



The Owens' Ping

SERVING THE MEN WHO SERVED ABOARD

USS ROBERT A OWENS DDK, DDE, DD 827

SPRING 2021 - EDITION

SHIPMATE'S ASSOCIATION GOALS

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(Vacant)

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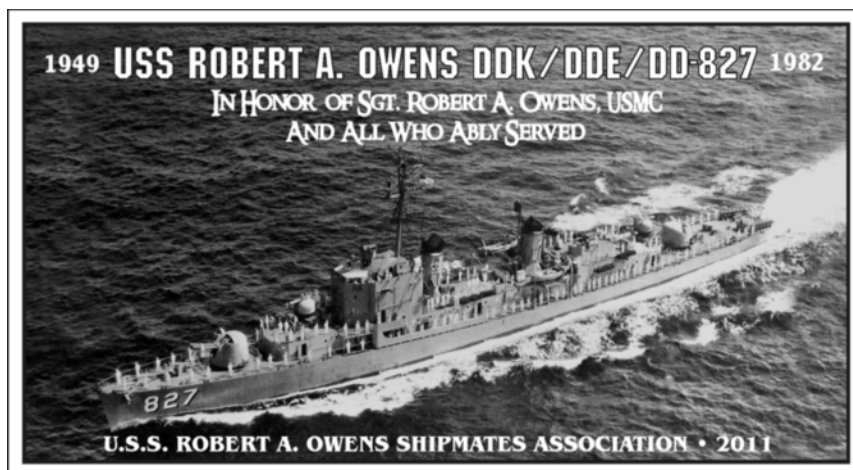
SECTION 1: To further the remembrance of the deeds of the USS Robert A. Owens (DDK/DDE/DD-827), and all of the officers and enlisted crew members who served in her during the vessels thirty-two years of U.S. Navy service.

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



APRIL 2021

**Commissioned
1949**

**Decommissioned
1982**



The Owens' Ping

Presidents 2021 Spring Message

Hello to all my fellow shipmates. This year has been a long, hard grind for us all with the continuing pandemic and all hardships that we have had to endure. I sincerely hope that each of you have remained safe and healthy, which includes your families, too. I often think of my grandchildren and what they will have to remember and relay to their children about the great pandemic of 2020/21 when they had to stay home and do their schoolwork on one of those old time computers! But enough about the pandemic; I'm sure you're as tired of hearing about it as we are.

I want to extend my congratulations to one of our shipmates, Ed Spagnolo of Connecticut, who wrote and had published an excellent article regarding his time in the Navy in the last issue of "Tin Can Sailors". If you did not see it or read it, I would advise you do so. It's on pages 24, 25 and 37 of that issue. On page 37 there is a large picture of the RAO underway which immediately caught my attention. As the "Tin Can Sailor" always does, it is offering this picture from this issue for sale for \$15 for an 8"x10" copy. It can be ordered from TCS through an order form on page 36. If you're not a member of TCS I would strongly advise you join by contacting them at tcs@destroyers.org or calling (800) 223-5535. There is a membership application in this issue. This organization has always been good to us and always sends items to us for our reunions.

I'm really looking forward to the reunion this year in Pittsburgh. Bill Miller is doing such a good job organizing everything to ensure we have the usual great time we always do. I'm certainly in hopes that we have a very good attendance this year as Bill has worked so hard to make this a success. Please see his information about the reunion in this Ping. I know because of the pandemic it has been even more difficult for Bill to get dates and commitments from the vendors. But he's doing great!

Kudos to Keith Totsch for doing such a great job with the ship's store. Keeping a working inventory and storing same is probably the biggest job of the store. But as a former proprietor of the store, I can tell you it's nice to hear from so many other members when they order. Keith informed me that he will be giving up this job in 2021 and Bill Miller has agreed to take it after the reunion. Keith and Bill have been in touch and Keith will be bringing all store items to the reunion where a smooth transition can take place and we won't have to pay for any shipping of stock from one member to another. That is a huge savings for us and we thank Keith for loading all this and bringing it to Pittsburgh.

Speaking of this year's reunion, it's not too early to begin thinking about where we may want to go for the next reunion scheduled for 2023. Even if you choose not to host it, please give an opinion as to where you would like to go. There are organizations in most cities who would make our arrangements and do things for us – which comes at an increased cost for the reunion. So, if you would like to host one in your city, please speak up. It's a lot of work, planning, organizing and stress, but a job that needs to be done. Those of us who have done it before will be glad to help you organize it.

