



## **MARINE CORPS DISBURSING ASSOCIATION**

P.O. BOX 348, VISTA, CA 92085-0348 (619) 787-3609

[usmcdisbursers.com](http://usmcdisbursers.com)

November 2023



### **PRESIDENT**

The 2023 Reunion in Louisville is in the books. Bravo Zulu to the reunion committee, the Hyatt Regency Staff, and all the volunteers who made the reunion a success. Job well done! A great time, filled with good memories was had in Louisville. I am excited about the upcoming 2025 reunion in Savannah. I look forward to seeing you there!

We have been working with the schoolhouse to provide Marine Corps and Disbursing items and photos for a display case. Those items are now on display at the Financial Management School. I would like to thank CWO3 Joseph Harrison and his staff at FMS for putting this together and giving us the opportunity to participate. I also want to thank everyone who donated items. We will try to get a couple of pictures uploaded to the Association website soon.

On a somber note, the Association recently lost two key members. Kevin Gascon, our adjutant/treasurer, passed on 9 November 2023 and Michael Thiry, one of our founding members and former treasurer, passed on 29 August 2023. Our deepest condolences to family and friends. The loss is deeply felt. They are greatly missed.

Kevin's untimely passing left a vacancy in our ranks. Gary Warren stepped up and volunteered to fill the position. A special meeting was called, and Gary was unanimously elected to the position of adjutant/treasurer. I would like to personally thank Gary for graciously volunteering.

Please read on...

Semper Fi, Bennie Helton, President  
[benniedhelton@yahoo.com](mailto:benniedhelton@yahoo.com)

### **MCDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:**

President – Bennie Helton,  
[benniedhelton@yahoo.com](mailto:benniedhelton@yahoo.com)  
Vice President – Charles Dennis,  
[cedennis13@gmail.com](mailto:cedennis13@gmail.com)  
Adjutant/Treasurer – Gary Warren,  
[warrengaryw@gmail.com](mailto:warrengaryw@gmail.com)

### **FROM THE ADJUTANT...**

As stated above, the Louisville, KY reunion was held this past May. Events enjoyed by the group included a narrated City Bus Tour, tours of the Kentucky Derby Museum, General Patton Museum, the Louisville Slugger Museum and Factory, and a 2-hr Riverboat Sunset Cruise on the Ohio River. Additionally, we conducted our memorial service and enjoyed two group dinners at the hotel.

The members voted on Savannah, Georgia as the location for the next reunion in 2025. Savannah offers several tour options: Riverboat Cruise on the Georgia Queen, American Prohibition Museum, Historic Savannah Sightseeing Bus or Trolley tour and a few others.

### **MCDA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES:** **May 24, 2023, Louisville, KY**

Membership: 192  
Combat percentage: 93.7%

### **MEMBERSHIP APPROVED:**

- 1) Charles Dennis as the new Vice President
- 2) Robb Barrett as the fundraising Chair
- 3) 2025 East Coast reunion site, Savannah, Georgia
- 4) The West Coast for the 2027 reunion

Membership was presented with Disbursing brief by Col Bill Cox and possible off-cycle cruise ideas presented by Neil and Judy Sizemore.

The following members were honored with Lifetime Memberships:

Greg Bucholtz; Ernie Ernst, Bernie Shear, Glenda Soloy, Clayton Stokley, and Barbara Thiry.

### **2023 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED**

Congratulations to the following 2023 MCDA scholarship awardees:

**Kathryn Bouslough**, granddaughter of LtCol Gregory Harbac. She will be attending the University of North Dakota in Grand Forks ND.

**Benjamin Chmielewski**, son of SSgt Paul Chmielewski. He will be attending Central Michigan University in Mount Pleasant, MI.

**Avery Kane**, granddaughter of MGySgt Andrew Finnegan. She will be attending State University of New York in Cortland, NY.

**Alayna Kavanaugh**, daughter of SSgt Joseph Kavanaugh. She will be attending North Carolina Wesleyan College in Rocky Mount, NC.

**Trevor Schrader**, son of Col William Schrader. He will be attending Ava Maria University Ava Maria, FL.

**Callie Warren**, daughter of CWO-4 Gary Warren. She will be attending the University of California in Santa Barbara, CA.

**Emily Zeller**, daughter of LtCol Jeffrey Zeller. She will be attending the University of Wisconsin in Madison, WI.

### **EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS**

The Association offers scholarships to any disbursing Marine veteran, their spouse, children and grandchildren. Applications will be accepted from November 1<sup>st</sup> through April 30<sup>th</sup>

(Postmarked). The eligibility requirements and application form can be found on our website, [usmcdisbursers.com](http://usmcdisbursers.com).

### **MEMBERSHIP**

If you are a current member, thank you for your support! If you are not currently a member, we would like you to consider joining us. A current membership listing and application form can be found on our website. The cost is only \$30.00 for a two-year membership Being a member does not obligate you to any association duties.

Although we are primarily a social organization, we do support our brothers and sisters through our Shelly Stokley Scholarship Fund and our active duty awards programs. See our website for more information and a listing of current scholarship and active duty awardees.

**Recruitment Effort** – I'm asking all current members to assist in recruiting new members. I challenge each member to get one other past or present disbursing member to join our association. We all know folks out there that we used to serve with. Reach out to them through social media or other means.

### **WE REMEMBER**

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of the following MCDA members during 2023:

**MGySgt Kevin Gascon** – November 9, 2023

**MGySgt Michael Thiry** – August 29, 2023

**CWO-4 Martin Kusturin** – June 11, 2023

**Maj Jack Warford** – April 12, 2023

**GySgt Bruce Van Kirk** – March 1, 2023

Their names will be added to our association memorial plaque, as well as the We Remember page on our website. May they Rest-in-Peace!