



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION  
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

## "THE GRINDER"

March 4, 2020

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

We are once again approaching our annual reunion. This is an event that many members start planning for on their way home from Parris Island. We look forward to seeing everyone the first weekend in April. Things will be much better this year as we will be back in the Lyceum. For some reason, advanced registrations are down this year from previous years. If you are planning to attend, please get those registrations in as soon as possible. Planning for these events is paramount and numbers drive the planning. It also saves you money to preregister, as there is an increased cost to register at the door.

The Association continues to meet all its obligations, thanks to the dedication of our membership. We are recognizing more Marines than ever before and are still poised to assist should a need arise.

Mary and I wish you all safe travels to Parris Island.

### **MEMORIAL BRICKS:**

There will be 12 new bricks placed in the walkway this year. The footprints at the monument have been replaced and because of their excellent quality will last for many years to come. We revamped the brick order form making it easier to

navigate. Bricks are still available for purchase but will not be placed in the walkway until next year.

### **MEMBERSHIP:**

I receive many questions about notification for membership renewal. There is no process in place to allow for advance notification. We periodically go through the membership roster and any membership expired for over three months gets a reminder. So far, this process has resulted in most memberships being renewed. There is no penalty for failing to renew in a timely manner, but the revenue helps us meet our obligations.

### **GOLF OUTING:**

Bob and Mary Warren have volunteered to coordinate the golf outing this year. Their information is on the website. If you like to golf give them a call.

### **AUCTION ITEMS:**

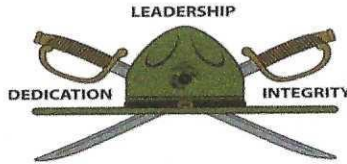
We are going to have a large silent auction this year. Mike Thompson, a great friend of the Association, has duplicated his efforts from last year and will have many motivational and historic items available for bid. Bring your checkbook and be ready to support your Association by purchasing a one of a kind item.

### **DONATIONS:**

Finally, the hardest part of my letter is to ask for donations. Only you know your financial situation and I would never want to cause hardship. If you have a little left at some time in the year, please consider a donation to support Drill Instructors. All donations are tax deductible.

Semper Fidelis,

SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION  
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

## "THE GRINDER"

September 30, 2019

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

This has been the most chaotic year that I can remember. Our Nation and the Association has been turned upside down. Beginning with the cancellation of our 2020 Reunion, things continued to get more and more interesting. Parris Island closed the gates to all but essential personnel, seriously hampering our ability to continue to fulfill all our commitments. With the support of Sergeant Major Thomas, the RTR Sergeant Major and Mrs. Charlotte Gonzalez, MCCS Operations Officer, we managed to cover everything.

The climate at the Depot and across the country will have a direct input as to whether we are able to have a reunion in 2021. We have tentatively asked for 29 April through 2 May. We are going to be later this year announcing the date and opening for registrations. The Depot will not give us a final decision until after the first of the year. More information will be posted to the website as soon as we get confirmation.

Mary and I continue to be immensely proud of this Association and the support you give to the Active Duty Drill Instructor. Thank you all for the confidence you continue to show us.

I wish I could be more positive but right now we are at the mercy of a virus unlike any seen during my lifetime. Please stay safe and we will keep you informed. We will make it through this, and we will emerge stronger when it is over. God bless this Association and the United States of America.

## **FINANCES:**

Thanks to Mary and our loyal membership our bank accounts remain in particularly good condition. We successfully completed the transition from Fort Sill National Bank to Navy Federal Credit Union. The major reason for the switch was the closure of the Fort Sill Branch aboard Parris Island

## **MEMBERSHIP:**

Our membership numbers continue to hover around 450 members. We recently mailed 80 membership reminders. So far, we have gotten about half back. Many members wait until reunion time to renew, unfortunately the needs of the Association do not revolve around the reunion. We still must meet our obligations every quarter. Please check your card if it is expired please renew. There is no penalty. We continue to ask if you know a Drill Instructor, invite them to join. We have processed no new members since this pandemic hit.

