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John Dzubak, Pres. and John Michel, Secy.
are co-laterally performing
Treasurer's duties

USS WILLIAM M. WOOD (DD 715/DDR 715) ASSOCIATION

www.dd715.org

Dear Shipmates,

Southern hospitality in Savanna, Georgia made our 18th reunion a great success. Shelley and Barbara Williams did an outstanding job being the boots on the ground and organizing and hosting this reunion. The weather was great for the guided trolley tour thru the Savanna historic Victorian and Colonial District. Amazing how the little parks with shaded oak trees make that city quaint and charming. The Ft. Pulaski Tour and walking around the top of the fort was such a grand view. Lunch at The Pirates' House was great as were the stories of abduction of patrons who were then used as crew on pirate ships. No way better to see the sights of any city then by a Riverboat Dinner Cruise. Lots of song and dance going on that ole boat. Even noticed we had the entire river boat to ourselves. Amazing what a Southern Lady can do! The tour to the Mighty Eighth Museum and our memorial service in its chapel made a fitting tribute to those who have passed on from the Wood Roster. Jack (Wally) Walters did a wonderful job of being the go-to man at this reunion and Tom Streza made the golf outing a special event. Job well done to Wally and Tom. It was great to see many familiar faces and once again gain a few new ones. We had 84 shipmates, spouses, and guests. It was a great crowd

The hotel accommodations were great as was having a large separate hospitality room away from the main hotel to display all the Wood memorabilia. It is always a "rush" to see the William M. Wood banner hanging over the entryway in the hotel. I drove the 750+ miles from Greensburg, Pennsylvania and brought the DDR-715 and DD-715 models with me and they were displayed with many other memorabilia in the Hospitality Room. The builder, Lynn Lansberry, has sailed his last cruise but those two ships bring his spirit to the reunions just the same. Beer and wine are always best served with friends and mates. It's even better when the refreshments in the Hospitality Room are already taken care of beforehand. Please help by including a few extra refreshment dollars when you complete your 2015 Reunion form.

Thursday's dinner and raffle drawings went well and winning a raffle always makes for an even better evening. Remember that your raffle gift from your state or local area is always appreciated and all proceeds go to help defray expenses of the Association. This year, as in past reunions, we were pleased and honored to have descendants of Dr. William Maxwell Wood, our namesake, attend our reunion. We were especially honored this year to pay tribute to our founder, CDR Chuck Traub. The Association presented his widow, Dot, and their family with a memorial plaque in appreciation for all they did for the Association. The dinners for the entire reunion were delicious with many choices for all. It is always good to have breakfast included with the price of the rooms and once again the breakfasts in Savanna were excellent and the staff was on top of it all. It was a successful 2014 reunion and thanks to a job well done to Barbara and Shelley Williams and Jack (Wally) Walters for all their efforts to pull it off. Bravo Zulu for everyone's efforts!

SPOILER: Be careful not to trip over the commercial on the next page!

Moving up and down the coast and also inland bring many new members to the reunions. It is great when we can have a "foot sailor" on the ground to get an idea what their area has to offer and can assist with the details of a reunion. If you have a suggestion and would like to be that "foot sailor," then let me know at the address on the letterhead. If you have a chance to attend one of the reunions, you will be surprised at what you can learn about an area and meet some old shipmates in the process. Hopefully, we will be in an area near you soon.

The 19th William M Wood reunion will be October 15th-18th 2015 (golfing event is on the 14th) in Myrtle Beach, SC. Jack "Wally" Walters has the reunion information enclosed with this letter. We are looking "nowhere" for the 20th reunion in 2016, so bring your thinking caps when you come and make an effort to host a reunion. If you have an idea and will host there is help available so let me know. My address and phone are on the letterhead.

President: John "Dizzy" Dzubak (10th term – 14 reunions attended)

I joined the Navy right out of High School. Did my basic training at The Great Lakes Naval Training Center and matriculated immediately to "A" school for MM. Arrived on board the Wood February, 1966 and loved it so much that they had to push me off in February, 1969. In 1969, I was employed by PPG and at the same time I earned my BA from California, PA. When PPG moved to Canada in 1994 I went back to school and earned a degree in Computer Science. I have a son and daughter from a 1st marriage and a daughter from a 2nd marriage. At this time I am single and the daughter is off to vet school in Grenada. My hobbies are playing the guitar and stamp and silver collecting and I am enjoying my retirement but the days seem to go faster when you retire. Hmmm to all that.

