



# The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

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

## SUMMER 2023 - EDITION

### SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

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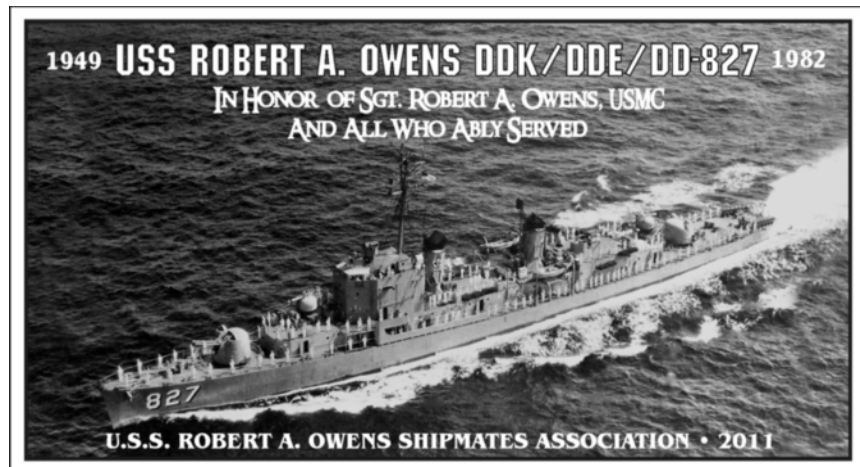
namwarrior41@yahoo.com

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..



SUMMER IN MAINE, USA



Commissioned  
1949

Decommissioned  
1982

JULY 2023



# USS Robert A. Owens

## Presidents 2023 SUMMER Message

A happy Summer to you all from Ellen and me. We hope you're enjoying the weather and able to get out and rid yourself of the pounds you gained sitting inside during the winter. Sounds a lot easier than it is, Right?

Ellen and I had plans for an active Spring and early Summer which included a quick trip to Mobile to scope out the reunion venues. But all that came to a very sudden stop on April 17 when Ellen, while doing some cleaning, slipped on a wet floor, fell and broke her femur. Five days in the hospital and 10 days in a rehab facility, she finally got to come home. Two to three more weeks of home healthcare giving instructions on exercises, walking with a walker, etc., finally took her to where she is now, going to physical therapy twice a week. But she's made great improvements, has been walking short steps without help and using a cane more and more. The surgeon said it would be a minimum of 12 weeks for a woman her age, but she's ahead of that schedule due to a lot of determination, exercise and hard work. Hopefully, by the time you read this, it will just be a painful memory.

I hope you were able to see the "60 Minutes" segment on Sunday, July 2, regarding the readiness of today's Navy. Nora O'Donnell caught up with the USS NIMITZ, a carrier operating in the Pacific. She spoke with the admiral in charge of PACFLT, whose name escapes me. He is a 40 year naval officer, former pilot, Top Gun graduate and was clearly in charge – of PACFLT and the interview. The main jest of the interview had to do with the U. S. readiness in the face of a growing Chinese Navy and China's threat to take back Taiwan. According to the interview, the Chinese now have a larger Navy than the U. S. with over 350 fighting ships. But the admiral assured us that larger does not necessarily mean better. If you have the capability with your TV provider to go back and see former telecasts, I would greatly suggest you look at this one. I was overly impressed with the admiral's ability to speak, answer all questions honestly and the total leadership that he presented. I'm sure Ms. O'Donnell is quite used to getting her way and having the upper hand in most that she does, but this time I think she met her match and knew it wasn't her that was in charge of this one!

Again, Ellen and I wish you all a very safe, happy and prosperous summer season. She's starting to get out a little more, enjoying a pool where she can exercise and do some water aerobics and I'm hitting the golf ball about 3 times a week when the weather cooperates. Actually, I'm hitting the ball more times that I like on most occasions! But at this age it's more about the ability to get out and the score shouldn't matter that much. I keep telling myself that, but I remember what Adolph Rupp said one time when a reporter told him the score really didn't matter: "If it doesn't matter, then why the hell do they keep it?" Nuff said.



# The Owens' Ping

2023 SPRING EDITION

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER

We have closed out the collection of dues for 2023 and next issue we will start collecting for 2024. Thank you to everyone who did pay their dues. If at anytime you want to know your status, just email me at [biwgp@hotmail.com](mailto:biwgp@hotmail.com) or call me at 614-216-4449.

