



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

SPRING 2023 - EDITION

SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

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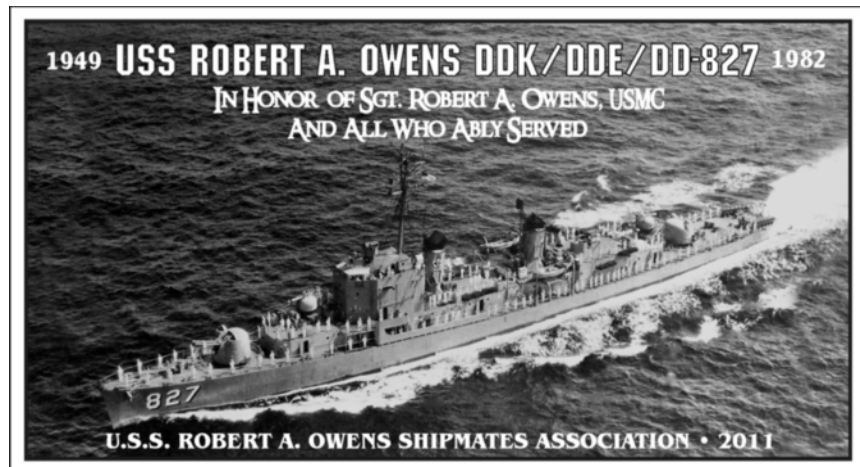
namwarrior41@yahoo.com

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..



Spring Time, April 2023



Commissioned
1949

Decommissioned
1982

APRIL 2023



The Owens' Ping

Presidents 2023 SPRING Message

PRESIDENT'S REUNION EDITION MESSAGE

Best wishes to all of you from Ellen and me. We hope you're all out and enjoying the Spring weather, planting if it's time in your areas, or doing outdoor activities if it fits you. Personally, I'm about to finish up the Winter bowling leagues and have begun to hit the golf ball a little, although not very well. Golf is one of the hardest things one will every try to do well.

The reunion is just 6 months away and I've been getting some minimal feedback from some of the advertisements we've put into the veteran's magazines such as the American Legion Magazine. So far, none of the phone calls I've received has resulted in a reservation, but I think they may have resulted in new memberships. So thank goodness for small rewards. Ellen and I did not get to make a trip to Mobile early this year as we had planned on doing. It seemed as though several things came about during the past 3-4 months that took precedent over us traveling. But I did get to speak with a couple other groups regarding their reunions there and they were all very pleased with the accommodations and the trips. So I'm counting on that to be positive feedback as I doubt I'm going to drive down there on a recon patrol.

As for the plans for the reunion, nothing has changed since the last Ping. As of this writing, we only have 9 people registered for the reunion and only 4 of which are shipmates. We need 30+ people registered by August 15 or we don't get the rates we've been guaranteed. If we don't have that many by that date, I'm going to survey the organization's leadership to see if they just want to cancel the reunion. I can't be any more plain than that. **THE FINAL DATE FOR RESERVATIONS TO BE RECEIVED BY ME IS 8/15/23.** Reservation forms are in the Ping. To make hotel reservations with the hotel you must contact the hotel direct as specified. I've given you the hotel, the hotel's phone number and web information, the price of the rooms and the group code number for that rate. But I can't dial the phone for you. The attendance at our last reunion was down a lot, but that was kind of expected due to the pandemic. The pandemic is over and it's safe to travel again. So I'm in hopes of a much better participation from our members.

Enjoy your Spring and Summer. Put down the cell phone, get away from the computer screen, remove yourself from facebook, tiktok, Instagram, youtube or whatever impersonal media you're wasting the rest of your life on and get out of the house and do something. Do anything, but get out and get some exercise, some fresh air, visit somebody, go to a ball game and get active again. All the best to you and yours – hope to see you at the reunion!

Larry McCoskey



USS ROBERT A. OWENS 2023 REUNION

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.



2023 ASSOCIATION REUNION SCHEDULE BREAKDOWN

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 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: _____

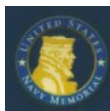
Total submitted: _____

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

FROM THE DESK OF THE PING EDITOR AND WEB MANAGER

Having done a lot of study and trying to get info from our Website provider, I finally found what was wrong with our password protection on the Roster page, so the rosters are back on the website and protected. There seems to be a glitch in our providers system and I have to check daily to ensure the protection is there.

Also please remember that if you change address, phone number, or email address, please advise me as soon as possible. If I have these incorrectly on the rosters, you probably will miss out on news, special editions and the normal PING. I have tried to keep the rosters up to date and correct since I took them over in 2014 but you have to help. Thanks for your attention to this.

Jerry Jackson, Web Manager/PING Editor namwarrior41@yahoo.com

THIS IS WHY WE LOVE OLDER PEOPLE:

A farmer stopped by the local mechanic's shop to have his truck fixed. They couldn't do it while he waited, so he said he didn't live far and would just walk home. On the way home, he stopped at the hardware store and bought a bucket and a gallon of paint. He then stopped by the feed store and picked up a couple of chickens and a goose. However, struggling outside the store he now had a problem - how to carry his entire purchases home. While he was scratching his head he was approached by a little old lady who told him she was lost. She asked, 'Can you tell me how to get to 1603 Mockingbird Lane?'

The farmer said, 'Well, as a matter of fact, my farm is very close to that house. I would walk you there but I can't carry this lot.' The old lady suggested, 'Why don't you put the can of paint in the bucket. Carry the bucket in one hand, put a chicken under each arm, and carry the goose in your other hand?' 'Why thank you very much,' he said and proceeded to walk the old girl home. On the way, he says 'Let's take my shortcut and go down this alley. We'll be there in no time.' The little old lady looked him over cautiously then said, 'I am a lonely widow without a husband to defend me. How do I know that when we get in the alley you won't hold me up against the wall, pull up my skirt, and have your way with me?' The farmer said, 'Holy smokes lady! I'm carrying a bucket, a gallon of paint, two chickens, and a goose. How in the world could I possibly hold you up against the wall and do that?' The old lady replied, 'Set the goose down, cover him with the bucket, put the paint on top of the bucket, and I'll hold the chickens.'



USS ROBERT A. OWENS SHIPS STORES

REUNION 2023 SALE

THIS SALE RUNS FROM APRIL 1st TO OCTOBER 6th 2023

Please use the highlighted prices during this period

ITEM - DESCRIPTION	SIZE	IN STOCK	COST	SALE PRICE	# ORDERED
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	Medium	3	\$28.00	\$15.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	Large	5	\$28.00	\$20.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	XL	13	\$28.00	\$20.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	2XL	5	\$28.00	\$20.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	3XL	3	\$28.00	\$20.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	XL	12	\$13.00	\$10.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	2XL	3	\$13.00	\$10.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	3XL	3	\$13.00	\$10.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	Small	10	\$8.00	\$5.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	Medium	9	\$18.00	\$8.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	Large	6	\$18.00	\$12.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	XL	10	\$18.00	\$12.00	
Cap, Baseball Style, Winter	Adjust	18	\$20.00	\$15.00	
Cap, Baseball Style, Summer	Adjust	32	\$20.00	\$15.00	
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	\$5.00	
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