



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

END OF SUMMER 2016 EDITION

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SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

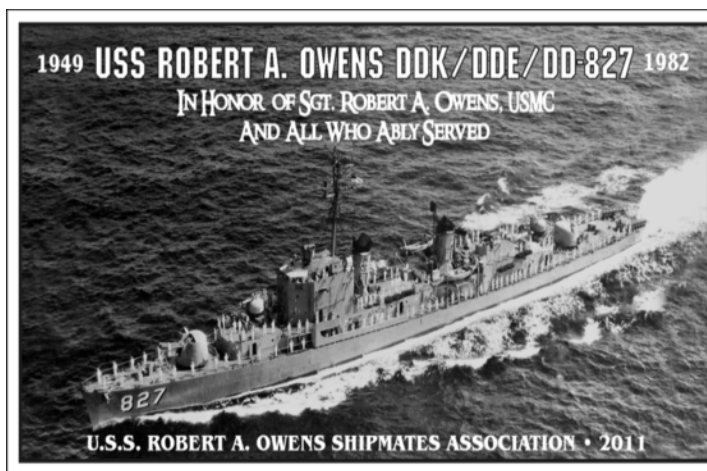
SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

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..

MEMBERSHIP & DUES

Please pay attention to your dues status. Those members that are behind on their dues are considered inactive and may be removed from the mailing list which would include the PING. If you are in doubt about your status, or if you dispute the information shown behind your name, please contact the Treasurer and check with him: (Please note page of late dues)

Ed Green
74 Pleasing Drive
Ridgeley, WV 26753
240-468-1044



Commissioned
1949

Decommissioned
1982

Membership...307

August 2016



The Owens' Ping

The Presidents 2016 Summer Message

By the time everyone reads this it will be coming down to the end of summer. Hopefully, we'll still have some warm weather ahead of us and plenty of time to get out on the golf course, in the pools, on the beach, or wherever one likes to spend the leisure time of Summer and Fall. We certainly hope everyone has had a safe and enjoyable vacation season. I guess for those in the deep South this may almost be a year-round event, but for those of us who have definite changes of the seasons we know what's about to happen when the leaves start to turn and fall to the ground.

My summer has been interrupted with some skin cancer surgery on one of my ears. This is the fourth or fifth time for me even though I wear sun screen when outside for prolonged periods. But the dermatologists say the damage was done years ago and is just now rearing its ugly head. I would certainly encourage all of you to visit a dermatologist at least once a year and make sure nothing is sneaking up on you from your past. Most skin cancer can be treated easily if found quickly as has always been my case, but some skin cancers are aggressive and can spread quickly to other organs. So don't take a chance. Make that visit and be sure.

I've been in touch with Jack Wanko regarding the reunion and he's doing a fantastic job putting together some great things for us in Philadelphia and beyond for September, 2017. I won't repeat it all as it is in other parts of this newsletter, so read all about it and be sure and get all your reservations to the hotel and to Jack as soon as possible. It's early now, but be thinking about it soon as it is critical for Jack to have good numbers in order to make the reservations for meals, transportation, etc., etc. We can all help him greatly by registering early.

As a serious coin collector, I get aggravated when I read the veteran's magazines I get in the mail and see all the advertisements and articles touting people to buy the gold, silver and the amazing coins that they offer which they say will be worth so much more in the future. Believe me, if they were going to be worth that much more they wouldn't be selling them in a magazine, they'd be hoarding them!! The old coins they show in the pictures aren't that good and they certainly are not rare. So don't be "touted" to buy if you don't know exactly what you're doing. I guess that goes for everything, but I know about coins and I haven't seen that good of a deal in any of these magazines yet. In fact, some of them are quite misleading. So always research before you buy; now days research is very easy to do.

When I was a YN3 on board the OWENS I had a security clearance to work on classified documents in the ship's office. Now, I'm not talking politics nor am I taking any political side or endorsing anyone. But I got pretty angry when Mrs. Clinton was cleared of any wrong-doing in her email scandal. Had I (or any of you who had a security clearance) knowingly did what she did, knowing it was wrong and knowing you were compromising classified (in some cases, top secret) information, we would have been court martialed for treason, sent to Leavenworth for a while and then tossed out of the Navy with a dishonorable discharge – and we knew it and we didn't do any of that. But in her case and in her position, she was allowed to walk without even the proverbial slap on the wrist. Did that rub any of you the wrong way?

