



USS Claude V. Ricketts/ex Biddle DDG 5
The Big Nickel #4
January, 2010

Next Reunion
Norfolk, VA April 29-May 2, 2010
Lake Wright Hotel

There is a lot to do in Norfolk so come early and stay late. We will have a hospitality room, so bring your cruise books, pictures, and memorabilia to share with everyone. The hospitality room will run from noon on Wednesday 28 April to Sunday when the last crew member departs.

The 2010 reunion is being held at the Lake Wright Hotel. The Lake Wright Hotel consists of two Quality Inn properties, the Quality Suites and Sleep Inn which are two wings with a common check-in area and hospitality rooms. Special room rates have been arranged for the DDG 5 Crew Members Association so make sure to mention that you are with the association when making your reservations. Room rates are \$89.00/night for a single room in the Sleep Inn Lake Wright and \$109.00/night for a suite in Quality Suites Lake Wright. Room rates are subjected to tax and include a full hot breakfast buffet. Individuals make own reservations and are responsible for all their own expenses. Individual reservation changes and/or cancellations can be made up to 24 hours prior to arrival to avoid a one night's room and tax penalty. The rates are good for five nights before and five nights after the reunion dates. Reservations can be made directly by calling either 1-800-228-5157 or 1-757-461-6251 for the Quality Suites or 1-757-461-1133 for the Sleep Inn. Reservations must be made by 1 April, 2010 to obtain the DDG-5 Association discount rate. When making your reservations, make sure that they explain their policies for cancelation, no shows, and early departures. If you have a problem making a reservation or need assistance, call Carl Slack at 603-986-4661. Remember to tell the reservation agent that you are with the DDG-5 Crew Members Association.

If you don't want to stay at either the Quality Suites or the Sleep Inn, there are other hotels/motels available, but they are not recommended. Additionally, if you are eligible, there are several Navy Lodges in the area as well as BOQ's at the various military bases. Another option is if you have friends in the area and they are willing to put up with you ☺

Suites come with either two queen size beds or one King, microwave oven, refrigerator, coffeemaker, sitting area with sofa and work desk, two 25" remote controlled Televisions, cable and HBO, free local calls, and wireless. Sleep Inn rooms come with either two double beds or one king, mini refrigerator, coffeemaker 25" remote controlled television, cable, HBO, free local calls and wireless, and walk-in oversized shower (no tub).

Available to all guests are a mini convenience store, fitness center, ample free parking, and an 18 hole championship golf course. Complimentary airport shuttle service daily to and from the Norfolk airport is provided 24 hours a day. The courtesy phone at the airport is located at the baggage claim area. The hotels are

only three miles from the airport, located just off of I-64 at the Northampton/Chesapeake Bay Bridge Tunnel exit on US RT 13.

In general, the dress code for most events will be casual. "Casual" is defined as what you are comfortable wearing. The dress code for dinner Saturday evening is, at a minimum, shirt and slacks. The suggested uniform of the day for crew members on tours and at the Saturday morning Crew Meeting is a DDG-5 hat and a DDG-5 denim or navy blue polo shirt.

Reunion Central

Tidewater Virginia Reunion

The 2010 reunion in Norfolk is coming up in a little more than three months. Everything is in place for a first class reunion. The official reunion dates are Thursday, 29 April to Sunday, 2 May, but the hospitality room will be open from Wednesday, 28 April until the last man leaves on Sunday 2 May 2010. You can check in whenever you arrive. Here is the schedule, and unless something comes up that we do not foresee it will be the reunion schedule.

Wednesday, 28 April, 2010

Early Check-in 1200 - 2300

The DDG-5 Reunion hospitality room will open at 1200 and will remain open until 2300. The hospitality room will be stocked with snacks and non-alcoholic beverages all the times that it is open. If you want something stronger than what is being provided, you are welcome to BYOB.

Thursday, 29 April, 2010

Official Check-in 0800 – 2300

The DDG-5 Reunion hospitality room will open at 0800 and will remain open until 2300. All registered reunion attendees will receive Biddle/Ricketts coffee cup, a 2010 Norfolk Reunion pin and a 2010 reunion bumper sticker.

1200 – 1600

The First DDG-5 Reunion Golf Tournament to be held at the Lake Wright Golf Course.

