



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

WINTER 2023 - EDITION

SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

President:

Larry McCoskey

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Vice President

Jack Wanko

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Secretary:

Vacant

Treasurer:

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Biwgp@hotmail.com

Historian

Bill Miller

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Ships' Store Manager:

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Chaplain:

Keith Totsch

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Vacant

Reunion 2023 Committee:

Vacant

Audit Committee:

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Ron Pervere ron@pervere.net

PING Manager/Editor

WEB Site Manager

Jerry Jackson

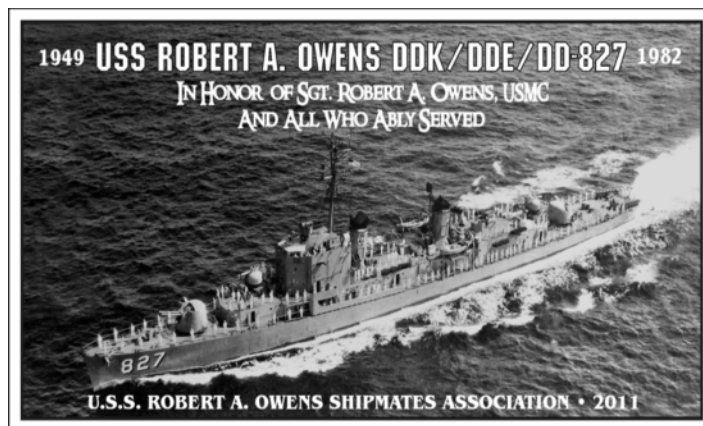
namwarrior41@yahoo.com

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..



Norfolk, VA following a winter storm



Commissioned
1949

Decommissioned
1982

DECEMBER 2023



USS Robert A. Owens

Presidents 2023 WINTER Message

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I can remember when I was a young boy I walked through our hallway at home and there were two one-dollar bills laying on our telephone table. I stopped, looked at them and asked whose they were. My father answered in such a way I still remember: "Are they yours" he asked? I said no and he said, "if you don't know whose they are, you know whose they aren't".

Well, the purpose behind that story is this: I don't know who is running the next reunion, but I know who isn't! At our business meeting in Mobile (the minutes of the meeting are printed elsewhere in this issue) the next reunion was left undecided. I've hosted three reunions and Ellen "suggested" I not host another one. So, the location of our next reunion isn't set in stone yet, but we do have a person who would like to share the duties of putting one together in the Norfolk area.

Ron Pervere has offered his time to help host one in that area and would really like to have some help. If you would be able to work with Ron, please contact him or me. Our contact information is available on the web site under the membership list or you can contact me at the email address on the cover page of this issue. If you can help, please don't wait. Putting one together is a long-term undertaking and agreements must be reserved well in advance with the hotel and vendors.

Speaking of our reunion in Mobile, those who attended had a great time. The hotel was very nice, the hospitality room spacious and well stocked and the vendors with whom we contracted for transportation and activities were top notch. We visited the Alabama Memorial Park where we saw military exhibits and toured the battleship USS ALABAMA (BB-60). On the ship we ate a really tasty lunch in the wardroom and relaxed in a tour bus for our trip back to the hotel. Wednesday had us taking a trolley tour of historic Mobile in the morning and in the afternoon a guided tour of the Mardi Gras Museum directly across the street from the hotel. Thursday was a free day and that evening our banquet, where we were treated with a short presentation from Jim Owens (RAs nephew) regarding the actions behind earning the Congressional Medal of Honor. If you missed this reunion you really missed a good time with friends and shipmates. Please try to make the next one.

As we approach the coming holiday season we'll all have plenty to do; places to go, people to see, possibly host a meal ourselves, purchases to make, etc. Start early, make yourself a written plan or list and take the stress out of the season. Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Years and the onset of winter should be a fun time. If you plan ahead and not wait till the last minute, it will take the stress and aggravation out of play for the most part.