Also, at the business meeting this year we will be taking names for nominations to the organizations executive board. All positions are open each year. If you would like to participate as one of the leaders of the organization, please give me your name for nomination.

All the best to everyone, stay safe, stay healthy, observe the guidelines in your respective communities as to distancing and masks and I hope to see everyone safe and healthy at the reunion.

Larry McCoskey



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TIN CAN SAILORS/DESVETS MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
Your highest rank or rate: _____ Phone: (____) _____
E-Mail: _____

Name and Hull Number of your ship(s) and the years you served aboard (maximum of four).

USS _____	Hull #: _____	Dates Aboard: _____
USS _____	Hull #: _____	Dates Aboard: _____
USS _____	Hull #: _____	Dates Aboard: _____
USS _____	Hull #: _____	Dates Aboard: _____

One Year Membership

Current USN Active Duty: First year free then \$10 a year

____ \$35
____ \$40
____ \$50
____ \$100

To join over the phone using a credit
card, call us at (508) 677-0515 or
(800) 223-5535

The suggested minimum yearly contribution is \$35.00. But if you can afford to send more, you'll be helping Tin Can Sailors/DesVets with keeping destroyers and their accomplishments from being forgotten. So please consider a contribution of \$40 or even more. Confidentiality Notice: Tin Can Sailors/DesVets values member privacy. We do not give, sell, or lease member information but we may provide your name and contact information to other members with whom you served. You may choose not to allow this information to be released.

Mail this form to: **Tin Can Sailors, PO Box 100, Somerset, MA 02726**

Make your check payable to Tin Can Sailors or provide your Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover.

Card Number: _____ / _____ / _____ Expiration Date: _____ / _____ Security Code: _____

How did you hear about us? _____

Recruited By: _____

Address: _____

Please provide billing address if different from shipping

The Owens' Ping

FROM THE TREASURER:

Hi Everyone, In the last issue of the Ping I listed those who had paid their 2021 dues and I thank you for your payment, it is appreciated. This issue I have listed the following members who HAVE NOT PAID their 2021 dues and will have to be dropped from our roles if you haven't paid by May 20th:

Steven Anderson, Zollie Bowling, Russell Broadbent, Leroy Crocker, Roy Dowis, Mark Errico, Joseph Garvansites, Leroy Hoeft, William Leonard, Sylvester Mabie, Joseph Malinguaggio, John McNaught, Gregory Miller, Frank Nix, Frank Rogucki, Neil Roth, John Scott, George Sillett, Richard Simcoe, Jack Tishue Jr.

Please make a check payable to: Gary Parks and send to me at 3166 Marietta Road, Chillicothe, OH 45601. Dues are \$10 per year and you can pay for more than one year if you desire. Any questions, feel free to call me at 614-216-4449. Thank you in advance for your payment.

Grandpa's face: A little girl was sitting next to her grandfather as he read her a bedtime story. From time to time, she would take her eyes off the book and reach up and touch his wrinkled cheek. She touched her own cheek after she touched his. After a little while of thinking she asked "Grandpa, did God make you?" He looked at her and said "Yes, sweetheart, God made me a long time ago." She paused for a few seconds and then asked, "Grandpa, did God make me too?" He replied, "Yes, indeed pumpkin, God made you just a little while ago." Feeling their respective faces again, she whispered to him, "God's getting better at it, isn't he?"

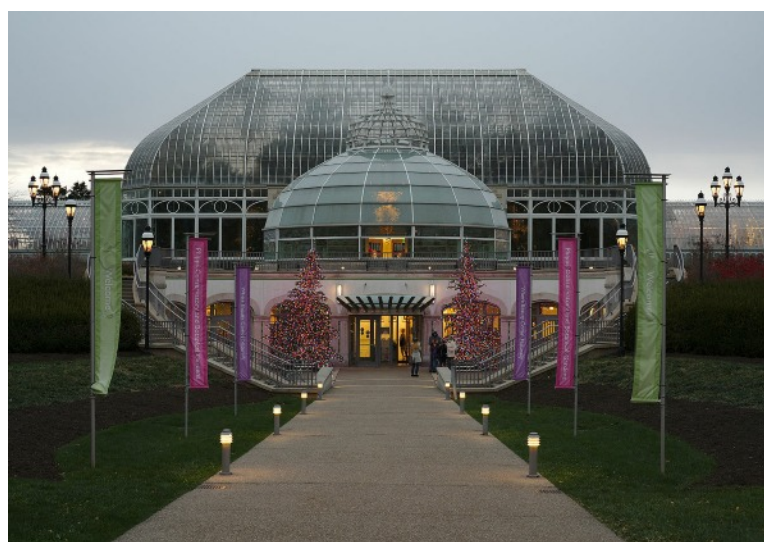
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Felt uncomfortable driving into the cemetery. The gps blurred out you have reached your final destination.