1800 – 2300

Pizza party and getting reacquainted time. A drawing for attendees that registered early (by 1 April, 2010) with a \$200 first prize and \$100 second prize.

Friday, 30 April, 2010

0900 – 1530

Board a motor coach with your tour guide to learn about Norfolk's colorful 325 year history as you ride through the lovely historic district and restored areas. View the stately homes along The Hague, old St. Paul's Church, the Moses Myers House, the Chrysler Museum of Art, MacArthur Memorial, the historic Freemason District, the restored waterfront area, as well as many other points of interest. Downtown Norfolk has undergone a complete transformation in the last decade and features the beautifully renovated Town Point Park with the Armed Forces memorial, brand new \$34 million cruise terminal, waterfront condos and state of the art shopping area. It's not the Norfolk most of us remember.

Nauticus: Visit Norfolk's exciting downtown waterfront and tour Nauticus, the National Maritime Center. Nauticus is a unique and thriving campus of visitor attractions that explores the

economic, naval, and natural powers of the sea. Features here include a series of ingenious interactive exhibits, shows, and theaters with various films. Also housed here is the Hampton Roads Naval Museum, one of ten museums officially operated by the U.S. Navy. Highlights of the naval battles and exhibits of detailed ship models, artwork, and memorabilia are showcased in the museum.

USS Wisconsin BB-64: A true highlight of your visit to Nauticus will be a tour of the USS Wisconsin, one of the famous Iowa-class battleships. This great ship saw action in WWII, the Korean War and most recently in the Persian Gulf War. Wisconsin is permanently berthed beside Nauticus where it is accessed by a connecting walkway. Enjoy a tour of this great ship and learn about the roles it has played in combat. We will also conduct our memorial ceremony on board the Wisconsin for those that have passed away since the last reunion.

Norfolk Naval Station: Next, tour the Norfolk Naval Base, which is part of Naval Station Norfolk - the largest naval installation in the world. Home port to 78 ships, ranging in size from aircraft carriers to submarines, 26 aircraft squadrons comprised of 133 aircraft and headquarters of the Atlantic Fleet, this naval complex occupies over 8,000 acres of land and is home to more than 100,000 military personnel. Your tour will take you past the 14 piers and through the Naval Air Station. You will also drive by the historic homes built for the 1907 Jamestown Exposition on "Admiral's Row" which now house the flag officers. Lunch is included at the base Galley.

Package Price: \$45.00 per person, inclusive.

The package price includes:

- Motor coach transportation, tour guide service, admissions as listed, meals as listed, taxes and meal gratuities.
- Gratuities for guide and driver are not included, and are at the discretion of the individual.
- Prices are based on a minimum of 35 people per tour.
- Our cancellation policy is that no refunds will be issued after the invoice is sent. Please inform all participants who do not show for their tour that they will not be refunded their money.
- Last minute participants will be accommodated on a space-available basis only, and ticket prices on site will be an additional \$3.00 per person.
- All itineraries are subject to change. Every attempt will be made to include all sites mentioned within this itinerary.
- Boarding times will be fifteen minutes prior to listed departure times in front of the Quality Suites at the Lake Wright.
- PLEASE NOTE: Any guests requiring special arrangements (dietary, physically disabled) must make us aware of their needs in advance, otherwise, we will not be able to guarantee that they will be accommodated. Those guests with physical disabilities should have someone traveling with them to assist physically. Phillips DMC staff and motor coach drivers cannot accept responsibility for lifting guests in and out of coaches.

1800

DDG-5 Reunion Reception

H'ordeuvres and a cash bar in the hospitality room.

This is not part of the reunion schedule, but as it happens, Norfolk's International Azalea Festival is coinciding with our reunion. One of the items that may be of interest is the Tattoo Friday evening.

Azalea Night at The Virginia International Tattoo

Norfolk Scope Arena

Friday, May 1 at 7:30PM

Cost: \$20, \$35, \$45, \$50, \$100 (visit vafest.org to purchase tickets)

This is the largest Tattoo in the United States, presented with all the grandeur and splendor of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. Pageantry and patriotism, spirit and spectacle, talent and teamwork, precision personified. Over 850 performers from around the world will join forces, filling the Scope with music, majesty and might. The Tattoo is action packed and offers a special Friday evening tribute to the Czech Republic, the Azalea Festival's Most Honored Nation, and the region's Armed Forces.

