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**USS WILLIAM M. WOOD (DD 715/DDR 715) ASSOCIATION**  
**[www.dd715.org](http://www.dd715.org)**

Ahoy there, John {Dizzy} Dzubak 66-69 here:

After 10 years as President of the William M. Wood Association, I have decided to step down and take over the duties as Secretary of the Association. I'm also Webmaster of the DD715.org site.

It has been an honor and a privilege to maintain the president's role in the Association. It has now been passed on to:

Jerry Chapman 72-73 the President of the Association and past Vice President of the Association.  
Chief Orville Smith 64-66 has taken over the duties of the Vice President of the Association.  
John Michel 72-75 has taken over the duties of Treasurer of the Association.  
Metrus Messina 61-64 has taken over the duties as Chaplain of the Association.

And now a word from the President:

All,

First of all, I wish to thank John Dzubak for his years as president of the association. You did a great job and I only hope I can do half as well. I also want to thank John Michel for continuing to be part of the organization and to Metrus for taking back over the duties of chaplain. A welcome aboard to Chief Smith for stepping up to be the vice president. Jim Thomas continues to be our membership director please feel free to contact him at [cliftonjim@earthlink.net](mailto:cliftonjim@earthlink.net) if you're looking at joining up or have membership questions.

Now a little bit about myself, 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 will be retiring this June.

I married Nancy who gave me three wonderful children who in turn have given me five beautiful grandchildren. We currently live in South Elgin Illinois (along with two dogs and a cat).

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.

About our association officers.

**President: Jerry L. Chapman (1st term as President – 7 reunions attended)** After completing High School in 1969, I joined the Navy in 1970. After finishing boot camp at Great Lakes, I attended RM "A" school in Bainbridge Md. My 1st ship in 1971 was the USS NOA (DD-841). I boarded the Wood in 1972 and left for Greece. Then off to Annapolis, MD in 1974 and discharged in 1976 as a RM2. My hobbies are Ham radio (N9JLC) and camping. I am also a member of the American Legion and my local Civil Defense Unit.

**Secretary John "Dizzy" Dzubak (1st term as Secretary – 15 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.

**Treasurer John Michel (1st term as Treasurer – 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: Metrus Messina (5th Term – 5 reunions attended)**

I joined the Navy as a high school grad. Took boot camp at Great Lakes in the Winter of 1960. I finished "A" school for IC in the Spring of 1961. I arrived aboard the Wood in June of 1961. I was onboard for 3 years. In that time we made 3 Gitmo cruises, 2 Med cruises and chased Russian subs in

the Cuban Missile Crises. We also sent a terrorist stolen freighter back to Brazil. I took a lot of college courses while onboard. Hope to finish one day for a degree. I make my living by owning and operating a small electrical supply company. I am married and have 3 daughters and 3 grandchildren. My hobby for many years has been constructing very large radio control aircraft. I am also part of a group that drag race professionally. Pittsburgh was my first reunion. It is my pleasure to be your Chaplain.

We had a great time at Myrtle Beach (a big thank you to Jack Walters). Let alone having a good time at the reunion, my sister & brother in-law joined us from California which made it extra special (yes even though my mother-in-law was also there). We were out shopping one day and as I was walking around there was a guy yelling sir – sir at me. When I stopped to see what he wanted – he asked me if I was on the Wood and puzzled I said yes (he saw my Wood hat).

He stated he had spent a little time on the Wood and wanted to say hi. I told him we were there for the reunion and he should come by – sadly he did not.

Admittedly I did not attend all the events in Myrtle Beach (both banquets and ship tour / memorial) so I cannot give a full report. I can tell you though the hotel accommodations were great. Breakfast got a little tricky as people from other military reunions arrived. Staying by the ocean was exhilarating and of course brought back memories. The tour of the USS North Carolina was neat. Being a battle ship it was somewhat larger than the Wood and what I want to know is - with so many mess decks how did they know where to go eat ?? You could probably go from one mess deck to another and get your fill of food !!

I had the distinct honor and privilege of performing the memorial service aboard the battle ship, As always it was sad to say farewell to our shipmates who have passed on this last year. May we all keep them in our hearts so by us their memory continues on. From everyone I talked to they enjoyed the reunion activities.

We are looking forward to the 20<sup>th</sup> Wood reunion October 12- 16 2016 in Branson Mo. Please go to our web site [WWW.DD715.org](http://WWW.DD715.org) for the listing of hotel and event information. You will notice we are using a reunion planner for the Branson reunion. As always we are looking for shipmates who are willing to volunteer and lead future reunions – please consider it and get in touch with me. The itinerary and registration form are included in this mailer.

**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 Treasurer, John Michel 811 S. Oak Street Arlington, VA 22204. 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. If the last year you paid dues for was 2013, you will be an “Active” member until September 2016, 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 2012 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 2012 or before, you can be reinstated as an “Active” simply by making a dues payment and mailing to John Michel 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 Branson Missouri reunion. Please considering coming you won’t regret it.

Best Wishes,

*Jerry L. Chapman*

Jerry L Chapman

President

USS William M. Wood DD/DDR-715 Association