



# The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

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

## WINTER 2019 - EDITION

### SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

**President:**

**Larry McCoskey**

*Larrymc3140@gmail.com*

**VicePresident**

**Jack Wanko**

*Johnwanko71@msn.com*

**Secretary:**

**Bobby Williams**

*Bobbywms@embarqmail.com*

**Treasurer:**

**Gary Parks**

*Biwgp@hotmail.com*

**Ships' Store Manager:**

**Keith Totsch**

*Ktotsch@comcast.net*

**Chaplains:**

**Bobby Williams**

*Bobbywms@embarqmail.com*

**Membership Committee:**

*(Vacant)*

**Reunion 2021 Committee:**

**Larry McCokey**

*Larrymc3140@gmail.com*

**Audit Committee:**

**John Wagner** *johnwagner451@gmail.com*

**Bill Miller** *billmiller15644@gmail.com*

**Ron Pervere** *ron@pervere.net*

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**WEB Site Manager**

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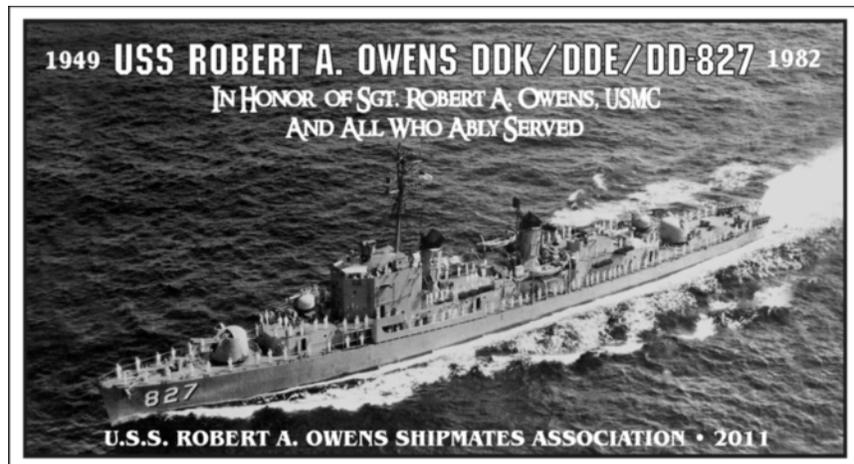
SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

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..



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:**

**[www.ussrobertaowens827.org](http://www.ussrobertaowens827.org)**



**Commissioned  
1949**

**Decommissioned  
1982**



# The Owens' Ping

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## Presidents 2019 Winter Message

Hello to all my friends and shipmates during this time of the year when we're all getting ready for the upcoming holidays. I hope you are all ready for the joyous seasons to follow, all the decorations either up or out of the attic/closet/basement and ready for hanging. It seems as though each year it gets a little harder to get ready and we tend to want to do less. But after it's all done and we get to sit back and look at it and enjoy it, it all seems worth it. So make it a fun time and enjoy the season!

As I write this I look back on our reunion in Charleston, which is all done now after two years of planning and coordinating things for our enjoyment. As part of the reunion committee I can say it was all worth it as everyone in attendance had a really good time. The hotel Bobby Williams recommended lived up to it's reputation and was perfect for all our needs. Our trips were fun, we spent the day on an old destroyer and air craft carrier which helped us all remember our days aboard ship. The only thing missing from the destroyer was that pungent smell of stack gas while underway. Personally, didn't miss that a bit! I sure wish we would have had more people attend, but those who did had a great time. Please see the reunion report in this issue.

Thursday, prior to the banquet at the reunion, we held our business meeting in accordance with our constitution and by-laws. Association officers for the next two years are listed on the front of this Ping as elections were held. A treasurer's report was given as well as a reunion financial report, a ship's store up date from Keith Totsch and we voted to make donations to Tin Can Sailors and the Yorktown Foundation. Other business was discussed and updates given so please check the business meeting minutes either in this Ping or on our web page.