Gary



The Owens' Ping





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 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

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 at the American Legion in Stoystown. The cost for this trip is \$45 per person. On Wednesday 10/6, we're planning a "Day in the 'Burgh". We'll be picked up at the hotel on a trolley and given a guided tour through the various districts of the city, a ride on the Duquesne Incline and lunch at Station Square "on our own". We'll be picked back up at Station Square and taken to Soldiers & Sailor's Memorial Hall for a guided tour and then returned to the hotel. The cost for this trip is \$70 per person. 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—At this time the banquet will be a buffet style dinner, Thursday evening at 6PM. However, there may be meal restrictions when we have our banquet, so we have to be flexible. 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. We're planning to Zoom the meeting, but I believe Jerry is addressing that in a different area of the Ping.

(Continued on Page 7)



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Reunion Information & Updates Continued

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 Thursday, to Phipps Conservatory, 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, the website is www.phipps.conservatory.org.

We have a local transportation company which has 28 & 40 passenger buses, as well as the standard 56. I've priced our transportation on Wednesday, using the 28-passenger bus, but if we have to step up to the 40, we can. Due to the pandemic, the first trolley company I was working with has gone out of business. Luckily, I was able to find another trolley company, Molly's Trolleys, that can accommodate us.

When it comes to the tours, I tried to pick things that would appeal to the whole group, but by no means is that all there is to do while you're here. You can tour the city on the water using the Gateway Clipper, which is a river paddle wheeler, or go to Mt Washington to enjoy the panoramic views of the city on the lookouts, and/or enjoy one of the 4, or 5, star restaurants, or have dinner at the Grand Concourse Restaurant in Station Square, or tour the Heinz History Center, or go to one of the two casinos in the area; not to mention the local restaurants and attractions in the area, where you'll be staying. Most of the upscale restaurants require reservations and business casual attire.

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 up and back from the Flight 93 Memorial. As you know, 2021 will be the 20th anniversary of the attack. I assume the National Park Service will be providing some type of special event, but I don't know if they'll be providing a presentation when we attend. I will continue to reach out to the National Park Service, to see what can be arranged.

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 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. Now that everything is finalized, I hope you'll submit the completed Reunion & Tour Forms, along with your check made out to Gary Parks, for the events you plan to attend. There's only one thing that will make this reunion a success—**YOU!** Please plan on attending.



The Owens' Ping

2021 Ship's Reunion Details

It's that time folks! Time to start making your reservations for our reunion in October. I recently received my 2nd shot, courtesy of the VA and I'm assuming most of you have gotten yours as well.

Back in January we sent a letter to the shipmates with email addresses, providing an update on what I had been working on since the Winter Ping. A lot of what I'm about to share will be the same, but some will be different.

For Monday—It is check in day at the Comfort Inn at 699 Rodi Road, Pittsburgh (Penn Hills), PA 15235. If you're flying into Pittsburgh. We have 2 airports. Most of the major airlines fly in and out of Pittsburgh International Airport, but being the largest airport, it's in an area that isn't close to the city. Our hotel is on the opposite end of the county, about an hour away, and **does not** offer shuttle service. You'll need to get an Uber, a taxi, or rent a car. I would suggest renting a car.

The other airport in the area is the Arnold Palmer Airport. It's in Latrobe, which is east of the hotel. I know Spirit has direct flights from Orlando, Myrtle Beach and a couple other cities. Again, our hotel **does not** offer shuttle service and you'll need to get an Uber, a taxi, or rent a car. I'm going to suggest renting a car, but because the airport is east of the hotel, you won't have to travel through the city and negotiate 2 tunnels to get to the hotel. It's a less hectic ride from the smaller airport.

For Tuesday—I sent an email to the National Park Service, asking if we could have a Ranger board our bus, to explain the various items throughout the park, before we disembark to tour the facility and visitors center, on our own. I haven't heard from them, and quite honestly, I don't expect to. This year will be the 20th anniversary of the attack, so I'm sure there are events and ceremonies being planned. The last time I was there, we were able to park and walk around the area at our leisure. I'm sure we'll be able to do the same, even though we'll be on a bus.

