now that I have you completely confused, lets go over what a zoom virtual meeting is. At the Pittsburg end, there will be a computer with a projector attached that will show the screen view on a large movie screen. They will be the "host" computer and their camera will point at the group attending in person at the meeting. I will have sent out an "invitation" to all those that want to attend through their computers (virtual attendees) and the invitation will give you a time and date that the meeting will take place. There will also be a web site listed as well as a user code and password.

At the exact date and time (EST – so convert to your time to know when), you will be able to just click on the web site that is listed and it will automatically put you into the meeting. If you are not in the first 100 people to click in, it will advise you that you are in the "waiting room" and all you can do is to wait until someone leaves for you to enter. Sorry, zoom rules not mine.

You will be able to hear and see what is going on as the meeting will be the primary picture **however** you will NOT be able to talk and be heard by anyone. The reason is that your microphones would pick up 100 peoples pets barking, grandkids yelling, toilet flushing, and the hundred other household noises that would totally destroy the meeting at the other end. We are looking into a way for you to interact and silently vote (as long as the by-laws allow) but that will come in the summer version of the PING as we are still looking into things.

This notice is to advance warn everyone what we are trying as a break through in meeting attendance and participation. This is about the only good thing that has come from the Covid Wuhan Virus, a means for people to communicate and participate from afar.

For the moment you do not need to do anything. You are free to send me your name if you would like to be included (invited) to the meeting and I am sure you have questions and I will be glad to answer them if I can. I will be the scheduler for this meeting so your invite will come from me and I will be controlling the waiting room as well. Let me hear from you soon.

Jerry Jackson
Web Master & PING Editor
namwarrior41@yahoo.com



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

Dec 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)	4	\$18.00
Cap, Baseball Style, (Winter) Adjustable		8	\$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
Challenge Coins		60	\$10.00 (\$9 if ordered before 12/15/20)
Coffee Mugs		10	\$10.00
Book, "Owens Saga		93	\$8.00 (\$6 if ordered before 12/15/20)

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



The Owens' Ping

FROM THE TREASURER:

Hi everyone, since dues notice for 2022 won't be coming out until the fall Ping and we have finished up our collection period for 2021, I thought I would give you my 12 Commandments for Seniors:

- #1. Talk to yourself. There are times you need expert advice.
- #2. "In Style" are the clothes that still fit.
- #3. You don't need anger management. You need people to stop pissing you off.
- #4. Your people skills are just fine. It's your tolerance for idiots that needs work.
- #5. The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I'll remember it."
- #6. "On time" is when you get there.
- #7. Even duct tape can't fix stupid – but it sure does muffle the sound.
- #8. It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for ten minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.
- #9. Lately, you've noticed people your age are so much older than you.
- #10. Growing old should have taken longer.
- #11. Aging has slowed you down, but it hasn't shut you up.
- #12. You still haven't learned to act your age, and hope you never will.

And one more:

- #13. "One for the road" means peeing before you leave the house.

The following people have not paid their 2021 dues and have been removed from the Active Member Roster until such dues are paid. They are now listed on the "Inactive Member List" until then.

- | | | |
|----------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| -Steve Anderson | -Zollie Bowling | -Russell Broadbent |
| -Leroy Hoeft | -William Leonard | |
| -Joseph Malinguaggio | -John McNaught | -Gregory Miller |
| -Frank Nix | -Frank Rogucki | -Neil Roth |
| | -Jack Tishue | |

Hope everyone has a great summer!

Gary



The Owens' Ping





The Owens' Ping

Reunion Information & Updates

Reunion Information & Updates

Reunion Dates—October 4, 2021 to October 8, 2021. We'll check in on Monday 10/4, with side trips on Tuesday 10/5, and Wednesday 10/6. The business meeting and banquet will be on Thursday 10/7, with check out Friday morning on 10/8. I'm planning a side trip for the ladies on Thursday, while we're having our business meeting.

If you'd like, you can arrive up to 2 days early, or stay up to 2 days later, to explore the city. The hotel has offered the same room rate if anyone decides to do so. The room rate is \$72.00 + 14% tax per night. Let the hotel know how long you'll be staying when making your reservations.

