



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 34<sup>th</sup> 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,



Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret)

President