



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

SPECIAL EDITION - 2022

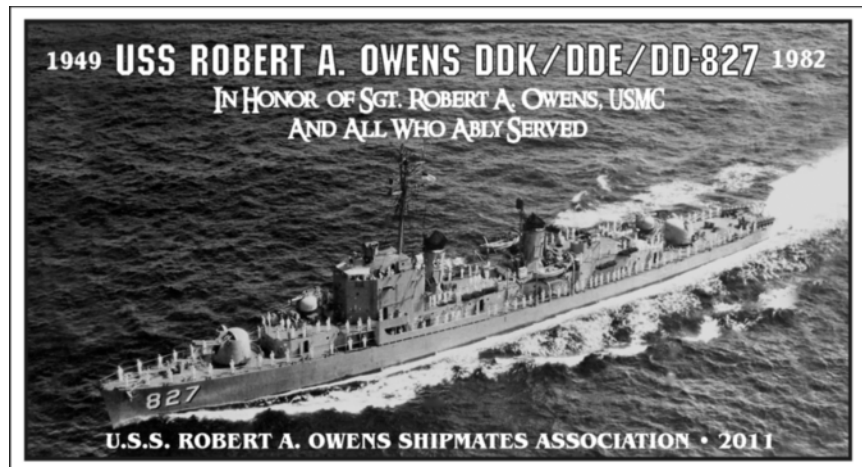
SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

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..



EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!!!



**Commissioned
1949**

**Decommissioned
1982**

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NOVEMBER 15, 2022



The Owens' Ping

Presidents 2022 SPECIAL EDITION REUNION Message

PRESIDENT'S REUNION EDITION MESSAGE

Greetings to everyone! Ellen and I wish all of you heartfelt greetings for the coming Christmas and New Year's Seasons. May 2023 be full of good health, a wealth of things that are important to you and happiness throughout the year.

FINALLY, I have completed all the "leg work" in putting together the 2023 reunion. To back up a little, I first started at the beginning of the year working with a tour service in Mobile, AL. I thought that would make things easier on me as far as lining up all the pertinent things we need. Using their suggestions and the direction I had from the membership of things they would like, I chose a service being utilized by other ship's associations. I went through the "Tin Can Sailors" quarterly paper and the American Legion's magazine and picked out all the other ships that were having reunions in Mobile. I then emailed each of them to see which service they were using and if they were happy with that. Out of those responses, I picked one.

Two things happened after choosing a service. The recommended hotel began to change hands and we could not keep contact with any specific person with whom to do business. Next, once the service's contact at the hotel changed venues, the service began to recommend I change sites, which I didn't want to do. Finally, the service obtained a contract with the hotel (a critical first step in having a reunion) and when it was emailed to me for signature many parts of it were wrong. I questioned them and their answer was, "Well that's the way we like to do business". It wasn't the way I wanted to do business, so I did not sign the contract and ended my relationship with the service. I felt I could do much better doing it myself.

Bottom line, I obtained a solid contract with the hotel working with a single person there who will be there throughout the next year. I did the same with our trip to the USS ALABAMA (BB-60) Memorial Park personnel, the Mobile Carnival Museum and a local transportation company. I have dependable contact people at each and have signed contracts with each and all required deposits have been made. It's been a long, difficult undertaking. But once I decided to do it on my own, I took on all the work involved and, at the same time, saved us all a lot of cash by not using an outside source. I don't expect anyone to work for nothing, but when I pay someone to do a job, I want it done correctly. Their loss.

Ellen and I will be going to Mobile sometime in January to view all our locations, finalize all the menus for the trip and the banquet and make sure everything is up to our expectations. I don't want to arrive in Mobile in October and have any surprises waiting. I will report on our trip in the next regular issue of the "Ping".

Our prices for the reunion are very much in line. Inflation has really taken a bite out of our dollars and the same is true for our reunion. We all know how much food and fuel has increased and it has shown itself in the price of our banquet and trip. The hotel fee is actually a very good price for a full-service hotel. One person told me they thought it was a "little expensive", but we're not staying at the Motel-6. We want somewhere nice, clean, safe and full service. The hospitality room and banquet room are free and we can stock our own hospitality room as we see fit and don't have to buy from the hotel.

So now all we need is for you to complete the reservation form and get it back to me with a payment and we'll have a great reunion!! Remember, no reUnion without "U"!

Larry



The Owens' Ping

USS ROBERT A. OWENS 2023 REUNION

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Plans are being made for our 2023 Shipmates Reunion to be held in Mobile, Alabama, beginning Monday, October 2, 2023. Contracts have now been signed for lodging, trips, transportation and meals. A tentative schedule follows.

Monday, October 2	Check-in at the hotel
Tuesday, October 3	Trip to the USS ALABAMA w/ lunch in the Wardroom
Wednesday, October 4	1 ½ hr. excursion for a tour of Historic Mobile Trip to Mobile Carnival Museum
Thursday, October 5	Morning business meeting and free day Lady's side trip if feasible Evening banquet at the hotel
Friday, October 6	Check-out

Prices have been held to a minimum. But as we all know, everything has gone up during this inflation era time. Travel expenses are high, the hotel price will be \$119. Motor coaches are more expensive than ever due to the price of fuel and the side trips have gone up.

In spite of all this, by doing everything myself and not using a local service, I've been able to get us a bottom line that is pretty equal to what the past two reunions have been. Ellen and I are going to Mobile in January to view all the venues we have reserved to be sure it's what we want. Attached in another part of this "Ping" is a reservation form; it's never too early!

