



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

## The Big Nickel #23, February 2020

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### Newsletter Editor Note

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

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

The 2020 DDG-5 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. If you would like your reservations to be beyond the inclusive reunion dates (7 May to 10 May), you will have to call the hotel to make your reservations.

Since many former DDG-5 shipmates live in and around the Norfolk area, we expect to have a tremendous turnout. An email will be sent out early in 2020 to those living in the area to remind them of the reunion and to fill out the reunion survey on the website, so make sure to check out the survey results often to see if shipmates you served with will be in attendance.

## Executive Director/Vice President



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

Current Association Account Balance:

Dear Shipmates,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone in good health. I know for many of you, winter has taken control of your activities and are hoping for sunshine and warmer weather.

Mary Lou and I have been busy with grandchildren and enjoying the Florida sunshine. I have been planning the 2020 DDG5 Crew Members Association Reunion. As you all know it is in Norfolk VA, on May 7 thru May 10, 2020, in the home port of our Ship USS Biddle/Claude V. Ricketts DDG-5. Early Check-in is on May 6. For more details I urge you to visit our website [TheBigNickel.Navy](http://TheBigNickel.Navy). You will be able to fill out your registration form on the website. Look for the reunion button and navigate from there. The hotel reservation number is 757-499-4400. Make sure you tell them you are with the DDG5 Crew Members Association. The site is owned and managed by shipmate Kirk Neuman. He is accessible via the website.

It will be fun visiting our home port, talking about old memories, the good times we had on the ship and Liberty calls in Norfolk. Part of our agenda consists of touring the Battleship Wisconsin. We will also take a cruise around the piers to see the current fleet of war ships. We are also going to have our regular Welcome Reception, pizza party, a great dinner, and more. This year the Welcome Reception will be at no cost to the attendees however the cash bar will be the attendee's responsibility.

The success of these reunions has always depended upon the participation of the Shipmates, Spouses and guest. In the past we have had a lot of fun and generated many memories. It is my hope that having the reunion in Norfolk, keeping it affordable, that we will have a great turnout. So, please call a shipmate, pack up the family and join us in Norfolk. If you could bring something that represents your part of the country or anything that you think is unique, maybe something that you made, we will raffle it off. We will also have a 50/50 raffle. The Association Officers and spouses do a great job of running the raffle. Everybody wins!

Save the date, mark your calendars, come join your shipmates, bring your best sea story and lets have fun in Norfolk.

Stay well and safe.  
My best to you all.

Glenn Johnson BT2 1964-68 Executive Director - DDG5 Crew Members Association.

## President



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

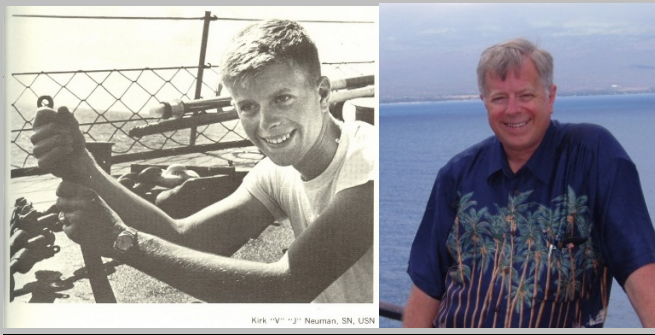
Hope everyone had a healthy & Happy New Year. Stacy has been busy gathering goodies for the silent auction We both are very excited to see our friends from past reunions and hope to see new friends join us to enjoy time spent together with our Shipmates. Let's make this the Best Reunion yet. See you all in Norfolk

## The Amen Corner

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

No shipmates have passed since the last newsletter, at least that we have heard. If you know of a shipmate or family member who has passed and is not in the [Taps List](#) on the website or have further information on any shipmate in the list, please contact me [here](#).

## 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](#) – [USSClaudeVRicketts.Navy](#)

### Shipmate Information Database Update:

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)

**A note for the 2020 Reunion.** At this time, I am not planning on attending the reunion. I will ship some hats, challenge coins and patches to Glenn Johnson for sale. If you would like to have a new shirt for the reunion, please fill out the order form (found on the Ship’s Store page of the website) and get it to me ASAP so that I can get your order filled and mailed to you before the reunion. If you would like to pick up your shirt(s) at the hotel, note that on the order form and I’ll ship it there.

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.

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 cards for 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, this are small scale. These are available through the Ship’s Store for \$20 plus \$10 shipping.

# 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 20, 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 =	_____
<i>(There is no charge for the reception for the 2020 Reunion other than the cash bar)</i>			
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.