



# USS Claude V. Ricketts / (formerly) USS Biddle DDG-5

## The Big Nickel #22, August 2019

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### Newsletter Editor Note

Looking for a new Newsletter Editor. If anyone is interested in taking on the job, please contact me [here](#).

MMD Non-US/British shipmates can find their specific language newsletters via the following links:

- Dutch: [Raadpleeg de webpagina](#) voor de nieuwsbrief in uw taal.
- Germany: Für den Newsletter in Ihrer Sprache, [überprüfen Sie bitte die Webseite](#).
- Greece: Για το ενημερωτικό δελτίο στη γλώσσα σας, [ανατρέξτε στην ιστοσελίδα](#).
- Italy: Per la newsletter nella tua lingua, controlla la pagina web.
- Turkey: Dilinizdeki bülten için [lütfen web sayfasını kontrol edin](#).

### 2020 DDG-5 Reunion

With the news last December that the U.S. Navy will not be handing over the Charles F. Adams to the JHNSA and since at the 2018 Reunion Crew Meeting it was voted on to have the 2020 Reunion in Norfolk/Virginia Beach if the Adams wasn't going to be in Jacksonville by a date to be determined, the 2020 reunion will now be in Norfolk/Virginia Beach.

The Reunion will be held from May 7 through May 10, 2020 at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach – Norfolk. If you're planning or just thinking about attending the 2020 Reunion, please take time to fill out the online Reunion Survey found on the 2020 Reunion page of [The Big Nickel](#) website. You can find the tentative 2020 Reunion agenda and the 2020 Reunion Registration form at the end of this newsletter in addition to that found on the 2020 Reunion page on the website.

Also available via the 2020 Reunion page is a "special" DDG-5 Crew Members Association link to the hotel for room reservations. **However**, at the time of this newsletter, the group code assigned by the hotel is only good for reservations between 7 May and 10 May even though our contract provided the DDG-5 room rate for 3 days pre and post actual reunion dates. This is being investigated and when resolved, information will be posted on the 2020 Reunion page as well as on the DDG-5 Facebook page. In the meantime, if you would like your reservations to be beyond the inclusive reunion dates, you will have to call the hotel to make your reservations.

## Executive Director/Vice President



BT2 Glenn Johnson (64 – 68): [gjohn11905@gmail.com](mailto:gjohn11905@gmail.com)

Current Association Account Balance:

Dear Shipmates and Families.

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health and enjoying life. I have enjoyed keeping in contact with many of you via FB. I wish more of us would take advantage of Social Media even thou we all know, we have to be cautious about what we post.

It is time to give some serious thought to arranging your hotel accommodations and travel to the 2020 reunion. We will be staying at the [Holiday Inn Virginia Beach - Norfolk](#). All the details are on the “[TheBigNickel.Navy](#)” web site. This will be a fun reunion with lots to do in the great Navy City, Norfolk VA. I am sure it will bring back a lot of old memories. Some of which were fun, and some we just can’t seem to forget, and only share amongst each other. We will have the opportunity to visit the USS Wisconsin and see the more current warships from a boat cruise instead of a bus window. Plan on being in Norfolk with your shipmates, their wives, and families. The reunion dates are check-in on Thursday, May 7, and check-out on Sunday, May 10, 2020. Arrangements have been made with the hotel to provide reunion room rates for 3 days prior to and after the official reunion dates so you can arrive early and stay late if you’d like.

Kirk has the website up to date and ready for you to go there for info that is helpful for planning purposes. If you can’t find the info on the Web Site, or need help in any way, feel free to contact me @ 813-786-8958. Kirk and I are here to help and want to make sure we have a successful and fun reunion. It is all of you, that make the reunion fun and possible so please pass the word to the crew to SAVE THE DATE AND JOIN US IN NORFOLK on May 7-9, 2020!

Stay safe and well. See you in Norfolk in 2020.

