



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

WINTER 2016 EDITION

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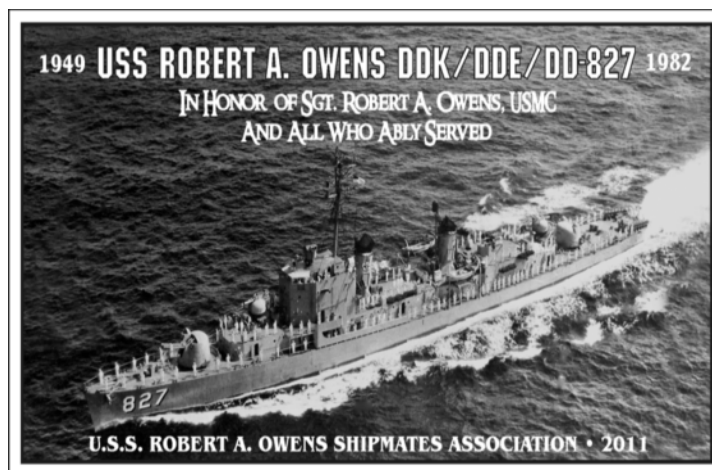
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SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

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..



**Commissioned
1949**

**Decommissioned
1982**



The Owens' Ping

The Presidents 2016 Winter Message

I hope everyone has had a great fall season, the leaves have about all fallen, most of the fall color is gone, but now we have the color of the Christmas lights everywhere (and probably have had them in the stores for some time now). I suppose everyone is in full swing of the shopping season and making plans for the holidays. If you're not sure what to get someone, I would urge you to look into the ship's store and order something from us. Keith will get it out to you quickly and it will arrive at your door step without you having to leave the house or go through all the hassle of ordering on line somewhere and in-putting your credit card information for everyone on the internet to access. AND, it will help our organization.

There's been so much hub-bub this fall regarding the NFL players who deem it necessary to sit or kneel during the playing of the national anthem prior to ball games. We all have rights to express ourselves as long as it does not infringe upon someone else's rights or become dangerous to others. I understand that completely. Each of us in our organization gave years out of our lives to protect those rights that everyone enjoys whether they served or not. If we served in combat or not, we still gave these years with the acceptance that it may be dangerous and that we may be asked to give the ultimate sacrifice. Thankfully, none of us had to do that. We have all been taught from a very early age in school and at home the respect that we should pay during the playing or singing of the national anthem. It is a matter of respect and honor for what we have and for the sacrifices that have been made over the past centuries by millions of men and women for these rights, privileges and benefits which we all enjoy on a daily basis. I agree these players have the right to peacefully protest and show their feelings in this manner. But I also feel that showing dishonor and disrespect to the very symbol that allows them to do this is like slapping the hand that feeds them. Bless them all, I hope they find the peace for which they are searching and I hope they eventually choose another venue in which to do it that is not so polarizing and disrespectful.

I want to ask everyone to be looking ahead to this year's coming reunion and a few of the things that we will have to address at our business meeting. We still have one Trustee position that has remained open and need to fill it. Hopefully, all the existing officers of the organization will want to remain in their respective positions. However, if any person wants to drop from the board or wants to apply for a position on the board, please let me know as soon as possible. Don't worry about opposing someone or having multiple names for one position; a choice for the membership is never a bad thing. Also, I would like to hear from the membership any nomination for a member to receive the Jim Holden Award at this year's banquet. This is an annual award we give to someone who has upheld the traditions of the organization, to a member who has served above and beyond for the organization or any member who has received an honor or recognition that furthers the goals and objectives of not only our organization, but something that has been done to further good will and citizenship to the public. Last year the award was earned by Joe Carlsen who was not in attendance at the banquet. The award was mailed to his home. Think about these issues and contact me with any information or ideas.

