

When asked the question “Why do I want to be Miss Skipjack?” I can think of many reasons. Being the 2017 Miss Skipjack is not only an honor but a privilege. It is a privilege to represent something that has so much historical background. I believe that the title Miss Skipjack is not only just something to be called but also a chance to represent the history behind the Skipjacks which also includes my own history.

In my personal life I have heard many stories about the water. From the nicknames of the waterman to the names of the skipjacks, they all have a story behind them. I am proud to say that I am the great great granddaughter of the man who built the Minnie V Skipjack. John B. Vetra was a man who was determined and had a love for his wife Minnie Vetra who he named the beautiful Skipjack after. He built the boat in Wenona, Maryland in 1906. The one hundred and eleven year old boat is now being put back to work as a dredging boat out of Deal Island. My great grandfather, Frank Vetra, was a waterman who passed the trait down to his son. Robert Vetra also known as “Big Duck” was a man who I looked up to as a young child. Having a grandfather like him was all a little girl could ask for. My grandfather was always a hard working man whose goal was to provide for his family. Working on the water allowed him to do this. At the age of eighty-four he died a happy man with seven kids, fourteen grandchildren, and fifteen great grandchildren. My mom and dad have both continued to

tell me the stories of the water that their parent and grandparents have told them. My father ,Charles Bozman, also know as Peanut knew what life was like on the water. As a young boy he would go out with his father and learn the ways of a waterman. My grandfather Clifford Bozman was a man who loved his children and his wife Eva Bozman. While growing up in Dames Quarter, Maryland my father developed a love for the water and the water life. He always told me that growing up in a small place was great because everyone knew everyone. While growing up with his nine siblings he realized how hard working his father was. Seeing all the hard work that a great man like, Clifford Bozman, allowed my father to see the value of hard work and pass it onto his kids. My uncles William Bozman also known as Peewee and Everet Bozman both continue to work on the water. Not only did he provide for his family but he passed the love for hard work and determination down to his children.

Being Miss Skipjack would allow me to be able to welcome people to Deal Island and to tell them the stories that I have heard as a young child. The love for the water and the beauty of the Skipjacks makes me want to show others what there is to offer. Since the Skipjack and the water have had so much to do with my past I would be honored to be this years 2017 Miss Skipjack.