



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

## The Big Nickel #19, March 2018

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### Newsletter Editor Note

Henceforth, this Newsletter will only be available electronically, either via email or on the website through the [Newsletter page](#). Printing and snail mailing is too cost prohibitive. If you know of a shipmate that isn't registered on the website or has a bad registered email address (see below), please let them know that the Newsletter is available through the website.

### 2018 DDG-5 Reunion Planning

The plans for the 2018 Reunion of the DDG-5 Crew Members Association are about 90% in place. Glenn Johnson, our Association Executive Director and Vice President, has negotiated and signed the contract with the [DoubleTree by Hilton Riverfront Jacksonville](#). The 2018 Reunion is set for Thursday May 3 – Sunday May 6, 2018. Other than the usual reception, pizza party and dinner, nothing has been set in concrete yet.

If you will be attending the reunion, please take the few minutes it will take to fill out the survey. If you have other suggestions, [please contact the Reunion Committee](#) (currently consisting of Glenn Johnson and Kirk Neuman). If you live in the Jacksonville area and would like to help (i.e., volunteer) with setting up the reunion, [contact the Reunion Committee](#).

[Click here for the 2018 DDG-5 Reunion Registration Form](#)

You can also find the 2018 Reunion Registration form at the end of this newsletter. Print the page, fill it out and send it to Mike Margeotes at the address on the form.

In our last newsletter (November 2017) we thought that the Charles F. Adams DDG-2 would be in Jacksonville by the time of our reunion. It now appears she won't arrive until late spring 2018, which by our reckoning, will be after our reunion. We'll keep you up-to-date on her arrival via the website and our Facebook group. We're still hoping that she will be in Jacksonville in time for our reunion and be in good enough condition such that we can have our Crew Memorial on board. If she is actually in Jacksonville during our reunion, we'll contact the Adams Museum and arrange for our memorial to be held on board at (or around) noon on Saturday, May 5. If we are unable to hold our memorial on board the Adams, we will hold it at the Statue of the Lone Sailor where we had it during the 2016 Reunion.



The DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront

With our hotel contract we also received some perks. One perk is a free riverfront junior suite for up to 4 nights. Another is a riverfront junior suite upgrade at the standard group rate of \$99/night. To qualify for these two perks, you must make sure your reunion registration form is into Mike Margeotes not later than April 1, 2018. Additionally, your room rate includes breakfast in the café off the hotel lobby. If you drive yourself, self-parking is also complimentary. Our room rates are also available up to 3 days before and 3 days after the official reunion dates (5/3/18 – 5/6/18).

All information about the 2018 Reunion can be found on The Big Nickel website. [Click here to go to the 2018 Reunion page.](#) While there, take some time to fill out the 2018 Reunion Survey if you have already done it.

If you have any questions about the 2018 Reunion or would like to volunteer (I know, something a Sailor NEVER does), don't hesitate to contact the [Reunion Committee.](#)

## Executive Director/Vice President



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

Dear Ship Mates and Families.

Spring is right around the corner. Soon the snow will disappear, and all the vegetation will get blooms and foliage. May 3,4,5, is when we all meet in Florida for our 2018 Ships Reunion. I hope you are all looking forward to 3 days of fun and camaraderie. We are planning a couple tours this year. The first tour will be of EverBank Stadium. This stadium is fairly new and a state of the art facility. It is also the home of the Jacksonville Jaguars NFL football team. We hope to do this touring during the morning hours on Friday, May 4th. Our second tour would be of the Budweiser Brewery in Jacksonville. They plan on having a “Full Hitch” display (Clydesdale Horses) on the day we tour. We hope to do that tour on Saturday, early afternoon.

Jacksonville Florida normally has very mild weather during the month of May. I suggest you bring a couple pairs of shorts and some comfortable walking shoes. These tours are geared for the seniors. The stadium has escalators and elevators throughout.

I hope to see everyone at the reunion. It is not too late to call a shipmate and invite him to come to our reunion. By chance, maybe the USS Adams DDG 2 will be moored to the pier in downtown Jacksonville.

Stay well and hope to see you all soon in Jacksonville!

Glenn Johnson BT2 1964-1968  
Executive Director - DDG5 Crew Members Association

## **President**



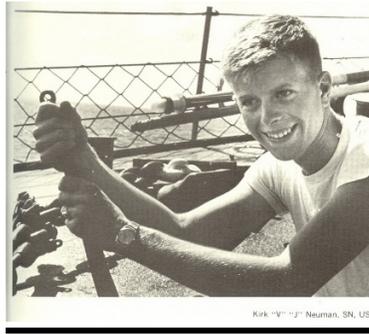
ET3 John Cubells (85 – 88): [63jcubells@gmail.com](mailto:63jcubells@gmail.com)

## **Ship's Treasurer**



FTM2 Michael Margeotes (65 – 70): [margeotesm@msn.com](mailto:margeotesm@msn.com)  
Current Association Account Balance:

## **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, 500 shipmates have registered on [The Big Nickel website](http://TheBigNickel.Navy). 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 couple of times during the year to see if the email addresses I have in the registration database are good or not (not meaning I get a bounced email indicating I have a bad address). As of this newsletter there are 69 shipmates registered on the site that now have bad email addresses (i.e., I am unable to contact them via email). 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 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](#).