From Ellen and me, we wish you all the Joy and Peace of the holidays. Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy and Prosperous New Year to you all!!



The Owens' Ping

2023 WINTER EDITION

FROM THE DESK OF THE TREASURER

FROM YOUR TREASURER: *Well, it is that time of the year to start collecting dues for 2024. I am pleased to say that many of you have already paid and in several cases, you are paid beyond 2024. I have listed below all the members who have paid for 2024 or beyond 2024 (year shown after your name). If your name isn't listed, you need to mail me a check payable to Gary Parks, for \$10 per year if you receive the Ping by email or \$15 per year if you received the Ping by regular mail. Mail to Gary Parks, 3166 Marietta Rd., Chillicothe, OH 45601*

L. Baxa (2024), S. Baranski (2024), D. Bronson (2024), R. Burns (2024), C. Chambers (2024), V. Clauss (2024), C. Clinton (2024), B. Collins (2024), A. Colvin (2028), L. Crocker (2027), M. Cross (2024), J. Fisher (2024), J. Gottsch (2024), T. Grape (2024), C.M.Graves (2031), L. Green (2026), R. Griffin (2028), J. Gunnin (2031), A. Ingold (2025), J. Jackson (2029), C. Keeney (2024), T. Kelley (2024), W. Kellner (2027), K. Lloyd (2024), J. Luque (2024), B. MacLeod (2026), H. Marker (2024), L. Mariette (2025), L. Marshall (2025), L. McCoskey (2027), W. Miller (2025), J. Myette (2024), H. Neuberger (2025), J. Nyul (2025), G. Parks (2024) R. Pervere (2024), D. Pickrell (2024), R. Reese (2024), J. Rafferty (2024), W. Rockey (2024), S. Rosenthal (2025), W. Ruppel (2025), J. Rush (2027), R. Schwartzkopf (2025), R. Scherer (2027), J. Scott (2025), M. Sleeman (2024), J. Smartt (2026), M. Smith (2024), T. Stith (2024), K. Talley (2025), J. Taylor (2024), K. Totsch (2031), L. Triplett (2024), P. Troll (2024), T. Vatile (2026), D. Walbert (2025), R. Wertman (2024), J. Williamson (2024), S. Woinicki (2025)

Father and son went hunting together for the first time. The father said, "Stay here and be VERY QUIET, I'll be across the field. "A few minutes later the father heard a blood curdling scream and ran back to his son, asking "What's wrong...? I told you to be quiet. "The son answered "Look I was quiet when the snake slithered across my feet. I was quiet when the bear breathed down my neck. But when the 2 chipmunks crawled up my pants leg and said, "Should we eat them here or take them with us....?" "I panicked"....

*Betty and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and hope you have a great 2024!!
Gary Parks SM2, 68 to 71*



USS ROBERT A. OWENS 2023 REUNION MINUTES

USS ROBERT A. OWENS SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 3, 2023

In accordance with the organization's By-Laws, Article I, Section 2, a business meeting was held with the following members present: Larry McCoskey, John Wanko, Gary Parks, Bill Miller, Keith Totsch, Ron Genovese, Roger Scherer, Ken Talley, Ken Lloyd, John Smartt, and Ron Schwartzkopf.

1. Minutes from the business meeting of 10/7/2021 were read and approved.
2. An election of officers was held with the following results:

President	Larry McCoskey
Vice President	John Wanko
Treasurer	Gary Parks
Secretary	Vacant
Ship's Store	Bill Miller
Chaplain	Keith Totsch
Historian	Bill Miller
Membership Comm.	Vacant
Reunion Comm.	None
Audit Comm.	Bill Miller, Ron Pervere, Vacant
Ping/Web Editor	Jerry Jackson
3. A budget report was given by Treasurer Gary Parks. All final reunion expenses have not been cleared as of this date, and a present balance of \$11,438.10 was in our account. Gary expects that there will be approximately \$3000 for reunion expenses yet to be paid.
4. Bill Miller gave a Ship's Store report and overview. There have been 20 mail orders since the last reunion for a total of \$795. Of the \$200 advance for postage, \$199.23 had been spent. Another advancement of \$50 was made and there is now a total of \$50.77 in the store's account to be used for shipping. Bill presented everyone present with a current ship's store inventory and price list.
5. Donations were requested and approved for the following:

