



USS Claude V. Ricketts / (formerly) USS Biddle DDG-5 The Big Nickel #24, September 2020

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](#).

2021 DDG-5 Reunion

The 2021 DDG-5 Reunion will be held from Thursday, May 6 through Sunday May 9, 2021 with early check during the afternoon of Wednesday, May 5, 2020. The Reunion is being held at the [Holiday Inn Virginia Beach – Norfolk](#). If you're planning or just thinking about attending the 2021 Reunion, please take time to fill out the online Reunion Survey found on the 2021 Reunion page of [The Big Nickel](#) website. You can find the tentative 2021 Reunion agenda and the 2021 Reunion Registration Form at the end of this newsletter in addition to the one found on the 2021 Reunion page on the website.

Hotel room rates have been negotiated and are \$119/night (plus taxes) for either a king with a sofa bed or 2 queens, both nonsmoking. Rates are good for 3 day prior (3 May) to and 3 days post (12 May) official reunion dates. A special button has been placed on the Hotel Reservation Information page on the website to make reservations. As of this newsletter, the reservation form on the hotel site is only good from 6 May to 9 May, though we are seeing if the hotel can rectify this. As a result, if you would like to make reservations to arrive early and/or depart late, please call the hotel direct (1-757.226.9119) and make sure to mention our group code (**DDG**) to receive the group rate.

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 2021 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. The email list will be based off of shipmates who have registered on the website and if their email address is current and up to date. If you know of any shipmates who aren't registered on the site, please let them know about the Reunion and encourage them to register so they can be kept up to date and receive future newsletters.

Executive Director/Vice President/Treasurer



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

Dear Shipmates and families,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone safe and in good health. With the ongoing saga of the pandemic on our minds, we continue to hope and pray for quick recovery, better testing available to all, and a possible breakthrough with a vaccine.

It is our intention to go forward with our reunion in Norfolk VA on May 6th-9th with early check in available on Wednesday the 5th. The Hotel has already had one Navy reunion so far this year. I was advised that it went well, and that the hotel has made the necessary arrangements to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 Virus and is dedicated to keeping us all safe. We are also committed to taking all precautions that are recommended by the CDC at the time of our reunion.

The room rates remained the same as those from last year's canceled reunion and comes with a complimentary breakfast for 2 persons/room. We will be staying at the Holiday Inn Virginia Beach - Norfolk, 5655 Greenwich Rd, Virginia Beach, Virginia. You can book your rooms by calling the hotel direct at 757-226-9119. Our group booking code is DDG so remember to give them the code when making your reservations. So, save the dates! We are all looking forward to seeing each other once again. I think it will do us all good to put 2020 behind us and have a great time visiting with each other in our old home port of Norfolk VA!

If you have any questions or concerns about the Reunion, please reach out to me, either by message or phone at 813-786-8958. We want this to be a successful Reunion and it takes every one of us to make that happen! If you know of a shipmate that normally doesn't keep in touch with us, please reach out to them or send me their contact and I will personally invite them and do what I can to have them at our DDG5 CMA Reunion.

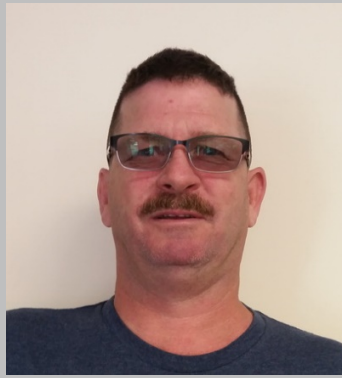
It is going to be great seeing everyone and I am so looking forward to it. Check out our website (TheBigNickel.Navy) from time to time as Kirk works hard trying to keep us all updated. There are some cool buttons on the website. So, feel free to browse around and send Kirk a message on anything that you would like to share via his website. You will be able to download registration forms, fill them out, and mail them along with the required fees to me, Glenn Johnson, 55 Utina Way, St Augustine FL, 32084. I will also post information on our [Facebook page](#).

Stay well and stay safe.