## **DONATIONS:**

We are preparing to make our annual donations to the Holiday Meal Program and the Battalion's Christmas celebrations. Those donations amount to \$1200.00 each. Last year we were able to donate \$500.00 through MCCS to assist needy families in the Beaufort area. We hope to be able to contribute at least that amount this year. Considering the state of the nation that is the least we can do.

We were also approached by an organization out of Battleground, Alabama to donate. Camp Liberty is a non-profit organization that performs multiple programs to assist communities and youth all over our country. They run leadership programs in the summer for youth. Drill Instructors from all branches come together for that time and teach confidence and leadership to these young people. With the Board of Directors approval, we donated \$500.00 to assist them in construction of a much-needed aid station. Our ability to make these donations is only possible through your generosity.

I know times are tough and money is tight. I just ask that if you have a little left over consider a donation to your Association. I can assure you that every dollar you donate goes to the betterment of the Association's programs.

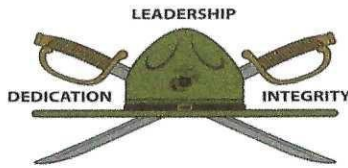
**FALLEN COMRADES:**

We normally honor our fallen members at our reunion in April. I am sad to say that the list will be longer at our next reunion. Our losses have mounted with several life members attending their Final Formation. Most recently we mourn the loss of GySgt D.K. Comer, SgtMaj Ralph Sargent, SgtMaj Jeff Nadeau and most recently SgtMaj Wes Melton. Please join us in a prayer for the families. We will honor these members and all who have passed at our next reunion.

Semper Fidelis,

  
SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)





EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION  
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

## "THE GRINDER"

December 11, 2020

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:**

This has been a year for the records. I hope this letter finds all our members in good health and getting ready for Christmas and the New Year. We have been exceptionally low key for the second half of this year but have managed to honor all our commitments aboard the Depot.

I wish I had better news concerning the 2021 Reunion; however, we are in a waiting mode. The Depot can not give permission until the Corona Virus is under control. News of a vaccine is encouraging but we must wait and see. We remain hopeful that we will be able to have a Reunion in 2021. The Commanding General has voiced her support and will try to honor our request if possible. The final word may not come until after the first of the year. The late notice will present new challenges as we try to get everything planned and in place prior to the date. Keep a watch on the website and I will get the information out as soon as I have it.

Mary and I were extremely fortunate to be invited to come to Parris Island in November. We were able to meet all the newest Senior Enlisted leadership in the Regiment. I was also invited to be the Parade Reviewing Official for Echo Company's graduation. It was a different experience without visitors, only the base staff and their families could attend. On Saturday morning I also got to

witness the Crucible Marines receiving their EGA. We also had the opportunity to deliver the Holiday Meal and Christmas donations.

I am very saddened to announce that we lost our Vice President, Roger Stembridge, to the Corona Virus. Roger is just one of several long-time members who have passed this year. Go to the website under Fallen Comrades for the complete list. Bud Apple has volunteered to assume the Vice President position until our next member's meeting.

### **QUARTERMASTER SALES:**

In addition to the items already for sale on our website, we are glad to announce the book that we have been given the rights to is now for sale on Amazon. You can access the link from our website. This would be a great Christmas gift or just an addition to your library. Please spread the word the more we sale the more the Association makes to help our cause.

### **MEMORIAL BRICKS:**

This year's bricks are now in place. Our vendor was not granted access to the Depot until 11 November. If you want a brick for next year, we are accepting orders now. Whether we have a Reunion or not the bricks will be ordered and installed.

### **DONATIONS:**

Donations continue to be one of our biggest sources of revenue. I know everyone's situation is different. If you are able please make a tax-deductible donation to your Association.

### **MEMBERSHIPS:**

We sent out reminder cards to all members whose membership had lapsed. The response was good; however, there are some members who did not respond, and their name will be removed from the rolls. Please keep your membership current as every membership helps.

**DRILL INSTRUCTOR SCHOOL:**

I have been approached by Drill Instructor School to possibly support another award. The award would be a DI Hat Press. I have asked them to do the leg work and get us a figure. We will only undertake this if it is sustainable. I will be working with the Board of Directors moving forward.

Semper Fidelis,

  
SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)