



MARINE CORPS DISBURSING ASSOCIATION

P.O. Box 348, Vista, CA 92085-0348

usmcdisbursers.com

Fall 2024 newsletter

President

Folks just a few more months until the 2025 biennial meeting and reunion in Savannah, Georgia from 18 to 22 May 2025. All are invited to attend. You do not have to be a supporting member of the association to join us in Savannah and participate in the events. I look forward to seeing you there.

The reunion committee is working diligently to finalize details and make this reunion one to remember. My gratitude to William Schrader, Judy Sizemore, and Neil Sizemore for their assistance in the reunion planning.

Our Sergeant at Arms, Earl Gilpin, brought an issue with the room upgrades to my attention recently. It seems that the last newsletter didn't clearly identify how to apply for the room upgrade raffle for folks without a PayPal account. This is better explained later in the newsletter. We will extend the deadline to 31 December and conduct the drawing on 11 January. I apologize for any misunderstanding or inconvenience.

Please read on...

*Semper Fi,
Bennie*

From The Veep!

As another year comes to a close, we're still looking for new members. Try to corral up your fellow Marines that you see frequently so they can

join our fine organization! This organization has been around for over 20 years and we need to keep it around a lot longer than that.

I want to thank Richard Cichowski for stepping up to head our audit committee. It takes quite a bit of work to keep this organization afloat so if you are interested in having a seat in any of our positions, vacant or not, let me or Bennie know.

Looking forward to seeing everyone at next year's reunion!

*Ooh Rah,
Charles*

News from the Adj

We are a bit behind on delinquent membership notifications. If you know that your 2-year membership is coming up for renewal, please provide your \$30 payment to us using PayPal or check payable to MCDA, PO Box 348, Vista, CA 92085-0348. Membership renewal reminders will be sent via email or USPS as we get caught up. Thanks for your patience and understanding!

Membership fees represent the most significant revenue streams for the association, which allows us to continue the legacy of the MCDA founders in supporting many outstanding causes - active duty awards, scholarships, and many other sponsored events. This time of year is also a great time to remind you that the association accepts tax deductible donations. The MCDA leadership team

works voluntarily so all donations go directly to the programs. Please consider donating before the CY tax cycle expires on 31 December.

*Thank you!
Gary*

WE REMEMBER

It is with a heavy heart we announce the passing of the following MCDA members during 2024:

Sharon K. Vanderford (Gilpin) – 28 Oct 2024

MGySgt Clayton Stokley – 1 July 2024

May they rest in peace.

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

The Shelley Stokley Memorial Scholarship Fund offers scholarships to any disbursing Marine veteran, their spouse, children and grandchildren. Applications will be accepted from November 1st through April 30th (Postmarked). The eligibility requirements and application form can be found on our website, usmcdisbursers.com. The association has awarded more than \$59,000 in educational assistance since 2009.

2025 SAVANNAH REUNION

The reunion dates are May 18-22, 2025. As always, the registration fee is required but you only need to sign up for the tours/events you wish to attend. There are registrations deadlines and no-refund dates for most events so please select carefully.

We will be staying at the DeSoto Savannah hotel located in the historic district. The daily room rate is \$199.00 plus taxes. The room rate will be available for 3-days pre/post event dates for those who plan on an extended stay. This rate does not include breakfast but there is a restaurant in the hotel and several within walking distance. A restaurant, bar, and coffee shop are located in the hotel lobby.

On-site parking is valet only at \$35 per day with in/out privileges. City parking is available within walking distance at a rate of \$18 per day but it does not include in/out privileges.

The hotel does not have an airport shuttle. A taxi or Uber costs approximately \$35 from the airport to the hotel. Rates vary with time of day and traffic.

Sunday evening is reunion registration from 1400 – 1630 followed by a social from 1700 – 1900 in the Pulaski meeting room. The social will be hors d'oeuvres and an open bar with a \$500 limit. Once the limit is met, drinks are available for purchase.

The Pulaski Room will serve as our hospitality room for Sunday evening but then we move to the Harborview Room on Monday due to hotel scheduling.

Monday will kick off with a group photo (TBD) then a tour of the Prohibition Museum where a

cocktail/mocktail may be purchased following the self-guided tour.

Lunch and shopping on your own in the City Market located in the same building as the Prohibition Museum. (approx. 1.5 hours available)

Next, we head over to Old Fort Jackson, a 19th-century fort and national Historic Landmark, located on the eastern end of the city on the Savannah River. This will be a guided tour with a cannon firing demonstration.

Tuesday will begin with a guided tour at the Georgia State Railroad Museum in the morning. Then we head to the port for a lunch buffet and riverboat cruise aboard the Riverboat Queen or Georgia Queen (TBD). Drinks available for purchase.

Our biennial meeting and memorial dinner will be on Wednesday 21 May. The meeting time is scheduled for 1000 in the Harborview (hospitality) room and the memorial dinner is tentatively scheduled for 1700-2000 in the Harborview (hospitality) room.

Reservations can be made using the Direct Booking Link: <https://be.synxis.com/?Hotel=76327&Chain=26905&arrive=2025-05-18&depart=2025-05-22&adult=1&child=0&group=2505MARINE> or by calling their Central Reservations line: 912.232.9000 – referencing group block: 2505MARINE.

Lastly, we received two free room upgrades in our contract with the DeSoto. One for a Parlor Suite and one for Executive King Balcony, both at the discounted group room rate. We will raffle these

rooms between now and 31 December at \$4 per chance or 3 chances for \$10.00.

To participate, use the PayPal donation link on our website. You do not need to have a PayPal account. You can log in as a guest and input your card information (see attached instructions). [Donate \(paypal.com\)](https://www.paypal.com/donate). On the link there is an option to “write a note (optional)”. In this field, type “2025 Reunion Room Upgrade”. A random draw will occur on Saturday 11 January to determine the two winners for the room upgrade. First winner is the Exec King, second is the Suite. Winners will be notified by email and the hotel will be provided with the names to upgrade current reservations.

This is in addition to the free night we usually receive and auction off. We will still receive some free nights to auction off based on room nights actualized during the reunion.

Don't forget to pack your items for the silent auction and leave some space in the suitcase for souvenirs and auction purchases.

Feel free to reach out with any questions. usmcdisbursers@hotmail.com