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

www.dd715.org

Shipmates,

Once again, I'd like to thank Tom Streza, John (Dizzy) Dzubak, and Metrus Messina for continuing on as vice president, secretary, treasurer and chaplain for the association. If you're looking at joining up or have membership questions please feel free to contact anyone one of us.

President: Jerry L. Chapman (4 years as President, 10 years as VP – 11 reunions attended)

I was transferred from the USS Noa DD-841 in 1972 (RM3) when the Wood was first deployed to its new home port of Athens Greece. I wasn't sure what I had volunteered for but, it turned out to be a great experience. The things that stuck with me the most was the trip to Rome, cruises to the Black Sea going by Istanbul and Capt. Tsantos harassing the Russian ships out on the Mediterranean Sea. After the Wood I was transferred to the Naval Radio Transmitter Facility in Annapolis Maryland where I was promoted to RM2 and left the Navy in 1976. Since the Navy I have worked at a 9-1-1 center and am now retired.

I married Nancy who gave me three wonderful children who in turn have given me six beautiful grandchildren. We currently live in South Elgin Illinois (along with a dog, cat and fostering a beautiful black lab).

We attended our first Wood reunion in Jacksonville Beach Fla where we toured a ship at the Mayport Naval Base (the Noa was homeported there). The next reunion was in Chicago where I helped with the reunion and I started getting involved in the association. I'm so glad I got involved then and wish I had gone to earlier reunions.

My hobbies are Ham radio (N9JLC) and camping. I am also a member of the American Legion and my local Civil Defense unit.

My nickname in the Navy was "Bear" which was given to me by my boot camp company commander, who was on the Wood when I reported aboard, and the name stuck with me the entire time I was in.

Vice President: Tom Streza (4 years VP – 11 reunions)

I joined the Naval Reserve on my 18th birthday. This got me out of a steel mill for a couple of years. I then went on active duty 17 DEC 64 and reported to the USS WOOD in Philly shipyard. We lived on barges for 5 months while she was undergoing FRAM conversion. I was assigned to the Deck Force doing PM's. Then after a shakedown cruise to GITMO GQ was sounded and we were sent to the Dominican Republic to help evacuate Americans from the area. I was then assigned to Ships Office where I was then placed in the Post Office as my duty station. I made 3rd class YN in '66 and left the Wood in June of that year. I was then transferred to the

USS Wright CC2 for the remainder on my duty. Upon leaving the service I went back to the mill then to the US Post Office. Married in 68 had 3 kids, divorced and remarried to Sandy and been with her for 35 years. Retired in '07 on our palatial estate of 5 acres where we raised chickens, turkeys and goats. Have a pontoon boat that docked at Pymatuning Lake for the summer, good fishing. Been to 8 reunions and have helped with the golf outing and helped take care of the Hospitality room. Enjoy woodcrafts, which have been shown at several reunions

Secretary: John "Dizzy" Dzubak (4th year secretary – 10 years as president – 19 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 enjoying retirement. I have seen many mates at the reunions and as we get older I am starting to see less. This reunion at Fall River Mass will be great as we will get to see the Captains Boat from the original Wood. Stripped from her while at the yards before she was sunk by a few harpoon missiles to make a reef in the waters off Puerto Rico..Hoping to see many mates this cruise to Fall Rivers and am enjoying my retirement but the days seem to go faster when you retire. Hmmm to all that.

From our business meeting:

We donated \$500 to The Tin Can Sailors, Inc. \$500 for USS LAFFEY and \$500 USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY JR museum ships for a total of \$1,500.

Fall River MA is still on tap for the 2020 reunion where we'll use a reunion planner.

We voted to have our 2021 reunion in Gatlinburg/Pigeon Forge Tennessee. Entertain an event planner for last week of Sept or First week in October.

We voted to have our 2022 reunion in West Point New York.. Entertain an event planner for last week of Sept or First week in October

Jeff Siconolfi volunteered and was appointed Membership Director.

We acknowledged Randy Markoff, Herbert Dolch Jr. and George Siedman as first time attendees of the Wood Reunion.

A brief look at the reunion in Ocean City:

The memorial was held on the balcony of the hotel overlooking the Atlantic. We found a veterans memorial park in a neighboring town and we placed the flowers there. As always, it's tough to say goodbye to our shipmates who have passed on.

The buffet and raffle was tremendous where valuable treasures were given out!! We've limited the number of times a person could win which is twice.

Even though there were a couple of glitches we overcame them and had a great time.

Please see the pictures from the Ocean City reunion on our web site www.DD715.org.

We are looking forward to the 24th Wood reunion September 30th to October 4th 2020 in Warwick RI. (Fall

River/Boston)

This year we will start our reunion on Wednesday September 30th instead of Thursday with a trip to Battleship Cove where we'll have lunch on the USS Massachusetts (BB-59). We will be touring Battleship Cove on two different days. There is a lot to be seen there. On Friday we were invited by the DD-850 crew to spend much of the day on the J.P. Kennedy Jr. DD-850 as the destroyer is very similar to the Wood. This ship has some Wood artifacts on board. We will be also holding our memorial and luncheon on the ship.

Please go to our web site WWW.DD715.org for the listing of hotel and event information. As always, we are looking for volunteers and lead future reunions – please consider it and get in touch with me.

Also, at this time I am going to ask for volunteers to help in the hospitality room. Please consider this so that one person is not doing it by themselves.

Here comes the plagiarizing from previous president letters:

Annual Dues - 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 Treasurer, John 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 John 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 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. 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 you have been dropped you can be reinstated as an "Active" simply by making a dues payment and mailing to John {Dizzy}Dzubak 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 Fall Creek reunion. Please considering coming - you won't regret it!

Best Wishes,

Jerry L. Chapman

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President

USS William M. Wood DD/DDR-715 Association