Vice President: Jerry L. Chapman (10th term – 5 reunions attended)

After completing High School in 1970, I joined the Navy. Finishing boot camp, I attended RM school. My 1st ship was the USS NOA (DD-841), boarding in 1971. But in 1972 I was drafted, in the 1st round, by the Wood team, Atlantic Division, USA Professional League. With the Wood team in 1972, we left for Greece and in 1974 I was transferred to the transmitter site in Annapolis, MD. From 1974 to 1976, I worked in VLF communications for Subs. The transmitter was so large that I could stand up inside. I was amazed the entire time I was stationed there. I left the service as a RM2 and found employment at a 9-1-1 center. And I am still there, almost 30 years later. Should write a book! In 1978, I married Nancy and we have three children, all married, three grandkids, three dogs, and one cat. My hobbies are Ham radio and camping. I am also a member of the American Legion and my local Civil Defense Unit.

Secretary John Michel (5th term – 8 reunions attended)

I graduated from George Mason College, Fairfax, VA in 1970 and enlisted in the Navy in August of that year. After "A" school, I came back to the Atlantic Coast as a push-button EM3 aboard the USS SIERRA (AD-18) out of Norfolk. I found that I liked being in the Navy and, since I had my Bachelor's degree, I applied for and got a Commanding Officer's recommendation for OCS in Newport, RI. After OCS, I went to Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. From Athens, GA I flew over to meet the WILLIAM M. WOOD (DD-715) which at that point had already transited the Atlantic and was homeported in Athens, Greece. My experiences living in Greece and serving onboard the Willie Wood were magnificent and I will never forget them. That being said, I got out of the Navy upon departing the Wood in January, 1975, returning to a career-long job with the Department of Defense as a civilian working with various aspects of the Defense Acquisition Workforce and various assignments within the Office of the Under Secretary of Defense (Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics). I retired in 2005 with over 40 year's total federal service.

Chaplain Duties assumed by: Jerry L. Chapman

My thoughts and the Wood Association go out to Dan Wood our past Chaplain who made his final voyage. He was a great friend and an inspiration to me as the Wood Association President.

Annual Dues - WARNING: Here Comes the Commercial!!

Once again it is that time of year when we ask that you continue your generosity in supporting the Wood Association (a tax exempt nonprofit 501 c19 veteran's organization) by your contribution of annual dues of \$10.00. **Your checks should be made out to the Wood Association and sent to the President, John (Dizzy) Dzubak 79108 Vermont Way Greensburg, PA 15601.** When you send in your dues payment, if you pay for more than one year (multiples of \$10.00), please tell Dizzy which years you want credited. Your annual dues contributions keep the Willy Wood underway,

steaming to new ports each year for reunions as well as providing information to shipmates regarding activities and whereabouts of shipmates on our roster. In addition, contribution of dues makes you an “Active” member of the Association entitling you to participate in the annual business meetings, running for office, and voting at the annual business meetings. If you have not yet become an “Active” Wood Association member, or have let your active membership sail off into the sunset, please become/renew your membership by sending in your dues contribution. We look forward to seeing you at future reunions and thank you for your generosity.

We have enclosed a schedule of dues status for the 275 (down from 305 last year) current “Active” shipmates who have been making dues contributions in recent years. This schedule reflects what is in our records regarding recent dues contributions from you. The schedule shows names in alpha order and the year your dues are paid up through. If the last year you paid dues for was 2012, you will be an “Active” member until September 2015, at which time you will be dropped from “Active” status if we do not receive another contribution from you before September. Our policy is to keep shipmates “Active” for 3 years from the last year of a dues contribution, as some shipmates send in multiple years’ contributions and then no contribution for a few years, and then send in multiple years again, etc.

If your name does not appear on the schedule, it means we have no record of any dues contribution from you for 2011 or prior, and you are no longer an “Active” or perhaps you have never been a dues paying “Active” member. We do not show the names of shipmates who have dropped from the “Active” rolls or who have yet to become “Actives”. If you have been dropped because of no dues payments for 2011 or before, you can be reinstated as an “Active” simply by making a dues payment and mailing to me at address top of page one. We would love to have you back aboard. Hoping to see and speak to as many of you as possible at the Oct 15th to 18th Myrtle Beach, South Carolina reunion.

Best Regards,
John (Dizzy) Dzubak
President
USS William M Wood Association (DD/DDR-715)