Glenn Johnson - Exec. Direct DDG5 Crew Members Assoc.  
Served onboard USS Biddle/Ricketts1964-68 BT2

## President



ET3 John Cubells (85 – 88): [63jcubells@gmail.com](mailto:63jcubells@gmail.com)

## Vice President

Jim Miller resigned as Vice President in early March 2019.

## The Amen Corner

BM3 Wayne Miller (65 – 68): [Choicemedtrans@optonline.net](mailto:Choicemedtrans@optonline.net)

We have received notification of the passing of the following shipmates and family members since the last newsletter:

- BTC Edward Warren Curtis (7/83 - 8/88), March 3, 2019. Ed is in the B Div group [pictured here](#) (he's 4th from the right in the back row). You can view Ed's obituary [here](#).

If you have further information on any of the above or know of any other shipmate who has passed or information about any shipmate in the Taps List, please contact me [here](#).

## A Message for The Association Ladies

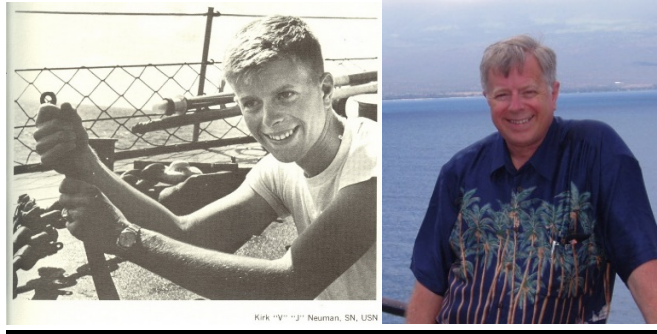
“Hello” to all the Navy wives out there! The next reunion is just a little over a year away so sit down with your sailors and mark your calendars to begin planning! The wives enjoy doing lunch dates and excursions or simply relaxing and sunning/reading by the pool, while their men go to meetings (or just hang out and reminisce)! The activities which all are welcome to attend during the reunion have been enjoyable too (last year we went on a great tour)!

I am a “two-reunion vet” and have enjoyed meeting the other wives and getting to know them! The reunion’s Saturday evening dinner has proven to be a really great time and the silent auction is getting better each year (and SO much fun)! Stacy and John Cubells and Michael and I have already started collecting wonderful items to donate to the auction!

...PLUS! ‘Now hear this’ \*\* NEWS FLASH! \*\* Michael is obtaining another Native American Star quilt to donate again at the next reunion dinner auction! That makes attending the reunion a MUST!

Hope to see yawl there!

## A Word from the Webmaster



1964

2013

RD2 Kirk "VJ" Neuman (7/64 - 3/68): [Captain.Kirk@TheBigNickel.Navy](mailto:Captain.Kirk@TheBigNickel.Navy)  
[TheBigNickel.Navy](http://TheBigNickel.Navy) – [USSClaudeVRicketts.Navy](http://USSClaudeVRicketts.Navy)

### Shipmate Information Database Update:

Since its inception in late 2008, and of this newsletter, 522 shipmates have registered on [The Big Nickel website](http://TheBigNickel.Navy). Of those, 10 shipmates have passed away since they registered and 95 have bad email addresses. I'm continuously working cleaning-up and updating the Crew Registration database and have removed several data entries that weren't consistent or were duplicated across various tables in the database. I'm also continuing to try to put together a "good email list" from the registration database table and the Master Crew List database table. The Master Crew List is an Excel spreadsheet of some 700+ shipmates who served on board the DDG-5 that was put together by Carl Slack over the years based on information from various other Navy and veteran websites that DDG-5 shipmates registered on at one time or another. Not all names in the MCL are in the site registration database and not all names in the database are in the MCL.