Hotel: Comfort Inn Conference Center
699 Rodi Road
Pittsburgh, PA 15235
412-244-1600
www.comfortinnpittsburgh.com

You can make your reservations now by mailing the [2021 Reunion Hotel Reservation Form](#), calling the hotel, or follow this link: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/WW23Z4>. The hotel has blocked 25 rooms for us, but we are under no obligation to fill 25 rooms. Please make your reservations as soon as possible. If you are calling the hotel to make your reservations, tell them you're with "The Owens Ship Reunion". Give them the dates and they'll be able to pull it up on the computer. If you have any special room requests, make the hotel aware of them, i.e., handicapped accessible, etc. They can't guarantee they'll be able to accommodate your request, but every effort will be made if they can.

Side Trips—There are two trips scheduled for the group and possibly a trip for the ladies. On Tuesday 10/5, we'll travel to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville and then have lunch at the American Legion in Stoystown. The cost for this trip is \$45 per person. On Wednesday 10/6, we're planning a "Day in the 'Burgh". We'll be picked up at the hotel on a trolley and given a guided tour through the various districts of the city, a ride on the Duquesne Incline and lunch at Primanti Brother's in the strip district, on our own. We'll be picked up at Primanti Brother's and taken to Soldiers & Sailor's Memorial Hall for a guided tour and then returned to the hotel. The cost for this trip is \$70 per person. On Thursday 10/7, we're planning a guided tour for the ladies to Phipps Conservatory, while we have our business meeting. The cost for this guided tour is \$55 per person.

Banquet—At this time the banquet will be a buffet style dinner, Thursday evening at 6PM. However, there may be meal restrictions when we have our banquet, so we have to be flexible. There will be a cash bar right outside the ballroom. The cost for dinner will be \$35 per person, which includes tax & gratuity. The menu includes:

- Tossed Salad with Assorted Dressings
- Choice of Two Entrees
- Choice of Three Accompaniments
- Oven Fresh Rolls and Butter
- Assorted Desserts
- Coffee, Tea, Decaf, Assorted Soft Drinks

Banquet, Meeting and Hospitality Room—The banquet and meeting will be held in the Seasons Ballroom and the hospitality room will be in the Pennsylvania Room #126. We'll have sandwiches and salads for lunch, after the business meeting. We're planning to Zoom the meeting, but Jerry is addressing that in a different area of the Ping.



The Owens' Ping

Reunion Information & Updates Continued

In Summary— As with all the reunions in the past, the cost for the items shown are based on attendance. I've used 25 as the number of attendees, however the side trip for the ladies on Thursday, to Phipps Conservatory, is based upon 10. If we don't get 10, we'll cancel renting a van, however a smaller group could go in private vehicles and save the transportation fee, which is \$35 per person. If you'd like to check out their website, to see if you'd be interested, the website is www.phipps.conservatory.org.

When it comes to the tours, I tried to pick things that would appeal to the whole group, but by no means is that all there is to do while you're here. You can tour the city on the water using the Gateway Clipper, which is a river paddle wheeler, or go to Mt Washington to enjoy the panoramic views of the city on the lookouts, and/or enjoy one of the 4, or 5, star restaurants, or have dinner at the Grand Concourse Restaurant in Station Square, or tour the Heinz History Center, or go to one of the two casinos in the area; not to mention the local restaurants and attractions in the area, where you'll be staying. Most of the upscale restaurants require reservations and business casual attire.

At the beginning of October, the leaves usually start to change. I'm hoping we'll be able to enjoy some eye-candy during the bus ride up and back from the Flight 93 Memorial. As you know, 2021 will be the 20th anniversary of the attack. I assume the National Park Service will be providing some type of special event, but I don't know if they'll be providing a presentation when we attend. I will continue to reach out to the National Park Service, to see what can be arranged.

I hope by keeping the cost for the rooms below \$100 a night and the cost for the reunion almost the same as it was in Charleston, 2 years ago, you'll be able to fit it into your budget. If you have any questions, or want me to forward website addresses, so you can check things out, please reach out to me. My email address is billmiller15644@gmail.com and my cell phone # is (412) 622-4154.

You can make your reservations with the hotel at this time, by contacting them directly. If you call them, make sure you tell them you're with the Robert A Owens group. I hope you'll submit the completed Reunion & Tour Forms, along with your check made out to Gary Parks, for the events you plan to attend. There's only one thing that will make this reunion a success—**YOU!** Please plan on attending.

Bill

ATTENTION THOSE DRIVING INTO THE CITY:

It has been announced that the "Rolling Stones" will be playing at the football stadium on October 4th, so those of you driving into the city for the reunion may experience some congestion and/or re-routing of traffic lanes. Just a note to Be Prepared.....