Based on the last two reunions and the small turnout of members, I'm only reserving 15 rooms at the hotel. At the last reunion we only had 10 members attend with a total of 20-25 people. Unfortunately, we felt like COVID kept many at home. This is a tremendous amount of work putting one of these together and becomes rather stressful. I'm really asking for everyone's support on this one so we can continue having quality reunions.



The Owens' Ping

USS ROBERT A. OWENS 2023 REUNION

(Page 2 of 2 pages)

Here's a little closer look into the above schedule:

10/2 – We check-in at the hotel. The hospitality room will be open and everyone attending will receive a welcome envelope. The hospitality room will be in the Magnolia Room, stocked as per past reunions. I have 15 rooms reserved, 8 double and 7 kings, for \$119+ tax per room. If we need more rooms than that it will be on an availability basis only, so make your reservations early.

10/3 – We will board the bus at 0900 hrs. Tuesday morning for a day trip to the USS ALABAMA (BB-60). We will have about 2 ½ hrs. to tour the ship and surrounding ships and then gather in the wardroom at noon for a BBQ lunch. At 1300, the bus will take us back to the hotel.

10/4 – A trolley will pick us up at the hotel and take us on a 1 ½ hr. tour of historic Mobile. We will not be stopping to shop or have lunch, but return to the hotel at 1100 hrs. At 1300 hrs. we are scheduled to take a walking tour of the Mobile Carnival Museum (directly across the street from the hotel). No transportation will be provided. The museum is expertly done and features much of the Mardi Gras items. For those who don't know, Mardi Gras started in Mobile, not NO.

10/5 – At 0900 in the hospitality room we will conduct our business meeting. I'm not sure what the ladies will do – if anything – but they have the first 3 days to figure it out. That evening we will have our banquet in the Bienville Ballroom. Ellen and I will be picking out the entrees, etc., on our trip to Mobile.

10/6 – Check-out.

If anything changes, or there are any additions, I will update it in future "Pings". Please complete your reservations forms as soon as possible and make your hotel reservations any time now. I'm counting on everyone this year, because we can't have a "REUNION" without "U"!!

Larry McCoskey



2023 ASSOCIATION REUNION HOTEL & USS ALABAMA





The Owens' Ping

2023 REUNION RESERVATION FORM

Reunion Dates: October 2 thru October 6, 2023

Place: Holiday Inn Downtown
301 Government Street
Mobile, AL 36602

Reservations: Reservations must be made directly with the hotel.
(251) 694-0100 or
www.holidayinn.com
When making reservations use Group Code: **URO**
Room price for our group is \$119 + tax per night

REUNION FUNCTIONS AND COSTS

Number of persons attending: _____

Names: _____

Contact phone number: _____

Dates aboard OWENS: _____ Rank/Rate: _____

Tuesday, 10/3, trip to USS ALABAMA w/ lunch, including transportation, is \$55 per person

Number attending: _____ Total: _____

Wednesday city tour trip, \$20 per person.

Number attending: _____ Total: _____

Wednesday afternoon visit to Mobile Carnival Museum, \$8 per person.

Number attending: _____ Total: _____

Thursday night banquet, \$45 per person.

Number attending: _____ Total: _____

Total submitted: _____

PLEASE MAIL THIS COMPLETED FORM WITH PAYMENT. MUST BE RECEIVED BY 9-1-23.

Larry McCoskey
4110 Dolphin Road
Louisville, KY 40220-4701

(MAKE ALL CHECKS PAYABLE TO: GARY PARKS)



The Owens' Ping

NEW REDUCED CHRISTMAS SALE PRICES

From Nov 15, 2022 to 31 Jan 2023, the Ships Store prices have been reduced again to what you see below on the ordering form, in the highlighted column. Order as soon as possible in order to beat the rush and before items run out. MERRY CHRISTMAS!! Bill Miller

ITEM - DESCRIPTION	SIZE	IN STOCK	COST	SALE PRICE	# ORDERED
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	Medium	3	\$28.00	\$12.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	Large	5	\$28.00	\$14.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	XL	13	\$28.00	\$14.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	2XL	5	\$28.00	\$14.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	3XL	3	\$28.00	\$14.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	XL	12	\$13.00	\$8.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	2XL	3	\$13.00	\$8.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	3XL	3	\$13.00	\$8.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	Small	10	\$8.00	\$5.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	Medium	9	\$18.00	\$5.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	Large	6	\$18.00	\$9.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	XL	10	\$18.00	\$9.00	
Cap, Baseball Style, Winter	Adjust	18	\$20.00	\$10.00	
Cap, Baseball Style, Summer	Adjust	32	\$20.00	\$10.00	
Ships Patch, 1964-1982 Era		29	\$3.50	\$2.00	
Coffee Mug (12oz)		4	\$10.00	\$8.00	
Challenge Coins		42	\$10.00	\$5.00	
Owens Bumper Sticker		45	\$4.00	\$2.50	
Owens Drink Koozie		42	\$4.00	\$2.50	
Booklet, "Owens Saga"		90	\$5.00	\$2.00	
Booklet, "Sea Tales"		6	\$5.00	\$4.00	

Name of Person ordering: _____
Address of Person ordering: _____

Phone number-Person ordering _____
E-mail of person Ordering: _____

Checks to be made to: Gary Parks

Mail orders and check to: Mr. Bill Miller
587 6th Street
Pitcairn, PA. 15140