Hopefully this little story will brighten your day:

Morris and his wife Esther went to the state fair every year and every year Morris would say, "Esther, I'd like to ride in that helicopter." Esther always replied, "I know Morris but that ride is fifty dollars and fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

One year Esther and Morris went to the fair and Morris said, "Esther, I'm 85 years old. If I don't ride that helicopter, I might never get another chance." To this Esther replied, "Morris that ride is fifty dollars and fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

The pilot overheard the couple and said, "Folks I'll make you a deal. I'll take both of you for a ride and if you can stay quiet for the entire ride and not say a word, I won't charge you. But if you say one word, it's fifty dollars." Morris and Esther agreed and up they went. The pilot did all kinds of fancy maneuvers but not a word was heard. He did his daredevil tricks over and over again, but still not a word. When they landed, the pilot turned to Morris and said, "By golly, I did everything I could to get you to yell out but you didn't. I'm impressed!"

Morris replied, "Well to tell you the truth, I almost said something when Esther fell out, but you know, fifty dollars is fifty dollars."

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ON THIS ROAD CALLED LIFE, you have to take the good with the bad, smile with the sad, love what you got, and remember what you had. Always forgive, but never forget, learn from your mistakes, but never forget. People change. Things go wrong. But just remember, the ride goes on.



## 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](http://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

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## 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

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### **The Active Member list for the Association grows smaller and smaller due to two things.**

(1) People change addresses, phone numbers, or email addresses and fail to notify the officers of the Association and we lose track of you. Once that is done, and following all attempts to locate you, your name is removed from the Active list and you will receive no more PING's or notifications of events.

(2) The Member fails to pay their dues of \$10.00 for the year. Most generally, the Treasurer will attempt to contact the individual to obtain the dues, but he is busy with his life as well and it is the obligation of the member to keep up with it. Once the grace period (end of the current year owed) that member will be removed from the Active list, and added to the Inactive list awaiting paid up (back and current years owed) dues.

This month we have had to drop the following people due to nonpayment of dues: Leslie Arnold,, Walter Brewer, Louis Corbett, Henry Couch, Roy Ladegaard, William Leonard, John McNaught, Derwood Roland, Jack Scott, and John Willis.





# USS ROBERT A. OWENS SHIPS STORES

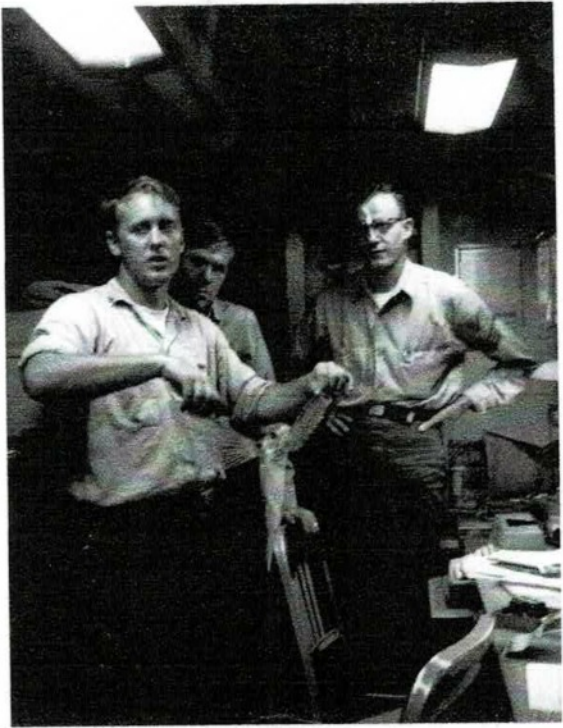
## REUNION 2023 SALE

**THIS SALE RUNS FROM APRIL 1<sup>st</sup> TO OCTOBER 6<sup>th</sup> 2023**

**Please use the highlighted prices during this period**

ITEM - DESCRIPTION	SIZE	IN STOCK	SALE PRICE	# ORDERED
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	Medium	3	\$15.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	Large	4	\$15.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	XL	13	\$15.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	2XL	5	\$15.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	3XL	3	\$15.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	XL	12	\$10.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	2XL	2	\$10.00	
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	3XL	3	\$10.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	Small	10	\$5.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	Medium	8	\$5.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	Large	6	\$12.00	
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	XL	9	\$12.00	
Cap, Baseball Style, Winter	Adjust	17	\$12.00	
Cap, Baseball Style, Summer	Adjust	30	\$12.00	
Ships Patch, 1964-1982 Era		26	\$2.00	
Coffee Mug (12oz)		3	\$10.00	
Challenge Coins		42	\$5.00	
"Owens" Bumper Sticker		43	\$3.00	
"Owens" Drink Koozie		38	\$2.00	
Booklet, "Owens Saga"		90	\$2.00	
Booklet, "Sea Tales"		6	\$4.00	
Name of Person ordering:				
Address of Person ordering:				
Phone number-Person ordering:				
E-mail of person Ordering:				
Checks to be made to: <b>Gary Parks</b>				
Mail orders and check to:	<b>Mr. Bill Miller</b>			
	<b>587 6th Street</b>			
	<b>Pitcairn, PA. 15140</b>			

## FISH STORY



While on the OWENS we all have had time to hear all the “fish stories” as told by many of the old salts. May have told a few ourselves.