At the business meeting we railroaded, no I mean voted, to have me host the next reunion in Louisville, KY. I'll have more to report in the next Ping as to when it will be as I have to check on some things to make sure we can do the activities I have planned. Tentatively, I'm hoping to have a trip one day on the Bourbon Trail to a couple of distilleries. Right now I'm wanting to go to Buffalo Trace and Woodford Reserve; Maker's Mark is not out of the question. Also, tentatively depending on dates, I would like to schedule a day at Churchill Downs on Millionaires Row for those wishing to experience a little horse racing, all you can eat buffet meal and tables indoors on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor overlooking the entire track. Again, these are tentative and I can't make any firm plans until I can research appropriate dates. But I'm 99% sure the Bourbon Trail is a "go". I have other plans I need to discuss with the association leaders that I'm not willing to divulge right now, so keep watching and reading the upcoming notices in the Ping and on the web site.

As a reminder, **all membership dues will be due on January 1, 2020**. The dues are \$10 a year and are vital to the maintenance of our organization. It costs us money to maintain a web page and to turn out 3-4 Pings in a year. For the Ping, the printing and mailing to those without email accounts is exceptional, costing us about \$300-\$400 per issue. So it's imperative that we all contribute to help maintain the organization.

Gary Parks is now the treasurer and all dues should be sent to him. Our dues records have been kept up to date and some members have paid past 2020, but most are in the "owing" stage. So please renew January 1, and send your yearly dues to Gary. His mailing address is as follows: 3166 Marletta Road, Chillicothe, Oh 45601

(Presidents 2019 Winter Message continued on next page)



# The Owens' Ping

## Presidents 2019 Winter Message Continued

Speaking of dues and mailing and email, if possible please provide Jerry Jackson with your up-to-date email address so we can get the Pings to you electronically and save on printing and postage. The more we can send to email accounts, the better we are. So if your email address changes (or has changed recently) it's very important that you notify me or Jerry so we can keep you in the loop. Jerry does a great job in trying to find people, but it's time consuming and difficult, so help him with this one.

All the best to everyone for a safe, healthy and happy holiday season. Merry Christmas!!

Larry

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## U.S. Mint United States Navy Bicentennial Medal Available

The United States Navy was established by the Continental Congress on October 13, 1775 to intercept ships carrying supplies to the British army in America during the American Revolution. More than two centuries later the Navy remains committed to safeguarding our Nation with Pride and courage.

The U.S. Mint has gifts honoring all branches of the military. The US Navy Bicentennial Medal depicts the sloop "Alfred", the flagship of the First American Fleet, on the obverse and the modern nuclear Navy of today on the reverse. Find the perfect military gift on our military appreciation page.

Type in the address below in your computer and go directly to the military appreciation coin section.



‡ <https://catalog.usmint.gov/curated/military-history/>



# The Owens' Ping

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## **2019 USS ROBERT A. OWENS SHIPMATES ASSOCIATION BUSINESS MEETING OCTOBER 3, 2019**

In accordance with Article I, Section 2, of the Constitution and By-Laws of the organization a business meeting was held at the Town and Country Inn and Suites, Charleston, SC, at the site of our reunion. 23 shipmates were in attendance.

1. The minutes of the last business meeting held 9/9/2017 were read and approved.
2. An election of officers was held. All present office holders remained in their present positions with the exception of the following:

Gary Parks was elected Treasurer to replace Ed Green who resigned.

Bill Miller was elected an Auditor to replace Gary Parks' election to Treasurer.

3. A budget report was presented by Larry McCoskey, interim Treasurer, as well as a report on reunion expenses and outstanding debts.
4. Keith Totsch gave a report on the status of the Ship's Store.
5. Donations. It was voted by the membership that the following donations be made in the name of the organization:  
  
\$250 to Tin Can Sailors  
\$250 to the Yorktown Foundation
6. Larry McCoskey gave a report on his efforts to contact someone in the Navy regarding the naming of a new destroyer after Robert A. Owens. All efforts have been negative. Suggestions have been made as to what to do next. McCoskey will follow those suggestions.
7. No members were nominated for the Jim Holden Award for this reunion. Larry McCoskey was nominated for receiving the award at the next reunion.
8. All members at the reunion were encouraged to send copies of all photos taken to Jerry Jackson for inclusion in the Ping and the organization's web site.
9. Louisville, KY, was approved as the next reunion site with Larry McCoskey being the reunion chair person.
10. A motion was made to adjourn the meeting, seconded, and approved.

Submitted by Larry McCoskey, President.



