



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

March 24, 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I hope this edition finds everyone recovering from the disaster that is COVID-19. In past years we would be busily planning for our annual reunion. While things appear to be improving, we are unable to hold our reunion in April. We are keeping a close watch on this situation and are striving to hold a reunion this year in the Fall. The tentative dates are 7-10 October. Be sure and mark it on your calendar. I hope the membership will support this decision and attend. The daily operation of the Association is still doing well. We managed to support all our obligations to the Depot. Mary and I were able to visit the Depot for the RTR SgtMaj's Relief and Appointment. SgtMaj Jesse Becker is the new RTR SgtMaj. He immediately joined the Association which shows the continued support from the Depot. Please continue to stay safe and we hope to see as many of you as possible in October.

MEMORIAL BRICKS:

While we were unable to hold a reunion in 2020, we still installed all bricks ordered in the walkway at the monument. If you would like a brick installed during the reunion in October now is the time to get your order in. The forms are available on the website or you can contact me directly for a form.

MEMBERSHIP:

We recently sent out reminders to members whose membership had expired. The response was good, but we still have a lot of members who will be removed from the active roster. Once removed from the active roster members will no longer

receive reunion notifications via USPS. Our Reunion in the fall may be limited in numbers and members and their guest would have priority. Membership is essential to maintain our presence at Parris Island. I regret we are currently unable to offer Life memberships. The dues are a small price to pay to support active-duty Drill Instructors, their families, and the community. Please keep getting the word out for new members.

CHALLENGE COIN:

For several years we have been considering a challenge coin for our Association. We are entering the home stretch. I feel sure we will have a coin at the reunion, if not before. The coins will be affordable, and I am sure most of you will want several. The coin has the monument on one side and the logos from RTR, DI School and the 5 battalions on the reverse side. I am attaching a picture of the coin artwork.

ASSISTANCE REQUESTED:

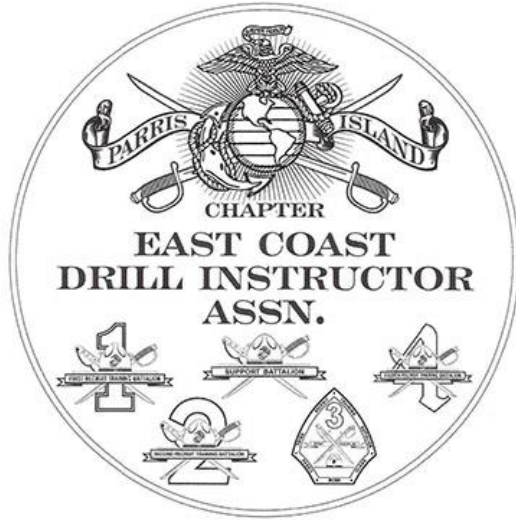
I have received a request from Frederick Coffey for a memory search. Frederick is building a scale model of the old Receiving Barracks, (Bldg. 631) and would like answers to the following questions. Where were the yellow footprints? Where did the bus stop? Were the footprints directly in front of the hatch or on the street just off Panama Street? Send any information to me and I will forward it to Frederick.

DONATIONS:

We are blessed as an Association to have many generous members. Donations along with membership dues keep the Association relevant. Please consider a donation to support the many programs we have in place to honor and support active-duty Drill Instructors and their families. All donations are appreciated and are tax deductible.

Semper Fidelis,

SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)



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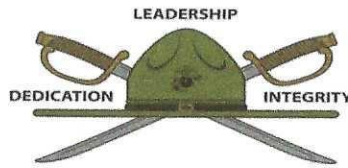
**UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
DRILL INSTRUCTORS CREED**

LEADERSHIP
 DEDICATION
 INTEGRITY

THESE RECROUS ARE ENTRUSTED TO MY CARE,
 I WILL TEACH THEM TO THE BEST OF MY ABILITY,
 I WILL DEVELOP THEM INTO SMARTLY DISCIPLINED,
 PHYSICALLY FIT, BASICALLY TRAINED MARINES,
 THOROUGHLY INDOCTRINATED IN LOVE OF
 THE CORPS AND COUNTRY.
 I WILL DEMAND OF THEM AND DEMONSTRATE
 THE HIGHEST STANDARDS OF CHARACTER,
 MORALITY AND PROFESSIONAL SKILL.




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EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

June 21, 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Mary, Jacy and I would like to wish you all a happy Summer. I am so thankful that our nation is digging out from this terrible Pandemic. As things slowly return to normal, we are diligently planning our 33rd Annual Reunion. Circumstances have required a move to October, more on that later.

Your Association continues to thrive with the support of our members. We have continued to meet every obligation and have even taken on a new one. The board and I feel that the recognition of active-duty Drill Instructors is essential to our success.

