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

**[www.dd715.org](http://www.dd715.org)**

Dear Shipmates,

What a great 14<sup>th</sup> annual William M. Wood reunion we had in Virginia Beach, Virginia. It was great to be back at the Atlantic Ocean once again after the last three inland reunions. There is always something exciting about the salty air and the whipping sand at your feet to stir up old memories of the Willy Wood and the days aboard her.

There was a great turnout at this reunion as the central Atlantic location made it the place to be. Well over 105 shipmates attended this reunion and 200 shipmates and guests turned out for the Saturday dinner. Some couldn't make it for the entire 4 day reunion but it is always great to see mates show for at least the Saturday festivities. The band for the evening got many up on the dance floor. The Saturday night raffle MC'd by Bernie Gudala and the winning raffle tickets picked by Metrus Messina's grandson netted many a lot of great items. I managed to score a bag of (Gen-U-Wine Jaw-Ger Pee-Cans) which the G/F made into a pecan pie. I never knew she could bake like that. I want to personally thank all who brought items from their individual states for the raffle. The hotel, or should I say hotels, were great with ocean views from all rooms and the price was one of the best I have seen in the many reunions I have attended. It was also great to be at a hotel where the seafood was outstanding and was reasonable priced. My gracious thanks go out to Chuck Traub for hosting this reunion and the support he had for organizing the golf outing and the many venues that were attended and enjoyed. The beach and surrounding area were a pleasure to travel as all the summer crowds were non-existent.

I thought I knew a lot about the ocean but was amazed to find a piece of material on the beach which I thought was manmade in texture but found out it is the egg case of a ray or skate. This (sea purse) was amazing to me and I was told by a local surfer that's what it was. Lost that bet to the G/F and even got to see a complete and empty horseshoe crab shell come in with the tide. Guess when you're away from the beach for awhile small things like that are a treat.

We had good weather most of the time as one day the wind on the beach was whipping sand around and the sun warmed it up. Great to see the Army having their daily run along the boardwalk and also the Race For The Cure with well over 5000 people attending. All of this from the view of the hotel room balcony. There were a few shipmates that rode their Harley's from Ohio to the reunion. Great to see the Lusk's on those bikes.

The scale models of Wood DDR and DD built and donated to the association by the late Lynn Lansberry were brought to the reunion. It was good to see many men just looking at them and thinking about their days on those decks. Lots of memorabilia was to be seen that were brought by many members. It was great to see some new members for their 1<sup>st</sup> Reunion.

The tour of the Nauticus National Maritime Center was amazing. I was proud to board the battleship Wisconsin on that tour also. Funny how those gangways and ladders seem much smaller and tighter to climb some 40 years after I left the Wood. The Spirit of Norfolk harbor cruise gave me a chance to relax and talk with the descendants of William M. Wood of which we had 5 in attendance. Many ships along the piers being spruced up and cruising up and down past them brought back many memories of the Wood's days at sea. It was definitely awesome to board a supply ship that had just returned from the Mideast and view the bullet holes in her bow from the pirate action they had encountered while on tour there. Just to see the latest firepower aboard her and huge cranes used to transfer goods and materials kept me in awe.

Many thanks to Bob Zapf and Chuck Traub for keeping the beer and wine flowing in the hospitality room. It was great to be in a Navy Store to see the lower prices when we made a beer run. I liked to thank Arly Davis for some great "shine" from back home and Bill and Sybil Patton and the many ladies including Phyllis Walters for getting a great many raffle tickets sold in such a short period of time.

