



# The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

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

## WINTER 2020 - EDITION

### SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

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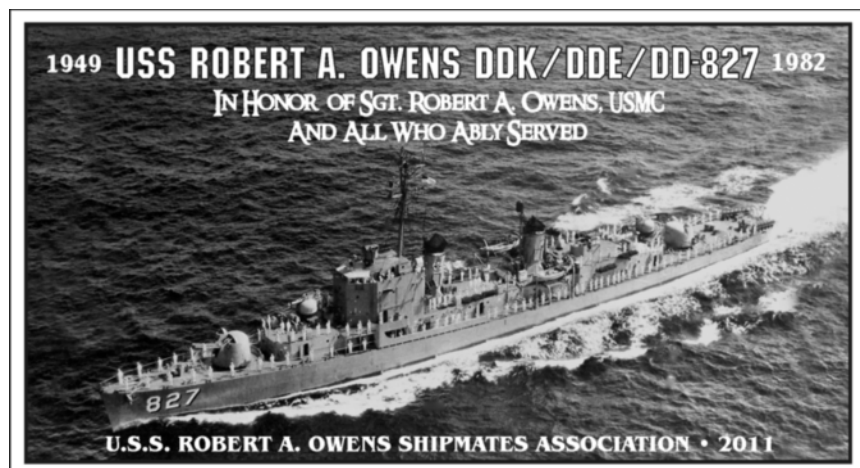
SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

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**

DECEMBER 2020



# The Owens' Ping

## Presidents 2020 Winter Message

Hello to all my fellow shipmates. This year has been a long, hard grind for us all with the pandemic and all it's recommendations/regulations/etc. that we have had to endure. I sincerely hope that each of you have remained safe and healthy, which includes your families, too. All of us probably know someone who has had the disease or have had family members affected by it. So, I extend all my best wishes.

I hope the election turned out to suit you and, moreover, I hope it worked out to the best for our country. Each of us served our country in the hopes of seeing it continue to prosper and remain the greatest country in the world. Our founders set the course and so many who came before us, up to and including us, have answered the call with time out of our lives to protect the values with which we have all been given. Let's hope and pray that these values and our free way of life continue regardless of who may be in office.

I heard so much during this election process on TV, online and in the news media about what each candidate is going to do if given the privilege to serve. Taxing the rich and giving it to the poor and working class seems to be very popular. But there are so many holes in this kind of rhetoric and so many dangers for our country that it is ridiculous for any candidate to propose it. The rich and ultra-wealthy did not get that way because they don't know how to play the tax game. I thought about this long and hard and have come up with four things that will happen if this "strategy" evolves:

1. The wealthy will simply send their money off-shore into sheltered private institutions.
2. The wealthy own and run most big business and corporations. Therefore, they will simply:
  - A. Raise the price of their goods and services, therefore passing the expense back to the very people the politicians are promising relief. This will cause runaway inflation.
  - B. Simply move their businesses out of the country to Mexico, China or somewhere else where there is cheap labor causing the blue-collar worker to lose their jobs. This will simply put more strain on the government through unemployment, Medicaid, etc.
  - C. Say the heck with it and just close the business. Again, costing the government even more.

The government (Us) cannot continue to send money hand-over-fist to everyone in the country. Yes, it's putting more money in circulation, but too many people become dependent upon the government for a living and sit home cashing checks because they get more to stay home and not work. This is not news to any of you. And this, my friends, is the beginning of Socialism. Socialism, according to Margaret Thatcher, works well until we run out of everyone else's money. Socialism is not about the government taking care of everyone through "free" programs. Socialism is about the government maintaining total control of the population. This is not what we served in the Navy to protect.

Our country is at a crossroads. The last time I saw it this divided was during Vietnam and when the war ended, things came back to "normal". What war has to end this time? What has to be done to bring things back to normal? It certainly wasn't this election. I really fear for my children and my grandchildren having to face all this. The wisdom of experience is being ignored for the immediate rewards. But this is pretty much the way today's youth has been raised. So why are we surprised?

A lot of things to think about now days. I guess all we can do is speak the truth, teach our children and grandchildren what is right from wrong and hope it works out. Afterall, I remember being a teenager in the 60s and having the "old" people shake their heads at us, sporting our long hair and afros, and wonder what hell this country was headed to!!

All the best to you and your families from Ellen and me as we enter the upcoming holiday season!!



