

Invitation VIP–Dinner



28 April 2026, 19.00 hrs. Syracuse, Sicily

Dear <personalize>

The board of the Michiel de Ruyter Foundation cordially invites you to attend a VIP–dinner on the 28 April 2026, in Syracuse, Sicily.

This day preludes the 350th anniversary of the passing of Lieutenant Admiral–General Michiel Adriaenszoon de Ruyter, who died in the Bay of Syracuse on 29 April 1676 from wounds sustained while commanding a combined fleet in service of the Dutch Republic and its allies during the Battle of Augusta on the 22nd. We commemorate his enduring legacy as a leader in international maritime cooperation, religious tolerance and selfless use of his capacities as a naval commander for the defence of freedom.

After his death aboard his flagship Eendragt, De Ruyter's body was embalmed and transported to the Netherlands, where he was laid to rest in the Nieuwe Kerk in Amsterdam with full state honours. His entrails, however, were buried in Syracuse, close to the location where he died—an act of dignity and respect by the local authorities and the Church that has bound the cities of Augusta, Syracuse and the Netherlands in a shared history.

The program of this historical dinner will commence at 19.00 hrs. at a privately owned Palazzo on Piazza Duomo, kindly hosted by Barone Beneventano del Bosco.

R.S.V.P.

We kindly ask you to confirm your attendance by emailing the Chair of the Board and descendent, Ir. Frits de Ruyter de Wildt at stichting@deruyter.org referring to “VIP–dinner”.

With kind regards,

The Board of the Michiel de Ruyter Foundation

Ir. Frits de Ruyter de Wildt – Chair

Robert Kruyt – Treasurer

Martijn de Ruijter de Wildt – Secretary

Graddy Boven – Historian

Roeland Elias – Member

Marijne de Ruyter de Wildt – Member

VADM ret. Matthieu Borsboom – Member extraordinaire

Dress code: evening dress (full-size insignia)



This invitation has been sent to the embassies of 23 historically connected countries, five naval forces, and various international organizations.

EQUALITY

RESPECT

BAND OF HEARTS