



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

SUMMER 2024 - EDITION

SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

President:

Larry McCoskey

Larrymc3140@gmail.com

VicePresident

Jack Wanko

Johnwanko71@msn.com

Secretary:

Vacant

Treasurer:

Gary Parks

Biwgp@hotmail.com

Historian

Bill Miller

Billmiller15644@gmail.com

Ships' Store Manager:

Bill Miller

Billmiller15644@gmail.com

Chaplain:

Keith Totsch

Ktotsch@comcast.net

Membership Committee:

Vacant

Reunion 2023 Committee:

Vacant

Audit Committee:

Bill Miller billmiller15644@gmail.com

Ron Pervere ron@pervere.net

PING Manager/Editor

WEB Site Manager

Jerry Jackson

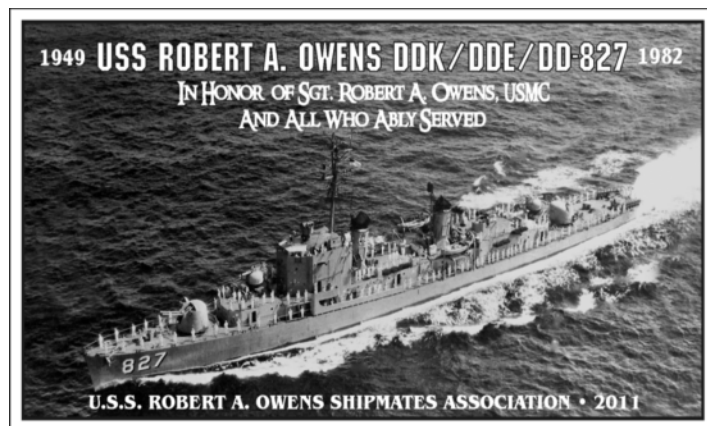
namwarrior41@yahoo.com

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..



Summer Time in Bora



Commissioned
1949

Decommissioned
1982

JULY 2024



USS Robert A. Owens

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In the last issue of the “Ping” you were submitted a survey regarding our reunions. The survey asked how often, would you attend and is there a location you would like to visit. Only ten members responded to the survey out of which 7 wanted to keep it at every 2 years, one at every 3 years, one not at all and one would like it to be via Zoom. Five said they would attend, five said they would not. The locations mentioned were Philadelphia, Boston, Norfolk (3), and Great Lakes. A suggestion was made that we “marry up” with another ship and have one together while another was to have it in conjunction with the Tin Can Sailors annual meeting like many other ships do now. All of these will be considered. Thank you to the ten of you who took the time to respond.

I sincerely hope all of you were able to view the solar eclipse that took place on April 8 of this year. It was close enough to us here in Louisville that Ellen and I were able to travel about 50 miles into Indiana and be able to view the totality from the American Legion Post in Salem, IN. It was the second one we’ve seen in totality, each was a little different, but both of them were absolutely spectacular. The 2-3 minutes that the sun is totally blocked is an amazing sight, including to what it does to all the surroundings – darkness in the daytime, birds begin to sing, crickets begin to chirp. We really hope you got to see it. It’s worth the time to travel.

I spoke with Bill Miller a couple of months ago and we had a long discussion about the ship’s store. He received no orders at Christmas, in spite of lowering prices, and no orders since. We seriously considered putting everything on sale at a very low price and discontinuing the store all together. Before doing that, I surveyed our leadership and not everyone was in agreement, so we left it like it is. We’d like to introduce new items but can’t justify the cost because of the low amount we would reasonably have to purchase; and then we don’t know if anyone would buy them either! So, it’s a head-scratcher that we’ll revisit in the future.

Our best wishes to Jerry Jackson, our Ping editor and web site manager, who recently moved from Wyoming to Colorado to be closer to family. That’s a huge move for anyone! Enjoy your new home, Jerry.

I received a notice from Bill Miller that he has a site for our next reunion and plans are now in the works for activities to go along with it. I’ll let Bill introduce it and give you the details, the dates and the hotel where, I assume, we can begin making reservations. The price he quoted me was well within reason for a full-service hotel and, if I’m not mistaken, it’s the same price as the last two reunions. Great job, Bill! We’re looking forward to it.



NOTE FROM THE PRESIDENT

PLEASE VOTE!

Before the next issue of the Ping is published and distributed to the membership a very important day will occur: November 5, 2024, National Election Day. Please view this day as a time when you not only exercise your “right” to vote but make it your “responsibility” to vote. Everyone wants to exercise their rights, but some seem to hold back when it comes to meeting their responsibilities. Let’s not be one of those people.

Our country is as divided as I’ve ever seen it, and we all remember how divided it got during the Vietnam War. Unlike that war and the divisiveness it put upon our great country, the division we face now isn’t two faceted where we agree or disagree on one subject, like the Vietnam War. This is multi-faceted which has brought about disagreement with about every subject that is presented. There is very little about which both sides can agree. The issues are many: the economy, jobs and the willingness to work, immigration, abortion, increasing crime, and foreign policy on fronts that are too many to count. We have our problems (they like to call them challenges) and it will take a tremendous amount of courage and leadership to face them.