# The Owens' Ping

## AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY

I knew a fellow once, Dave, who was 40 years old and still living with his widowed father. He worked for his father's business, which was very successful and lucrative. He had gone to college and received his BA in business and an MA in Industrial Psychology. He, too, was successful, had a bright future and stood to inherit the business and much money from his dad. However, Dave was still unhappy.

Living at home was not a good thing for Dave. He wanted to get married, have his own nice home and raise a couple of children. He wanted a garden, a dog and all the nice things his friends already had. So, Dave decided to try and find a wife.

He searched high and low, went to social functions and remained social during business trips. He joined a church and was active, hoping to find a nice woman with whom to settle. One evening while out with friends Dave spotted the woman of his dreams. She seemed perfect, but he needed to get to know her before he would "pop the question". He introduced himself and sat and had a long conversation with her and felt she could be the one. He told her of his background and that one day soon he would inherit much money and the family business as his father was aged and in ill health. She seemed skeptical and asked him for his business card saying she wanted to verify what he had just told her. She, too, was very interested in the same things as Dave and promised to get back to him with her answer.

Two weeks later the beautiful, young woman became Dave's stepmother. Women make wonderful investors, too!!

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## PICTURED BELOW

**Pittsburg PA, The site of the 2021 Reunion. Please see pages #5 through #8 for more information and forms.**





# The Owens' Ping

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## FROM THE TREASURER:

Hi everyone, well it is that time of year where we are now collecting dues for NEXT YEAR (2021). Many of you have already paid in advance and will not owe. To save expense and not send out individual notices, I have listed below those who have already paid for NEXT YEAR. So if your name is listed below, you do not owe. Leslie Arnold, Gerald Baillargeon, Stanley Baranski, Larry Baka, Stanley Baranski, Charles Baumrucker, Ernest Berry, Michael Bihuniak, Tommy Bradley, Walter Brewer, Edward Burch, Robert Burns, Jerald Butler, Clarence Chambers, Richard Chichester, John Chisum Jr, Victor Clauss, Carmen Clinton, Brock Collins, Alex Colvin Jr, Louis Corbett, Henry Couch, Myron Cross, Richard Eichlin, Terrance Engeman, Herbert Faundez, Joseph Fisher, David Fitts, James Gottsch, Homer Gowen, Terry Grape, C.M. Graves, Leroy Green, Robert Griffin, Jamie Gunnin, Arnold Ingold, Jerry Jackson, Clare Keeney, Thomas Kelley, William Kellner, Robert Kopec, Lloyd Krueger, Donald Lee, Ken Lloyd, Joseph Luque, Brian Macleod, Harry Marker, Larry Marlette, Lowen Marshall, Larry McCoskey, William Miller, John Myette, Hilbert Neuberger, Julius Nyul, Robert Orent, Gary Parks, Ronald Pervere, John Rafferty, David Redrow, Ronald Reese, Reginald Ritter, William Rockey, Derwood Roland, Stephen Rosenthal, Wesley Ruppel, James Rush, Roger Scherer, Jack Scott, Howard Shipman, Mike Sleeman, John Smartt, Csrl Smith, Laurence Triplet, Peter Troll, Thomas Volatile, John Wagner, David Walbert Jr, Robert Weachock, Ronald Wertman, Harry West, James Williamson, John Willis.

PLEASE: if your name is not on this list, you owe for 2021 so send a check PAYABLE TO GARY PARKS AND SEND TO ME AT 3166 MARIETTA ROAD, CHILLICOTHE, OHIO 45601. It would really help this old treasurer if you pay your dues quickly, remember we are all volunteers for this organization. To the widows of our members, please ignore this notice since we do not ask our widows to pay dues. Any questions, feel free to contact me at 614-216-4449.

Thank you in advance for paying your dues in a timely manner. It is really appreciated!!

NOTE: Did you know on the Canary Islands there is not one canary? And on the Virgin Isles? Same thing-not one canary there either!



# The Owens' Ping

## Reunion Information & Updates

**Reunion Dates—**October 4, 2021 to October 8, 2021. We'll check in on Monday 10/4, with side trips on Tuesday 10/5, and Wednesday 10/6. The business meeting and banquet will be on Thursday 10/7, with check out Friday morning on 10/8. I'm planning a side trip for the ladies on Thursday, while we're having our business meeting, if we have enough participation.