The Owens' Ping

2021 Ship's Reunion Details

LAST CHANCE

Deadline date is August 15

It's that time folks! We are down to the wire. We need you to send in your reservations. As of this writing Larry & Ellen McCoskey, Jack & Carole Wanko, Gary & Betty Parks, Keith, Julie & Cheryl Totsch, Ken & Jackie Talley, Roger & Mary Scherer, Ron Schwartzkopf, James Owens, plus Anna Marie Logan & myself are everyone who has registered, to date. We need 25 to be able to do all the items on the itinerary, but as you can see, we don't have that many. If the deadline arrives and we still don't have 25 registrants, we'll address the itinerary at that time. We may need to change a few things, or the type of transportation, but we'll still have the reunion. I hope you're making plans to join us.

For Monday—It is check in day at the Comfort Inn at 699 Rodi Road, Pittsburgh (Penn Hills), PA 15235. If you're flying into Pittsburgh. We have 2 airports. Most of the major airlines fly in and out of Pittsburgh International Airport, but being the largest airport, it's an area that isn't close to the city. Our hotel is on the opposite end of the county, about an hour away, and **does not** offer shuttle service. You'll need to get an Uber, a taxi, or rent a car. I would suggest renting a car.

The other airport in the area is the Arnold Palmer Airport. It's in Latrobe, which is east of the hotel. I know Spirit has direct flights there from Orlando, Myrtle Beach and a couple other cities. Again, our hotel **does not** offer shuttle service and you'll need to get an Uber, a taxi, or rent a car. I'm going to suggest renting a car again, but because the airport is east of the hotel, you won't have to travel through the city and negotiate 2 tunnels to get to the hotel. It's a less hectic ride from the smaller airport.

I understand rental cars are at a premium, both with availability and cost. If you want to fly in, but are having an issue with transportation, once you get here, please contact me. I'm sure we can work something out, even if I have to pick you up and take you back to the airport myself. My phone number is 412-622-4154 and my email address is billmiller15644@gmail.com.

For Tuesday—I sent an email to the National Park Service, asking if we could have a Ranger board our bus, to explain the various items throughout the park, before we disembark to tour the facility and visitors center, on our own. I haven't heard from them, and quite honestly, I don't expect to. This year will be the 20th anniversary of the attack, so I'm sure there are events and ceremonies being planned. The last time I was there, we were able to park and walk around the area at our leisure. I'm sure we'll be able to do the same, even though we'll be on a bus.

I spoke with the Assistant Steward/Bar Manager at the American Legion in Stoystown. She has planned a 2-option hot lunch, with a cold salad and one non-alcoholic beverage; cost is \$10 per person, with tax & gratuity included.

For Wednesday—Molly's Trolleys will pick us up at the hotel and take us on a guided tour of the city. The tour includes a ride on the Duquesne Incline. (The Duquesne Incline is the red trolley in the panoramic view of Pittsburgh.) We'll be dropped at Primanti Brother's, in the Strip District for lunch on our own. We'll be picked up from lunch and taken to the Soldiers & Sailor's Memorial Hall for a guided tour. At the end of the tour, we'll be returned to the hotel.

For Thursday—While we have our business meeting in the morning, the ladies are scheduled to tour Phipps Conservatory. The cost for a guided tour is \$20 per person and the transportation is \$35. If 10 ladies aren't interested, we won't rent the van. It's approx. 20 minutes from the hotel.

I've arranged for lunch to be served after the meeting; sandwich rings and cold salads. We're planning to Zoom the business meeting, which is a first for our organization. Jerry Jackson is coordinating the effort and will address it later in the Ping. The banquet will be held in the Seasons Ballroom that evening. Our guest speaker will be LCDR Richard M. Elster. He enlisted in 1959 as a Boatswains Mate Striker, but when he transferred to the USS Waller (DDE 466), he was a Storekeeper Striker. He was commissioned in 1989 through the LDO program and retired in March 2001.

Friday is check out day. Remember, the hotel will honor the room rate for as many as 2 days prior and after the reunion, in the event you want to explore the city.



The Owens' Ping

2021 Reunion Tour & Event Registration Form

Reunion Dates: October 4 thru October 7, 2021

Place: Comfort Inn Conference Center
699 Rodi Road, Pittsburgh (Penn Hills), PA 15235

Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel!

For information on hotel reservations, please see the
2021 Reunion Hotel Reservation Form for instructions.

REUNION FUNCTIONS & COSTS

Number of persons attending: _____ Dates aboard the Owens: _____

Name(s): _____

Address: _____

Phone number: _____

Email address: _____

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

Tuesday side trip to Flight 93 Memorial National Park, with lunch at American Legion Post #257: cost includes transportation, and lunch, with 1 non-alcoholic drink, tax & gratuity, \$45 per person.