Tin Can Sailors, Inc.	\$100
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6. Two Jim Holden Awards were presented: Jerry Jackson and Larry McCoskey for outstanding service to the organization.
7. No plans have been made of yet for the next reunion.
8. With no further business discussions, the meeting was adjourned.



2023 REUNION OVERVIEW

USS ROBERT A. OWENS 2023 REUNION

The 2023 edition of the shipmate's association reunion was held this year in Mobile, Alabama, October 2-5. We stayed at the Holiday Inn Downtown, which was a full-service hotel and a quite nice place to stay. The hotel furnished us a really nice and spacy hospitality room which we put to full use.

Monday we checked into our rooms and met in the hospitality room and got acquainted and reacquainted with one another over snacks and a cool beverage of our choice. It was a fun time for catching up with one another and telling stories. Also in the hospitality room, Bill Miller displayed many items from the ship's store.

Tuesday we went to the Alabama Battleship Memorial Park where we could tour the USS ALABAMA (BB-60) and the USS DRUM, one of our older submarines. There were many other display items – aircraft from small to fighters to a B52, tanks, helicopters and ground units used in WWII and Vietnam. About noon we had a really good lunch in the Ward Room and continued our tours until we left for the hotel in a tour bus about 2 p.m.

Wednesday provided a trolley tour of historic Mobile in the morning and in the afternoon we visited Mardi Gras Museum. We learned that Mardi Gras actually began in Mobile and not New Orleans!

Thursday was a free day followed by our banquet in the evening.

For those of you who attended this year's reunion, I don't have to tell you how much we all enjoyed it. If you didn't attend, you really did miss a good time with many of your fellow shipmates. Plan on attending our next reunion tentatively scheduled for 2025. Time and dates to be revealed later.

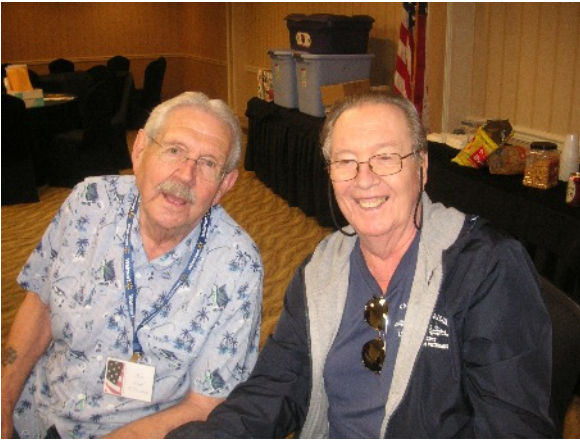
If you have any pictures you want to share with the membership from the reunion, from any of your time on board or just a picture of yourself so we can put a face with a name, please send them to Jerry. He can get them in future Pings.

Larry McCoskey



PICTURES OF 2023 REUNION

Provided by Larry McCoskey



Ken Lloyd & John Smartt



Geri Witmer & Ken Lloyd



Jack Wanko & Gary Parks



Larry McCoskey by captured Japanese Flag



USS Alabama Handling Room for 16"

Projectiles.



USS Alabama from the Forecastle



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR

JERRY JACKSON



Another year has passed and the weather is changing to remind us that we are getting older and more spots seem to ache with every drop in temperature.

I have included a picture of me (not to frighten Santa away!) but rather to begin the process of people sending a picture of themselves as was suggested by Larry. With a picture and your name (or identify yourself in a picture with more than one person in it), we can become more aware of who each of us is when we read about you in the PING.