If you'd like, you can arrive up to 2 days early, or stay up to 2 days later, to explore the city. The hotel has offered the same room rate if anyone decides to do so. The room rate is \$72.00 + 14% tax per night. Let the hotel know how long you'll be staying when making your reservations.

**Hotel:** Comfort Inn Conference Center  
699 Rodi Road  
Pittsburgh, PA 15235  
412-244-1600  
[www.comfortinnpittsburgh.com](http://www.comfortinnpittsburgh.com)

You can make your reservations now by mailing, or faxing the [2021 Reunion Hotel Reservation Form](#), calling the hotel, or following this link: <https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/WW23Z4>. The hotel has blocked 25 rooms for us, but we are under no obligation to fill 25 rooms. Please make your reservations as soon as possible. If you are calling the hotel to make your reservations, tell them you're with "The Owens Ship Reunion". Give them the dates and they'll be able to pull it up on the computer. If you have any special room requests, make the hotel aware of them, i.e., handicapped accessible, etc. They can't guarantee they'll be able to accommodate your request, but every effort will be made if they can.

**Side Trips—**There are two trips scheduled for the group and possibly a trip for the ladies. On Tuesday 10/5, we'll travel to the Flight 93 National Memorial in Shanksville and then have lunch, "on our own", at the American Legion in Stoystown. The cost for this trip is \$35 per person. On Wednesday 10/6, we're planning a "Day in the 'Burgh". We'll start with a guided trolley tour through the various districts of the city, with lunch at Station Square, again "on our own". Then a guided tour of the HJ Heinz History Center. I haven't received the quote from the trolley company, as of this writing. As soon as I do, I'll get the final cost for Wednesday to Jerry for publication on the website and in the next Ping. On Thursday 10/7, we're planning a guided tour for the ladies to Phipps Conservatory, while we have our business meeting. The cost for this guided tour is \$55 per person.

**Banquet—**The banquet will be a buffet style dinner, Thursday evening at 6PM. There will be a cash bar right outside the ballroom. The cost for dinner will be \$35 per person, which includes tax & gratuity. The menu includes:

- Tossed Salad with Assorted Dressings
- Choice of Two Entrees
- Choice of Three Accompaniments
- Oven Fresh Rolls and Butter
- Assorted Desserts
- Coffee, Tea, Decaf, Assorted Soft Drinks

**Banquet, Meeting and Hospitality Room—**The banquet and meeting will be held in the Seasons Ballroom and the hospitality room will be in the Duquesne Room #302. We'll have sandwiches and salads for lunch, after the business meeting.

**In Summary—**As with all the reunions in the past, the cost for the items shown are based on attendance. I've used 25 as the number of attendees, however the side trip for the ladies on



# The Owens' Ping

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## Reunion Information & Updates Continued

Thursday is based upon 10. If we don't get 10, we'll cancel the trip, however a smaller group could go in private vehicles and save the transportation fee, which is \$35 per person. If you'd like to check out their website, to see if you'd be interested, their website is [www.phipps.conservatory.org](http://www.phipps.conservatory.org).

Due to the pandemic, trying to put together the reunion has been challenging, to say the least. I'm glad I started before the country shut down. Because of the pandemic, I've had to list our lunches as "on our own". The restaurants I contacted aren't willing to put a solid price on anything a year in advance. In fact, I spoke to one of the stewards at the American Legion in Stoystown and she didn't know if they'd still be serving meals next year. If they aren't, we'll find an alternative. For the same reason, I've chosen the Station Square as the location for lunch on Wednesday, because there are over 10 restaurants to choose from, but again we'll be "on our own". If any changes need to be made to any part of the itinerary, we'll put on the website and in the Ping.

I was able to find a local transportation company which has 28 & 40 passenger buses, as well as the standard 56. I've priced our transportation using the 28-passenger bus, but if we have to step up to the 40, we can. When it comes to the tours, I tried to pick things that would appeal to the group, as a whole, but by no means is that all there is to do while you're here. Individually, or in small groups, I'm going to recommend touring the city on the Gateway Clipper, which is a river paddle wheeler; or going to Mt Washington to enjoy the panoramic views of the city and/or enjoying one of the 4, or 5, star restaurants (reservations required); or having dinner at the Grand Concourse Restaurant (reservations required) in Station Square, or riding one of the 2 inclines; or going to Rivers Casino; or touring Soldiers & Sailors Memorial Hall; not to mention the local restaurants and attractions in the Monroeville/Penn Hills/Wilkins area, where we'll be staying. Most of the upscale restaurants require reservations and business casual attire. I can provide addresses and phone numbers if you're interested.