# The Owens' Ping

## 2019 REUNION, CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

This year's reunion is now history. It was held at the Town and Country Inn and Suites in Charleston, SC. The hotel was very nice, full service with restaurant, bar, pool and meeting rooms for all our needs, both hospitality room and banquet room. Both rooms were set extremely well and met all our needs. The hospitality room was large enough for comfortable seating, a large table for our historical items and a huge table for the ship's store to be displayed as well as a very well stocked food and drink table. The banquet room was beautifully done, round tables for 8 persons with each decorated with American flags, a podium with speaker system and enough room that nobody was crowded. Kudos to the hotel!

Some logistical information for everyone: we had a total of 37 persons attend, 23 were shipmates and there were 10 persons who were registered to attend but did not make it for various reasons. Those in attendance (in no particular order):

Jack and Carole Wanko	Larry and Ellen McCoskey	Bill and Linda Talley
Gary and Betty Parks	Keith, Julie & Cheryl Totsch	John and Cathleen Smartt
Bill Miller	Ken and Jackie Talley	Bob Griffin
Roger and Mary Scherer	Richard Lansing	George and Jean Barbee
Dave Mabie	Ron Genovese	Steve Pitura
Ron Schwartzkopf	Harry and Pam West	Jerry and Betty Butler
William Rockey	Bobby and Judy Williams	David Redrow
LeRoy and Carol Crocker	Joseph Picone	

Some arrived Sunday, 9/29, but most arrived Monday, 9/30, and we enjoyed the evening in the hospitality room getting to know one another, catching up with old friends and quite possibly there were a few old stories revisited. The hospitality room proved to be a very busy place during the entire week and we all laughed and enjoyed one another's company.

Tuesday we took a field trip to Patriots Point, the site of the USS LAFFEY and the USS YORKTOWN. The bus left the hotel at 9 a.m. and took us there, unloaded, and we were on our own to walk through these wonderful pieces of history. At noon we had a nice lunch in the CPO's mess and the bus returned us to the hotel at 1:30 p.m. Plenty of time to walk, climb and see about everything in which one could get themselves.

Wednesday we got back on the bus at 9 a.m. and took a tour of some historic areas of Charleston, old houses and mansions and a nice ride through the Citadel where we stopped and visited the chapel. We finally progressed to the center of the old part of Charleston and the Charleston City Market where we shopped and had lunch on our own at any one of numerous establishments outside the market. Again, a lot of walking – enough to make the bus ride back at 1:30 p.m. a welcome sight!

Thursday we had our business meeting at 9:30 a.m. in the hospitality room. A free day followed that and we were back in the banquet room at 6:00 p.m. for a cocktail hour prior to eating. At 7 p.m. we were at our tables, gave the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag, observed a moment of silence for those we have lost since the last reunion and Bobby Williams offered a beautiful blessing before we ate. And we ate well with the main entrees being Salisbury Steak and Southern Fried Chicken with potatoes and veggies followed by Pecan Pie and Lemon Cake. Very good! After the meal we had a speaker, Maj. Alston Middleton, USMC (ret), who had a power point show and a nice presentation about his tour in Afghanistan. He answered several questions we had regarding the area and our rolls there.

In summation, we really did have a nice reunion. It would have been nice to have had more people in attendance, but such is life with an older group like ours. Our numbers were small but our spirits were high during the whole week. Thank you to everyone who attended and for those who could not and for those who did, please watch in future issues of the Ping for information regarding our next reunion. Plans have already been made!!

Larry McCoskey  
Reunion Co-chair



# The Owens' Ping

***ATTENTION: Please contact Keith by phone or email before sending in any order to ensure the proper mailing address***

**USS ROBERT A. OWENS DDK/DDE/DD-827  
SHIPS STORE INVENTORY EFFECTIVE December 2018**

ITEM		ON HAND	UNIT COST
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(Medium)	5	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(Large)	2	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XL)	18	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XXL)	All Out	\$28
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XXXL)	5	\$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)	0	\$18
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(XL)	All Out	\$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)	0	\$17
Cap, Baseball Style, Mesh (Summer)	(Adjustable)	2	\$17
Ships Patch, 1949-1964		13	\$3.50
Ships Patch, 1964-1982		81	\$6.00
Challenge Coin		81	\$10.00
Patch, Plank Owner		1	\$3
Pin, US Navy/Flag		1	\$3
Ships Magnet		21	\$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:

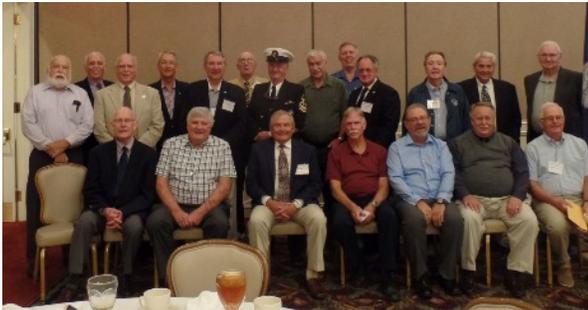
**Mr. Keith Totsch  
2001 W. Eagle Ridge Drive  
Waukegan, IL 60087-5756**

**Ktotsch@comcast.net**



# The Owens' Ping

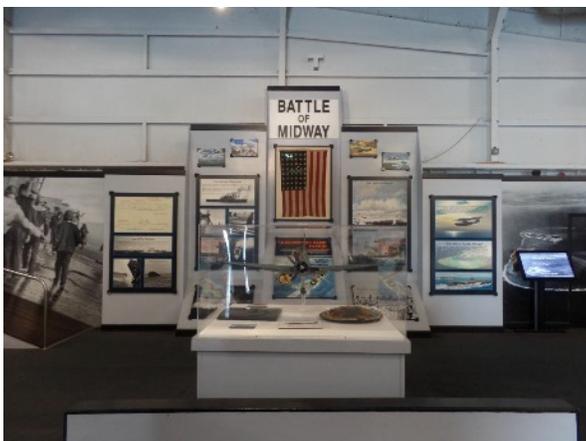
## 2019 Reunion Pictures





# The Owens' Ping

## 2019 Reunion Pictures





# The Owens' Ping



## TIN CAN SAILORS, INC. DESVETS



The National Association of Destroyer Veterans

October 22, 2019

*President*

Morgan Little  
CAPT USN (Ret)

*Vice President*

Delbert A. Krause

*Treasurer*

Kenneth Millett

*Executive Director*

Terry Miller

USS *Robert A. Owens* (DD-827) Assoc.

ATTN Mr. Larry McCoskey  
4110 Dolphin Road  
Louisville, KY 40220

Dear Mr. Larry:

Thank you for your letter and the generous \$250.00 check from the *USS Robert A. Owens* (DD-827) Assoc. Contributions such as these help to carry out the three-part mission of our association:

- to educate and broaden the public's understanding of the contributions made by destroyers and those who served aboard them and to promote and preserve destroyer history;
- to support today's destroyer Navy and encourage understanding of its importance and mission;
- to promote camaraderie among our members through many events, our magazine, library, website, social media and by facilitating reunions of former shipmates.

Additional funds allow us to make an impact on the lives of sailors from yesterday, today and tomorrow.

On behalf of Tin Can Sailors, I once again thank the *USS Robert A. Owens* for their generous contribution.

Sincerely,

O.M. Little  
President

Tin Can Sailors is recognized by the Internal Revenue Service under Section 501(c)(3). This was a donation for which you received no goods or services, therefore, it is tax deductible as allowed by law. Consult your tax advisor for additional information.



# The Owens' Ping

40 Patriots Point Road  
Mount Pleasant SC 29464



843.881.5925  
ussyorktownfoundation.org

October 28, 2019

Larry McCoskey, President  
USS ROBERT A. OWENS Shipmates Association  
4110 Dolphin Road  
Louisville KY 40220-4701

Dear Mr. McCoskey and Shipmates,

On behalf of the USS Yorktown Foundation and Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum, thank you very much for your generous donation of \$250. Your gift will help the Museum continue to tell the important story of our Naval history, and preserve and protect these important vessels.

We are so grateful to the USS ROBERT A OWENS Shipmates Association for your support. Thank you for your endorsement of and enthusiasm for Patriots Point's mission to honor our veterans and educate future generations on the valuable lessons of patriotism, military history and leadership. Thank you for your service.

Best regards,

Allison Hunt  
Executive Director

Dear Mr. McCoskey,  
I'm so please you and your shipmates enjoyed your time at Patriots Point. Thank you for honoring your visit with a donation.  
Best,  
Allison

Contributions to the USS Yorktown Foundation (EIN# 46-1892486) are tax-deductible as provided by law. The IRS requires us to state that you received no goods or services in exchange for this gift. Please retain this letter as a receipt for your tax records.