To all of your homes from ours, Ellen and I wish all of you a safe, prosperous and happy holiday season – Happy Thanksgiving, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

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 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 Owens' Ping

The Embassy Suites





The Owens' Ping





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

PLEASE SEE THE NEXT PAGE FOR THE "SHIPS STORE CHRISTMAS SALE" FROM DECEMBER 1st THRU THE 31st

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



DECEMBER 2016 SHIPS STORE SALE...!!!

Everything (Except the books) is on sale at **10% off** for the entire month of December 2016. Any item that we sell out of will not be available until it is decided if we will order more and then the price will be decided by what it costs us to replace.

The “Owens Saga” will be **20% off** during the sale and the “Sea Tales” will be \$7.00

The “Sea Tales 2nd Edition will be \$7.50

Anything that you want to receive by Christmas should be ordered early so that Keith can get them shipped to you in time.

If you are unsure what the price of something is going to be you can double check with Keith at Ktotsch@comcast.net or call him at 847-445-9597

ATTENTION PLANK OWNERS & SURVIVING NEXT OF KIN

Joe Carlsen, Author of “Owens Saga” and “Sea Tales”, is attempting to get a hold of Owens Plank Owners or surviving next of kin of those that have passed so that he can provide them with a free copy of “Sea Tales, 2nd Edition. If this is you, and you have not already received your free copy, please contact Joe at his email address of jcarlsen@highland.net or his home mailing address of:

Joseph Carlsen
PO Box 4062
Oneida, TN 37841



Presidential Snippets

As I write this snippet, I have no idea what the outcome has been in the presidential election. By the time you read this, we'll all know. I just hope everyone was able to get out and cast your ballots for whomever you wanted to win. Whichever way it went, let's all pray for their responsible guidance and for a stronger and more united country.

I attended my first school-sponsored "Grandparent's Day" this Fall for my eldest grandchild who started kindergarten. It was a hoot! It reminded me of a statement I heard some years back, don't know who wrote or said it, but it went something like "Our grandchildren are our messengers that we send into a future that we will never see." It went on to say that it is incumbent upon us to teach them and train them well so that they may have a better world than us. Watching these little people and knowing that their minds are like little sponges taking in everything around them – good and bad – makes one realize that our examples are always being watched and heard.

I don't know if it was related to any of the above, but the next day after "Grandparents Day" I had my first bout with a kidney stone. OUCH! For those of you who have had them, you can sympathize. For those of you who haven't, be VERY glad. The best way I can put it is pain with a capital "P".

We've had a pretty good year for new members. I'm not sure of the count, but we've had several shipmates come back on board. If you know of any others who may need some encouragement, give them a call and/or share a Ping with them. Never know what may make up a person's mind.

I'm looking forward to the reunion in Philly. Jack has done a great job and everything has been settled and reserved. Now it's up to all of us to participate. Please get your reservations made at the hotel early and your reservation forms sent in as early as possible to Jack for the side trips, banquet and activities. Philadelphia is our nation's birth place, a lot of history there, and if you've never been then you owe it to yourself to make the trip and have all this history presented on a guided tour. No driving in traffic, hunting parking places, getting lost, fighting the crowds; just sit back on the tour bus and wait to be told when to get on and off. Couldn't be any easier.

A Reminder that if you are going to the reunion, you should make your reservations as soon as possible so that Jack and ensure that we are going to meet the required number of people for the tours & events. Your credit card will NOT be charged for the room reservation until you attend. You will only be reserving your room if you call now

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS TO THE ASSOCIATION:

Mike Sleeman	1970-1973	FTG2
Bill Legg	1965-1967	Corpsman
Sylvester (David) Mabie	1967-1969	BMSN
Carmen M. Clinton	1964-1966	EN2



BEGIN WITH A SMILE:

STORY OF THE BAGPIPER

Time is like a river. You cannot touch the water twice, because the flow that has passed will never pass again. Enjoy every moment of life.

As a bagpiper, I play many gigs. Recently I was asked by a funeral director to play at a graveside service for a homeless man.