At the beginning of October, the leaves usually start to change. I'm hoping we'll be able to enjoy some eye-candy during the bus ride to and from the Flight 93 Memorial. As you know, 2021 will be the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the attack. I assume the National Park Service will be providing some type of special exhibit. The other thing to keep in mind is, the Steelers and Penguins are typically playing in October. If it works out, you may be able to catch a football, or hockey, game while you're in town.

I hope by keeping the cost for the rooms below \$100 a night and the cost for the reunion almost the same as it was in Charleston 2 years ago, you'll be able to fit it into your budget. If you have any questions, or want me to forward website addresses, so you can check things out, please reach out to me. My email address is [billmiller15644@gmail.com](mailto:billmiller15644@gmail.com) and my cell phone # is (412) 622-4154.

You can make your reservations with the hotel at this time, by contacting them directly. If you call them, make sure you tell them you're with the Robert A Owens group. You can also fax, or send the enclosed form, with your mode of payment, or you can follow the link on the reservation form. Once I hear back from the trolley company, I'll be able to finalize the amount for the Reunion & Tour Form. At that time, you'll send it to me, along with your check made out to Gary Parks, for the events you want to attend. There's only one thing that will make this reunion a success—**YOU!** Please plan on attending.



# The Owens' Ping

## 2021 Reunion Tour & Event Registration Form

**Reunion Dates:** October 4 thru October 7, 2021

**Place:** Comfort Inn Conference Center  
699 Rodi Road, Pittsburgh (Penn Hills), PA 15235

**Hotel reservations must be made directly with the hotel!**

For information on hotel reservations, please see the  
[2021 Reunion Hotel Reservation Form](#) for instructions.

### REUNION FUNCTIONS & COSTS

Number of persons attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates aboard the Owens: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion Fee, \$20 per person: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Tuesday side trip to Flight 93 Memorial National Park, with lunch "on our own" at American Legion Post #257, in Stoystown: cost includes transportation, \$35 per person.

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Wednesday side trip to Pittsburgh, a 90-minute guided tour of the city, lunch at Station Square, "on our own", then a guided tour of HJ Heinz History Center: the cost is unknown at this time.

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday side trip for the ladies to Phipps Conservatory, for a 1 hour guided tour: cost includes transportation and guided tour, \$55 per person.

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday night banquet, \$35 per person: includes tax & gratuity.

Number Attending: \_\_\_\_\_ Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks out to: Gary Parks Total Submitted: \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail this completed form and remittance no later than August 15, 2021 to:

Bill Miller

587 6<sup>th</sup> Street

Pitcairn, PA 15140-1201

412-622-4154

[billmiller15644@gmail.com](mailto:billmiller15644@gmail.com)

**In the event you need to cancel your Reunion reservation, refunds can only be made up to August 15, 2021. After the 15th, refunds cannot be provided. You will need to cancel with the hotel separately**



# The Owens' Ping

## USS ROBERT A. OWENS

October 4 through October 7, 2021

### 2021 REUNION HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

Comfort Inn Conference Center  
699 Rodi Road, Pittsburgh (Penn Hills), PA 15235  
[www.comfortinnpittsburgh.com](http://www.comfortinnpittsburgh.com)

Reservations can be made by calling, sending this form, or following the link shown below.  
Phone 412-244-1600 Fax 412-829-2334  
\$72.00 + 14% tax per room, per night.

Group rates are not subject to further discounts, or promotions.  
A Credit Card number is required to guarantee your reservation.  
The Comfort Inn is a non-smoking hotel.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Arrival Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Departure Date: \_\_\_\_\_ # of Rooms: \_\_\_\_\_

Preferred Room Type: \_\_\_\_\_ One King or \_\_\_\_\_ Two Queens

Special Requests: \_\_\_\_\_

*\*Although special requests cannot be guaranteed, every effort will be made to meet your request.*

Credit Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_ CVC \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\* Cash or check payments are only accepted upon departure.**

Check-In Time: 3PM Check-Out Time: 11AM

Free hot breakfast buffet, with waffle station, from 6AM to 10AM, is included.

