



EAST COAST DRILL INSTRUCTORS' ASSOCIATION
PARRIS ISLAND CHAPTER

"THE GRINDER"

December 30, 2024

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

Mary, Jacy, and I hope you had a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and prosperous New Year. As the weather is turning colder, stay warm. As we spend time with family and friends during this season, let us reflect on the real reason for the season. We serve an amazing God.

Mary had a shoulder replacement in August, and it has slowed our travels. While we were not able to go to Parris Island we stayed in contact with the leadership and continued to meet our obligations to the Regiment and the Marines in the area.

Mary and I have been doing this since 2009. While we continue to serve the time is drawing close for us to turn the helm over. I hope to leave the Association in excellent shape when it is time for us to hang it up. I will support the new leadership in any way I can. Our time with this Association has been remarkable. Thank you all for allowing us to lead for all these years. We again want to thank our new Vice President SgtMaj John Allen for his great help at the Depot.

REUNION:

Planning is continuing for our 2025 Reunion. The dates for this year's reunion are 1-4 May. Unfortunately, higher prices are catching up. We will strive to keep the cost to our members as low as we can.

I will be in touch with a new hotel soon. The cost will be higher, but the accommodation will be better. We hope to still be able to offer the shuttle.

We may have to move the picnic to the Brig and Brew due to a wedding at Traditions. At the Brig and Brew the atmosphere will be closer and we will be able

to communicate with each other better. This aspect is not etched in stone yet, but it is being discussed.

The Commanding General has accepted our invitation to be our Guest of Honor. I have heard him speak; we are in for a treat as we hear about our Corps.

MEMORIAL BRICKS:

Time is getting close for Memorial Bricks. If you want a brick in place this reunion, get your request in soon. I will publish the deadline on the website in January. The bricks make a great tribute to our time served aboard the Depot.

QUARTERMASTER GEAR:

We continue to offer our gear for sale on the website. I will be placing an order early next year to make sure we have enough for the reunion. As with everything else prices continue to climb. If you purchase items at the reunion we can save you a little money.

MEMBERSHIPS:

We continue to struggle with keeping memberships up to date. Mary will prepare reminders to go out early next year. Please renew, we need the commitment of all our members to keep your Association relevant.

DONATIONS:

One of the hardest topics for me is asking for donations. We have lost many of our biggest donors over the last few years. I do not know everyone's situation and I certainly understand today's challenges. I just ask if you can, donate to your Association. I assure you that every dollar goes to support your Association. We continue to recognize the Senior Drill Instructor and Drill Instructor of the Quarter from each Battalion. The overall winner is also recognized. The Drill Instructor of the year is recognized. We also sponsor three awards from Drill Instructor School four times a year. Mary has done an excellent job managing our finances. If you are a regular donor, thank you if not see if you can spare a small donation. Donations are tax deductible.

Semper Fidelis,


SgtMaj Kenneth D. Miller USMC (Ret) President