Because I've been trying to clean up things, I send out an email a few times during the year to see if the email addresses I have in the registration database are good or not. If the email address is "bad" I get a "bounced": email indicating the email couldn't be delivered because the email address doesn't exist or some other nefarious reason. As of this newsletter there are 95 shipmates registered on the site that now have bad email addresses. I've added a button to the home port page of the site that lists those shipmates with bad email addresses, and I'd appreciate it if you're reading this, that you would take a few minutes to make sure your name isn't there. If it is, please [contact me](#) with your updated email address and I'll update the database. [Click here to view the list of "bad email" names.](#)

Also, because of this I'm asking that you log into the site and check/update your information and/or ensure that your registration information is still there and up to date. Instructions for doing this are on the website home page, accessible by clicking on the red button titled "[How to Check/Update Your Registration Info.](#)"

In addition, if you have not yet [registered on the website](#), I would encourage you to do that. It is easy to do and the information you enter will be kept private except for on board information, which will be displayed in the Crew Roster. If you are already registered and log in to the website, you will be able to email other registered shipmates via the Crew Roster as well as being kept up to date on activities for the DDG-5 Crew Members Association. If you have questions or problems registering, please [contact me](#). **(Please note that since I updated to the latest Forum software the email feature seems to be broken. I'm looking into the problem.)**

### Deceased Shipmates:

Since the inception of website, several shipmates who did register on the site have passed on. I've indicated these shipmates on the Crew Roster with a cyan colored background.

Even if a shipmate has not registered on the website, or passed away before its inception, I attempt to maintain a Taps page for both crewmembers and family members of those who served on board during the ship's lifetime. There are several names listed for which I have very limited information. If you see someone in the list that you have information about, please [contact me](#) so I can attempt to update their information.

### **Family Registration:**

The Family Registration page has been on the shelf for quite some time. I'm trying out a few things that aren't quite working yet. It's taking a lot more time than I originally planned on, but I keep coming up with new ideas and implementing them takes time. I still hope to have it available sometime in the future so keep an eye out for it in the Login/Registration box on the Home Port page.

It is my wish with the Family Registration to maintain contact with those family members of deceased shipmates who would like to continue to receive information about the DDG-5 Crew Members Association. This is not to say that family members of living shipmates can't register. They are certainly welcome too if they would like.

### **DDG-5 Ladies Auxiliary:**

At the 2016 Reunion, Jo'an Brown, wife of Charlie Brown (RD1, 64 – 67), put together a list of names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses of those women who attended the reunion with their husbands. Jo`An typed up the list when she got home and sent it out to all the women on the list. This gave me the idea of having a DDG-5 Ladies Auxiliary site connected to The Big Nickel website.

I've put together a minimal set of pages for a DDG-5 Ladies Auxiliary [which can be found here](#). The pages can also now be gotten to from The Big Nickel Home Port page.

There isn't much there right now other than a registration page and a registered member display page (where you'll find my wife's information). If you're Lady would like to register, she's welcome to try it. Her information will be stored in the LA database and I'll make sure not to erase it. Note that there are still some things that don't work quite right and I hope to get them fixed soon.

If your Lady thinks something like this would be a good idea, [please let me know](#) and I'll continue working on it. Also, you or they can include ideas of things to include on the site and I'll see about including them.

Note that the Ladies Auxiliary Registration would be somewhat redundant to the Family Registration mentioned above and I'd look at somehow combining/connecting the two registrations.

**UPDATE: I haven't heard much interest in the Ladies Auxiliary page and thus haven't done much with it. I may be having something more substantial at the next reunion for the DDG-5 Ladies to look at.**

## A word from the Storekeeper



RD2 Kirk "VJ" Neuman (64 – 67): [Storekeeper@TheBigNickel.Navy](mailto:Storekeeper@TheBigNickel.Navy)

The [DDG-5 ships store](#) is open for business. Items for sale include ships cups, ships hats, ships patches, challenge coins, polo shirts and denim shirts (long and short sleeve). I've implemented a new order form that you can now fill out on-line with buttons at the bottom to save and/or print the form. I've also updated the order form to include the use of credit card purchases. Currently I accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express.