Cancellation Policy: 24 hours prior to arrival date.

To make reservations follow the link below.

<https://www.choicehotels.com/reservations/groups/WW23Z4>

If you don't have the ability to make your reservations electronically, please return this completed form to Comfort Inn, no later than August 1, 2021.

If you would like to arrive earlier, or stay longer, than the reunion dates, the hotel will honor the reunion room price, up to 2 days prior and 2 days after.

If you have any questions, our contact is Heather Vitigoy, You can leave her a voicemail at 412-349-1622, or send her an email at [hvitigoy@comfortinnpittsburgh.com](mailto:hvitigoy@comfortinnpittsburgh.com).





# The Owens' Ping

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## SHIPMATES TO REMEMBER

When I went aboard OWENS in May, 1967, upon her return from a Med cruise, I remember a man in the Second Division who epitomized the salty, old sailor of whom we always heard. He was tall and lanky and kind of a quiet man; but a very likeable person at the same time. I was assigned to the First Division on the deck force, so didn't have any professional dealings with him other than to know he was in charge of the guns.

This man was GMG1 Myron J. Mankey. He was on board for 8 years, from 1960 to late 1968 when he made "SEAVEY" and was eligible for shore duty. Gunnersmates didn't qualify very often in their career for shore duty – not much need on shore for someone who was an expert with the 5"38 gun mount. The problem with Mankey getting shore duty was that he was to be assigned to a recruiting station. Problem, you say? Well, back then to be a recruiter, according to Mankey, was that one had to be able to type about 20 words a minute (back then it was on a manual typewriter).

I was now working in the weapons office as the weapons yeoman, only because I was one of the only newer guys on board who knew how to type. When I went to the weapons office it irked some of the Boatswains Mates because they lost control over one of the seamen who were part of their slave labor force. I now worked for the Weapons Officer and the division officers under "WEPS". But back to Mankey.

Myron came into my office one evening and asked me if I could teach him to type. He explained he needed to know that in order to be a recruiter. I knew in my heart that he would make a great recruiter as he was a very good, honest man. For some reason, there was a beginner's typing book in the office. So, I had him sit at my typewriter and showed him where to place his fingers correctly over the "home row" of keys. I explained he could reach every other key on the board with one finger or another from that location. Remembering how we learned in high school, I took him through a couple of brief drills. He said he was fine and if he could use the book he would take it from there. I was skeptical that someone could teach themselves how to type out of a book with no other help. I was wrong.

Long story short, that man sat at my typewriter every night, learning and practicing and taught himself how to type. That certainly showed me his tenacity, intelligence and unique ability to learn. He left the OWENS to become a recruiter and I never saw him again. Myron J. Mankey passed away in 2000. I have never forgotten him.

Larry McCoskey

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"Shipmates to Remember" is a new segment of the PING. Anyone can enter a one page story of someone that made an impression on you or influenced your life while you served aboard the Bobbie "O". If you have such a story, please submit it to PING Editor, Jerry Jackson at [namwarrior41@yahoo.com](mailto:namwarrior41@yahoo.com) or mail it to Jerry Jackson, 113 W. Grizdale Drive, Shelton WA 98584



# The Owens' Ping

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

R. A. Owens Inventory

Dec 2020

Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(Medium)	3	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(XL)	16	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf, Blue	(3XL)	5	\$28.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	(XL)	16	\$13.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf White	(2XL)	4	\$13.00
Shirt, Polo, Golf, White	(3XL)	4	\$13.00
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(Small)	12	\$8.00
Shirt, Tee w/Pocket, Blue	(Medium)	11	\$18.00
Shirt, Tee, w/Pocket, Blue	(XL)	4	\$18.00
Cap, Baseball Style, (Winter) Adjustable		8	\$20.00
Cap, Baseball Style, (Summer) Adjustable		17	\$20.00
Ships Patch, 1949-1954		7	\$3.50
Ships Patch, 1964-1982		39	\$3.50
Ships Magnet		5	\$2.00
Challenge Coins		60	\$10.00 (\$9 if ordered before 12/15/20)
Coffee Mugs		10	\$10.00
Book, "Owens Saga		93	\$8.00 (\$6 if ordered before 12/15/20)

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: Gary Parks

Mail your order and payment to:

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

**847-445-9597      ktotsch@comcast.net**