Whoever you favor is entirely your business and my purpose in writing this is not to engage anyone in a political discussion. I’m not going to try and tell anyone else how to vote no more than I want them to tell me. But what I will tell you is that you just need to cast your ballot on election day and then try to support whoever comes out the winner. That will be the hard part for some.

For many of us it stems further than a national election. Many states and municipalities have state and local races that are critical to the balance of power in our country. So, look at the issues and make an intelligent decision on each of them. There are good people on each side, so let’s try to put the good ones in office.

I think we would all like to see our country back the way it was as little as 20 years ago. But we just can’t sit back and say we want it back; we have to do something to bring it back and it all begins with the voting booth.

Larry McCoskey



The Owens' Ping

2025 USS Robert A Owens DD827 Reunion

At the 2023 reunion in Mobile, AL, during our business meeting it was suggested that we have our next reunion in Norfolk. The first thing Larry suggested was, "get the hotel first, you can work on everything else from there". I've done that.

The reunion hotel is the Wyndam Garden Norfolk Downtown at 700 Monticello Ave, Norfolk, VA 23510. Check in will be Monday, October 6, with check out Friday morning October 10, 2025, with the business meeting the morning of the 9th and the banquet the evening of the 9th. Our only obligation is to spend \$900 on food and beverages. Not individual meals in the restaurant, but our banquet meals and any other foods we want to purchase for the hospitality room and/or business meeting. Keep in mind the banquet meal is either \$45 each for plated, or \$47 each for a buffet. I don't think it'll be hard to achieve that number.

We have a block of 15 rooms and quite honestly, I hope we need more. We received everything we asked for. We received a very favorable rate at \$119 per night and \$149 per night if you want to arrive early or stay longer on the weekends. We also received complimentary parking (typically \$15), a complimentary hospitality room (typically \$100 per day). We might need a permit to have alcohol, but we are permitted to provide our own beverages and munchies. Of course, free WiFi is available throughout the hotel and event space. All the prices I've been quoted don't include the taxes, service charges and gratuities. "The hotel offers a full restaurant, and the hotel is located in the heart of the Arts District, featuring numerous galleries and the Chrysler Museum." The airport is 13 miles away. We can't start reserving rooms until the event is 10 months away. They'll issue a link when the time comes.

Now that the hotel has been secured, I'll start to work on the itinerary. I haven't been to Norfolk since I left the ship in 1973, and I know the place has changed a lot since then. If anyone has any ideas or suggestions for things you think the group would want to do, please let me know. Just remember, we need to keep walking to a minimum.

My email address is billmiller15644@gmail.com or call me at 4126224154. If I can't answer the phone, please leave me a message. I'll get back to you when I get home from work.

See the next page for pictures of the hotel and accomidations



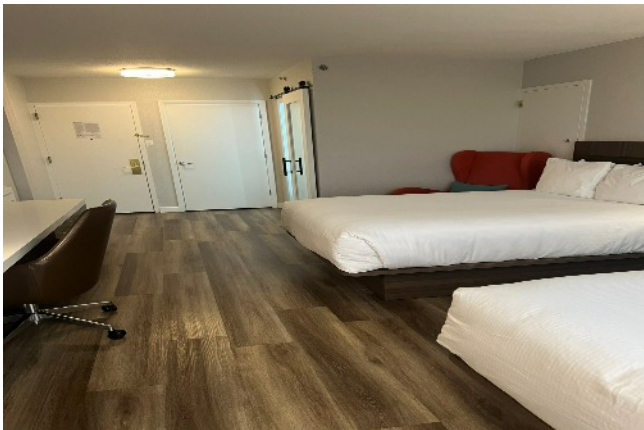
The Owens' Ping



Front of the Hotel



Back of the Hotel and Pool



Two bed Room



Room to be used as Hospitality Room



Room to be used for banquet



The Owens' Ping



FROM THE DESK OF THE EDITOR:

Please remember two things:

- (1) The dues are what keep the PING, the Web Site, and the Association afloat. Several people [117 to be exact] are listed on the inactive lists because they have not paid their dues. When this happens, they are removed from obtaining the PING or voting. Please don't let your dues lapse. Contact the treasurer and find out where you stand if you are unsure.
- (2) If you change your phone number, your address, your email address, etc, please let me know as it is the only way I can keep the rosters current. Also, if you know of a member that has passed, please advise me. This year alone I have finally been notified of a member that passed in 2003 and one in 2004.

ENJOY YOUR SUMMER AND HOPEFULLY COOLER WEATHER COMING!



The Owens' Ping

SHIPS STORES INVENTORY AND 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 6th Street

Pitcairn, PA. 15140