**President: John "Dizzy" Dzubak (6th term – 10 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 pre vet school in Findley Ohio. 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 (6th term – 4 reunions attended)**

After completing High School in 1970, I joined the Navy. Finishing boot camp, I attended RM school. My 1<sup>st</sup> ship was the USS Noa. DD841, 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 3 children, 1 married, 2 granddaughters, 3 dogs, and 1 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 (1st term – 7 reunions attended)**

I graduated from George Mason College, Fairfax, VA in 1970. I enlisted in the Navy in August, 1970 since I had a relatively low draft number and had lost my 2-S deferment. I originally enlisted in the Nuclear Power Program with a 6-year commitment. I went to boot camp and EM "A" school in San Diego. Prior to going up to Idaho for Phase I training, I came back to the Atlantic Coast as a push-button EM3 aboard AD-18 (USS SIERRA) out of Norfolk. And, believe it or not, we actually got underway twice while I was onboard, and not just to clear away the coffee grounds underneath her. 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. From there I went to Navy Supply Corps School in Athens, GA. (That part of my Navy career was not planned out too well: Newport in the Winter; Athens in the Summer.) From Athens, GA I flew over to meet the William M. Wood 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 years total federal service and I'm now forced to go on SCUBA trips three times a year and other trips to fill in the gaps.

**Treasurer: Dave Lauten ( 2st Term – 3 reunions attended)**

Born in Newport News Virginia and lived in Hampton Virginia. Dad worked at NASA his entire career. Mom worked at the library at the Navy hospital which is now the CINCLANTFLT compound. Moved to Houston Texas when the NASA lab opened south of Houston. I always say I was born in Virginia and raised in Texas. After finishing all the schools in Houston enlisted in the Navy March 1974. Boot camp, Radioman A school, Morse code school and tech control school all done at Naval Training Center / Service School Command San Diego CA. Then the fun begins. Report to CINCLANT Norfolk VA 1st Div to await arrival of USS William M Wood. Rehad BEQ's and other units while in 1st Div. Commands. USS William M Wood DD-715 OC Div; NAVCOMSTA Iceland, ASCOM, Anti Submarine Warfare P-3 Comms; NAVCOMSTA Balboa Canal Zone Panama OC Div; USS Dwight D Eisenhower CVN-69 OC Div Tech Control; NAVCOMSTA Diego Garcia Indian Ocean OC Div Tech Control; Ocean Systems Atlantic CINCLANTFLT Norfolk VA OC Div; USS La More County LST 1154 OC Div; USS Mobile LKA-115 OC Div; Navy Marine Corp Reserve Center Houston Texas 1st Div. Of all the commands USS Eisenhower and NAVCOMSTA Diego Garcia are the only ones that have not been decommissioned. Retired after 20 years. Did contract work for UPS instructing the people how to handle the boxes and pack the trucks. Now I know why they always were crushed. Did QC and test tech for company that made circuit boards for voting machines, IR sensor, 18 wheel satellite tracking systems. Was asked by long time friend to work in admin dept of software company that makes and supports software for HUD properties, am still there enjoying the easy life of pushing papers along the same lines as the last couple of years in the Navy. But I am always keeping my eye on a way to get back out to sea. When time permits try to get some scuba diving in or sailing in the Gulf or short weekend getaway trips. And trying school for an engineering degree.

**Chaplain: Metrus Messina (3rd Term – 3 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.

**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 non profit 501 c19 veterans organization) by your contribution of annual dues of \$10.00. **Your checks should be made out to the Wood Association and sent to our President John “Dizzy” Dzubak at 79108 Vermont Way, Greensburg, PA 15601. Dizzy’s phone number is 724-837-2643 and his email address is [rockason@hotmail.com](mailto:rockason@hotmail.com).** When you send in your dues payment, if you pay for more than one year, 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 re activities and whereabouts of shipmates on our roster. In addition, contribution of dues makes you an “Active” member of the Association, entitling you to receive the annual printed roster of over 1,600 living shipmates contact information, and entitles you to participate in the annual business meetings, running for office, and voting at the annual business meeting. If you have not yet become an “Active” Wood Association member, please do so 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 422 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 you have contributed through 2008 and not for 2009, you will be an “Active” until September 2011, 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 since 2007 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 since 2007 or before, you can be reinstated as an "Active" simply by making a dues payment. We would love to have you back aboard. Hoping to see and speak to as many of you as possible at the Oct 12-15 Mobile Alabama Reunion.

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