LEADERSHIP
DEDICATION INTEGRITY

EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

June 20, 2019

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE:

First, I would like to report that our 32nd Annual Reunion was a resounding success. Those in attendance had a great time. Logistically, it was challenging but with the assistance of the Marines on the Reunion Committee everything fell into place.

We are aboard Parris Island right now preparing to give the Association Brief to our newest Drill Instructors. This is one of the highlights of my job as your president. To look into the eyes of these eager Marines as they embark on what will hopefully be the highlight of their career.

We will be bidding farewell to two of our strongest supporters. Colonel Barnett, Commanding Officer of the Recruit Training Regiment and LtColonel Nash Executive Officer of the Regiment will both retire shortly. Both are members of the Association and we hope to see them often.

For those interested, Jacy is now officially a third grader. She finished the year with excellent grades. Mary and I are very proud of her. She just attended her 7th reunion.

I am happy to announce I was elected to another 3-year term as your president and Mary as your Secretary/Treasurer. We will continue to represent the membership with enthusiasm.

REUNION:

Here is a quick reunion recap. Thursday began with registration held at the Brig and Brew. While space was limited there was no shortage of food, drink and comradery. With a little bit of luck, we will be back at Traditions next year for registration.
Friday began with a new twist. H&S Battalion’s Mess Hall was down for maintenance, so we ate in the Weapons Battalion Mess hall. While leaving the mess hall the bottom fell out of the sky and we were drenched. The rain quit quickly, and we had a wonderful Morning Colors ceremony. When Old Glory ascends the flagpole it always sends a little shiver over me. The Recruit Graduation ceremony was a double graduation allowing us to see both males and females march across the Parade Deck.

The Memorial Service as usual was very somber as our list of lost comrades continues to grow. SgtMaj Jim Moore our Association Chaplain gave a moving tribute to our fallen.

The picnic as usual was well attended and the Golden Corral made sure no one left hungry. The auction at the picnic didn’t raise a lot of money, but we sure had a lot of laughs. Cadence Calling and Story Telling was very entertaining. Friday came to an end and the membership was exhausted.

Saturday’s Members Meeting had a few twists this year. We elected a new Board Member, SgtMaj Richard VanNorton. Major Wojchiecewowski stepped down from the Board due to health reasons. I want to thank Ski for his service to the Association. At this meeting the membership voted to allow certain officers to become members. The requirement being that they be entitled to wear the DI Ribbon. This provision met staunch opposition in the past. After a request from a Regimental Officer to review the qualifications to wear the Drill Instructor Ribbon it was decided to allow those officers who are entitled to wear the ribbon membership in our Association. We are not getting any younger and the officers joining are our best supporters.

Saturday evening was one of the best banquets I can remember. Brigadier General Glynn gave a very motivational speech. We also had several Battalion Commanders and SgtsMajor in attendance. This year’s silent auction was the best yet, raising over a thousand dollars for our special projects fund.

Sunday morning is always hard saying farewell to close and new friends.

The 2020 reunion will be held 2-5 April 2020. More information will follow as we solidify all the details. We are hopeful that we will be back in the Lyceum for the banquet.

FINANCES:

We can again proudly say that we continue to operate in the black. Mary keeps a close eye on the Association’s finances. We can continue to support the many programs you have approved. We are even able to increase some awards.
MEMBERSHIP:

While we continue to attract new members, we are having a problem with membership renewals. Mary sent out 90 plus reminders to those whose memberships had lapsed and we only got about half back causing us to lose 40 plus members. We are going to send out reminders again next month. If a member does not renew in 30 days of the reminder they will be removed from the active roster. There is still no penalty for expired memberships but if you renew on time it makes the administration run much smoother.

DONATIONS:

Donations continue to be the lifeline of our Association. With our large number of life members, donations are essential to our success. We recently had one of the largest donations I can remember. The Carry-On Detachment 1236 of the Marine Corps League from Clayton, NC just made a $2500.00 donation. This was made possible because one of their members brought it up at a meeting. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the Marine Corps League.

Semper Fidelis,

[Signature]

SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)
President