Still looking for pictures and stories of your time aboard the Bobbie O so we can make this newsletter more than just a report from some of the officers of the Association. Send them to me at namwarrior41@yahoo.com so that I can get them prepped for the next PING.

As has been reported, now is the season for people hacking into our association as well as anyone that they can. We receive (on a regular basis) emails from supposed members (association officers mainly) stating that this account or that bill needs money. Please, if you receive requests for you to send one of us large sums of money or prepaid credit cards, contact us before you do anything. .
Mary and I want to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and pray that your New Year is a peaceful one.



Winter in the Grand Tetons Of Wyoming!

For those of you that utilize Facebook to chat with your loved ones or friends, you might look at the facebook group USS Robert A Owens DDK/DDE/DD-827 Membership Group. It is a regulated FB group that I created from the old one that existed. We prevent all advertising and only allow those members that I can find on the rosters or can prove they were aboard. Hope to see you



The Owens' Ping

SHIPS STORES INVENTORY AND NEW PRICES

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



From the Desk of Bill Miller

Ships Store

Ship's Store

At the reunion I reported that since the 2021 reunion in Pittsburgh, we had 20 orders for a total of \$795.00. We only had 3 orders in 2023. The only new items we added to the store, since the 2021 reunion, were the koozies and bumper stickers. At the 2021 reunion, Keith Totsch gave me \$200 for the items he sold in the store. I opened a checking account with the money, to be used for postage. The cost of postage for the 20 orders was \$199.23, leaving a balance of \$0.77. Gary sent me a check for \$50 to replenish the account. The current balance is \$50.77.

We sold \$200+ items at the reunion, at the new prices on the inventory list and the money was given to Gary. You'll notice the koozies are almost gone and the coffee cups are. It was decided that unless the membership comes up with any ideas for items in the store, we will sell the inventory and dissolve the ship's store. With the dwindling membership and most of the members already owning the items they want, it was decided to charge just enough to pay for the postage, that's why the prices are as low as they are. I hope you'll look over the list and order some of the last items we have.

If you have any questions, or want to place an order, send me a completed order form, with a check made out to Gary, and I'll get it shipped to you. I had a great time in Mobile and I'm looking forward to Norfolk. I haven't been back, since I left the Owens.

Bill Miller

The following is a story I took from "The American Legion" magazine relayed to the readers from the National Commander, Daniel J. Seehafer. He credits it as written by Claire Barrett for HistoryNet.

Elgin Staples of Akron, OH, was a 19-year-old Navy signalman stationed aboard the USS ASTORIA in 1942. When his cruiser came under attack by the Japanese near Savo Island, Staples was severely wounded and thrown into the sea by concussive blasts. After treading water for nearly four hours with the help of his M1926 inflatable rubber lifebelt, he was rescued by the destroyer USS BAGLEY. He quickly returned to ASTORIA in a futile effort to keep the damaged ship from sinking. Hours later, Staples was again in the water, kept afloat with the same lifebelt, until the USS PRESIDENT JACKSON picked him up the next day. More than 200 men died in the attack on ASTORIA, and the Battle of Savo Island resulted in 1023 Allied deaths.

In 2001, Staples described his homecoming shortly after the battle. His mother told him she had been working at the local Firestone plant. Staples pulled out his lifebelt and showed her the stamp indicating that it was made at the plant where she worked. "Son, I'm an inspector at Firestone. This is my number," she whispered.

"We stared at each other, too stunned to speak," Staples later wrote. "Then I stood up, walked around the table and pulled her up from her chair. We held each other in a tight embrace, saying nothing. My mother was not a demonstrative woman, but the significance of this amazing coincidence overcame her usual reserve. We hugged each other for a long, long time, feeling the bond between us. My mother had put her arms halfway around the world to save me."

Larry McCoskey