



# The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

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

## **REUNION - 2017 EDITION**

### **SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS**

**President:**

**Larry McCoskey**

Larrymc3140@gmail.com

**VicePresident & Historian:**

**Jack Wanko**

Johnwanko71@msn.com

**Secretary:**

**Bobby Williams**

Bobbywms@embarqmail.com

**Treasurer:**

**Ed Green**

Gab66@frontiernet.net

**Ships' Store Manager:**

**Keith Totsch**

Ktotsch@comcast.net

**Chaplains:**

**Bobby Williams**

Bobbywms@embarqmail.com

**Membership Committee:**

**Robert Kopec**

Rhk4912@verizon.net

**Reunion Committee:**

**John (Jack) Wanko**

Johnwanko71@msn.com

**Audit Committee:**

**John Wagner johnwagner451@gmail.com**

**Gary Parks blwgp@hotmail.com**

**Ron Pervere ron@pervere.net**

**PING Manager/Editor**

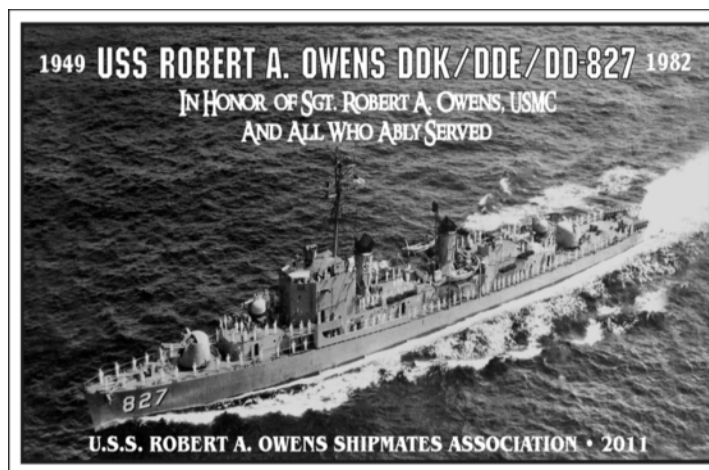
**WEB Site Manager**

**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..



Commissioned  
1949

Decommissioned  
1982



# The Owens' Ping

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## The Presidents 2017 WINTER Message

Good morning! Hope this issue of the Ping reaches each and every one of you on a healthy and hardy day! We've all made it through the Thanksgiving Holiday and I trust all of us are getting ready for the coming Christmas Season. It can be a hectic time of year, stressful even, but we have to remember that's it a time for family and friends to be together and celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ. And in doing so, we host gatherings or travel to gatherings to eat, exchange gifts and worship. Sometimes, through the hassle of shopping, I have to keep reminding myself that it's a happy time of year and a time when I now have to assume the role of "grandpa" and sit back and watch the excitement of our grandchildren as they see what Santa brought them and rip open the all-too-many presents that they receive. I wish for all of you a joyous time of year and the peace that comes with it.

Since the last issue of the Ping we attended our reunion in Valley Forge hosted by Jack Wanko. What a wonderful time, great trips to downtown Philadelphia, Valley Forge and many other locations over the course of the week. I thoroughly enjoyed this reunion as I do all of them and look back on all the great conversations I had with all my shipmates and friends. As most of you know now, the next reunion is scheduled to be in Charleston, SC, sometime in 2019.

Bobby Williams and myself have agreed to research the possibilities for the next reunion. Nobody came forward to volunteer for the task, so he and I will begin work on this after the first of the year and try to establish a hotel and base of operation. From there we may enlist the help of the hotel or a private individual to assist with scheduling and hosting other events. Neither of us live in any proximity to the area, so it will be difficult for us to remain on top of this task from day to day. But rest assured, we will do everything to insure the cost is held to a minimum and the quality of the reunion is high. More will be reported in future Pings.

Ellen and I want to wish each of you a Very Merry Christmas and a Healthy and Prosperous 2018. May the Peace of the Christmas Season be with each of you.

Larry

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## MEMBERSHIP REPORT

292 Current members on Master Roster

276 Currently are contacted by USPS mail or E-mail

16 Currently unable to be contacted by any known means

225 Currently listed on the Honor Roll



# *2017 Reunion - Business Meeting Minutes*

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## **USS ROBERT A. OWENS SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION**

### **Business Meeting held September 9, 2017**

The meeting was called to order by Pres. Larry McCoskey at 0900 hrs. in accordance with the association's by-laws, Article I, Section 2, which requires the meeting.