I've been following closely how Jerry Jackson has been pursuing our lost shipmates and really appreciate his efforts. Elsewhere in this PING there is a list of the few he couldn't find, so please help him if you have any knowledge of these shipmates. Also, If you know of other shipmates and have addresses or contact information, please give that to him and/or Ed Green so we can keep a data base of shipmates whether they're members or not. They'll never be members if we don't contact them!

All the best to everyone, have a safe Fall season. From August 1, there are only 146 shopping days till Christmas!!

Larry



2017 Reunion Preview & Planning



INFORMATION FROM YOUR REUNION CHAIRMAN

Welcome to Philadelphia, the birthplace of our nation and I hope you have a pleasant and informative reunion. This will be a great trip for everyone; those who have been here before and those who have not. It will also be wonderful for children or grandchildren because it will reinforce their love for their country.

First of all, if you ever stayed at an Embassy Suites, I think you will be impressed. Every room has a suite with a separate sitting room for you to relax by yourself or with shipmates. We are outside the city in the rolling hills of Chester County but close to interesting things such as Valley Forge Park, King of Prussia Mall, which after its expansion could be the largest in the country. The Valley Forge Casino, located in the Radisson Hotel is just 15 minutes away.

Our three tours will be historical and interesting.

- Thursday we will visit the National Constitution Center, Liberty Bell, and Independence Hall. Also included is a drive by of many other sites and concludes with lunch on your own at the World famous Reading Terminal Market.
- Friday we drive a short distance to the Valley Forge Encampment and the Freedoms Foundation. Included is lunch at the Freedoms Foundation and a tour of the Medal of Honor Grove where we will see the plaque dedicated to Robert A. Owens USMC.
- Saturday the ladies will visit QVC and shop (Guys watch those credit cards). They will be taken to the Black Powder Tavern for lunch on their own. Us men will have our business meeting in the morning and then a buffet lunch at the hotel. That evening we will have our banquet, and based on the feedback from St. Louis, it will be a buffet.

I have tried my best to minimize our financial commitment but you cannot get away from minimum amount of people needed for tours and meals. I tried to stick to a number between 40-80 people.

You can begin to call the hotel for room reservations after September 20, 2016 at 1-800-embassy (1-800-362-2779) and mention **USS Robert A. Owens Reunion**. Our final cutoff date is August 17, 2017. After that date, the hotel does not guarantee our special rate. I must have the confirmation form and check by August 10, 2017. Mail it to: John Wanko, 71 South Traymore Ave., Ivyland, PA. 18974. Email johnwanko71@msn.com or phone 215-355-3982 or text to 215-850-1756.

Only your participation will make a successful reunion.

REGISTRATION FORM REUNION SEPTEMBER 6-10 2017

NAME/

NAMES _____

PLEASE PRINT

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 6, 2017

CHECK IN AT EMBASSY SUITES, 888 CHESTERBROOK BLVD., WAYNE, PA 19087
(1-610-647-6700)

OUR REGISTRATION TABLE WILL BE NEAR OUR HOSPITALITY ROOM WHICH IS THE
DEVON ROOM. HOTEL PROVIDES COCKTAILS AND SNACKS FROM 5:30 to 7:30.

THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

TOUR CONSTITUTION CENTER, LIBERTY BELL AND INDEPENDENCE HALL

\$46 PER PERSON NUMBER ATTENDING _____ TOTAL \$ _____ (WE NEED 40)

LUNCH ON YOUR OWN AT READING TERMINAL MARKET

FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 8, 2017

TOUR OF VALLEY FORGE ENCAMPMENT AND FREEDOM'S FOUNDATION INCLUDING
LUNCH

\$49 PER PERSON NUMBER ATTENDING _____ TOTAL \$ _____ (WE NEED 40)

SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2017

MEMBERS LUNCH AFTER OUR MEETING AT HOTEL "A TASTE OF PHILLY"

\$22 PER PERSON NUMBER ATTENDING _____ TOTAL \$ _____.

LADIES TRIP TO QVC

\$45 PER PERSON NUMBER ATTENDING _____ TOTAL \$ _____ (WE NEED 25)

LUNCH ON THEIR OWN AT BLACK POWDER TAVERN.

"PENN'S LANDING BUFFET" BANQUET WITHERSPOON ROOM 6:30.

\$50 PER PERSON NUMBER ATTENDING _____ TOTAL \$ _____.

SPEAKER CORY ETCHBERGER SON OF MEDAL OF HONOR RECIPIENT.

