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Journal of the Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Association

the **BADGE**

MARINE CORPS DISTINGUISHED SHOOTERS ASSOCIATION (MCDSA)

PRESIDENT'S LETTER

From the very first day in 1982 when I sat in the Stone Bay Theater and saw the tremendous enthusiasm of the Marine Corps Shooting Teams Instruction Detail (the likes of Ken Roxburgh, Donnie Heuman and S. D. Hazzard), I knew I had to be a part of this outfit...they made me hungry. I knew I had to learn as much as I could so I could pass along that marksmanship knowledge to my fellow Marines. The way I looked at it, this was our "Bread and Butter"! Fast forward forty years...

Let me share my opinion of this "elite" group known as the Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Association (MCDSA). Stated in our Constitution, Article III – Objectives, Objectives of the MCDSA are to:

- a) Provide a means to further the camaraderie established among Marines who have distinguished themselves in the Marine Corps Competition-in-Arms Program.
- b) Foster the preservation and promotion of Marine Corps Marksmanship and the Marine Corps Competition-in-Arms Program history.
- c) Act as a vehicle by which distinguished Marine shooters can maintain contact with one another.
- d) To hold an annual social gathering for the membership.

In my opinion, the main purpose of this association is to provide a mechanism to stay connected with the many wonderful characters we've met along this amazing journey known as the Competition-in-Arms Program. It's all about the camaraderie and rubbing elbows with some of the most accomplished marksmen, and greatest personalities in the world. As you know, it takes a "Special Breed of Cat" to be a Marine, but to be a Distinguished Marksman, a Distinguished Pistol Shot, or International Distinguished Shooter is truly an amazing feat, and I must say, you are the envy of many a Marine. No matter in which era you "came up," or the Marines you had the good fortune to be associated with, I know there have been many good times shared, and great stories told of bizarre exploits worth laughing at repeatedly. And that's what motivates me to serve this gun club as your president...it's you the membership. I cannot explain the fantastic feelings that flow through me when I see you guys laughing and hugging, having not seen each other in so many years! It's the way a certain song you hear takes you back to that special memory, or place in time. That's the special feeling I get when I'm around the likes of you guys. And if I am able, I will see you at every gathering we have.

One more thing...our 2022 MCDSA Reunion/Cookout on the 19th of March at the home of Penni and Roger Eddington in Sneads Ferry, NC was a huge success, and we cannot thank them enough for all they have done for us over the years. If you attended, you know what a great time we had. If again this year you said, "I'll make it next year." and you missed this great opportunity to reminisce with old friends, you missed one hell of a party. Roger and Penni let me know that they may not be at this location next year, so Randy Allen volunteered to have next year's

Reunion/Cookout at his place in Unionville, VA. He has a beautiful home in the Virginia countryside that served as a Union Hospital during the Civil War. Randy lives about 15 miles from Col Willis' farm, and Col Willis said he will be there next year if possible. I'm looking forward to the largest gathering we've had in the history of our Reunions/Cookouts, and you won't want to miss this one. As soon as I get the dates of the Marine Corps Championships at Quantico, VA, I'll post the date of the 2023 Reunion/Cookout. Plan for next April.

Semper Fidelis,
Danny Burke, MGySgt USMC (Ret)
President, MCDSA

2022 MARINE CORPS CIAP CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 2022 Competition-In-Arms Program Marine Corps Championships were held from April 4–11, 2022 at Quantico, VA. The Marine Corps Championships is the culminating event for the top competitors from the five regional Marine Corps Marksmanship Competitions. Competitors placing in the top 10 percent at each of the Marksmanship Competitions earn the privilege of competing at the Marine Corps Championship.

This year was particularly challenging for competitors as they were required to compete in several disciplines over the course of a week. Competitors were challenged to perform in precision and action disciplines, along with utilizing different rifles with various uncommon optics attached. Competitions included rifle, pistol and multi-gun.

The first rifle match consisted of "High-Power" precision shooting where competitors started at the 200-yard line, firing 20 rounds in 20 minutes from the standing position. The second stage, competitors fired a 10-round rapid fire (60 seconds) from the sitting position at the 200-yard line. The third stage, competitors fired a 10-round rapid fire (70 seconds) from the prone position at the 300-yard line. In the final stage, competitors fired 20 rounds in 20 minutes in the prone position from the 600-yard line.

