



USS Claude V. Ricketts/Formerly Biddle DDG 5

The Big Nickel

#8

March, 2012

Next reunion: Jacksonville, FL, 3-6 May 2012
51 Days to the reunion

This reunion will mark the fifty anniversary of the commissioning of DDG 5 as the USS Biddle; we are looking for ways to celebrate this milestone. A challenge coin is being worked on for the reunion. Don't forget to bring a raffle prize.

The reunion is being held at the Jacksonville Crowne Plaza. Room rates are \$95.00 per night for a standard city view, \$115.00 per night for a standard river view, and \$155.00 per night for a Jr suite river view. The room rate includes free breakfast. The rates are good for three nights before and after the reunion. Reservations can be made with the Crowne Plaza at 904-398-8800. Make sure you tell them you are with the DDG 5 Crew Members Association. Have them tell you their late arrival and cancel policy.

From Jacksonville Naval Ship Association

Dear Claude F. Ricketts Shipmates:

My name is John O'Neil. I was proud to serve as a junior officer on board the DDG-8, 'Lynde McCormick', during the Vietnam War. Presently, I am the Executive Director of the 'Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association' team of former Adams Class Shipmates, Tin Can Sailors and Veterans who are on a mission to **'Bring the Adams Home'** - and establish a Naval War Ship Museum on the Charlie Deuce in Downtown Jacksonville.

Our Museum will tell the story of the 29 historically significant Adams Class destroyers during the 'Cold War,' the life and times of its crews, educate our youth about naval history; and, serve as a unique events and celebration venue; as well as, a destination for Adams Class reunions. Please follow the link to "[Accomplishments](#)" for a report on our significant 2011 progress.

We are working to obtain in-kind donations from ship yard facilities and a company to tow the Adams from Philadelphia; and, after refurbishment, sail the Adams to its 'Pier' Downtown on the St. Johns River. We have made great progress, but we have another tour 'at sea' to bring the Adams back to Jacksonville, where it was home ported for 21 years.

The Navy has nominated the Adams as a 'National Historic Site' and has awarded it a well earned 'donation hold.' However, the Navy's donation hold of the first and last and last surviving 'keel-up-built' Adams Class guided missile destroyer will not last forever. The Association needs to demonstrate near term further progress, with new funding and support, to avoid having the Adams removed from 'hold' and scrapped.

Although our program to bring the Deuce to Jacksonville is well underway, completing our plans to tow, refurbish and construct a 'Pier' requires major funding. Today's request, although more limited - is urgent- funding to 'hold' the Adams in Philadelphia and support our major development effort.

To make this happen, we are asking all former Adams shipmates to, once again, join with the JHNSA, Adams Class Veterans Association and Friends at this critical time in our mission, and raise **\$250,000** in operational funding by May 15, 2012. This will demonstrate support **and** provide funding for an Office, Administrative Assistant and Development Manager- all necessary to 'turn the key' on our program to 'Bring the Adams Home'.

Help us preserve the legacy of the Adams Class Ships and make the Charles F. Adams, the only Navy War Ship Museum in Florida or Georgia, a reality. *We need you to step forward and be part of history, just as you were when we served!* We look forward to seeing you this May!

With donations of **\$50.00-\$100.00**; and, those able, **\$200**, or more,
We can raise the **\$250,000!**

Please Go to ADAMS2JAX.org and select **DONATE**

Or, follow the Link to the '**Donation Form**'

To make your check, credit/debit card contribution

Or

Send your fully tax deductible check, by **May 15, 2012** to:

JHNSA, 2 Independent Drive, Suite 144; Jacksonville, FL 32202

[Adams Cap or Tee Shirt with each \$50 donation; or, both, with a \$100 donation]

You will hear from us again about developments in our mission to '**Bring the Adams Home.**'. Don't wait. Send us a donation and a put a note on our Facebook or Twitter links.

John E. O'Neil, Jr.
Executive Director



Daniel K. Bean
President



Donate Now

[Visit Our Website](#)



JHNSA'S 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

JACKSONVILLE, FLA. – The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) continues to display its momentum as the organization moves toward bringing the USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) home to Downtown Jacksonville on the St. Johns River as a Naval Ship Museum and interactive tourist attraction. This has been evident the past 15 months with these accomplishments:

- In October 2010, the Jacksonville City Council unanimously passed an ordinance to formally support the effort to bring the Adams home.

