



MARINE CORPS DISBURSING ASSOCIATION

P.O. BOX 348, VISTA, CA 92085-0348 (760) 458-2655

usmcdisbursers.com

October 2021



PRESIDENT

I would first like to thank the membership for electing me as your new President. It is truly an honor to take the helm of such a great organization. I look forward to working with you all as we move ahead, continuing the efforts of my predecessor and others that have made this association a success. That being said, we are forever grateful for the leadership and guidance provided by Greg Bucholtz while he served as the President of the association for many, many years. Job well done Greg!

I would also like to thank Bernie Shear for his longstanding service as the association's Chaplain. We appreciate all you did to make the Memorial Service at our reunion's a respectful/honorable event.

A wonderful time was had by all at the Reno, Nevada reunion. Reno proved to be an outstanding location and I look forward to seeing everyone at our next reunion in Louisville, Kentucky in 2023!

Please read on...

Semper Fi, Bennie Helton, President
benniedhelton@yahoo.com

MCDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

President – Bennie Helton,
benniedhelton@yahoo.com
Vice President – Clayton Stokley,
cestokley@hotmail.com
Adjutant/Treasurer – Kevin Gascon,
mojorisin68@hotmail.com

FROM THE ADJUTANT...

I would personally like to thank Bennie Helton for graciously volunteering to take the El Presidente position, as well as Jaime Gomez for taking on the role as the association's Chaplain.

As stated above, the Reno, NV reunion was held this past August. Events enjoyed by the group included a Lake Tahoe guided tour with a 2-hr boat cruise around the lake on the M.S. Dixie II Paddle-wheeler, a tour through Carson City and a narrated tour to historic Virginia City: an old mining town with swinging door saloons, wooden sidewalks, numerous museums, shops and mansions. That tour also included a 35-min steam engine train ride through the historic mining district. Additionally, we conducted our memorial service and enjoyed two group dinners at the hotel.

The members voted on Louisville, Kentucky as the location for the next reunion in 2023. Louisville offers several tour options: Bourbon Distillery; Fort Knox/General Patton Museum; Kentucky Derby Museum; Louisville Slugger Museum/Factory and a few others.

MCDA BUSINESS MEETING MINUTES: **Aug 11, 2021, Reno, NV**

Membership: 202
Combat percentage: 94.1%

MEMBERSHIP APPROVED:

- 1) Bennie Helton as the new President
- 2) Jaime Gomez as the new Chaplain
- 3) 2023 Midwest reunion site, Louisville, Kentucky
- 4) The East Coast for the 2025 reunion

The membership also discussed potential scholarship fund-raising activities, including a possible yearly golf tournament in the Indianapolis area.

2021 SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED

Congratulations to the following 2021 MCDA scholarship awardees:

Morgan Ballou, granddaughter of LtCol Ronald Ambrose. She will be attending Carteret Community College in Morehead City, NC.

Breanna Cox, daughter of LtCol William Cox. She will be attending Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ.

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

Angela Schrader, daughter of Col William Schrader. She will be attending Germanna Community College in Locust Grove, VA.

Gillian Soloy, granddaughter of CWO-4 Larry Soloy. She will be attending Iowa State University in Ames, IA.

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

EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM SCHOLARSHIPS

The Association 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.

MEMBERSHIP

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 and that comes with a high-speed MCDA membership card, your name being added to the online membership listing and directory, as well as a voice on where our reunions will be located, etc,... 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. Our website maintains a listing of current scholarship and active duty awardees.

The Association gathers biennially, in odd numbered years, for a reunion and meeting of the membership. The biennial association meeting provides the membership with a recap of all activities, a review of our Articles of Association and any change that may be required, the election of officers, a determination for our next reunion/meeting location, and any other business that requires action by the membership.

Recruitment Effort – As the Adjutant, I'm asking all current members to assist me in recruiting new members. I challenge each member to get one other past or present disburser 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. Your efforts are much appreciated, I can assure you that!

WE REMEMBER

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of the following MCDA members during 2021:

SSgt James "Dusty" Collins – July 28, 2021

CWO-4 Charles F. Wilbur – February 28, 2021

CWO-4 Charles R. Kellison – January 14, 2021

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