



# The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

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

## SPRING 2024 - EDITION

### SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

**President:**

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**Vacant**

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**Ships' Store Manager:**

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**Vacant**

**Reunion 2023 Committee:**

**Vacant**

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**Ron Pervere ron@pervere.net**

**PING Manager/Editor**

**WEB Site Manager**

**Jerry Jackson**

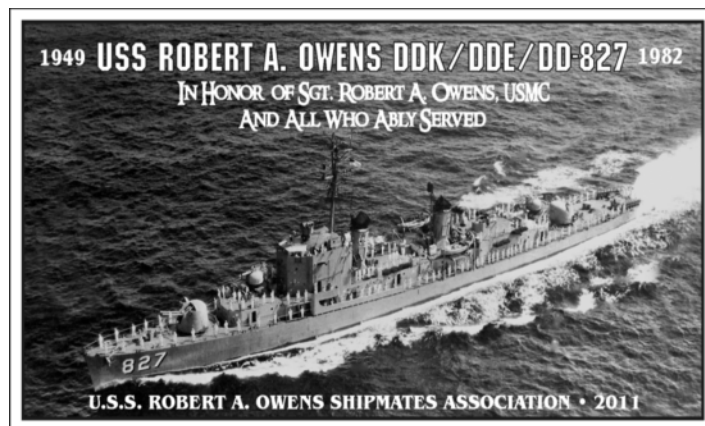
namwarrior41@yahoo.com

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..



Spring time in Tokyo Japan



**Commissioned  
1949**

**Decommissioned  
1982**

APRIL 2024



# USS Robert A. Owens

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It looks as though we've all waded, Slide-stepped, trod or otherwise made it through another winter. We had about a month of a cold spell that got brutal for a few days, but all in all, nothing much again. I'm not sure we got any measurable snow – and that's quite welcome for Ellen and me. We hope you all made it with little problem or interruption.

Speaking of cold weather, Ellen and I just got back from 6 days in Iceland on an "In Search of the Northern Lights Tour". Great tour, cold, rain, sleet, snow and very windy about every day. The temperatures were bearable until coupled with a 20 mph wind and a little precipitation. Then it got quite dicey. But we saw many great sights and did get one night where the Northern Lights came out visibly and quite beautiful. An amazing tour that we'd highly recommend – if you can walk a lot.

In this issue of the Ping there is a survey regarding future reunions. It's no secret that the past 2-3 reunions have been sparsely attended. So, we have decided to see what all of you think about the future of association reunions. Please complete the survey and make any additional comments you wish. Each will be read and future reunions will try to be conducted in accordance with the wishes of the majority.

Speaking of reunions, we still don't have one planned for 2025 at this time. Returning to Norfolk was suggested and Ron Pervere said he could help with one in that location but can not take it on alone. If some of you could help Ron and would like to see the association return once again to Norfolk, please contact him and possibly 2-3 of you could coordinate something in that area. Also, if you don't live in that area and would like to host a reunion in your area or hometown please contact me and I'll help you get started. I've done 3 of them and have a pretty good idea what to do.

I've spoken with Jerry Jackson and he really needs some of you to submit stories, comments and/or pictures to him for publication in the Ping. I'd bet every single one of you have some old pictures stored away somewhere of you and your shipmates from your days on the OWENS. And I'm positive if you sit down and think about it you can come up with a story or two of interest to us all. Jot it down, attached a picture and forward it to Jerry and he'll get it in the next Ping. If you get the Tin Can Sailors quarterly magazine you know what I mean. It's full of snippets and stories from individual's time on their ships, some serious, some pretty funny. So let us hear from you.

From Ellen and me, all the best to you all for the upcoming Spring and Summer seasons. Get outside, enjoy yourselves with whatever it is you like to do. If you get to Louisville on your travels give us a yell.

Larry McCoskey





## USS ROBERT A. OWENS DDK/DDE/DD-827 SPECIAL MEMBERSHIP SURVEY

Due to ever diminishing participation by membership in the biennial reunions, and the cost therein accrued against the Membership Association, as well as the difficulty in procuring a site, accommodations, and side trips, it has been decided to take the situation to the remaining active membership for their input on the continuance and/or frequency of said reunions.

It is requested that all members respond to Larry McCoskey, at [larrymc3140@gmail.com](mailto:larrymc3140@gmail.com) by emailing the completed survey, or in the case of those members that do not have email, mailing the completed survey to Larry McCoskey, 4110 Dolphin Road, Louisville KY 40220, as soon as the form is received. The Association officers will conclude the survey and tally the votes not later than 30 days following the date of the survey receipt. Results of the Survey will be reported to the active members of the Association in the next PING.