Also, I was able to touch base with the Assistant Steward/Bar Manager at the American Legion in Stoystown. She has planned a 2-option hot lunch, with a cold salad and one non-alcoholic beverage, cost is \$10 per person, with tax & gratuity included.

For Wednesday—As most of you know, I was having issues with the trolley company and wasn't able to complete the itinerary in time for the Winter Ping. I found out they went out of business and I had to find a replacement. I was able to receive a contract from Molly's Trolleys to be our mode of transportation. They're a little more expensive, but they're able to accommodate us. They'll pick us up at the hotel and take us on a guided tour of the city. The tour includes a ride on the Duquesne Incline. (The Duquesne Incline is the red trolley in the panoramic view of Pittsburgh.) We'll be dropped at Station Square for lunch on our own*. Before the pandemic there were numerous restaurants to choose from. We'll be picked up from lunch and taken to the Soldiers & Sailor's Memorial Hall for a guided tour. At the end of the tour, we'll be returned to the hotel.

*I was hoping we would have lunch at Primanti Brother's, a Pittsburgh original, but I haven't been able to finalize that yet; though it may still happen. They're known for putting the meat, fries and coleslaw, between thick Italian bread and serving it stacked.

For Thursday—While we have our business meeting is in the morning, the ladies are scheduled to tour Phipps Conservatory. The cost for a guided tour is \$20 per person and the transportation is \$35. If 10 ladies aren't interested, we won't rent the van. If a few ladies are interested in going, you can drive there. It's approx. 20 minutes from the hotel. I've arranged for lunch to be served after the meeting. We're planning to Zoom the business meeting, which is a first for our organization. Jerry Jackson is coordinating the effort and will address it later in the Ping. The banquet will be held in the Seasons Ballroom that evening, with a guest speaker.

And Finally—If nothing else, the pandemic has taught us we need to be patient and allow for flexibility. While I've done my best to nail things down, some things are out of my control, while others are still being finished. For instance, right now buffet meals aren't permitted, but sit-down meals are. That means we may have a served meal, instead of a buffet meal. It will be the same meal, but served differently.

When it comes to accessibility, I have 2 folding wheelchairs and a lightweight aluminum walker, should anyone need them. At the present time, masks are still required in PA, but as more people receive their vaccines, I believe restrictions will be lifting. I hope you're keeping October 4th thru 8th open, to come and enjoy the camaraderie. Remember, the hotel will honor the rate up to 2 days prior and after the reunion. I look forward to seeing everyone

Bill



The Owens' Ping

2021 Reunion Tour & Event Registration Form

Reunion Dates: October 4 thru October 8, 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 at American Legion Post #257: cost includes transportation, and lunch, with 1 non-alcoholic drink, tax & gratuity, \$45 per person.

Number Attending: _____ Total: _____

Wednesday side trip to Pittsburgh, a 90-minute guided tour of the city on Molly's Trolleys, a ride on the Duquesne Incline, lunch at Station Square "on our own", then a guided tour of Soldiers & Sailor's Memorial Hall: cost includes transportation and admittance to Soldiers & Sailor's, \$70 per person.

Number Attending: _____ Total: _____

Thursday side trip for the ladies to Phipps Conservatory, for a 1 hour guided tour: cost includes transportation and guided tour of Phipps, \$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 Amount: _____

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

Bill Miller

587 6th Street

Pitcairn, PA 15140-1201

412-622-4154

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 8, 2021

2021 REUNION HOTEL RESERVATION FORM

Comfort Inn Conference Center
699 Rodi Road, Pittsburgh (Penn Hills), PA 15235
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.



The Owens' Ping

PASSING THE TORCH

Greetings Shipmates.

I took over the Ships Store at the St. Louis reunion. I will be giving it up at the next Reunion (Oct 4-8, 2021). I have enjoyed doing it and it was for the most part, enjoyable to serve in this capacity. I made a couple mistakes but they were minor. I would like to say that to make it easier on the next shipmate that takes this position, that the individuals placing the orders please ensure that you send in an e-mail address and/or your phone number. If there is a question on the order, it is faster to be able to call or send an email instead of using "snail mail". I have also received orders for shirts without a size or color on the request so please ensure you have all the information included. I also received an order for a hat without telling me if they wanted a winter or summer hat.

Several people have suggested items for the store. They were looked into but most of the the time the cost was to much or I would have had to buy more items than we have members. How many \$30 lighters would I be able to sell.