### **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:**

I'm still in the process of putting together a Family Registration form for the website specifically for family members of DDG-5 shipmates to register. I will probably make it available in the next month or so. If you have family members who might like to register on the site, let them know and keep an eye out for the form.

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.

## **Crew Phonebook:**

**UPDATE:** The Phone Book has been put on hold for the time being due to lack of progress on my part. Hopefully I'll have something put together by the next reunion.

At the 2016 Reunion Crew Meeting, it was decided to attempt to put together a DDG-5 Crew Phone Book. Putting together the phone book will take some time since I need to process registered shipmate information for bad (i.e., no longer accurate) information such as email address(s), physical address and phone number(s).

The information that will be available in the phone book is as follows:

- Your first name, middle initial, last name, suffix
- Your spouse/significant other first and last name
- Your address
- Your city
- Your state/country (country if you were a member of the MMD otherwise US is assumed)
- Your zip code/country code
- Your home and/or mobile phone number(s)
- Your last rank/rate when you left the ship
- Your division(s) you were in while on the ship
- Your e-mail address(es)
- The year of your last paid DDG-5 Crew Members Association dues (note that dues are only paid when you attend a reunion)

This information is gathered from The Big Nickel website registration that you (may have) filled out at one time or another. As a result, it is imperative that you check your current information and update it as necessary to have your correct information in the phone book.

The initial thought was to print the phone book and then mail it to everyone who might want one. Unfortunately, it's been determined that this would be cost prohibitive for both printing and snail mailing. As a result, I will be putting a PDF copy of the book here on the website for you to download and print (if you want a hardcopy) at your convince. However, due to privacy concerns since the book will contain your personal information (address, phone number(s), e-mail address), I can't ethically make it publicly available for download and you will need to request a special password from me to access it. I will include a "mailto" link to me so that you can request the password when I have the phone book ready for prime time.

Note that you are asked to provide this personal information when you register on the website, however the information is kept in a database that is only accessible by me and members of the DDG-5 Executive Council (you can see who those members are by going the the Association Officers page on the website).

I will be sending out a special e-mail to all the shipmates who have registered on the website to make sure your e-mail address is reachable (i.e., the e-mail address in the registration database is good) to see who I need to personally contact (phone, snail mail, Internet search) to have you update your information.

**IMPORTANT!!!** If you don't want your information put into the Crew Phone Book, please notify me and I will make sure you aren't included. However, you may still have access to the book.

## **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.

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**



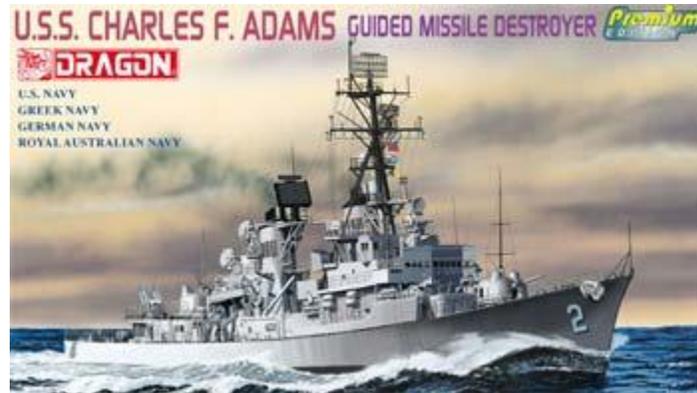
RD2 Kirk "VJ" Neuman (64 – 67): [Storekeeper@TheBigNickel.Navy](mailto:Storekeeper@TheBigNickel.Navy)

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 2018 Reunion. My wife and I will be flying to the reunion in 2018. We discussed things after our drive down for the 2016 reunion and we both decided that doing that drive again in 2 years wasn't something that we would be looking forward to (particularly going through Atlanta). As a result, I won't be bringing a bunch of stock for sale at the 2018 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 we return home after the reunion.

You may also 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 our departure to Jacksonville. I did briefly consider shipping ship's store items I have in stock but decided shipping costs both ways would be way to prohibitive.

At the 2016 Reunion, I picked up some ship models from the Adams Museum at a discounted cost. These are available through the Ship's Store for \$20 plus \$6 shipping.



## 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:

- OS2 Paul Charles Dolan (1973 - 1977), April 16, 2017. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- FC2 John Alan Padget (1985 - ???), Date of death unknown. No obituary found. If you have information about John, [please contact me](#).
- BT2 Thomas Suchocki (1964 - 1968), May 25, 2017. Tom was a member of the MMD. You can view his obituary [here](#).
- SN Salvatore Fanciulli, Italian Navy (1964 – 1965). 2008. Salvatore was a member of the MMD.

