

	<p><u>President</u> Robert "Willie" Williams 1829 Kathleen Ct Virginia Beach, VA 23464 Phone 757-479-2733 Cell 757-729-0972 E-mail griswold5@verizon.net</p>	<p><u>Vice President</u> Ron Orszag 15 Beverly Lane. Fairfield CT. 06825 Phone 203-864-5412 E-mail orszag@icloud.com</p>
	<p><u>Secretary-Treasurer</u> Michael Morast 150 Brown St. Tecumseh, MI 49286 Phone: 517-673-7157 E-mail memorast@yahoo.com</p>	<p><u>Directors</u> Bruce Macalister David Engelbert Joe Pietrosanti Jack Chesnick</p>
	<p>USS Piedmont AD-17</p>	

USS Piedmont Newsletter October 15 2019

We have completed another successful reunion in Dayton Ohio and are finalizing our Washington D.C. reunion. In Dayton we had 3 Dixie class tenders in Washington we will have all 5. I would like to summarize the Dayton reunion and let the folks that could not join us know what they missed. Monday 23 September started off with a Officer's/Governors breakfast meeting all our counterparts some for the first time face to face after many months, I was glad to put a face to those we have been emailing and talking on the phone. We toured the spaces we would use for the next few days and were given our welcome packs and meals vouchers. We then set up our registration table and commenced checking in shipmates that arrived the day before, that evening we had a Welcome reception from all our Presidents and the Dayton Convention and Visitors Bureau followed by review of the Plan of the Day for Tuesday. Total attendance for all three tenders was well over 100.

Started the day off right with a great breakfast, lots of choices, and some great tasting coffee. Then bus boarding to Carillon Park walking thru Dayton's history in aviation and earlier, then lunch at the Carillon Brewing Company afterwards finish the touring or stop by the gift shop to pickup souvenirs of our visit and of course a hat pin for the collection on our hats, topping the evening off with pizza and chicken wings and good old fashion sea stories from all three Tenders. We reviewed the POD for the following day's events and folks slowly called it an evening. Wednesday another great breakfast and boarded the bus for the Air Force Museum and simple put it was simply a great visit, the staff went out of their way to answer our questions or take care of any special needs upon return to hotel in time to freshen up then Dinner at The Spaghetti Warehouse, afterwards hospitality room. Thursday we had our breakfast then on to our business meetings which everyone voted to keep the present officers for another year and to select Tucson AZ to host our 2021 reunion. We also voted to send Kent Thomas a Piedmont

plaque for his many years of service as Secretary/Treasurer. After a general business meeting with all three tenders the Sierra folks declined to join us in Tucson but it is hoped that they can rejoin us on a future reunion, afterwards folks had the rest of the day to explore Dayton until our final banquet. We managed to take a few group photos thanks to Bruce MacAlister and lastly enjoyed a fine meal and Memorial service honoring our departed shipmates. With all the raffle funds we were able to donate \$500.00 to lessen the hospitality room expenses and we had drawing of a 50/50 and 4 free hotel nights afterwards it was time to say goodbye until next year in Washington D.C. .

It goes without saying that putting a reunion together is no easy task but it makes it a lot easier when we have folks that help out and go the extra mile so I want to take a moment to thank the following folks and say thanks for all they do which makes my job a lot easier. First Mike Morast and his wife Pat our Secretary/Treasurer for keeping the books and paperwork updated and correct and for last minute add-on's or requests. Bruce MacAlister for his IT's fixes and group photos. Joe Pietrosanti for his help with the Memorial ceremony. Finally to the three musketeers My wife Aslaug, Mike's Wife Pat and Max Stumborg Daughter Michelle for organizing the raffle sales and gift table you did a great job.

Washington D.C. reunion dates are 17-21 September 2020 (**Registration deadline is 06 August**) we will be staying at the Hilton Washington Dulles in Herndon Va. #800-445-8667 ask for Dixie class Destroyer reunion room block reservations can be made 300 days out and Hotel cancelations can be made 24 hours before. Our daily hotel rate is \$109.00 (with tax \$122.08) which includes breakfast for two, The hotel offers complimentary shuttle service from Dulles airport (IAD) and the surrounding area including the Air and space museum annex and hotel offers complimentary parking. Tours for the Washington reunion are still being planned with inputs from Dayton reunion attendee's.

Association members who desire a membership roster or Treasurer's report email or call me and I will get one sent out to you. As always we ask that you keep your address, contact number and email address up to date so we can keep you in the loop as plans go forward for our joint Dixie class reunion. We have been considering locations for 2022 some suggestions are Kansas City MO, San Antonio TX, and Nashville TN. If you have other suggestions for cities in the Midwest make your desires known we will be voting on 2022 in Washington D.C. We have (5) plaque's remaining that were not given away in Dayton OH. Some members expressed interest in purchasing one, so if you desire one send check for \$41.00 which covers plaque and postage to Mike Morast and we will get it in the mail for you, reunion attendee's were wild over receiving them in Dayton. In closing many of our members are aging and find it difficult to attend our reunions a solution that has worked for some members is to have children (I find this interesting because some are as old as me) or grandchildren to attend with then and assist them as needed great bonding time and I think everyone has a great time there is an opportunity to learn a little something about parents, Grandparents as well as children and grandchildren. Our next

newsletter will be out in March 2020 and with details of tours for Washington D.C. with costs. Until then stay safe and warm this winter and start thinking on what you are going to wear in September when you attend the Washington D.C. reunion.