I. Election of Officers: The following members were elected to serve in the respective office for the next two years.

President	Larry McCoskey
Vice-President	John Wanko
Secretary	Bobby Williams
Treasurer	Ed Green
Ship's Store	Keith Totsch
Chaplain	Bobby Williams
Membership	Bob Kopec
Audit Committee	John Wagner
	Gary Parks
	Ron Pervere
Ping Editor	Jerry Jackson
Web Site Mgr.	Jerry Jackson
Reunion Comm.	Larry McCoskey
	Bobby Williams

II. Budget overview: Ed Green gave a brief overview of the budget. All receipts and bills had not been received for reunion debits/credits so the total balance was tentatively given as \$12,000+.

III. Reunion report: John Wanko gave an overview of the reunion activities and expenses. The majority of items had been paid and almost all receipts had been forwarded to Ed. Green.

IV. Pictures. All members were encouraged to forward reunion pictures to Jerry Jackson for publishing in the next Ping.

V. In order to insure that the Ping and Web Site will be managed seamlessly, Ron Pervere will be working with Jerry Jackson as a back-up for both in the event Jerry is unable to continue with the duties of Ping Editor and Web Manager. This is strictly a precautionary move to insure that more than one member is well versed on the mechanics of both items.

VI. Ship's Store. Keith Totsch gave an overview of the store's items remaining and indicated that he has had over \$300 in sales at the reunion alone. He was given permission to expand on a limited basis any items he deemed necessary to continue the store's success.

VII. Donations. The following donations were approved by the body:

- \$200 to Tin Can Sailors
- \$100 to the Freedom Foundation
- \$100 to the Congressional Medal of Honor Foundation

VIII. There was no recipient this year for the Jim Holden Award.

IX. A committee of two was formed to investigate what it will take to have a new Navy Destroyer named after Robert A. Owens. Larry McCoskey and John Wanko will be making inquiries to determine if this is possible.

X. It was decided that the next reunion will be held in Charleston, SC. Nobody volunteered to spearhead the reunion, so Larry McCoskey and Bobby Williams agreed to work together to find a hotel and someone in the area to manage this for us. More will be forthcoming in future Pings.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1030 hrs.  
Submitted by Larry McCoskey.





# The Owens' Ping



EVERYONE SEEMS TO ENJOY THE  
TOURS OF THE MINT AND SEVERAL  
OTHER SITES.







# The Owens' Ping



Sights from the past to the present were looked at by the members at the reunion.

Housing for the soldiers at Valley Forge was a bit cramped and pretty cold one would imagine.



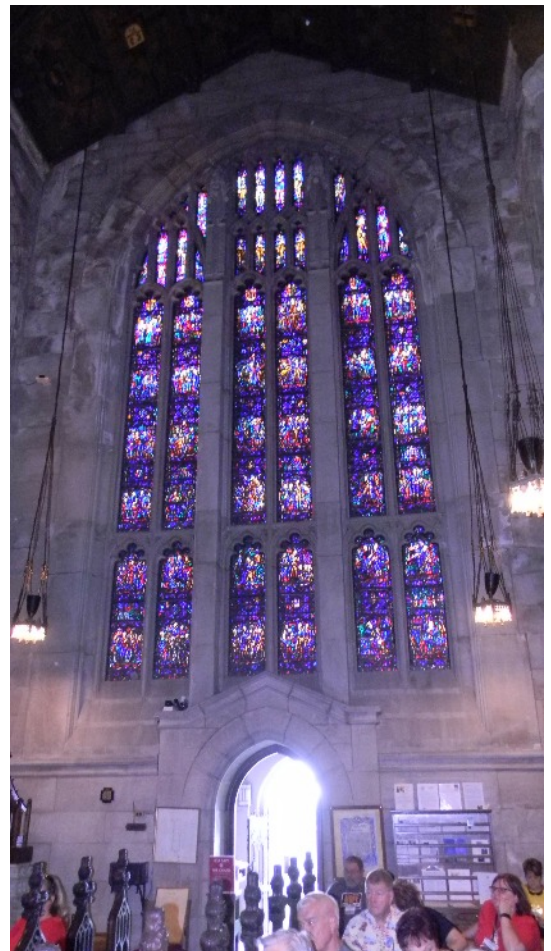




# The Owens' Ping



Quarters for the Commanding General have certainly changed over the years. Can't see one of the Owens Skippers accepting this as his cabin aboard ship.