- Florida Governor Rick Scott became a supporter. He was informally presented a model of his former ship, the USS Glover, during a visit to Jacksonville in April. A contingent from the JHNSA made a formal presentation of the model in July at the State Capitol in Tallahassee, Fla. Governor Scott was the keynote speaker at the Adams Gala in October where he stayed for approximately two hours and said, “I look forward to the day when I can walk on the Adams.”
- Florida Lt. Governor Jennifer Carroll and Mike Prendergast, the Executive Director of the Florida Department of Veterans’ Affairs, voiced their support.
- Numerous fundraisers, speaking engagements and membership drives were held, including a successful April golf tournament at Queens Harbour Yacht & CC and participation in the 15th Annual Southeast Boat Show.
- In June 2011, the JHNSA participated in the Navy’s Open House in Philadelphia for the third consecutive year to visit the Adams, which is berthed in the U S. Navy's Inactive Ship Facility. Executive Director John O’Neil visited the Adams three times in 2011. JHNSA attendees have collected restoration equipment from other decommissioned ships for the Adams’ restoration in Jacksonville. Board members also visited six Naval ship museums nationally.
- The environmental permit process began for the mooring system that will be constructed adjacent to the Acosta Bridge.
- In late summer, Downtown Vision, Inc., the Business Improvement District for Downtown Jacksonville, unanimously endorsed the Adams project.
- A Feasibility Study was successfully completed in August 2011 and was the first step in the Capital Campaign process. The Capital Campaign carried over to 2012.
- The JHNSA Website re-launched in September with a focus on fundraising and publicity. The new site, www.adams2jax.org, was developed by Geer Services, Inc., and began new initiatives in social media, including Facebook and twitter.
- An October media blitz included electronic billboards, Public Service announcements and Jacksonville TV and radio appearances by JHNSA officials.
- The 3rd Annual October Gala was a success in Downtown Jacksonville, with an opening party on Friday night at the new Fionn MacCool’s and the Gala on Saturday night at the Omni Jacksonville. Governor Scott, local businessmen Toney Sleiman and Jim Bailey, City Councilman Bill Bishop and other officials and dignitaries were among the celebrants. John O’Neil, the JHNSA Executive Director, and his wife Carol completed their \$10,000 pledge.

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JHNSA’S 2011 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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www.adams2jax.org

- Newly elected Jacksonville Mayor Alvin Brown met with the JHNSA in late 2011 to learn more about the Adams effort. Discussions are ongoing with City officials.
- The Naval Order of the United States passed a resolution supporting the Adams. The Adams has been nominated by the Navy as a National Historic Site.
- The Adams Class Museum Visitor Center, located on the first floor of The Landing, continues to be a source of visibility for the Adams Class ships. Jacksonville Landing owner Toney Sleiman supports the site that houses Navy memorabilia, including many hats, through a partnership with Eagle Crest, Inc.
- At the end of 2011, an Executive Committee was finalized, including: Jim Bailey, Bailey Publishing; Tony Boselli, Team Teal-Jacksonville Jaguars; Angela Corey, State Attorney-Fourth Judicial Circuit;

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Toney Sleiman, Sleiman Enterprises; J. Michael McGrath, Jacksonville Area Ship Repair Association (JASRA); Bill Bishop, Akel, Logan & Shafer, Jacksonville City Council; Jim Love, State Farm Insurance, Jacksonville City Council; Capt. Robert Buehn, U.S. Navy, Retired; Rick Hartley, Hartley Press; Pat Geer, Geer Services; Martha Barrett, Duval Co. School Board; Dr. Jonathan Howe, Exec. Director-The Arthur Vining Davis Foundation (Admiral, U.S. Navy, Retired); W.W. Gay, founder, W.W. Gay Mechanical Contracting; Jack Sears, N. Florida Council/Boy Scouts of America; Paul Anderson, CEO, JaxPort; Karen Bowling, former CEO Solantic, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Jacksonville; Duval Co. Sheriff John Rutherford.

- A listing of JHNSA Business Partners was established and included: Adams Class Veterans Association; AM 600/WBOB; BaD Ship Models; BAE Systems-Southeast Shipyards Jacksonville; Bailey Publishing; BiBi, Inc.; Cross River Cruises; Eagle Crest, Inc.; Environmental Services, Inc.; Geer Services, Inc.; Ghiotto & Associates; GiftCounsel.com; Halcrow; Hartley Press; Jacksonville Area Ship Repair Association; Pita Pit; PRC Digital Media; SDR, Inc.; Sleiman Enterprises; Specialty Marine; Taylor Engineering; The Jacksonville Landing; WaterMarke Realty Group; and W.W. Gay Mechanical Contracting.