We were able to visit the Depot recently for the 2nd Battalion SgtMaj Relief and Appointment Ceremony. We have been drastically restricted in our visits to the Depot due to COVID. The CG, Depot SgtMaj and Protocol have made every effort to allow us access when possible.

When we meet in October literally ever officer, board member and trustee will be open for election. Unfortunately, we have lost several members this year. If you would like to throw your hat in the ring and be considered for a position let it be known to your brothers and sisters so that you can be nominated. As Jacy gets older Mary and I will have less time to devote to the Association. We will still be as active as possible when our time comes to step down. There will be one more newsletter in September before we meet. I will go into specifics at that time. We

just wanted to plant the seed in everyone's mind for something to think and plan about.

This has been a challenging period for our Association. Each of you has made it much easier with your encouragement and support. I am honored to serve as your President.

Stay healthy and we look forward to seeing everyone in October.

FINANCES:

Mary completed the end of year accounting and reported to the trustees. She also completed the 990ez with the IRS. Both those documents are available for your inspection on the website. We also completed our annual application for fundraisers with the state of South Carolina.

REUNION:

We have long had our annual reunions during the month of April. Unfortunately, due to COVID we were not able to gain access to the Depot for all our members. Working closely with Protocol we decided, with the concurrence of the Board, to move the reunion to the Fall to allow things to return to normal. While not a guarantee we are deep in the planning process for this reunion. We can decide as a membership how we want to proceed in future years. The key this year is once announced, and registration forms are available get them in early. Mail directly to me at 804 Lynview St. NE., Lenoir, NC 28645. The host hotel is the Quality Inn Town Center. We went to several hotels and asked for quotes. Their rates were close to double the Quality. Their number is 843-524-2144. Mention the Association for the block rate.

BRICKS:

If you would like a brick installed in the walkway at the monument, please do not wait until the last moment. I currently only have a couple of requests for bricks. The more we have the less the cost to the Association to have them engraved. Send the forms to me here at 804 Lynview St. NE, Lenoir, NC. If you send them to

the Parris Island address, they will sit there until we make a trip to Parris Island. I must receive all orders no later than 27 August 2021 to insure placement.

MEMBERSHIP:

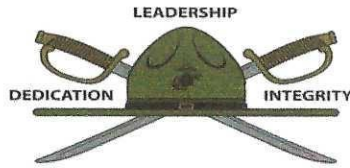
We still have quite a few members whose membership has lapsed. We send out reminders twice a year. While response is good, we still remove many members each year due to nonpayment of dues. There is not a penalty if you are late. Dues are our major source of income without them we could not continue our good work.

QUARTERMASTER:

Inventory is limited right now, with some sizes and colors out of stock. I plan to place an order in advance of the reunion. PIDI shirts are still in stock in all sizes. A new item that will be a hit at the reunion is a challenge coin. This has been in the planning for several years and has finally come to fruition. They will be \$10.00 per coin. They are available on the website now and will be available at the reunion.

Semper Fidelis,


Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)
President



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

October 22, 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

I thought about putting out a newsletter near the end of September but chose to wait until after the Reunion so I could give a recap while everything was fresh in my memory.

First off 2020 was almost as chaotic as 2019. Things did loosen up a bit and we were given access to the Depot which enabled us to plan a reunion as well as keep all our programs satisfied. I am proud to announce that throughout this COVID disaster we never missed an opportunity to recognize our young Drill Instructors. These young Marines are making us proud every day. They do not do it as we did and probably for very good reasons. I still see the finished product standing up and distinguishing themselves in battle. We can be proud of what is happening at Parris Island. They are still the best!

Planning is well underway for our 34th Reunion 7-10 April 2022. I know that is a short turn around, but the members voted to return to April. I hope by then more will feel safe enough to attend.

FINANCES:

Mary continues to stay on top of our finances. The combined balance in our (checking and savings) even after the reunion is close to \$30,000.00. Financially we are very stable. We did spend a little more on this reunion due to the short numbers.

MEMBERSHIP:

We are starting to gain numbers in memberships; however, we paid tribute to 29 of our Drill Instructors who passed since we last met at the Drill Instructor Memorial Service during the reunion. We are not getting any younger so please stay diligent and encourage membership when you meet a fellow Drill Instructor. Out of the reminders Mary sent out we only got about 50% back. Those names will be removed from the roster after the next reminders go out. It is important to keep your membership current because that helps us continue to recognize our Active Duty.

REUNION RECAP:

While this was our smallest reunion in quite some time, it was a huge success. The support we received from the Depot was the best I have ever seen. We began on Thursday afternoon at the Brig and Brew, while a smaller venue it got the job done. The food prepared by Traditions was as usual outstanding. We stayed there until 1930.

