



USS Piedmont AD-17

President

Robert "Willie" Williams
1829 Kathleen Ct
Virginia Beach, VA 23464
Phone 757-729-0972
E-mail griswold5@verizon.net

Secretary-Treasurer

Michael Morast
150 Brown St.
Tecumseh, MI 49286
Phone 517-673-7157
E-mail memorast@yahoo.com

Vice President

Ron Orszag
7065 Bismarck Rd
Cocoa FL. 32927
Phone 321-290-2572
E-mail
orszag@icloud.com

Directors

David Engelbert
Joseph Myers
Michael Walsh
Eugene Wiesbeck

USS Piedmont Newsletter October 15, 2024

We have closed the book on our 2024 Washington DC reunion and all comments made by shipmates attending were very positive and folks are ready for next year. We have selected Portland Oregon to host our 2025 reunion, several shipmates have given inputs for what to see and do in the Portland area, and by all accounts it will be an interesting selection on what to choose for our group. The USS Dixie folks have given the green light to join us in Portland and maybe we can add another ship.

Day 1 was really enjoyable with arriving shipmates from across the country, some we haven't seen for many years, but once the hospitality room opened up everyone bonded, and a fun time was had by all. We passed out itineraries to everyone and enjoyed some light snacks and refreshments until it was time to get some rest and prepare for the next morning activities.

Day 2 We boarded the bus and off to Mount Vernon (with a quick tour of Marine Corps Memorial a day early, our driver pulled up wrong day) but we adjusted and had fun the tour of Mount Vernon that was educational and exciting and then we had lunch at the property. After lunch then off to Lincoln, Korean, and Vietnam Memorials and finally back on the bus to WWII Memorial then back to hotel for dinner and more fun to in hospitality room.

Day 3 We started off at the Navy Memorial getting our pictures by the Lone Sailor statue then touring the Navy Memorial; afterwards a short walk to our lunch location then after lunch back on the bus for stops at the White House and U.S. Capital for pictures. Our final stop of the day was the Holocaust Museum which gave us time to reflect and count our blessings then returning to hotel for dinner on your own and more good times in the hospitality room. We held our first of two raffles with items members brought and we had a large selection to choose from. After the raffle we closed the evening so everyone could rest up.

Day 4 This was the first time we elected to have a whole free day, and everyone took advantage of it going to Arlington National Cemetery, Air and Space Museum Annex, and the Naval Academy in Annapolis Maryland, just to name a few; but fun was had by all. Once they returned to the hotel then everyone met up in the hospitality room, where Jeff Thaxton entertained us with his magic show that was enjoyed by everyone. Again, some bonding with many a sea story and plans for the following day.

Day 5 Business meeting with selection of Portland Oregon to host 2025 reunion and keeping all the Officers for another year, then on to our final raffle for 4 free hotel nights and 50/50 raffle. At this point I must thank the wives who ran the 2 raffles and the selling of tickets; my wife Aslaug Williams, Pat Morast, and Judy Engelbert; thanks for a job well done. After our business meeting then everyone enjoyed a free day of touring on their own and that evening, we had our final banquet with thanks to Ron Orszag and Mike Rioux (USS Dixie) for a moving Missing Shipmate Ceremony and Joe and Loretta Myers for singing My Country 'tis of thee and blessing of the food.

Shipmates lost

John “Rick” Hoffman BM3 70-71 Passed 03/02/2024 (honored at Washington reunion)

Max Stumborg BM 50-54 Passed 09/15/2024 (honored at Washington reunion)

News for the Association

Requesting DD-214 visit WWW.vetrecks.archives.gov include the following information

Veterans complete name used while in service

Service number or social security number

Mailing address

Daytime phone number

Branch of service

Date and place of birth

Dates of service

Reason for request

The veterans or next of kin signature

Did you know that all honorably discharged Veterans can shop tax free at shopmyexchange.com/vets

Lastly, I would like to thank Mike Morast our treasurer for keeping our finances in order and lastly to our 4 directors for their ideas and suggestions and Bruce MacAlister for all his IT expertise. All the folks I have mentioned in the newsletter have made my job so much easier and I appreciate what you do for the Association.

Leaving you with a smile

An Admiral visited one of

the ships of the line under his command. While eating breakfast with the crew he was impressed to see the Naval insignia stamped on every biscuit.

He went to the Chief cook to ask how this feat was done, so it could be used on other ships under his command.

The Chief replied, "I'd be glad to share that with you, Admiral. After each biscuit is cut, I just slap it here against my belt buckle which bears the Navy insignia.

Horrified the Admiral exclaims, "That's very unhygienic!"

The Chief shrugs and replies, "Well If that's the way you feel, sir, I suggest you avoid the donuts."

How different military branches use the stars:

The Army sleeps beneath the stars.

The Navy uses the stars to navigate.

The Air Force chooses their hotels based on the stars.

Marines get gold star stickers after they finish eating the whole box of crayons.

Our next newsletter will be in April 2025 with information on tours hotel and dates of our Portland Oregon reunion if anyone has any suggestions comments please let me know. Pass the word to shipmates and family members so they may want to attend our maybe assist you so you can attend. Until then stay safe and enjoy the holidays