Thank you for the opportunity to help out a little

Keith Totsch

LAST CIVIL WAR PENSIONER DIES

The last person to receive a pension from the Civil War died May 31, 2020. Irene Triplett, 90, received \$877.56 each year (\$73.13 per month) from the Department of Veterans Affairs. "The jaw-dropping fact that someone in the year 2020 was still earning a Civil War pension was the result of two factors," according to the Washington Post. "First, Triplett suffered cognitive impairments, qualifying her for the lifelong pension as a helpless adult child of a veteran. Second, her father Mose Triplett, who'd served as a private in the Confederate Army before defecting to the Union, was on his second marriage when she was born in 1930. He was just a few weeks away from turning 84".

Mose Triplett joined the Confederate army in 1862, serving in a North Carolina regiment. He defected to the Union in June 1863, after contracting a fever and being admitted to a hospital in Danville, Va. The Post points out that his switch to the Union side was fortunate timing. Barely a week after defecting, 734 of the 800 men in his former Confederate regiment died at the Battle of Gettysburg.

The Post notes that there are 33 spouses and 18 children who still receive VA benefits related to the Spanish-American War, fought in 1898.



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

April 2021

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)	13	\$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)	3	\$18.00
Cap, Baseball Style, (Winter)	Adjustable	7	\$20.00
Cap, Baseball Style, (Summer)	Adjustable	16	\$20.00
Ships Patch, 1949-1954	6	\$3.50	
Ships Patch, 1964-1982	39	\$3.50	
Ships Magnet	1	\$2.00	
Challenge Coins	57	\$10.00	(\$9 if ordered before 12/15/20)
Coffee Mugs	4	\$10.00	
Book, "Sea Tales" (2 nd Edition)	10	\$7.00	
Book, "Owens Saga	92	\$8.00	

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



The Owens' Ping

A VIRTUAL REUNION BUSINESS MEETING

Have you ever thought to yourself, “I would love to attend the Associations business meetings so I could be involved but can’t make it this year?”.

I have but until now there really hasn’t been the method or opportunity to do so. However, that changes this year. We will be having a Zoom Virtual Business Meeting so that more members can at least observe and be aware of what transpires at the business meeting. Here is what is going to happen....

At 0900 hours EST on October 7th, 2021 in Pittsburg, President Larry McCoskey will call the Association Biennial Business meeting to order. Generally the meetings begin with the pledge of Allegiance followed by the Prayer by the Association Chaplain. Because of the limited time that is allowed by us on Zoom, outside (virtual attendees) members will not be present, but approximately at 09:10 hour, the Zoom meeting will kick in and invitees will be able to attend.

As I am limited to 100 people at a time to be virtually present, the first 100 people that click in at the beginning of the time announced will be able to sign in and attend. The balance of the people attempting to sign in will be assigned to the “waiting room” and as people drop out of the meeting, the next person in the queue will be advised that they can enter the event.

Now that I have you completely confused, lets go over what a zoom virtual meeting is. At the Pittsburg end, there will be a computer with a projector attached that will show the screen view on a large movie screen. They will be the “host” computer and their camera will point at the group attending in person at the meeting. I will have sent out an “invitation” to all those that want to attend through their computers (virtual attendees) and the invitation will give you a time and date that the meeting will take place. There will also be a web site listed as well as a user code and password.

At the exact date and time (EST – so convert to your time to know when), you will be able to just click on the web site that is listed and it will automatically put you into the meeting. If you are not in the first 100 people to click in, it will advise you that you are in the “waiting room” and all you can do is to wait until someone leaves for you to enter. Sorry, zoom rules not mine.

You will be able to hear and see what is going on as the meeting will be the primary picture **however** you will NOT be able to talk and be heard by anyone. The reason is that your microphones would pick up 100 peoples pets barking, grandkids yelling, toilet flushing, and the hundred other household noises that would totally destroy the meeting at the other end. We are looking into a way for you to interact and silently vote (as long as the by-laws allow) but that will come in the summer version of the PING as we are still looking into things.

This notice is to advance warn everyone what we are trying as a break through in meeting attendance and participation. This is about the only good thing that has come from the Covid Wuhan Virus, a means for people to communicate and participate from afar.

For the moment you do not need to do anything. You are free to send me your name if you would like to be included (invited) to the meeting and I am sure you have questions and I will be glad to answer them if I can. I will be the scheduler for this meeting so your invite will come from me and I will be controlling the waiting room as well. Let me hear from you soon.

Jerry Jackson
Web Master & PING Editor
namwarrior41@yahoo.com