About the Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association

The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association (JHNSA) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization of Northeast Florida residents, business people and retired military veterans who have the vision of establishing the former guided missile destroyer USS Charles F. Adams (DDG-2) as a Naval Ship Museum and interactive tourist attraction in Downtown Jacksonville on the St. Johns River. It will be the first U.S. Naval Ship Museum in Florida or Georgia. The ship was home ported at Naval Station Mayport for 21 years until 1990 and is currently on “donation hold” in Philadelphia. JHNSA is teaming with the Adams Class Veterans Association, Inc. (ACVA) (also a 501(c) (3) non-profit) , former Adams Class Shipmates, Veterans and Friends, to obtain the Adams from the U.S. Navy. For more information, go to www.adams2jax.org where tax-deductible contributions are being accepted. No public funding has been requested for this effort.

See You All At the 2012 Reunion

Set the special sea detail

Make ready DDG 2

Destination final Homeport Jacksonville, FL

Brought to you by the DDG 5 Crew Members Association

<p>Executive Director DDG-5 Crew Members Association Carl Slack PO Box 83 Jackson, NH 03846-0083 603-986-4661 RickettsDDG5@yahoo.com.</p>	<p>President Glenn Johnson 352-523-1945 Gjohn11905@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Vice President Danny Timm Dtim46@yahoo.com.</p>
<p>Secretary Jerry Kaufman Jershirl1@yahoo.com.</p>	<p>Treasurer/Historian Michael Margeotes margeotesm@msn.com.</p>	<p>Webmaster Kirk Neuman 952-432-0252 The Big Nickel</p>

DDG 5 Crew Members Association

Reunion: 3 May-6 May 2012

Reunion Registration Form

Please complete and return your registration no later than 15 April, 2012. After 15 April, bring the form and payment with you. Please advise us if you are coming by phone, email or the web site reunion survey. Registrations received by 1 April, 2012 will be placed in a drawing to be held 15 April, 2012 for a free complementary room, second and third place would receive a free upgrade to a Jr. Suite.

Please print name of attendees:

Crew member _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

Guest's _____

Registration is \$90 for each attendee 18 and over, 12 – 18, \$45 Registration includes five days use of the hospitality room with snacks and non-alcoholic beverages (BYOB), pizza party on Thursday night, a welcome reception Friday evening (with hors d'oeuvres and cash bar), a buffet dinner and raffle Saturday evening and name badges, and reunion pin (first 100), and cup (first 60). If you do not plan on attending any of the following events please adjust your registration fee according:

___No Reception -\$15.00 ___No Dinner -\$35.00___No pizza -\$5.00

Number adults _____ X **\$90.00** = \$ _____

Number children _____ X **\$45.00** = \$ _____

Bus Tour of Mayport Naval Base (pickup at hotel). Tour would include touring the navy base with the possibility of a ship visit. Stop at the Veterans Memorial, Adams Class Museum, and Maritime Museum. (This tour requires a min of 45 and is limited to the first 55 people who sign up.)

Friday 4 May Number attending _____ X **\$65.00** = \$ _____

St Augustine Tour. Thursday or Sunday self tour. If there is enough interest there will be a bus.

Number attending _____ X

Donation to the Association \$ _____

*****Total Amount Remitted***** \$ _____

Name _____

Signature _____

Address _____

Telephone # _____ Email address _____

Comments _____

Make checks payable to DDG 5 Crew Members Association. Mail to DDG 5 2012 Reunion, c/o Michael Margeotes, 29 Columbia Blvd, East Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Make hotel reservations directly with the Crown Plaza, 904-398-8800. Make sure you tell them you are with the DDG 5 Crew Members Association. See the website for more details

(<http://thebignickel.org/2010Reunion.php>).

If you are planning on coming to the reunion and haven't yet done so, please fill in the survey on the website (<http://thebignickel.org/2010Reunion.php>).

Don't forget to bring a raffle prize.

For crew members flying in to Jacksonville, GO Airport Shuttle is a good way to get to and from the airport. There one way rate is \$20.00 for the first person and \$8.00 for each additional person. Their number is 904-353-8880.

USS Claude V Ricketts/Formerly Biddle DDG 5

9th Reunion

Carl W Slack FTM1 63-68

Sponsored by DDG 5 Crew Members Association

Wednesday 2 May 2012

1200-2300 Hospitality Room

Thursday 3 May 2012

0800-2300 Hospitality Room. Check in Pizza night 1830.

Friday 4 May 2012

0830 Board Bus for Mayport tour

0800-2300 Hospitality Room

1800-2100 Reception, Presentation by Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association.

Saturday 5 May 2012

0800-0900 Coffee and Donuts

0900 Crews meeting

0800-2300 Hospitality Room

1800 Dinner

Sunday 6 May 2012

0800-1300 Hospitality Room

0900 St Augustine Tour

Hope to see everyone there.