



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

## The Big Nickel #29, March 2024

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### Newsletter In MMD Languages

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](#).

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Turkey: Dilinizdeki bülten için [lütfen web sayfasını kontrol edin](#).

### 2024 DDG-5 Reunion

At the Crew Meeting on Saturday of the 2023 Reunion, it was voted to hold the next reunion in 2024 to adjust the year to coincide with the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the renaming of our ship from USS Biddle to USS Claude V. Ricketts. As a result, this year's reunion will happen on Long Island New York. The host hotel is the [East Wind Long Island](#) in Wading River, New York. The Reunion will be held from Sunday, July 28, 2024, to Friday, August 2, 2024. Room rates were negotiated to be \$179 (plus taxes) per night for those nights only. Outside of the reunion dates, hotel room rates are quite a bit more expensive, so if you're planning on arriving earlier or leaving later you may want to investigate rates at other nearby hotels for those nights.

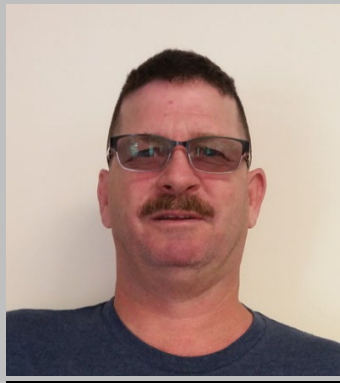
The 2024 registration form and schedule are included at the end of this newsletter. You can also find them on the [2024 Reunion page](#) of the website. To make it easier for you, it's suggested that you fill out the online form since it will do all the math for you. Once filled out, print it and send it to Glenn Johnson at the address at the bottom of the registration form along with your check. You will need at least Adobe PDF reader to do this. The reader can be found here (<https://get.adobe.com/reader/>) if you don't already have it. Otherwise, you can print the form found at the end of this newsletter, fill it out and send it to Glenn.

The deadline for getting your registration form into Glenn to be eligible for drawings for free tours or free dinners is July 1, 2024. The number of free tour or dinner drawings are dependent on the number of reunion registrations we have so the more the merrier.

FYI, the hotel has one on-site restaurant. However, they open at 1130 and don't provide breakfast. Why? You'll have to ask them. As of right now, breakfast will be provided in the hospitality room consisting of donuts, bagels, coffee, and other items. We will have available a list of nearby restaurants that do provide breakfast should you be interested.

Looking forward to seeing many shipmates at the Reunion this year.

## **President**



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

Shipmates,

I hope this newsletter finds you and yours all well. We will be celebrating the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commissioning of the USS Claude V. Ricketts DDG-5 as well as the NATO Mixed Manning Demonstration (MMD), at the East Wind Long Island hotel, in Wading River, NY, from Sunday, July 28<sup>th</sup> departing Friday, August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The East Wind Long Island is located 60 miles east of Manhattan on 26 lush acres of vineyards with Shoppes within walking distance. The hotel is accessible by three airports: JFK, LaGuardia (NYC), and Islip MacArthur (30 minutes from hotel). We will have a hospitality room open daily. After checking in to the hotel, look for signs pointing to the hospitality room or ask the front desk for information about the DDG-5 Crew Member Association room.

We have some exciting events planned, including a charter bus day trip into NYC, and a tour of the USS Intrepid with lunch in the city. Also, many local east end attractions are only a short drive from the hotel including wineries, a casino, beaches and much more.

The DDG-5 Banquet Dinner and Chinese Auction will happen Thursday afternoon/evening, August 1<sup>st</sup> from 5pm to 10pm. The banquet will consist of several different stations having a variety of selections to choose from. The banquet menu is attached at the end of this newsletter for your information. Also, if you are planning on attending the reunion, please bring something for the auction.

Additionally, feel free to bring memorabilia from your time on board our ship, such as cruise books, photos, and any other items you might deem interesting.

Further 2024 Reunion updates will be published on the website and in future newsletters, emails, and on the DDG-5 Facebook Group.

As of this newsletter, we're excited to announce that Patrick 'Spider' Raines (Royal Navy member of the MMD) and his wife Carol & Deiter Wuttke (Federal German Navy member of the MMD) and his wife Ruth will be joining us for the 2024 reunion, from across the Pond!

Thanks to hotel management and additional Veteran Supporters, the hotel room cost is \$179 per night. The Day Trip to NYC includes a tour of the USS Intrepid and lunch. The Intrepid tour is free to those who have a Veterans ID

We are looking forward to seeing our shipmates, we always have a great time.