Friday began with the weather being a little questionable. Breakfast at H&S Battalion was very good as usual. Colors went very well with the band putting on an exceptional performance. Graduation began then things got interesting. A rain squall was rapidly approaching so graduation was cut short. The Memorial Service was moved to the Recruit Chapel conducted by the Association Chaplain, SgtMaj Jim Moore USMC (Ret). There was hardly a dry eye in the Chapel.

After the Memorial we made the decision to move the picnic from Elliot's Beach to the Indoor All Weather Training Facility. The Marines made the move smoothly and we were soon back in business and dry too. Many thanks to the local DAV who accepted the challenge to cater our picnic.

After the picnic there was a lull until time for the Cadence Calling Story Telling competition. We had many active-duty participants making for a very good time. By the time the event was over it was time for rest before Saturday.

The member's meeting began at 0830 with first a welcome from the 1stSgt DI School and then from the Regimental SgtMaj, SgtMaj Becker. We moved through

the meeting quickly due to DK Comer's Memorial Service at 1000 at the Beaufort National Cemetery. Elections were held and we welcomed old and new members to the Association leadership. I gave a quick recap of the year, which I did in my message. We adjourned in time to make the Memorial Service.

The Banquet was well attended by our Active Duty and the band put on one of the best performances I have ever seen. Many of the band came back and joined us for dinner. After the Silent Auction was passed out and the 50/50 raffle it was time to call it a night.

Without the Golden Corral everyone was on their own for breakfast on Sunday.

DONATIONS:

While I previously stated that our finances are sound, we cannot afford to relax. We rely on donations and memberships to finance all our giving. No donation is too small, and all will be put to good use. I do not pretend to know anyone's situation, just give when you can.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kenneth D. Miller".

Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)

President



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER

December 10, 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

As we get closer to the end of 2021 let us all take time to reflect on what Christmas is really about. I am the first to realize it is a time to give and receive gifts. A time to watch the little children as they wake up to the magic of Christmas morning with presents under the tree. I ask that we all reflect on the true reason for the season and that is the birth of our savior Jesus Christ. Mary, Jacy and I send our best wishes for a wonderful Christmas and a safe and prosperous New Year. We pray that everyone has good health in 2022.

I am proud and humbled to continue as the president of the Drill Instructors Association. We are already planning our next reunion and hope things are relaxed enough to have a better turn out.

This time of year presents some challenges as we close out the year. The Association's books must be closed out for the year. This is Mary's 12th year as your Secretary-Treasurer, and she has always balanced and gotten the records to the Trustees on time. I foresee no difference this year.

We continue to meet all our obligations to the Regiment. We were also able to donate \$500.00 to MCCS for Operation Santa. I am so proud of this Association with your generous heart of giving. We sure have come a long way.

REUNION:

Planning is well underway for 2022. I am very pleased to announce that the SgtMaj of the Marine Corps, SgtMaj Troy Black, and his wife have accepted our invitation as co-guests of honor. I have tried for years to this end. I am looking forward to their attendance.

I am looking into a host hotel. There were dated problems with the Quality Inn this year. The problem is they gave us the best deal plus a Hospitality Room. If we change hotels it is going to be more expensive, and we may lose the Hospitality Room. I am open to suggestions. I will be going to Beaufort in January and will look into other hotels in the area.

QUARTERMASTER GEAR:

While I still have many items of quartermaster items in stock some items are gone. The khaki jacket that was so popular is no longer available. I still have several mediums in stock. If you would like one get your order in before they are gone. Since I store these items in my home, I usually don't place a replenishment order until closer to the reunion.

The challenge coin is now available at a cost of \$10.00 each plus shipping. These items make great gifts.

MEMORIAL BRICKS:

Last year we placed the fewest bricks I can ever remember. If you want a brick, get your request in soon. I will have to place the order around the first of March to get them delivered in time. The bricks make a nice tribute to the time we spent at Parris Island or to honor someone who is no longer with us. Consider getting one as a Christmas gift, imagine their surprise seeing it at the reunion in April. Several members have pitched in together to purchase a brick honoring someone they served with. I bought one to recognize the many sacrifices Mary has made in support of not only me but the Association. If you want one get your order in soon, since we pay more per brick the fewer, we order.

DONATIONS:

Donations naturally fell off during the pandemic, but due to the generosity of many of our members donating 2020's Reunion Registration we came through pretty much unscathed. The Depot was easy on us as well, keeping costs for the 2021 reunion close to prior years. This is the hardest part for me every newsletter, asking for donations. I don't know anyone's situation. I ask only that if you are able donate what you can to ensure that we never have to renege on a commitment that we made.

Semper Fidelis,

SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)
President