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## Woody's Tavern hosts Jimmy Buffett "Parrotheads" for fundraiser

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Gazette Photo/RHONDA FERRARI CALVERT

**BUFFETT LINE:** Members of the Miami Parrot Head Club flocked to Woody's West End Tavern on Aug. 17 to watch a 1985 performance of Jimmy Buffett at the Miami Marine Stadium. The event was a fundraiser for the restoration of the aforementioned stadium.

Whether you are heading to a Jimmy Buffett concert or holding a backyard Parrot Head party, a one-of-a-kind hat is the perfect way to display your inner Parrot Head and complete your party ensemble.

On July 11, 2013, the Miami City Commission approved the go-ahead to restore the Miami Marine Stadium. The Friends of the Marine Stadium along with the Miami Parrot Head Club worked hard to make this day happen.

With congrats in hand, the Miami Parrot Head Club on Saturday, Aug. 17, presented "Party with Jimmy Buffett" for the 28th

anniversary showing of the entire video concert "Live by the Bay" at Woody's West End Tavern; it was followed by a raffle to benefit restoration of the Marine Stadium and live music by Cache.

More than 70 Parrot Heads' flocked to Woody's for a Surf's-Up Jimmy Buffett fan social wearing Hawaiian shirts, leis, straw hats and Bermuda shorts. A cold beer or frozen margarita in hand with those little umbrellas. Blow-up beach balls were bouncing over the crowd of people the entire time. Nothing is too crazy! And, yes, Jimmy Buffet was singing via video concert ... it doesn't get any better than that!

"This fundraiser is with a very specific date that is very near and dear to Parrot Heads. It's the 28th anniversary of Jimmy's most famous concert, which took place at the Miami Marine Stadium on Aug. 17. The same day as today in 1985," said Brenda Bradley, president of Miami Parrot Head Club.

"This concert was the biggest-attended concert ever held at the Miami Marine Stadium. People came by boat, car, bus and foot. Any way they could get near the stadium. Tens of thousands of people were there. They don't have any idea the number because there were so many people in the water.

"Jimmy has a poster in his office, I understand larger than life, of him jumping into the water at the end of the concert. It was a stage on water. Buffett has been quoted as saying, 'It was the turning point of his career.' "

Singer/songwriter Jimmy Buffett is known for humorous chronicles of a laid-back seafaring life and his philosophical outlook. He has built a Key West-based financial empire, written several best-selling books, and become a leading environmentalist.

The term "Parrot Head" first came into fruition when Buffett was performing at Timberwolf Amphitheatre at Kings Island in Ohio, just outside of Cincinnati. Jimmy commented on all those crazy folks in the crowd who were wearing tropical Hawaiian shirts and parrot hats and who keep coming back to every show. They look "just like Dead Heads," Jimmy commented, referring to the followers of the Grateful Dead fans who followed the band around the country from show to show. Coral-Reefer Timothy B. Schmit (who also played bass for the Eagles between stints with the Coral-Reefer Band) replied, "Yea, Parrot Heads!" ... and the rest is history.

Parrot Head roots begin with the love of Buffett's island-inspired lyrics and feel-good songs, but through the involvement of the local Parrot Head Clubs, fans are given the opportunity to become involved in their community and support local and national worthwhile charities and organizations.

With popular songs like Buffett's "Cheeseburger in Paradise" or "Fins" playing in the background, weekend-long festivals, sports tournaments and even international travel opportunities drive its fundraising efforts.

More than 250 Parrot Head clubs worldwide are being recognized for their fundraising efforts. In the past 11 years they've collectively donated \$29.8 million and have given 3.1 million volunteer hours to both community and philanthropic activities.

Miami Parrot Head Club was incorporated in 2003. The club has 150 members and raised for and/or donated to local chapters of charitable organizations a whopping \$102,500.

The Parrot Head clubs make it a goal to have fun while giving back. In fact, their motto is "Party with a Purpose." All of this helping and volunteering is a wonderful thing, and why not have fun while making a difference!

### ***Let's hear it from the Parrot Heads!***

- Fred Suco, owner of Woody's West End Tavern has been a strong supporter of our community and did attend Buffett's concert in '85: "The kids that we have out back are all decked out. They are big fans of Jimmy Buffett. And I like Jimmy ... I went to a lot of concerts at the Marine Stadium. It's a neat venue and it would be nice to have it back."

- Nanette Carmody completed her application: "I have so many friends that are already members and they invited me to come. I'm here and it looks like it's going to be a blast! I love Jimmy Buffett and 'Cheeseburger in Paradise' is my favorite song. I'm looking forward to all the fun things that they (have)."



- Bob Evans: "I was on my boat at the concert. I had a group of people with me. We were anchored approximately 50 yards from the stage. We had to spend the night there because there were so many people we couldn't leave. It turned into a real weekend party. The concert was very good. The stadium was pretty new then and I used to go there quite a bit. When you're young and dumb, you do crazy things."

- Jan Parke: "Of course we all are Jimmy Buffett fans. That's why we belong to the organization. One of the things we like most is not only are we into the music but we do fundraisers to help different charities and situations, like cleaning up our highways and reefs. Jimmy Buffett's philosophy is 'Party with a Purpose' and anytime we have a gathering we're always doing something to raise funds for a charity."

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