While underway, I think we all have observed many of the creatures of the ocean. The porpoises loved to swim along side the ship and seem to race us. Occasionally, we saw some whales in the distance and now

and then a shark or two. While on the fantail one day I felt a pretty hard bump, looked up and the sea was red as we had just hit a whale. (Not a fish story.)

As you can see in the picture, members of the ship’s office, not trying to catch our supper, actually nabbed a flying fish. A lot of people have never heard of a flying fish, but we took a picture of it to prove our story. While underway we often disrupted a school of the fish and they would fly away from the ship. This one flew, caught a huge puff of wind, and ended on deck, where we retrieved it.

Many times while in port, and especially in the Caribbean, some of the crew would fish off the fan tail. Sometimes they did well!

In the picture is Larry McCoskey holding the fish, Harry West and Thel Brady looking on.

If you have a “fish story” submit it to the Ping for publication. We all want to hear it.



USS Alabama (BB-60) is a retired battleship. She was the fourth and final member of the South Dakota class of fast battleships built for the United States Navy in the 1930s. The first American battleships designed after the Washington treaty system began to break down in the mid-1930s, they took advantage of an escalator clause that allowed increasing the main battery to 16-inch (406 mm) guns, but Congressional refusal to authorize larger battleships kept their displacement close to the Washington limit of 35,000 long tons (36,000 t). A requirement to be armored against the same caliber of guns as they carried, combined with the displacement restriction, resulted in cramped ships. Overcrowding was exacerbated by wartime modifications that considerably strengthened their anti-aircraft batteries and significantly increased their crews.

After entering service, Alabama was briefly deployed to strengthen the British Home Fleet, tasked with protecting convoys to the Soviet Union. In 1943, she was transferred to the Pacific for operations against Japan; the first of these was the Gilbert and Marshall Islands campaign that began in November that year. While operating in the Pacific, she served primarily as an escort for the fast carrier task force to protect the aircraft carriers from surface and air attacks. She also frequently bombarded Japanese positions in support of amphibious assaults. She took part in the Mariana and Palau Islands campaign in June–September and the Philippines campaign in October–December. After a refit in early 1945, she returned to the fleet for operations during the Battle of Okinawa and the series of attacks on the Japanese mainland in July and August, including several bombardments of coastal industrial targets.

Alabama assisted in Operation Magic Carpet after the war, carrying some 700 men home from the former war zone. She was decommissioned in 1947 and assigned to the Pacific Reserve Fleet, where she remained until 1962 when she was stricken from the Naval Vessel Register. A campaign to save the ship from the breakers' yard succeeded in raising the necessary funds, and Alabama was preserved as a museum ship in Mobile Bay, Alabama.





## Here is a Fun & Interesting Eight Question Survey with interesting National Results.

Before you see the Survey Results, answer the questions, and see how you score against the Nation & against the Facts:

\* What percentage of the country is black?

What percentage of marriages are mixed race?

What percentage is "Latino"?

How many families make over \$500,000 a year?

What percent of Americans are vegetarians?

What percent of Americans live in NY city?

What percentage of Americans are 'transgender'?

### The Poll Results

This should be a wake-up call if you don't already know this. A recent poll was conducted by a national polling outfit. Names don't matter.

They are all the same. This one was "YouGov. Results to these questions asked of average people on the street:

What percentage of the country is black? Answers 41%... Actual 12%. If you watch commercials, you will think it is 90%.

What percentage of marriages are mixed race? Answer 50%... Actual 1%. If you watch commercials, you will think it is 90%.

What percentage is "Latino"? Answers 39%... Actual numbers 17%.

How many families make over \$500,000 a year? Answers 26%... Actual figure 1%. We think a quarter of the country is rich.

What percent of Americans are vegetarians? Response? 30%â€¦ Actual 5%.

What percent of Americans live in NY city? Answers? 30%... Actual 3%.

What percentage of Americans are 'transgender'? 22%... Actual number 1%

So why do people have such inaccurate thoughts on these counts? THE MEDIA! The media run race, gender, and wealth stories constantly. Result? You are being brainwashed by the national left with the media. Hitler's propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels would be proud if he had half the success.

Disney just went full-on "gender". They will no longer welcome guests with the traditional "Welcome ladies and gentlemen, boys and girls". Why? Because 1% of the population dictates to the other 99% (that would be the vast majority) and corporate America falls for it.

Regardless of what you think, less than 20% of Americans use "Twitter" yet Twitter controls 80% of public opinion. Why? Because the media is so effective at what it does. It promotes as well as censors. Think about it.