Saturday, May 1, 2010

0900

All hands crews meeting, with donuts and coffee. The meeting agenda will be posted on [The Big Nickel](http://TheBigNickel) website.

Post Crew Meeting – 1800

There is no official reunion schedule for the time after the Crew Meeting until the reunion dinner. As a result, you are welcome to venture forth on your own. Information will be available in the hospitality room for various things to do and see in the Tidewater area. Some of which are Williamsburg, Jamestown, Yorktown, Maritime Museum in Newport News, Aquarium in VA Beach and many more.

1800

Buffet dinner with wine

Dinner is at 1830. After dinner we have a raffle, so everyone is being asked to bring something to donate to the raffle, something that reminds you of your time in the navy or home. A prime raffle item will be model of the USS Charles F. Adams class from BaD Ship Models. The model, when completed, is 54 5/8" long and a beam of 6 1/4". You can see the completed product here: Ship Model. You can read below about Glenn Johnson's efforts in building this model. He won one during the recent DDG-5 Commanding Officers and Crew event in Jacksonville.

Sunday, May 2, 2010

0800 - ????

Farewells and good sailing in the hospitality room.

From The Bridge

President: Glenn Johnson

Dear Shipmates and Families:

I am presently tied up in the ship construction business, building a new smaller version of DDG 5. You too can be a ship builder as there will be a model kit at the raffle presented by BaD Ship Models. All it takes is a room that you can designate as the "ships dry dock", spare time, and a lot of dedication.



Glenn Johnson GJohn11905@aol.com
352-523-1945 Home
813-786-8958 Cell

From the Executive Director

Carl Slack

Shipmates,

For some great pictures of the 2009 reunion, go to [The Big Nickel](#) website and look under the link for 2009 reunion.

If for whatever reason you cannot make a reunion and wish to express your views or concerns about the DDG-5 Crew Members Association, email them to RickettsDDG5@Yahoo.com or send them to DDG 5 Crew Members Association C/O Carl Slack, PO Box 83 Jackson, NH 03846-0083.

It is important that all crew members take the time to check out [The Big Nickel](#) website and to register. Registration on the site is our way of making sure we keep all crew members informed and up to date about our Association. Make it a habit to occasionally look for any new information. Newsletters are published twice a year and the website is constantly being updated. We have the best ships website thanks to all the hard work of our webmaster Kirk Neuman.

I also recommend that everyone take the time to look at [Adams Class Veterans Association \(ACVA\)](#) website and to join that group. The Adams as a museum ship in Jacksonville will represent every DDG including DDG 5. The Adams as a museum is now in a critical part of their effort to make it a permanent museum in Jacksonville, FL. They are now in a classical "Catch 22" position. They need to raise funds to prove to the Navy that they can make the project work in order for the Navy to give them final approval and the ship. But until the Navy does that, the ACVA is finding it very difficult to obtain large donations from major corporations. Here is where all the individuals who ever served on an Adams Class Ship can help.

Ships Historian: Michael Margeotes

Order of the Blue Nose

While serving as a member of the Standing Naval Forces Atlantic (STANAVFORLANT) in the latter part of April 1981, the Ricketts crossed the line, the 66-32 Northern Latitude to enter the Arctic Circle. Honoring the occasion was an initiation ceremony into the order of the “Northern Domain of the Polar Bear,” or more commonly known as the “Order of the Blue Nose.” The entire crew participated. The youngest crewmember, the oldest crewmember and the two most junior officers dressed in service dress long johns and painted the ship’s bullnose blue as part of the ceremony. Since most of the crew was neophytes, including the Commanding Officer, they also had their noses painted blue to match that of the ship’s Blue Bullnose.

Six months later it was déjà-vu as the Ricketts found herself once again crossing into the Arctic Circle. Few U.S. ships ever cross into the Arctic Circle, much less twice in six months. To again honor the event, the Ricketts held another Blue Nose Ceremony. Even though it was only six months earlier that they first took this honor almost a third of the crew was new. After arriving in port, the Ricketts painted a Blue Hash Mark under her Blue Bullnose.

Other happenings from the ship’s history

1979 - Rescued 4 fishermen lost at sea for 8 days on the Audrey Ann.

1980 - Was on station for the Iranian Crisis.

