



USS JAMES MADISON (SSBN627) ASSOCIATION

A 501c Veterans Organization

Winter 2023-2024

Wishing all our Shipmates a wonderful holiday season!

President's Remarks:

Dear Madison family it has been 8 months since our last reunion in Galveston, TX, and I want to say from the bottom of my heart, thank you to everyone that attended. I received great feedback and praise from many of you and I had many "lessons learned" moments – all for the positive. But most of all, I was honored to be your liaison for the reunion.

You see, my mindset is about you. You went before me. You kept the ship in seaworthy condition. Your spouse and children sacrificed before my family. Therefore, it was my humble honor to be with you. I am quoting someone when they said: "Dave, we just want to be together, reminisce and have a drink or two. It's not difficult". (I did notice they said that after the food was served and the bar was stocked!)

That week really showed me that we are family. We have been in the same place, had the same fears, accomplished the same goals, and trusted in one another. Our families made new Navy friends while we were hundreds and even thousands of miles away. It solidifies that we still have each other to this day and that is the Mad Dog Magic.

I really do hope that you decide to attend the next reunion. And if you do, I hope you bring a part of the Madison with you to discuss and share. It is a great time to celebrate, laugh and reminisce, and for us to take a moment to honor those that have made the ultimate sacrifice.

I also want to thank Keith Holman, Don and Veronica Hix, Sam and JD Walton for their partnership and leadership setting up the 2023 reunion. Many meetings, planning and tutelage made it a success.

Ship Business:

As those attendees might recall, we voted in a new President, Vice-President, Treasurer and Ships Historian.

-Going ashore President Keith Holman, Onboarding President David Morton.

-Going ashore Vice-President Bubba Gehm, Onboarding Vice-President Michael Karriker.

-Going ashore Historian JD Walton, Onboarding Historian Jeff Goble.

-Going ashore Treasurer Don Hix, Onboarding Treasurer Thomas Webber

**As some of you know, we voted in a new Treasurer at the reunion, however due to unforeseen circumstances we found ourselves in need to appoint a new Treasurer. Our thoughts and prayers go out to Eric Schwonek for a continued recovery.

My personal thanks to everyone who volunteered and dedicated their time to the Madison Association. Special thanks to Don Hix as Treasurer and Mentor for keeping me on point and steering me in the right direction while including your infectious laugh. Thank you, kind Sir!

Goals and Action Items:

I wanted to focus on a few items – goals as they were:

- 1) **Membership:** Increase membership with the shipmates that we know. There are so many shipmates that have not participated. I would like to see our current members talk to those shipmates and draw them in. We know we are a much bigger family
- 2) **Facebook social pages:** Right now, we are fragmented. There are 3 sites with various activities, photos, and stories but none seem to be our formal page. I am interested in your feedback. Of course, our official website is <https://www.ussjamesmadison627.com/>. The other groups Facebook sites are:
<https://www.facebook.comSSBN627COMBINED>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/529144700491601>
<https://www.facebook.com/Jollydolly627/about>
- 3) **Open Board positions:** Our volunteers have held their post long enough and they would enjoy having their watch relieved. Anyone within the Madison family can fill these rolls. Please reach out to me if you are interested. It's not a ton of time and we'll waive the requirement for PhD or Masters degrees.

2023 Galveston Reunion:

Our reunion in Galveston, Texas was a great success! A big **Thank You** to David and Nathalie Morton for all their hard work in bringing this reunion together! 80+ sailors, associates and family members attended. The outing to Moody Gardens was amazing. We spent time at the Aquarium Pyramid, the Rainforest Pyramid and the Discovery Museum and were treated to a buffet luncheon in their dining room.

This years Tolling of the Boats was made all the more special due to the donation of a ships bell by Bob Schindlar in remembrance of Madison sailors Joe Battista and Kenny Lowe. We honored our lost sailors and subs at SeaWolf Park with Kieth Holman, David Morton and Jeff Mathes reciting the names.

Our closing banquet was greatly enhanced by our guest speaker Joe McManus – a former interpreter and “spook” during the Cold War.

Galveston was a bit windy and misty but everyone managed to get out to tour the area, enjoy the fresh seafood, have a few beers and visit with shipmates.

2025 Reunion

Our next reunion is currently being planned for April 2025 in Tucson, Arizona. There will be no seafood nor oceanside activities! There is however, a lot of things to do. We are currently projecting three outings – the Air & Space Museum, the Desert Museum and Old Tucson Movie Studios. There will be a list of other sites/attractions included in the formal reunion announcement in July. We will keep you informed by postcards and website notices as we firm up arrangements.



Contact information:

We keep a database of shipmates for our mailings and need to ask that if you have moved please send Sam Walton secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com your new information so that we can keep you informed. We sometimes share information by email so it is appreciated if you keep us advised when you change your e-mail also.

Membership Dues: The Membership Form is attached. If you've already paid up through 2023, you can disregard. The date can be found on your current membership card. Dues are \$10 per year, even if you miss a year. The dues help to support the association and the Reunions.

USSVI: United States Submarine Veterans, Incorporated is a nationwide organization of Submarine Veterans. Visit their website at www.ussvi.org and “Find A Base” or “Join Us” for more information.

Current Board of Directors:

President: David Morton,
dmorto3@gmail.com

Vice President: Michael Karriker,
lmichaelk50@gmail.com

Treasurer: Thomas Webber,
teepswebber@gmail.com

Secretary: Sam Walton,
secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com

Volunteers of Merit:

Historian: Jeff Goble

Webmaster: Keith Holman

Memorials: Charline Huwe



ANNUAL MADISON ASSOCIATION DUES

Name _____

Wife's Name (for Assoc. Membership and/for our records) _____

Address _____

Phone # _____ E-Mail _____

Yrs. on Board 19____ to 19____ Crew _____ Rate/Dept. _____

Amount Paid \$ _____ Yr./Yrs./ Pd. For _____

Dues are \$10 per year. (If not sure, contact Secretary, at secretary@ussjamesmadison627.com, who maintains a current list.) Associate Members (Wives) are \$10 per yr. (We are limited by the IRS to 25% of our membership for Assoc. Members; therefore, it is first come, first serve.) If you wish to pay in advance, add \$10 for each year and note above. Make check payable to: USS JAMES MADISON ASSOCIATION, INC. Mail to Thomas Webber, 45 Mid Valley Dr., New Castle, CO 81647. PLEASE REMEMBER, by being a paid member of the Association, you are helping to finance the continuation of the USS James Madison SSBN627 Association and the reunions it sponsors.