REUNION FEE (FOR SNACKS, BEER, WINE ETC AND MY MISTAKES \$25 PER PERSON

NUMBER ATTENDING _____ TOTAL \$ _____.

FULLY COOKED BREAKFAST PROVIDED BY HOTEL ALSO FROM 5:30 TO 7:30 EACH
NIGHT HOTEL PROVIDES COCKTAILS AND SNACKS.

TOTAL COST _____ MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO ED GREEN, TREASURER

MAIL FORM AND CHECK TO JOHN WANKO 71 SOUTH TRAYMORE AVE., IVYLAND, PA
18974, PHONE 215-355-3982, CELL OR TEXT 215-850-1756, JOHNWANKO71@MSN.COM

CALENDAR YEARS YOU SERVED ABOARD _____

GRATUITIES FOR GUIDES, DRIVERS AND SERVICE PEOPLE INCLUDED

ALL ROOMS ARE SUITES \$119 PER NIGHT



The following are members that have had their correspondence, emails, and PING issues returned as unable to be delivered. Calls have been made to the last known number with no results.

If any of the membership has new knowledge on how to reach any of these people,

please advise Jerry Jackson (PING Editor) jerryjackson@ussrobertaowens827.org

-Or-

contact Association Treasurer Ed Green
at gab66@frontier.net
240-468-1044

James Burel	Tom Davey	Richard Fontaine
Wayne Gaines	Leon Hadfield	Kenneth Hassler
Wilson Kidd	Joseph Liegey	Raymond Sciaratta
Thomas Strong	Keith Stroup	Duane Strouts
Garland Wilkinson		

**All last known addresses can be found on the Roster page of the Web site on the roster named "Members that cannot be Contacted"

It is super important that if you change any of your contact information, you should put us on the list of people receiving the changes so that we can update the rosters and ensure that you continue to get the PING and other notifications.

Nine-year-old Joey was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

"Well, Mom, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his army build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joey, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his Mother asked.

"Well, no, Mom, but, if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

Little Johnny and his family were having Sunday dinner at his Grandmother's house. Everyone was seated around the table as the food was being served. When Little Johnny received his plate, he started eating right away. "Johnny! Please wait until we say our prayer." said his mother.

"I don't need to," the boy replied.

"Of course, you do." his mother insisted. "We always say a prayer before eating at our house."

"That's at our house." Johnny explained. "But this is Grandma's house and she knows how to cook!"



FROM THE DESK OF BOB BUCETTAS

I would like to update our ships history on my web site. That section has very little to say about us. The Owens was designed with a special purpose in mind. She was one of two new ships in the Carpenter class. The idea was to use them to test and develop ASW weapons and tactics for use on a future large destroyer. The weapons included MK 108 rocket Launcher, Weapon Alpha, Mk 15 trainable Hedge Hog, MK 23 Torpedo Tubes, and MK 9 depth charge. These weapons were coupled with the QHBa, OKA, QDA Sonar system and the MK100 underwater fire control system. The Rocket Launcher turned into ASROC, hedge hogs and depth charges were discontinued, and the torpedoes had a long development program becoming the major weapons of today. The Sonar and fire control were improved to match these developments. If you were involved in or know about these developments please share that knowledge with us. It will be used to enlarge our ships history on my web site.

The Carpenter was assigned to DESPAC and sent to Pearl Harbor. She spent most of her time in Korea and Viet Nam. Probably was little involved in ASW testing. The Robert Owens was assigned to DESLANT and sent to Key West Sonar School.. While there she used her Rocket Launcher in a test to sink the German submarine U2513. She later took part in Task Force Bravo, the Cuban Blockade and some astronaut recovery events. I would like to hear from you of your experiences during these periods and in how we were involved in developing these weapons. I remember that contractors were always aboard to modify the SONAR and Fire control. With your help we can develop a more interesting page for our ships history on my web site.

The Carpenter Class was later increased by six more ships, All DDE's. These were the Lloyd Thomas 764, and the Keppler 765, along with the Fred T Berry 858, Norris, 859, McCaferry 860 and Harwood 861. Did any of these ships ever sail with us?

As always the password for the Crews Page remains the same. Use the current sign in. I have not changed much lately, but hope to add more. There are some new links there and the latest NAVY TIMES newspaper is still available but the sign in has changed. The new sign in is posted there

Thanks
Bob Bucettas

(Editors Note: Bob Bucettas has a historical website (www.ussrobertaowens.org) which he owns and maintains with historical data about the Bobby O and other information. Please take the time to drop in and see what he has. I know he would love to have input on the above topic and any other that refers to the history of our ship.)