## Shipmate Sea Stories

This is a new section of the newsletter dedicated to DDG-5 shipmates sharing sea stories and remembrances of their time on board that they wish to share. If you have a sea story to share or would like to reminisce about your time on board the DDG-5 and would like it included in the next newsletter, write it up and send it to [The Newsletter Editor](#) and I'll make sure it's included.

## Bring Home the Adams Updates

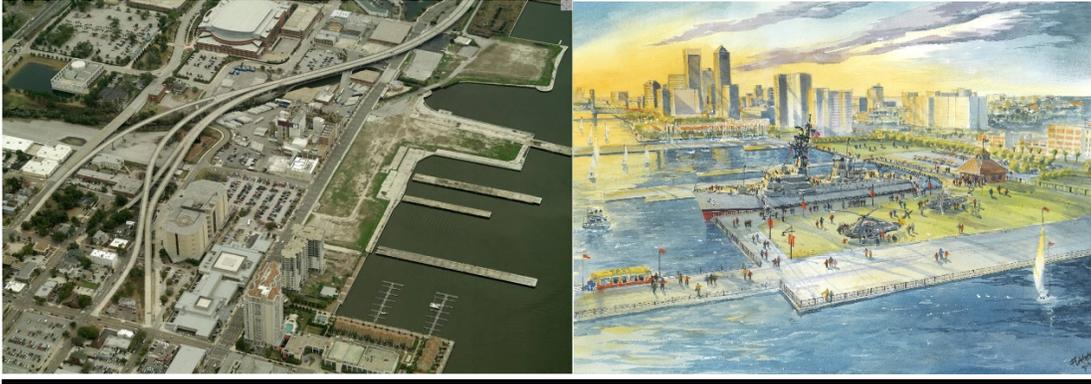


[The Jacksonville Historic Naval Ship Association \(JHNSA\)](#) is hard at work in their efforts to bring the USS Charles F. Adams DDG-2 to Jacksonville, FL as a museum ship. They continue to maintain the Adams Class Museum in downtown Jacksonville at the Jacksonville Landing. If you find yourself in Jacksonville, stop by and say hello.

The Adams is in rough shape after nearly 30 years and will need lots of help to get back to her former glory.



Below are photographs showing the existing Shipyards Downtown Jacksonville (left) and an artist's rendition of the USS Adams DDG-2 moored amidst the redeveloped shipyards (right).



## Donations

To donate to either the DDG-5 Crew Members Association and/or to The Big Nickel Website, [click here](#).

## 2018 Reunion schedule

### Wednesday, May 2, 2018

1430 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

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

### Thursday, May 3, 2018

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

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

1800 - 2100: 2018 Reunion Reception

### Friday, May 4, 2018

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

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

1000 - 1300: Tour: EverBank Stadium

1400 - 1500: PowerPoint presentation and Q&A about TheBigNickel.Navy website

1900: Pizza Party

### Saturday, May 5, 2018

0800 - 2300: Hospitality room, when manned

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

0800 - 0900: Executive Council meeting

0900 - 1100: 2018 Reunion Crew Meeting

1200: Crew Memorial at the statue of the Lone Sailor

1330 - 1600: Tour: Budweiser Brewery

1800 - 2100: 2018 Reunion Dinner (w/raffle)

### Sunday, May 6, 2018

0800 - 1200: Hospitality room, when manned

# 2018 DDG-5 Reunion Registration

DoubleTree by Hilton Jacksonville Riverfront

May 3 – May 6: Jacksonville, Florida

Send this form along with your check no later than 1 April 2018 to be eligible for the perk drawing. 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		<u>\$45 = \$45</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> Check if spouse/significant other is attending		<u>\$25 = _____</u>
Guests	Number attending: _____	X <u>\$45 = _____</u>
Pizza Party	Number attending: _____	X <u>\$10 = _____</u>
Tour	Number attending: _____	X <u>\$50 = _____</u>
Welcome reception	Number attending: _____	X <u>\$40 = _____</u>
Dinner	Number attending: _____	X <u>\$55 = _____</u>
Donation toward the Charles F. Adams DDG-2		_____
Additional DDG-5 Crew Members Association Donation		_____
Association Dues		<u>\$10 = \$10</u>
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 now or at reunion check-in \_\_\_\_\_  
Send a check with this amount \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (1): \_\_\_\_\_  
Address (2): \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Make check payable to DDG 5 Crew Members Association. Mail to:

DDG-5 2018 Reunion  
C/o: Michael Margeotes  
49 Columbia Blvd.  
E. Stroudsburg, PA 18302

Make hotel reservations directly with the hotel ( [1-800-222-8733](tel:1-800-222-8733) ) or use the special DDG-5 room reservation form found on the 2018 Reunion page. Make sure to tell them you are with the DDG-5 Crew Members Association. See the website for more details.