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Shipmates,

I, along with the other members of the Association's Executive Committee (Tom Streza – Vice President; John "Dizzy" Dzubak – Treasurer; John Michel – Secretary; and Metrus "Dee" Messina - Chaplain), are praying that all of our shipmates and their families, loved ones, and friends are healthy and safe. The novel corona virus pandemic is wrecking a horrible toll on our citizens, our country, and our economy. We would like to send a huge thank-you and Bravo Zulu to all the frontline health workers, medical personnel, store clerks, and postal workers who are laboring tirelessly trying to keep our lives as close as possible to what they were before the pandemic hit. For those in our community who have been stricken – Godspeed in your recovery; and to those who are unemployed, we hope that you get re-employed as quickly as possible. Our 2021 Reunion is once again planned for the Boston, MA area, with a special visit to the USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY JR. (DD-850), a Gearing-class destroyer and sister ship to our own "Willie Wood." Event descriptions, agendas, and the registration form are included with this letter. I know that all of us were disappointed that we had to cancel the 2020 reunion due to the pandemic. I'm sure that we are all looking forward to our 2021 reunion where we will be able to meet and laugh and tell sea stories with our shipmates. However (and at this point, that's possibly a very big "however") please be patient and understanding if the health and safety of us all dictates that we have to cancel another reunion.