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

www.dd715.org

Shipmates,

I, along with the other members of the Association's Executive Committee Jerry Chapman – 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 corona virus is still wrecking a horrible toll on our citizens, our country. We would like to send a huge thank-you and Bravo Zulu to all the front-line 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 2025 Reunion is planned for Pensacola, Florida Oct 20th thru the 24th. Contact information for this event is included with this letter. This information was sent out previously by e-mail to all with e-mail address that are on file. If you did not get an email about the cruise then I ask that you send me your email address to (rockason@hotmail.com.) The Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, Tennessee reunion was a great one with a good showing. It was great to see the “Smokey Mountains” and the new crew members who were at their 1st reunion. The Black Bear roaming the hallways of the hotel was a real treat and with great weather for all the tours that was a plus.

Here is some brief information about our Association officers. We are looking for a membership chairperson. If you are interested please contact me.

We are looking forward to the 28th Wood reunion Pensacola Florida. Oct 20th thru the 24th. This year the reunion will start on a Monday and end on a Thursday. Please go to our web site WWW.DD715.org for the event information.

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. If you don't have access to the “web”, information will be forthcoming in the mail.

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.

President: Tom Streza (7 years on Executive Committee – 13 reunions)

I joined the Naval Reserve on my 18th birthday. I 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 ships office and then worked as postal clerk. I made YN3 in 1966 and left the Wood in June of that year. I was then transferred to the USS WRIGHT (CC-2) for the remainder on my duty. Upon leaving the service I went back to the mill then to the US Post Office. I have three kids from my first marriage. My second wife, Sandy, and I have been together 42 years. Retired in 2007 on our palatial estate of 5 acres where I have a 12x20 wood shop to do all my crafting and go to a few craft shows a year. I've been to 13 reunions and have helped with the golf outing and taking care of the Hospitality Room. I enjoy woodcrafts, which have been shown at several reunions. I also belong to the American Legion and the Knights of Columbus.

Vice President: Jerry L. Chapman (17 years on Executive Committee – 13 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. 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. My wife Nancy and I have three wonderful children and six beautiful grandchildren. We currently live in South Elgin, Illinois (along with a dog). I have also joined the Navy Club of the U.S.A. Ship #7 in Elgin Illinois this last year.

We attended our first Wood reunion in Jacksonville Beach, Florida. 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.

Secretary: John "Dizzy" Dzubak (17 years on Executive Committee – 20 reunions attended)

I joined the Navy right out of High School. Did my basic training at Recruit Training Command – Great Lakes and matriculated immediately to “A” school for Machinist Mate. I arrived onboard the Wood in February, 1966 and loved it so much that they had to push me off in February, 1969. I was thrown in the hole (Aft Engine Room) in 1966 and thought I knew it all and was sent to Mess Cook for 3 months. I was sent back to the hole and still thought I knew it all and got sent to the Chiefs Mess Deck for another 3 months. After that I knew I didn't know it all and found a home back in the hole as the Main Evaporator Operator. I made the best damn fresh water for the next 3 years. I made MM3 and was kindly asked to ship over for another 4 but kindly said “Hell NO” In 1969 I was employed by PPG and at the same time I earned my BA from California, PA. In 1994 after my PPG plant shut down and moved to Canada and I went back to Community College and earned a degree in Computer Science. I went to work for a Major Asbestos Law Firm in Pittsburgh and then retired at 61 in 2008. I have a son and daughter from a 1st marriage and a daughter from a 2nd marriage. My last daughter has finally become a veterinarian. I am currently single and enjoying the heck out of my retirement, but the days seem to go by much faster in retirement. My hobbies are playing the guitar and collecting stamps and silver. I am moving much slower and more carefully now then when I was a “Snipe” back in the day. Being the Secretary has given me much joy as I get contacted from many mates. I am currently the Webmaster for DD715.org and so enjoy my time at the reunions where the sea stories get bigger and better each year.

Treasurer: John Michel (12 years on Executive Committee – 9 reunions attended)

I earned a BA degree from George Mason College, Fairfax, VA in 1970 and enlisted in the Navy in August of that year. After EM "A" school, I came back East and worked aboard the USS SIERRA (AD-18) out of Norfolk. I got a CO's recommendation for OCS in Newport, RI. After OCS, I went to Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. From Athens, GA I was assigned to the Wood homeported in Athens, Greece. 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. I also do Deep water aerobics three times a week plus volunteering with the Arlington [Virginia] Historical Society keep me off the streets and out of trouble!

From our business meeting:

At our 2024 Pigeon Forge/Gatlinburg, Tennessee reunion business meeting the Executive Committee voted to make our annual donation of \$2,500 for The Tin Can Sailors, Inc. specifying \$1000 each for USS LAFFEY DD-724 and USS JOSEPH P. KENNEDY JR DD-850 museum ships and \$500 for TCS – General Fund.

Financially our Association is doing well, but please take a look at the list showing shipmates and what years their dues are paid through. If you are able and if your dues are more than 3 years past (meaning you a not an active member), please try to become an active member of the Association again. **SPOILER ALERT:** There's a commercial in five, four,

Annual Dues – OK I warned you! Here's 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 "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 John which years you want credited. Your annual dues contributions keep the Willie 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 start/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 above. We would love to have you back aboard. Hoping to see and speak to as many of you as possible at the Pensacola, Florida. Oct 20th thru the 24th Reunion. Please consider; coming you won't regret it.

Best Wishes,
Tom Streza
President
USS William M. Wood DD/DDR-715 Association