1969 - Was part of a 61 ship NATO Review by Queen Elizabeth at Spithead, England.

1971 - Was in a minor collision with the Hellenic Bay in Piraeus, Greece. Three burials at sea.

(Source: 1981 Annual Command Report)

Michael Margeotes, Ships Historian

A word from the Webmaster

(Kirk “VJ” Neuman)

Contact: Captain.Kirk@TheBigNickel.org

It’s that time again for me to write up a few notes about [The Big Nickel](http://TheBigNickel.org) website. As I write this, there are 186 crew members registered at the site. I’m sorry to say that I haven’t been paying as much attention to the site as I probably should have, but my personal life has been busy since the reunion in Jacksonville last April/May and I’ve neglected getting the things done I (semi) promised I would implement. I’m hoping that after the Christmas holidays that I will be able to spend more time on the site (although my wife may have other opinions ☺).

Even though I haven’t paid as much attention as I should have, a few things have happened. I have recently implemented a crewmate finder, where you can enter your zip code and a range in miles that you want to search and you will be presented with a table of crewmate information that live within that range. If you see someone that you’d like to contact, let me know and I will send you their email address. I don’t display nor do I allow anyone to access registered member personal information other than DDG-5 Crew Members Association elected officers. (I hope to put together the capability to allow you to contact registered crew members through a “blind” contact scheme, but that is “in the works” and probably won’t be available for some time yet). The finder is based off of information you entered during your site registration and if you were one of many who registered before I added more personal information, your zip code is not included and you won’t show up in the results. You can contact me at the above email address with the following information:

Your email address:

Your (snail mail) address: (address, city, state, zip)

Your home/cell phone #s:

I will enter this information into the registration database and you will show up in the finder search as well as making sure I have your latest information. (This is another thing that I’ve been working on, though not as studiously as I should be. I want to provide the ability for those that are registered to modify/update your own

information. I need to make sure that this capability is completely secure and that no one other than you can ever see or manipulate your information.)

I have also included a 2010 reunion page that has been and will continue to be updated with information about the upcoming reunion in Norfolk, Virginia. I've included an entry form for those that might be thinking about coming to the reunion so that the reunion committee can get a fairly accurate count of the number of people that will be there. Speaking of the reunion committee, Jerry Edwards could certainly use anyone's help in working on making this a great reunion. You can contact Jerry here (Secretary@thebignickel.org) and let him know you're willing to help out.

As I've said in the past and will continue to say, if you have suggestions for the site or if you ever have any issues or problems, please don't hesitate to contact me at the above address. If you have a really significant problem, you can always give me a call (952-432-0252) and talk to me directly about it.

Some of you have registered in the Crew Forums and have not registered on the site. This happened because of the way I had implemented the forums (I now force crewmates to register on the site before they are able to register for the forums). If you are one of those who have not yet registered on the site, but have registered for the forums, please take a moment to enter your information. You can access the registration form here: <http://thebignickel.org/Registration.html>.

Finally, some of you may be wondering about the "VJ" in my name. It isn't a nickname, but rather my official middle name. I was born August 14, 1945. Just about the time I was born, it was being announced that Japan had (unofficially) surrendered. As a result, my dad, with the permission of my mother, decided to give me the middle name of VJ for VJ Day. The quotation marks came about when I joined the Navy and when at boot camp in San Diego I was asked my name and after explaining the VJ, the Chief, who was filling out some form, put the quotes around the letters.

THE AMEN CORNER (Chaplin, Wayne Miller)

TAPS:

- William (Willie) Slack 28 Nov 2009 Son of Carl W. Slack. He had a great 38 years and now is in heavens band with his friends and relatives.
- Naomi Morgan, 2nd wife of Will Morgan - July, 2009

Binnacle List:

- Carl W. Slack - cancer. Carl is presently being treated at Mayo Clinic in Jacksonville, FL and is doing well with a good prognosis.