The second rifle match consisted of a quantified performance "Gas Gun Series" match, where competitors completed six separate stages of fire. Each stage included a different style of barricade to fire from with multiple steel targets at various distances from 200-500 yards. Competitors were provided 90 seconds to hit their targets. Failing to successfully hit all their targets at the end of the 90-second period resulted in time penalties being added to their score. The overall Rifle Championship was determined by combining both rifle matches for a final aggregate.

The first pistol match consisted of a bullseye pistol competition where competitors were required to fire the M18 service pistol, one handed, from 25 yards for each stage. The first stage consisted of firing 10 rounds in 10 minutes. In the second stage, competitors fired two iterations of 5 rounds in 20 seconds. For the final stage, competitors fired two iterations of 5 rounds in 10 seconds.

The second pistol match consisted of six United States Practical Shooting Association stages, where competitors applied accelerated fundamentals on multiple targets and multiple round engagements on full and reduced size targets in a dynamic shooting environment. The overall pistol championship was determined by combining both pistol matches for a final aggregate.

The multi-gun match consisted of competitors being required to fire the M18 and various rifles with uncommon optics. Competitors moved through six practical shooting stages and engaged targets in a variety of different positions. The score is based on both time and accuracy with targets ranging from paper targets to steel, stretched from a few yards to over 300 yards. Some stages required transitioning between rifle and pistol. The top 15 Overall Marine Corps Championship winners are below.

Place	Rank	Name	Dist	Lauchhmr	Rifle	Walsh	Multi Gun
1	Capt	Scott, Chris	Both	444.760%	161.072%	183.688%	100.000%
2	Sgt	Ogle, Mike	Rifle	441.270%	189.722%	173.037%	78.511%
3	Sgt	Hill, Austin		438.619%	187.353%	168.254%	83.012%
4	Sgt	Sturman, Billy		434.818%	196.747%	155.431%	82.641%
5	Sgt	Treat, John	Pistol	431.464%	172.858%	171.060%	87.545%
6	SSgt	Corson, Stephen		424.445%	175.249%	168.489%	80.707%
7	Sgt	Glomba, John	Both	422.035%	162.276%	161.452%	98.307%
8	Sgt	Doelle III, John		409.762%	169.304%	166.042%	74.416%
9	GySgt	Rhodes, Daniel	Both	409.433%	168.465%	154.927%	86.041%
10	Sgt	Nelson, Samuel		401.228%	148.618%	172.349%	80.261%
11	SSgt	Swarts, Kenneth	High Tyro	400.694%	187.367%	146.011%	67.316%
12	Sgt	Crago, Travis	Rifle	400.258%	178.857%	154.730%	66.671%
13	CWO2	Horcharik, Dan		398.442%	157.936%	159.491%	81.015%
14	Sgt	Nichols, Evan	Pistol	395.386%	157.262%	142.440%	95.684%
15	SSgt	Goking, Alex		394.728%	167.309%	159.659%	67.761%

MGEN HAMMER HARTSELL HIGH TYRO TROPHY

One of the objectives of the MCDSA is to, "Foster the preservation and promotion of Marine Corps Marksmanship..." [Article III, Item (b) of our Constitution and By-laws]. To that end, the MCDSA provided the plaque presented to SSgt. Swarts, the recipient of the *Major General Hammer Hartsell High Tyro Trophy* at the Marine Corps Marksmanship Championship Matches. Major General Hartsell (USMCR Ret.), himself a member of the Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Association, made the inaugural presentation the trophy named in his honor to the High Tyro, Sgt. Kenneth Swarts.



SPRING 2022 MCDSA REUNION - A WILD SUCCESS

Our Spring 2022 MCDSA Reunion/Cookout was a wild success! On March 19, 2022, Roger and Penni Eddington hosted over 75 MCDSA members and their families at their home in Sneads Ferry. It was the perfect day for seeing old friends and reminiscing. Mr. Ray Anti was recognized for his dedicated service managing the fraternal items for MCDSA these last years. The Eddingtons served a tremendous pig picking, and we had a wonderful, traditional cake cutting with the oldest and youngest Marines. Thanks again to the Eddingtons for being such great hosts and to all the people who assisted and attended!

The picture below documents our multi-generational marksman families. Seated in the lower right-hand corner are three generations of distinguished rifle shooters. They are Captain Donice "Dumpy" Bartlett (R 1961, P 1959), former OIC of the Marine Corps Rifle Team, seated to his left is his son, Terry Bartlett (R 1987), and seated at his feet is Brandon Bartlett (R 2010), Terry's son. After George O. Van Orden (R 1931), George M. Van Orden (R 1964), and George K. Van Orden (R 2001), the Bartletts are the only other occurrence of three generations of distinguished rifle shooters in Marine Corps family history.