Number Attending: _____ Total: _____

Wednesday side trip to Pittsburgh, a 90-minute guided tour of the city on Molly's Trolleys, a ride on the Duquesne Incline, lunch at Station Square "on our own", then a guided tour of Soldiers & Sailor's Memorial Hall: cost includes transportation and admittance to Soldiers & Sailor's, \$70 per person.

Number Attending: _____ Total: _____

Thursday side trip for the ladies to Phipps Conservatory, for a 1 hour guided tour: cost includes transportation and guided tour of Phipps, \$55 per person.

Number Attending: _____ Total: _____

Thursday night banquet, \$35 per person: includes tax & gratuity.

Number Attending: _____ Total: _____

Make checks out to: Gary Parks Total Amount: _____

Please mail this completed form and remittance no later than August 15, 2021 to:

Bill Miller
587 6th Street
Pitcairn, PA 15140-1201
412-622-4154
billmiller15644@gmail.com

In the event you need to cancel your Reunion reservation, refunds can only be made up to August 15, 2021. After the 15th, refunds cannot be provided. You will need to cancel with the hotel separately.



The Owens' Ping

USS ROBERT A. OWENS

October 4 through October 8, 2021

2021 REUNION HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

Comfort Inn Conference Center
699 Rodi Road, Pittsburgh (Penn Hills), PA 15235
www.comfortinnpittsburgh.com

Reservations can be made by calling, sending this form, or following the link shown below.
Phone 412-244-1600 Fax 412-829-2334
\$72.00 + 14% tax per room, per night.

Group rates are not subject to further discounts, or promotions.
A Credit Card number is required to guarantee your reservation.
The Comfort Inn is a non-smoking hotel.

Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Arrival Date: _____ Departure Date: _____ # of Rooms: _____

Preferred Room Type: _____ One King or _____ Two Queens

Special Requests: _____

**Although special requests cannot be guaranteed, every effort will be made to meet your request.*

Credit Card Number: _____ Exp: _____ CVC _____

Cardholder Signature: _____

**** Cash or check payments are only accepted upon departure.**

Check-In Time: 3PM Check-Out Time: 11AM

Free hot breakfast buffet, with waffle station, from 6AM to 10AM, is included.

Cancellation Policy: 24 hours prior to arrival date.

To make reservations follow the link below.

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/WW23Z4>

If you don't have the ability to make your reservations electronically, please return this completed form to Comfort Inn, no later than August 1, 2021.

If you would like to arrive earlier, or stay longer, than the reunion dates, the hotel will honor the reunion room price, up to 2 days prior and 2 days after.

If you have any questions, our contact is Heather Vitigoy, You can leave her a voicemail at 412-349-1622, or send her an email at hvitigoy@comfortinnpittsburgh.com.



The Owens' Ping

EXPLANATION OF LIFE

On the first day, God created the dog and said, “Sit all day by the door of your house and bark at anyone who comes in or walks past. For this, I give you a life span of twenty years.”

The dog said, “That's a long time to be barking. How about only ten years and I'll give you back the other ten?”
And God saw it was good.

On the second day, God created the monkey and said, “Entertain people, do tricks, and make them laugh. For this, I'll give you a twenty-year life span.”

The monkey said, “Monkey tricks for twenty years? That's a pretty long time to perform. How about I give you back ten like the dog did?”
And God again saw it was good.

On the third day, God created the cow and said, “You must go into the field with the farmer all day long and suffer under the sun, have calves and give milk to support the farmer's family. For this I will give you a life span of sixty years.”

The cow said, “that's kind of a tough life you want me to live for sixty years. How about twenty years and I'll give back the other forty?”
And God agreed it was good.

On the fourth day, God created humans and said, “Eat, sleep, play, marry and enjoy your life. For this I'll give you twenty years.”

But the human said, “only twenty years? Could you possibly give me my twenty, the forty the cow gave back, the ten the monkey gave back, and the ten the dog gave back; that makes eighty, okay?”
“Okay,” said God, “You asked for it..”

So that is why for our first twenty years we eat, sleep, play, and enjoy ourselves.
For the next forty years, we slave in the sun to support our family.
For the next ten years, we do monkey trick to entertain the grandchildren.
And for the last ten years, we sit on the front porch and bark at everyone.

Life has now been explained to you.

There is no need to thank me for this valuable information

I'm doing it as a public service

If you are looking for me, I will be on the front porch.....