He had no family or friends, so the service was to be at a pauper's cemetery in the Nova Scotia back country.

As I was not familiar with the backwoods, I got lost and, being a typical man, I didn't stop for directions.

I finally arrived an hour late and saw the funeral guy had evidently gone and the hearse was nowhere in sight.

There were only the diggers and crew left and they were eating lunch. I felt badly and apologized to the men for being late.

I went to the side of the grave and looked down and the vault lid was already in place. I didn't know what else to do, so I started to play.

The workers put down their lunches and began to gather around.

I played out my heart and soul for this man with no family and friends. I played like I've never played before for this homeless man.

And as I played "Amazing Grace", the workers began to weep. They wept, I wept, we all wept together.

When I finished, I packed up my bagpipes and started for my car. Though my head was hung low, my heart was full.

As I opened the door to my car, I heard one of the workers say, "I never seen anything like that before, and I've been putting in septic tanks for twenty years."

Apparently, I'm still lost....it's a man thing.

Teacher: "If I gave you 2 cats and another 2 cats and another 2, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "No, listen carefully... If I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven."

Teacher: "Let me put it to you differently. If I gave you two apples, and another two apples and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Six."

Teacher: "Good. Now if I gave you two cats, and another two cats and another two, how many would you have?"

Johnny: "Seven!"

Teacher: "Johnny, where in the heck do you get seven from?!"

Johnny: "Because I've already got a freaking cat!"

25 Things You Didn't Know About Philadelphia

523

It's home to the Liberty Bell, the Declaration of Independence, and Philly cheesesteaks. But there's more than that going on in the City of Brotherly Love.

1. Philly is a city of firsts. On top of hosting America's first birthday, it also started up the country's first daily newspaper—*The Philadelphia Packet and Daily Advertiser*—in 1784.
2. The city is home to America's first zoo.
3. It's also home to the first hospital.
4. And, naturally, the first medical school!
5. Philadelphia is actually renowned for its medical sector. One out of every six doctors in the U.S. is trained in Philly.
6. Move over, England. The Walnut Street Theater is actually the oldest continually running theater in the English-speaking world.
7. It was originally owned by Edwin Booth—you might know him as John Wilkes Booth's brother.
8. Philly became home to the first general purpose computer in 1946.
9. It weighed 27 tons!
10. Philly boasts more Impressionist paintings than any other city outside Paris.
11. Art is a big deal here. Boasting over 2000 outdoor murals, it's been called the "mural capital of the U.S."
12. If you're more of a foodie, Philly is also home to the Wing Bowl, an eating contest that draws crowds as large as 20,000 people.
13. In 1943, Phillies owner Robert Carpenter attempted to rename the team the Blue Jays. The nickname obviously failed to catch on.
14. Why are the Flyers called the Flyers? Because Ed Snider's wife simply thought the name sounded good.
15. As for the Eagles, they're actually named for the Eagle that appeared on posters during the National Recovery Act, which was part of FDR's New Deal.
16. Before that, the city's home team was the Frankford Yellow Jackets.
17. In 1988, the Eagles helped make the world's largest cheesesteak. To no one's surprise, it was the length of a football field.
18. In the beginning, the Philadelphia mint took several years to produce its first million coins.
19. Today, it can make that many in less than an hour.
20. One of the first businesses in Philly? Beer. William Frampton's brewery started up in 1683.
21. For the U.S. bicentennial, the city planted a "moon tree." (That is, a tree grown from a seed taken on the Apollo 14 mission.)
22. Philly's Mütter Museum has a great collection of medical oddities, including slides of Einstein's brain, slices of a human face, and a book bound by human skin.
23. Surprise! Neither Thomas Jefferson nor John Adams signed the Constitution—they were out of town.
24. Sorry, but there's no evidence that Philadelphia resident Betsy Ross stitched the first American flag.
25. The story was made up in 1870, some 100 years after the fact. You can still visit her home in Philly's Old City neighborhood, though!