From the Fantail

Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association **Adams Class Naval Ships Museum**

A ship's museum store/visitor center has opened in Jacksonville that serves to establish a presence for the local team working on saving the last of the Adams-Class ship hulls for a permanent memorial in downtown Jacksonville for the purpose of representing the 23 ships in the class, and to honor all those who served in them. The store carries military style ball caps representing all the services, tee shirts, coins, decals and other assorted items. Artifacts from the ships of the class include AN/SPA-25 radar repeaters, 5-inch gun fire control equipment, missile launcher control equipment, and various other equipments representative of the communication systems used on board. The presence of the store is already creating a considerable amount of excitement within the community. Future plans include establishing online capabilities through the Adams-

Class Veterans Association official website at <http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org/>. Anyone traveling through the Northeast Florida area is invited to visit the store and see what is being done to achieve the goal of saving this ship from scrapping.

DDG-5 Days At The Museum

Every Saturday from 1000 to 1800 in January, March, and the first two in April are DDG 5 day with donuts and coffee at the Adams Class Museum located in Jacksonville Landing. So if you are in the area drop in and say hello.

USS Charles F. Adams Hull Plate #5

The DDG-5 Crew Members Association Executive Council has authorized the support of the <http://www.adamsclassddgvets.org/Adam> Museum Ship restoration efforts by sponsoring Hull Plate #5 in honor of the USS Claude V. Ricketts and the USS Biddle in the ACVA Hull Restoration Fundraiser. The cost of the sponsorship of each hull plate is \$2500. The Executive Council is asking that you, our shipmates, contribute towards the purchase of our Hull Plate.

If you wish to make a donation towards this goal, please go to the [Save The Charlie Deuce](#) page on the website and fill out the donation form and send it along with your check to Mike Margeotes (address is on the form). Your contribution will be recorded and then forwarded to the ACVA. If you wish to charge your donation to your credit card, a link is provided to the [ACVA](#) page for that. Please make sure you also send in your Hull Plate #5 donation form if you do use a credit card.

A plaque, made from actual DDG-2 hull plates being replaced when the ship goes into dry dock, will recognize our association for our contributions and, at a later time, all contributors will be recognized in a yet to be determined manner. We will maintain a donors listing on [The Big Nickel](#). The donors list and the goal "thermometer" on the website will be updated weekly with our progress. Once we have enough for hull plate #5, we will continue to accept donations to sponsor a second hull plate and any number that we can sponsor after that.

Thank you for your support in this fund drive.

Carl Slack (Executive Director)

Glenn Johnson (President)

Danny Timm (Vice President)

Jerry Edwards (Secretary)

Michael Margeotes (Historian)

Kirk Neuman (Webmaster)

See You All At the 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 C/o Carl Slack PO Box 83 Jackson, NH 03846-0083 603-986-4661 ExecutiveDirector@TheBigNickel.org</p>	<p>President Glenn Johnson 352-523-1945 President@TheBigNickel.org</p>	<p>Vice President Danny Timm Vice.President@TheBigNickel.org</p>
<p>Secretary Jerry Edwards Secretary@TheBigNickel.org</p>	<p>Historian Michael Margeotes Historian@TheBigNickel.org</p>	<p>Webmaster Kirk Neuman 952-432-0252 The Big Nickel</p>

If you have an email address please contact any of the Executive Council so that in the future, the newsletter can be emailed to you rather than snail mailed.



DDG 5 Crew Members Association

Reunion: 29 April - 2 May, 2010

Reunion Registration Form

Please complete and return your registration no later than 15 April, 2010. After 15 April, bring the form and payment with you. Registrations received by 1 April, 2010 will be placed in a drawing to be held Thursday evening, 29 April, 2010 for a \$200 and \$100 prize.

Please print name of attendees:

Crew member _____

Spouse _____

Children _____

Guest's _____

Registration is \$95 for each attendee 18 and over, 12 – 18, \$45 Registration includes four 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, cup and bumper sticker.

___No Reception -\$15.00 ___No Dinner -\$30.00___No pizza -\$5.00

Number adults _____ X **\$95.00** = \$ _____

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

Bus tour of Norfolk (pickup at hotel). See how downtown has changed, Hampton Roads Naval Museum and Battleship Wisconsin and Norfolk Naval Base tour with lunch at the base galley.

Number attending ___ X **\$45.00** = \$ _____

Golf Tournament \$30.00. Green Fees and cart pay at club. Number playing ___ X **\$30.00** = \$ _____

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 2010 Reunion, c/o Jerry Edwards, 5417 Lawson Hall Key, VA Beach, VA 23455

Make hotel reservations directly with the Lake Wright Hotel, 800-228-5157. 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 form on the website

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