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE ASSOCIATION:

Calvin (Jack) Jackson Living in Wingate TX & was aboard 1968-71



The Owens' Ping

The Ship's Store
Keith Totsch Manager

USS Robert A. Owens (DD827) Shipmates Association- Ship's Store Inventory

ITEM	ON HAND	RETAIL
	8/24/2014	
Shirt, Polo/Golf, blue, medium	7	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo/Golf, blue, XL	23	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo/Golf, blue, XXL	3	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo/Golf, blue, XXXL	10	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo/Golf, gray, medium	1	\$23.00
Shirt, Tee w/pocket, blue, small	21	\$18.00
Shirt, Tee w/pocket, blue, medium	12	\$18.00
Shirt, Tee w/pocket, blue, XL	8	\$18.00
Shirt, Tee, long sleeve, blue, XXL	1	\$19.00
Cap, baseball style, wool, winter	10	\$17.00
Cap, baseball style, summer, mesh	24	\$17.00
Ship's patch, 1949-64	19	\$3.50
Ship's patch, 1964-82	1	\$3.50
Patch, plank owner	1	\$3.00
Book, Owen's Saga	102	\$15.00
Book, Sea Tales	2	\$7.00
Pins, US Navy/Flag	4	\$3.00
Magnets	39	\$2.00

If anyone has any suggestions for items to be added to the ship's store, please notify Keith at ktotsch@comcast.net or by phone at 847-445-9597.

Any and all suggestions are appreciated.

As always, to place an order for items; please list the items by name, quantity desired, and price with a total. Make your check payable to: Robert Owens Shipmates Association.

Mail your order and payment to:

Mr. Keith Totsch
200 Sheridan Ct.
Waukegan, IL 60085

Ktotsch@comcast.net



The Owens' Ping

AMERICAN HERITAGE LANDMARK TOURS TOUR PROPOSAL USS ROBERT A. OWENS

HISTORICAL & CULTURAL PHILADELPHIA NATIONAL CONSTITUTION CENTER

History comes alive as we walk in the footsteps of our Founding Fathers along brick walkways and cobblestone streets in Penn's "Green Countrie Towne," Philadelphia. This city, which served as the capital of the colony of Pennsylvania, the capital of Colonial America, and the Federal capital from 1790-1800, has a history that is unrivaled in America. In an area known as "**America's Most Historic Square Mile**," we visit or pass such sites as **Independence Hall**, where the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution were signed; the **Liberty Bell**, America's most cherished artifact now housed in a new Pavilion with interesting displays regarding the bell's history, **Congress Hall**, building used by both houses of Congress when Philadelphia served as the Federal capital, **Elfreth's Alley**, the oldest continuously occupied residential street in America, **Betsy Ross House**, Quaker seamstress who legend maintains made our first flag & whose home is an excellent example of the 18th c. working class residence; **Franklin Court**, site of the home of the famous Dr. Franklin, & **Christ Church**, Anglican church founded in 1695 where many of the founding fathers worshiped.

One of the highlights of the day will be a visit to the new **National Constitution Center**. "We, the People" is the preamble of the document establishing a system of government which has enabled the U.S. to flourish into the most successful republic in history. Washington called it a "miracle" and it remains such. This interactive facility is dedicated to help people better understand the Constitution and its impact on our lives as well as prepare us to be better citizens. What better location than the city of its birth!

Your tour will also include a driving overview of downtown Philadelphia including the **Penn's Landing** area along the Delaware waterfront, the charming 18th century neighborhood of **Society Hill** to see its many mansions, churches, cemeteries, and gardens, **City Hall**, which is the largest municipal building in the U.S., & the **Benjamin Franklin Parkway**, referred to as the "Champs Elysees of America. Brief stops at Logan Circle, beautiful "hub" and one of the original green areas set aside by founder, William Penn as well as view from atop the famous Rocky stairs to see much of the skyline of the city.





AMERICAN HERITAGE LANDMARK TOURS

TOUR PROPOSAL

USS ROBERT A. OWENS

VALLEY FORGE ENCAMPMENT

Located in the “backyard” of the Embassy Suites is Valley Forge National Park, site of the winter encampment of 1777-78, the most pivotal period during the American Revolution. No other place associated with the American Revolution symbolizes the suffering, sacrifice and ultimate triumph of the soldier than Valley Forge. No battle was fought here, but there was survival against other enemies – low morale due to the losses at Brandywine & Germantown and the British capture and occupation of the capital city, Philadelphia, hunger, disease and the forces of nature. It was here that the American Army was born through the training established by Baron Friedrich von Steuben, it was here that the news of the French Alliance was first received.