# The Owens' Ping

## USS ROBERT A. OWENS DDK/DDE/DD-827 SHIPS STORE INVENTORY EFFECTIVE DECEMBER 2017

ITEM		ON HAND	UNIT COST
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(Medium)	5	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(Large)	2	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XL)	21	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XXL)	8	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XXXL)	3	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Gray	(Medium)	All Out	\$23__
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(Small)	13	\$18
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(Medium)	12	\$18
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(Large)	2	\$18
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(XL)	2	\$18
Shirt, Tee, Long Sleeve, Blue	(Large)	All Out	\$19
Shirt, Tee, Long Sleeve, Blue	(XL)	All Out	\$19
Shirt, Tee, Long Sleeve, Blue	(XXL)	All Out	\$19
Sweat Shirt, Hooded, Zip-Up, Blue	(XXL)	All Out	\$30
Cap, Baseball Style, Wool (Winter)	(Adjustable)	3	\$17
Cap, Baseball Style, Mesh (Summer)	(Adjustable)	12	\$17
Ships Patch, 1949-1964		16	\$3.50
Ships Patch, 1964-1982		All Out	\$3.50
Patch, Plank Owner		1	\$3
Pin, US Navy/Flag		1	\$3
Ships Magnet		25	\$2
Book, "Owens Saga"		96	\$15
Book, "Sea Tales"	(Initial Edition)	1	\$7
Book, "Sea Tales"	(Second Edition)	9	\$7

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

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Letter from the Editor:

Our Vice President, John Wanko, performed above and beyond in setting up the 2017 Reunion and deserves a great deal of credit and thanks for his efforts. He pulled out all the stops in his efforts to ensure that a full and informative package was put together for the members and from what I have seen and heard, he succeeded brilliantly. He wishes to thank all those that attended and hopes that you all enjoyed yourselves as much as he did.

For my part, I want to wish all of you that receive the PING a very Merry Christmas and a peaceful and safe Happy New Year. May this coming year see a greater calm and sense of unity befall this great country of ours and that strife and hatred find no home here.

Jerry Jackson  
PING Editor

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## Daily Giggle.....

A young Naval Officer was in a terrible car accident, but due to the heroics of the hospital staff the only permanent injury was the loss of one ear. Since he wasn't physically impaired he remained in the military and eventually became an Admiral. However, during his career he was always sensitive about his appearance.

One day the Admiral was interviewing two Navy Master Chiefs and a Marine Gunnery Sergeant for his personal staff. The first Master Chief was a Surface Navy type and it was a great interview. At the end of the interview the Admiral asked him, "Do you notice anything different about me?" The Master Chief answered, "Why yes. I couldn't help but notice you are missing your starboard ear, so I don't know whether this impacts your hearing on that side." The Admiral got very angry at this lack of tact and threw him out of his office.

The next candidate, an Aviation Master Chief, when asked this same question, answered, "Well yes, you seem to be short one ear." The Admiral threw him out also.

The third interview was with the Marine Gunnery Sergeant. He was articulate, extremely sharp, and seemed to know more than the two Master Chiefs put together. The Admiral wanted this guy, but went ahead with the same question. "Do you notice anything different about me?" To his surprise the Gunnery Sergeant said, "Yes. You wear contact lenses."

The Admiral was impressed and thought to himself, what an incredibly tactful Marine. "And how do you know that?" the Admiral asked.

The Gunny replied, "Well sir, it's pretty hard to wear glasses with only one ear."





# The Owens' Ping

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## Robert Vincent Tokar

- September 9, 1941 - November 22, 2017

Robert was born on September 9, 1941 and passed away on Wednesday, November 22, 2017.

Robert was a resident of Missouri at the time of passing.

Services: Funeral service at St. John United Church of Christ, 332 Old Sulpher Spring Road, Manchester, Wednesday, 11:00 a.m. Interment St. John U.C.C. Cemetery. Visitation at the church, Wednesday 10 a.m. until time of service. A service of the SCHRADER Funeral Home and Crematory.

In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to [American Heart Association](#) or St. John U.C.C., Manchester.

(Editors Note: Bob served aboard the USS Robert A. Owens from Jan 1960 to Aug 1962)

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### **NOTE TO ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP:**

The PING is you link to the Association and the others that have served on the “Bobbie O” throughout her service to this country and the US Navy. You had experiences like we all had and others would like to hear them. Filling space on these pages is all about that. Please submit your stories and experiences to me so that I can publish them for everyone to share in.

Those who have internet capabilities and haven’t taken the opportunity to visit the web site, please do as we attempt to expand and keep current, the web pages so that at any time the membership can check in on what is happening. I will also be very glad to publish any comments you may have that will fit on the pages. Jokes (clean of course), stories, and words of wisdom are always welcome. The Owens was our home for a while as we journeyed through life and we all lived in that same home at one time. That makes us family and one always wants to hear from family once in a while.

[www.ussrobertaowens827.org](http://www.ussrobertaowens827.org) is the website address. Drop in and look around. Suggestions are always welcomed. Submissions are always welcomed as well.

(Remember, you have to be a member to access the Association Rosters page)

MERRY CHRISTMAS & HAPPY NEW YEAR

Jerry Jackson