Fair Winds and Following Seas,

John Cubells ET3 85-89

## **The Amen Corner**

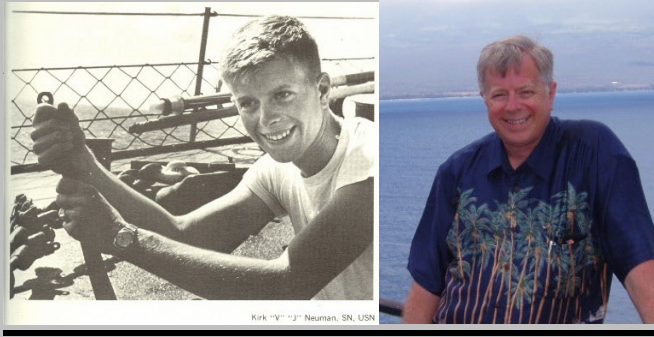
BM3 Wayne Miller (65 – 68): [Choicemedtrans@optonline.net](mailto:Choicemedtrans@optonline.net)

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

- STG3 Christopher Lee "Chris" Chamness (June 1983 - October 1985), May 16, 2020. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- MMCS Anthony Frank Zdanuk, Sr. (June 1964 - December 1965), January 31, 2006. You can view his obituary here. (Dates on board are uncertain, though he was a member of the MMD).
- BMC Stanley Dale Mueske (February 1980 - November 1981), September 24, 2023. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- YNSN Gerald (Gerry) H. Iken (June 1967 - October 1968), October 20, 2023.
- ET2 Raymond S. Rand (1979 – 1983), February 4, 2013. You can view his 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](mailto: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 keep updated a "good email list" from the registration database table by sending out aperiodic emails to all registered email addresses in the current good email list. If I should receive a "bounced" reply, indicating that the email address is not active, I will place that email address in the bad email list, remove it from the good list, and update the bad email list which can be found on the home page of the website by clicking the red button on the right side of the page. You should check this list every so often to see if you're listed. If you are, [contact me](#) ASAP with your updated/changed email address and I'll update the database.

In addition, if you're reading this from the informational posting in the Facebook group about the publication of this newsletter and if you have not yet [registered on the website](#), I would encourage you to do so. It is easy to do and the specific personal 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](#).

### Deceased Shipmates:

Since the inception of website several shipmates who did register on the site have passed the bar and are no longer with us. I've indicated these shipmates on the Crew Roster with a cyan colored background in the Crew Roster.

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.

## A word from the Storekeeper



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

John Cubells and I have collaborated on getting shirts and hats embroidered. John has an embroiderer he uses on Long Island, and we now have set up with them to embroider shirts (denim and polo) and hats. As such prices on shirts have been somewhat reduced and long-sleeved shirts (both denim and polo) are now special order only. You can see the new prices on the updated Order Form.

We will have shirts, hats, challenge coins, ship’s patches, and ship’s pens for sale at the reunion in July. I will be able to take either cash, checks or credit cards for payments. Any orders for something we don’t have in stock at the reunion, we will take your order and then ship it to you once we have it.

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). Currently I accept Visa, Mastercard, Discover and American Express. 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. (I’ll have a sample model [not put together] at the reunion, though I won’t have these at the reunion since I’d have to ship them to/from the hotel and I’m too cheap to do that. If you’d like to order a ship’s model at the reunion, I’ll get one in the mail to you as soon as I get home, or shortly after anyway).

# **2024 PRELIMINARY Reunion schedule**

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**(This schedule is subject to change)**

## **Sunday, July 28, 2024**

1700 - 2200: Hospitality room, when manned

1700 - 2200: Early check-in, pre-registration, setup

## **Monday, July 29, 2024**

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

0800 - 2200: Check-in, registration and getting reacquainted

1800 - 2100: 2024 Reunion Reception

## **Tuesday, July 30, 2024**

0800 - 2200: Hospitality room, when manned

0800 - 2200: Check-in and registration (when manned)

0900 - 1800: Day Tour - USS Intrepid/Crew Memorial

## **Wednesday, July 31, 2024**

0800 - 2200: Hospitality room, when manned

0800 - 2200: Check-in and registration (when manned)

1700 - 2100: Classic Car Show at the Shoppes

1800: Pizza Party

## **Thursday, August 1, 2024**

0800 - 2200: Hospitality room, when manned

0800 - 0900: Executive Council Meeting

0900: Crew Meeting

1800: 2024 Reunion Dinner (w/raffle)

## **Friday, August 2, 2024**

0800 - 1300: Hospitality room, when manned

Possible Brunch (TBD)

Checkout

East Wind Long Island

on-line Reunion Survey

2024 Reunion Information