Your Shipmate,

Glenn Johnson BT2 1964-1968, Executive Director DDG5 Crew Members Association (DDG5 CMA)

President



ET3 John Cubells (85 – 88): 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

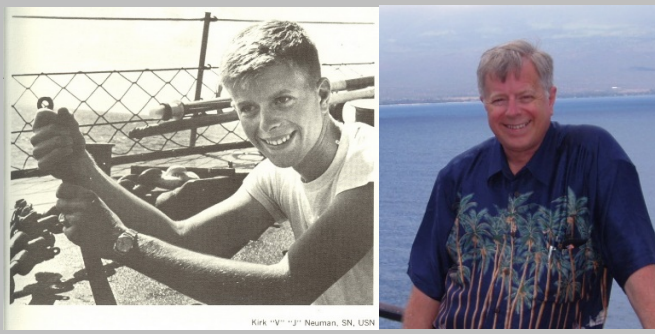
BM3 Wayne Miller (65 – 68): Choicemedtrans@optonline.net

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

- Lt. Thomas William Maher ((1st Lieutenant, 1965 - 1967), May 29, 2018. You can read his obituary [here](#).
- [Lt. Roger Lieberman](#) (Medical Officer, 1975), May 26, 2020.
- BT3 Donald R. Stoll (1987 - 1989), March 24, 2020. You can read his obituary [here](#).
- Captain Thomas Andrew York (Apr 7 1978 - Jun 19 1980) July 10, 2020. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- Leah Ray Mueske, wife of BMC Stanley D. Mueske (1980 - 1981) - August 15, 2019. [You can veiw her obituary here](#).
- Mary Lucille York, wife of Captain Thomas Andrew York (Apr 7 1978 - Jun 19 1980) - March 25, 2020. [You can view her obituary here](#). Note that Captain York passed away on July 10, 2020.
- Patricia (Pat) A. Woebkenberg, wife of FTM2 Tom Woebkenberg (Oct 63 - Nov 65) - September 1, 2020. [You can view her 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 Word from the Webmaster



1964

2013

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

Shipmate Information Database Update:

I am continuously working on 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 am also continuing to put together a "good email list" from the registration database table and the Master Crew List (MCL) database table. The MCL 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 have 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. (In fact, I just sent out such and “email test” this past week). 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 am 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 [DDG-5 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](#).

I am looking into changing the login process for the website. Since it currently uses portions of software I use for the [Crew Forums](#). Since the Forums haven’t been used like I thought they would be and the software I use is now several years out of date, I’m looking at the impact on existing registered users (which you are if you received the newsletter via email). Once I have something worked up, I’ll put a link to the new site (which I’m currently calling [Beta2.0.TheBigNickel.Navy](#)) as well as send out an email blast for you to try it out and let me know what you think. Fair warning, the older I get, the slower I get so this will probably take a while so don’t hold your breath very long 😊.

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](#).

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

A note for the 2021 Reunion. Currently, I am not sure if I will be attending the reunion. If I don't attend, I will ship some hats, challenge coins and patches to Glenn Johnson for sale at the reunion. 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.

Please note that the embroider I used to use closed up shop late last year. I had found another embroider and then COVID hit. She shut down (as per state orders) and I haven't been able to contact her as of this newsletter. If you would like a shirt, please give me a month or so to get your order processed.

Update about embroider as of this newsletter. I've had to find another embroider since the one I found has closed yet again due to the increase in COVID-19 cases in our state. As a result, I had to find another one, which I've since done, and will hopefully be able to use them in the future.

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 have 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, these are small scale. These are available through the Ship's Store for \$20 plus \$10 shipping.

2021 Reunion schedule

(This schedule is subject to change)

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

1430 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

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

Thursday, May 6, 2021

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

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

1800 - 2100: 2020 Reunion Reception

Friday, May 7, 2021

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 8, 2021

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 9, 2021

0800 - 1200: Hospitality room, when manned

Hospitality room cleanup

2021 DDG-5 Reunion Registration

Holiday Inn Virginia Beach - Norfolk

May 6 – May 9, 2021

Send this form along with your check or credit information no later than April 1, 2021.
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 (1st 100 registries).

Crewmember fee \$55 = _____

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

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.