MESSAGE FROM BOB MAGUIRE "TO MY TEAMMATES – YOU ARE MY VERY BEST FRIENDS"

The email printed below was received from Bob Maguire. It puts into words and exemplifies the connection that each of us feels for those we served with, trained with, competed with, and yes, competed against. We have a bond with one another, a bond forged by the Marine Corps along with the many hours we trained together, the many ranges we each competed on, and the common interest and mission that we have shared: to build and improve Marksmanship Skills throughout the ranks of the Corps, as well as to represent the Corps with honor and excellence on the national and world-wide stages. The MCDSA is here to facilitate and further grow our relationships with one another, and to continue to support the pursuit of Excellence in Marksmanship within the ranks of our Corps. Thank you for being a member!

From: Robert J Maguire
Subject: 1960 Olympics, Rome

My teammate, GySgt. Jim Hill, won a Bronze Medal, shooting rifle in the prone position. A couple of years ago, I wrote a letter telling him how proud I was of being his teammate. Unfortunately, I learned that he passed away before my letter arrived. I am now 85 years old and too old to travel to this year's reunion. I feel bad about that fact. Please tell my teammates from the 1960 to 1966 era that I recall all of them as my very best friends. I miss them a lot. It was the best of times for me and made me proud to be a US Marine. Semper Par. Bob

CWO4 GREG CONNOR

"Jo, it is with a heavy heart that I inform you that Gunner Connor passed away on 11 April 2022." Danny Burke

"When I read the text message my heart felt like it was suddenly stuck in my chest as my eyes immediately began to fill up with tears. Gunner Connor had been the OIC of the Parris Island Rifle and Pistol Team the year I joined that team and subsequently underwent the serious and quite stellar "pre-Eastern Division Match" training program which Gunner Connor had himself meticulously crafted, planned and budgeted. Quietly and affectionately known by us as "Shekels," Gunner Connor not only paid close attention to sight alignment and trigger control, he also carefully managed every penny allocated for the Team. Every dollar mattered, just as much as every MOA. ...And, when it came to putting together a team that could win, he had the strategies laid out with equal care and attention to detail: he had everything down to a fine art, to the extent that he had figured out how many hits you had to get at each yard-line so as to have a chance at winning the "Rattle Battle" match (and, you had better NOT still have rounds to fire from the 200-yard line). My own experience of Gunner Connor was that he treated everyone equally -- it did not matter your rank, your gender, or whether you were a "dark-green" Marine, a "brown-green" Marine, or a "light green" Marine. He possessed a commendable degree of professionalism, and a tremendous degree of commitment to the Marine Corps' Marksmanship Program, and because of all the Marines that he shepherded and taught, there has no doubt been an exponential benefit to both Civilians and Marines alike where Marksmanship proficiency is concerned." Anne Joseph

"There's nobody that I knew that didn't respect Greg Connor." Donnie Heuman

"He was a favorite of mine and always was fair and helpful." Tom Simmons

"A heartfelt toast to you, Gunner, and an infinite amount of grateful thanks for all that you did for others, and for the Corps! May you always be honored and remembered!" Anne Joseph

THE MCDSA'S NEW WEBSITE

Hats off and many thanks to MCDSA member Leo Cebula for taking us out of the Dark Ages and bringing us the ability to have a stellar website with bells and whistles galore! If any of you have not recently checked things out, please go to www.marinedsa.org and see what the new site has to offer.

When you get to the "Home" page, scroll down and read the posts which have been put up since August, when the new site was first launched. The "Home" page is where we will post new notices and updated information as it becomes available. Check back regularly to see what is new! Once you have checked out the most recent, as well as the earlier posts on the "Home" page, go back to the top of the page and click on any of the following: "About Us," "Impact," "Membership Application," "Events Calendar," "Photos," "In Remembrance," "Contact Us" and "Merchandise".

Please note that on any page, no matter where you are on the page, you will see a white arrow pointing upward on a blue field in the lower right corner of your screen. When you want to go back up to the top of the page, simply click on that arrow and the system will automatically scroll back up to the top of the page.



Under “About Us” you will find our Board of Governors containing the names and contact information for the MCDSA’s President and Board of Governors, and you will also find the Constitution and By-laws.