**I believe the Association Reunions should occur:**     **Every other year as they are currently**  
 **Every fifth year**  
 **Not at all**  
 **Electronically by Zoom participation**

**I feel that if Physical Reunions should continue, I realistically would:**

**Be able to attend more often.**  
 **Not be able to attend more often**

**If I had my choice, I would like to see a Reunion held in:**

**City:** \_\_\_\_\_ **State:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NAME:** \_\_\_\_\_



# The Owens' Ping

## FROM THE EDITORS DESK

As you can see, the PING continues to get smaller and smaller as time goes by. There is always the cover sheet, the President and Treasurers reports and the current level of the Ships Store, but little else unless there has been a reunion and I can put pictures in, or something special like the Survey this time.

As Larry said, while you may or may not have pictures of your time aboard the Bobbie O, I am sure that there is something in your memory (keep it clean, this is a family newsletter) bank that was exciting or humorous, or just fun to read. All of us have had those times and it is always great to read something that someone else did which generates things that we did. I told of my first cruise on the Owens and wound up standing Mail Buoy watch for 4 hours which generated laughter and a few questions about my gullibility. My only response was, "I was young!"

I know that others are as interested in some of your times as I am. Think about it and if you have something, please send it along with as much info as possible for entry into the PING when we have space like today. If you send pictures, please give particulars like location, year, and names of people in the picture if you remember. I know, we are all getting older and frankly I have a problem remembering what I had for breakfast, but try your best.

Take care, have a great summer, and will hope to hear from you.

Jerry Jackson, [namwarrior41@yahoo.com](mailto:namwarrior41@yahoo.com)

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### Sailor Puns

Why don't sailors like buying new hats? They're afraid of cap sizing!

Where do sailors make change for a dollar? On the Quarterdeck

What kind of ship do sailors learn their trade on? An Apprenticeship

Okay, I quit, the groans are getting louder!!



# SOMETHING WE SHOULD ALL KNOW

Forwarded by Larry McCoskey



Ever visited a cemetery and noticed a splattering of items left on gravestones? From coins to flowers to stones, there's a sentiment behind why visitors leave certain pieces. And if you've ever noticed coins in particular on a

headstone, you might be curious why. As it turns out, this act of remembrance is intended to honor individuals who served this country through military service.

What does it mean when there are coins on a gravestone?

When you see coins on a gravestone, this signifies that the person buried there was a member of the military. Similar to gold stars on license plates, these coins are a meaningful way for people to convey their pride in a loved one who is no longer with them. People who visit the deceased service member can leave a coin on the headstone so when loved ones come to the cemetery, they're aware that others have been to pay their respects, too. This moving sentiment can make a tremendous impact on the family of deceased military folks, which is why it's a special tradition.

It's also important to take note of the type of coin on the stone. For instance, different coins hold different meanings.

What do individual coins on a gravestone mean?

Old Tradition Of Various American Coins Lying On Gravestone As Sign Of Respect

As you may have guessed, the different coins have different associations. If you notice a quarter on a headstone, for instance, the past visitor is trying to convey something different than if they'd left a penny. Let's walk through what the individual coin types mean.

If you notice a penny on a gravestone, this signifies that a person has visited the headstone. It's an act of gratitude for the person's service. Anyone can leave a penny, whether they are a family member, friend or fellow service person.

If there is a nickel on the gravestone, this means that the visitor who left it went to boot camp with the person buried.

Next, if you see a dime on their gravestone, that signifies that the visitor served with the deceased military member.

Seeing a quarter has a particularly heavy association. If you notice a quarter, this signifies that a previous visitor was present when the soldier passed away.

Now that you understand what each coin means when you see it, you'll have a better idea of what it means when you see this emotional item left behind at a gravestone. And more importantly, you'll know the proper way to leave a coin.



# The Owens' Ping

## SHIPS STORES INVENTORY AND NEW PRICES

ITEM	STYLE	COLOR	SIZE	STOCK	NEW	
T-Shirt	Pocket	Blue	Small	9	\$	2.00
			Medium	2	\$	3.50
			Large	2	\$	10.00
			XL	9	\$	10.00
Shirt	Collared	White	XL	9	\$	10.00
			2X	2	\$	10.00
			3X	3	\$	10.00
Shirt	Collared	Blue	Medium	3	\$	10.00
			Large	3	\$	10.00
			XL	12	\$	10.00
			2X	5	\$	10.00
			3X	2	\$	10.00
Baseball Cap	Winter	Blue	Adjustable	14	\$	7.00
	Summer	Blue	Adjustable	27	\$	7.00
Ship's Patch	1964-1982			25	\$	2.00
Coin	Challenge			27	\$	5.00
Owens Saga	Book			79	\$	2.00
Sea Tales	Book			4	\$	2.00
Bumper Stickers				33	\$	3.00
Beverage Koozies				2	\$	2.00

REMEMBER: All checks are to be made out to: **GARY PARKS**

Mail your order, list of items wanted to purchase and your check to:

**Mr. Bill Miller**

**587 6<sup>th</sup> Street**

**Pitcairn, PA. 15140**