A note for the 2020 Reunion. Assuming I make the reunion (not sure at the time of this newsletter) I'll be flying into Norfolk and I won't be bringing a bunch of stock for sale at the Reunion. I will have some samples of shirts and other items, depending on how much I can pack. You'll have to fill out an order form at the Reunion and I will fill your orders when I return home after the Reunion.

If you want, you can pre-order items for delivery at the reunion. I will fill those orders and have them shipped (if I can't pack them in my suitcase) to the hotel prior to my departure to Norfolk. I did briefly consider shipping ship's store items I have in stock but decided shipping costs both ways would be way to prohibitive.

Due to increases in postal rates, I've had to increase the shipping costs to \$10 for orders under \$50 and \$15 for orders over \$50.

Also, I now take credit card orders. You still need to fill out the order form and send that to me (either via email or snail-mail). I haven't gotten to the point of on-line ordering, though I'm dallying with how to do that.

At the 2016 Reunion, I picked up some ship models from the Adams Museum at a discounted cost. Warning, these are small scale. These are available through the Ship's Store for \$20 plus \$10 shipping.

## Very Tentative 2020 Reunion schedule

### Wednesday, May 6, 2020

1430 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

1430 - 2300: Check-in, pre-registration, setup

### Thursday, May 7, 2020

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

0800 - 2300: Check-in, registration and getting reacquainted

1800 - 2100: 2020 Reunion Reception

### Friday, May 8, 2020

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

0800 - 2300: Check-in and registration (when manned)

0900 - 1600: Bus Tour of Norfolk, Nautica (USS Wisconsin),

Norfolk Harbor Tour

(Crew Memorial to be held during the tour)

1900: Pizza Party

### Saturday, May 9, 2020

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

0800 - 2300: Check-in and registration (when manned)

0800 - 0900: Executive Council meeting

0900 - 1100: 2020 Reunion Crew Meeting

Crew Liberty

1800 - 2100: 2020 Reunion Dinner (w/raffle)

### Sunday, May 10, 2020

0800 - 1200: Hospitality room, when manned

Hospitality room cleanup

**2020 DDG-5 Reunion Registration**  
**Holiday Inn Virginia Beach - Norfolk**  
**May 7 – May 10, 2020**

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Send this form along with your check or credit information no later than April 1, 2020.  
After that date, bring the form and payment with you. Also, please fill out the [on-line Reunion Survey](#).

**Please print names of attendees as you want them to appear on the name badge:**

Crew member name: \_\_\_\_\_ Years onboard (i.e., 7/64 – 3/68) \_\_\_\_\_  
Spouse/Significant other: \_\_\_\_\_  
Guest(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Registration includes use of the hospitality room with snacks and non-alcoholic beverages (BYOB for alcoholic beverages), name badges and reunion pin (1<sup>st</sup> 100 registries).

Crewmember fee	\$55 = _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if spouse/significant other is attending	\$40 = _____
Guests	Number attending: _____ X \$55 = _____
Pizza Party	Number attending: _____ X \$10 = _____
Tour	Number attending: _____ X \$100 = _____
Welcome Reception	Number attending: _____ X \$0 = _____
(There is no charge for the reception for the 2020 Reunion other than the cash bar)	
Dinner	Number attending: _____ X \$60 = _____
Additional DDG-5 Crew Members Association Donation	_____
Association Dues	\$10 = \$10

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Total registration fee \_\_\_\_\_

Check if you want to pay a \$20 minimum (non-refundable) deposit now and the balance when you check in at the reunion.

Deposit Amount \_\_\_\_\_

Reunion registration balance due \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address (1): \_\_\_\_\_

Address (2): \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to **DDG 5 Crew Members Association**.

Mail to:

DDG-5 2020 Reunion

C/o Glenn Johnson

55 Utina Way

St. Augustine, FL 32084

Make hotel reservations directly with the hotel (757-499-4400) or use the special reservation form on the website. Make sure to tell them you are with the **DDG-5 Crew Members Association**. See the website for more details.