Travel through some 3,500 acres of the beautiful rolling hills of this very historic site occupied by the Continental soldiers during the winter of 1777-78. At Muhlenberg’s Brigade area you’ll have the opportunity to visit authentically reconstructed huts, referred by Lafayette as being “scarcely gayer than the dungeons of Europe”, earthen fortifications known as **redoubts** and a working example of a field “bake-oven”. Imagine what it must have been like to “winter” here as did some 12,000 soldiers and hundreds of women and children.

Continuing on, we pass the National Memorial Arch, houses that were occupied by the officers, and the Valley Creek from which the Forge took its name, as we make our way to the home of Isaac Potts, the 18th century structure which served as **Washington’s Headquarters**. We will tour this building and imagine the lifestyle of His Excellency and Mrs. Washington during their stay at the Forge. Not the level of comfort you might expect!

A short distance away is the **Grand Parade** where this “rag-tag” band of soldiers were trained under Baron von Steuben and transformed into the American Army. Hear how von Steuben was able to accomplish this “miracle” as well as the details of the celebration on May 6th when the French Alliance was announced to the Army. No tour of Valley Forge is complete without a visit to the beautiful **Washington Memorial Chapel**, built in the early 1900’s to honor Washington and his men. A most beautiful site!





The Owens' Ping

The Embassy Suites





The Owens' Ping





David Kenneth Hayes, from Clinton, died July 6, 2016 at his residence.

David was born in Gary, Indiana, on August 5, 1945, to the late Hershel and Irene Ansbro Hayes. He served in the Navy from 1963 to 1966 on the U.S.S. Robert A. Owens. He was retired from Eli Lilly. He was a 1963 graduate of Clinton High School. His memberships included the VFW Post 6653 and Sacred Heart Church.

He married Sara Sue Fenwick Martin Hayes on September 24, 1971 and she survives him.

David is also survived by a son, Kenneth Fenwick Hayes (Dione) and their children Cody Ray Hayes and fiancé Chelsie Stockwell, Billy Peebles and family, Brittani Sollars and family, Hailey Peebles and Mason and Aiden Hayes; and 2 step-grandchildren. He is also is survived by sisters Cindy (Rick) Murphy of Montezuma and Kim (late Steve) Huffman of Clinton; brothers Larry (Connie) of Terre Haute; Jerry (Mary Ann) of Columbus, IN; Terry (Darla) of Brazil, IN; a special cousin Kenny (Diann) Ansbro of Long Beach, CA; and nephews Tom (Karen) Newport and David (Dawn) Newport of Terre Haute; and many nieces and nephews.

Memorial contributions in his memory may be made to the CRC (old Clinton High School Gym), Vermillion-Parke Humane Shelter, or the Senior Citizens' Center in Clinton.

His final days he was cared for lovingly by his daughter-in-law, Dione Michelle Hayes and Gentiva Hospice Care.

He chose cremation and no formal services. Frist Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements.

PRESIDENTIAL SNIPPETS:

I was at the bowling alley the other day, participating in a league for senior men 50 and over. We bowl each week at 10 a.m. And really have an enjoyable time. We're still competitive, but it isn't cut throat like some of the other leagues in which I've been. Several of the members are former Navy and once in a while we talk about our times on active duty. One of the guys asked me, "what kind of ship were you on?", and before I could answer, a retired sub-mariner spoke up and said "a target"!!

Playing golf last fall with some other retired firefighters, one of which was my ex-chief who's a former Marine (they like to be called "former marines" not ex-marines), we were engaging in some friendly banter that is quite common between sailors and marines. Finally, I had to remind him that the marines are actually a department in the Navy. We had a good laugh and then he said, "Yeah, you're exactly right. It's called the Mens Department." I don't use that line anymore!!

On a personal note, if I may 'crow' a little, I finally completed my college degree in May and graduated Magna Cum Lauude from Eastern Kentucky University on May 14 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Fire Science Administration. I did it all on-line, which was hard, and completed it in 4 ½ years. Everyone asks now what I'm going to do with my degree: hang it on the wall and stay retired. This was for personal satisfaction only, one of those holes in one's past that got filled – finally!