

Invitation Historic Commemoration



Dear Francesco Paolo Scarpinato,

The board of the **Michiel de Ruyter Foundation** cordially invites you to attend the official historical event in **commemoration of the death of the Dutch Lieutenant Admiral-General Michiel Adriaenszoon de Ruyter** including a symposium and the unveiling of a commemorative plaque on **Wednesday, 29 April 2026**, in Syracuse, Sicily. We would also be honoured by your presence at the **VIP-dinner on the preceding evening**.

April 29 marks the **350th anniversary** of the passing of Lieutenant Admiral-General 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. We commemorate his enduring legacy as a leader in international maritime cooperation, religious tolerance, and the 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 that has bound the city of Syracuse and the Netherlands in **shared history**.

The program of the official historical events of the commemoration is envisioned as follows:

PROGRAM OFFICIAL HISTORICAL EVENT WEDNESDAY APRIL 29, 2026, SYRACUSE

15.30 – 16.00 hrs.	Arrival of guests at the historic Castello Maniace ,
16.00 – 17.00 hrs.	Symposium providing historical perspectives
17.00 – 17.30 hrs.	Walk to the Duomo di Siracusa
17.30 – 18.00 hrs.	Ecumenical service at the Duomo di Siracusa
18.00 – 18.15 hrs.	Walk to the Palazzo Vermexio
18.15 – 18.45 hrs.	Unveiling of a commemorative plaque and wreath-laying
18.45 – 20.15 hrs.	Concluding reception – aperitivo Syracuse style – to reflect and connect at a privately owned Palazzo on Piazza Duomo kindly hosted by Barone Beneventano del Bosco

VIP-DINNER ON TUESDAY APRIL 28, 2026, at 20.00 HRS.

As our guest, you are cordially invited to attend the VIP-dinner at a privately owned Palazzo on Piazza Duomo at Syracuse, kindly hosted by Barone Beneventano del Bosco.

Dress code: respectful (full-size insignia)

R.S.V.P.



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

Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Luxemburg, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Slovenia, Slovak Republic, Spain, Switzerland, The Vatican, United Kingdom, The Netherlands, European Union

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We kindly ask you to **confirm your attendance** at the historical event on the 29th and the VIP-dinner on the 28th of April.

Please email your response to the Chair of the Board and descendent, Ir. Frits de Ruyter de Wildt at stichting@deruyter.org

We look forward to welcoming you in Syracuse.

With kind regards,

The Board of the Michiel de Ruyter Foundation

Ir. Frits de Ruyter de Wildt – Chair

Robert Kruyt – Treasurer

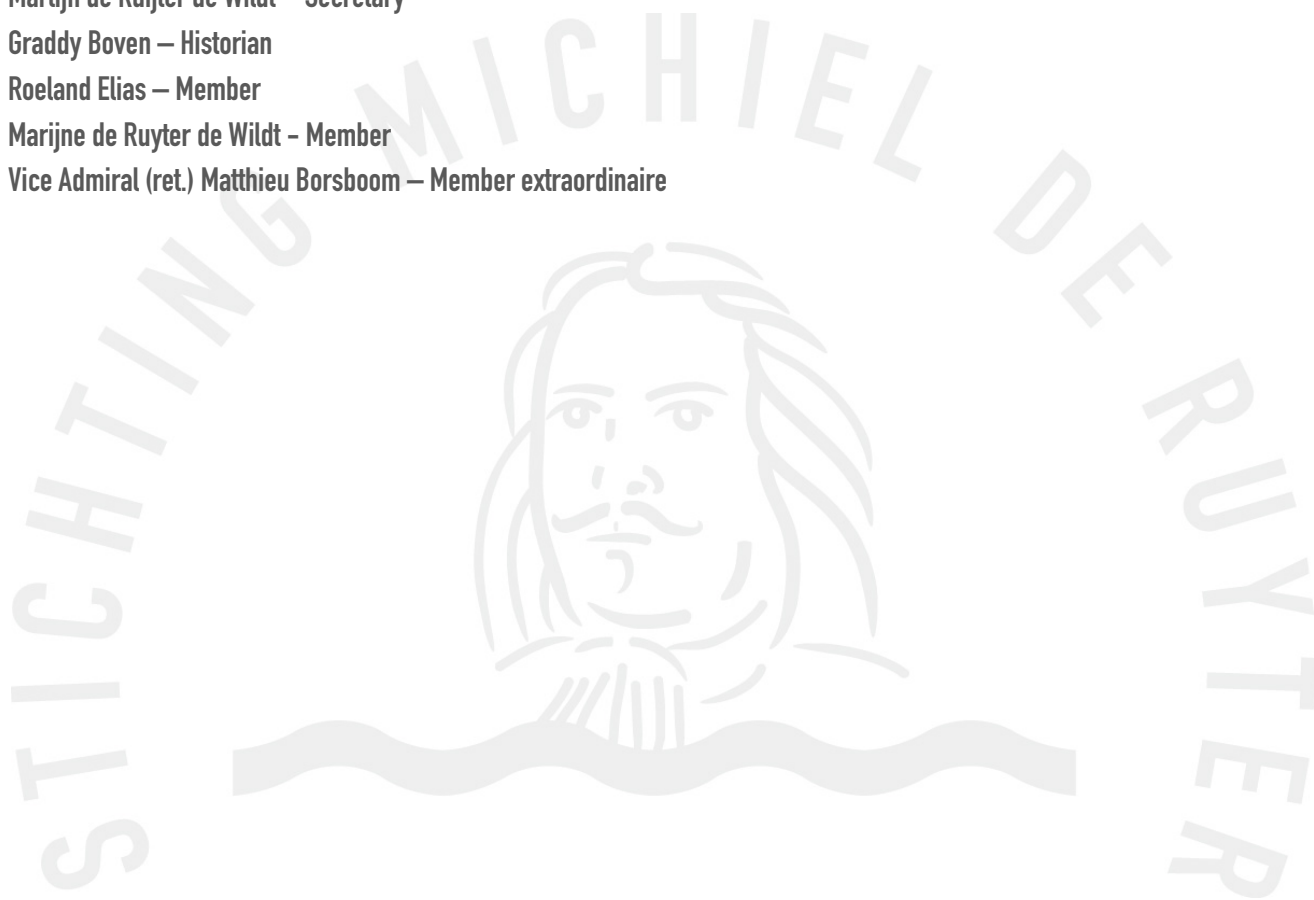
Martijn de Ruijter de Wildt – Secretary

Graddy Boven – Historian

Roeland Elias – Member

Marijne de Ruyter de Wildt – Member

Vice Admiral (ret.) Matthieu Borsboom – Member extraordinaire



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