The “Impact” page is dedicated to telling the story of those Distinguished Marines who substantially contributed to the accomplishment of the Marine Corps’ mission down through history. As Distinguished Marines, we take special pride in those who not only achieved excellence in Marksmanship, but who also served in ways which present stellar examples of what it means to be a United States Marine. This page is intended to be a tribute, and suggestions for additions to this page, along with the biography of the nominee, are warmly welcomed.

“Membership Application” will take you to a page which has a down-loadable membership application form which can be printed, filled out, and mailed in along with the membership application fee.

“Events Calendar” showcases any events of note which have been planned and scheduled.

“Photos” provides links to albums which are stored on PhotoBucket. All albums are to be password protected, and to access any album you need the password: _____ Please remember that the photos provided in the albums are for members’ private use only, and at no point in time is anyone authorized to sell copies of the photos contained in the albums.

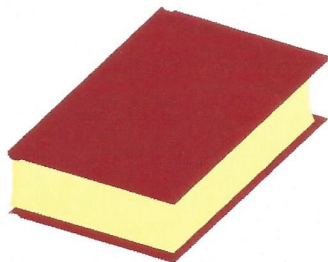
“In Remembrance” honors those of our membership who have passed on. A Distinguished Marine’s bio or obituary will be linked if there is an asterisk by the Marine’s name, and so to read more, click on any name with an asterisk. If you see someone who does not have that link, but you know of an online bio or obituary, please forward the information to jo.mcDSA@gmail.com and steps will be taken to add the appropriate link.

“Contact Us” provides an online option for folks to e-mail us with any questions, updates, concerns, or requests.

Under “Merchandise” you find the following: “MCDSA Fraternal Items” where you will find the various fraternal items (c.g. hat pins, lapel pins, decals, etc.) which can be ordered by contacting the POC listed on that page. “The Red Book – Vol. I & II” is the page which has the ordering information for The History of the Marine Corps Competitive Marksmanship: 1901-1959 and The History of Competitive Marksmanship: 1960 to 2010. “Custom Embroidered Products” contains information for obtaining product information and ordering

custom-embroidered products from Gourmet Garments, which has been a resource used by many members of the MCDSA for over 10 years. We are pumped about the Association's new website and hope that each member will take advantage of its many features while enjoying easy access to information and options.

RED BOOK UPDATE



Great News! Red book Volume 1 (reprints) and Volume 2 are available now. We currently have over 1434 Volume II and 156 Volume I reprints available. Get your set now! \$29.95 per book includes postage in CONUS. Mail check to MCDSA, P.O. Box 134, Quantico, VA 22134 or call Joe Moreno at 540-379-6232 to pay electronically.

MCDSA FRATERNAL ITEMS

Some of the ways you can show your pride of membership in the MCDSA are through the purchase of authorized challenge coins, distinguished pins, decals, shirts and pens. A few of these items are described below. They are available for purchase by contacting Dexter Conrad, 540-455-9047, dexcon45@gmail.com.



Distinguished
Marksman
Small Fixed Pin
\$15



Distinguished
Pistol Shot
Small Fixed Pin
\$15



Distinguished
Marksman
Hanging Pin
\$17



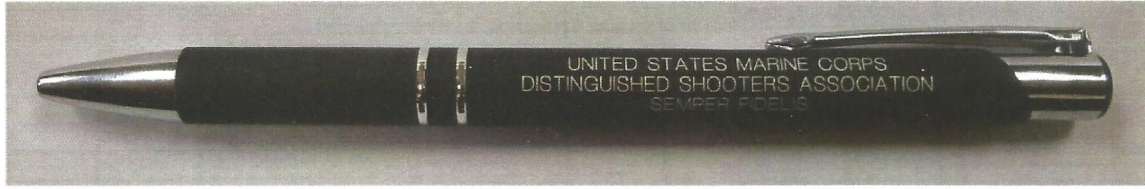
Distinguished
Pistol Shot
Hanging Pin
\$17



Double Distinguished
Hanging Bar Pin
\$30



Challenge
Coins
\$10



\$3 each



\$15

We also still have the blue chambray-style shirts and other custom items for ordering. The address is below.

Lynn Rinniger
Gourmet Garments
1219 Belleflower Avenue SW
Canton, Ohio 44710
Phone 330-806-7559
Email: Gourmetgarments@consultant.com
Website: gourmetgarments.com



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

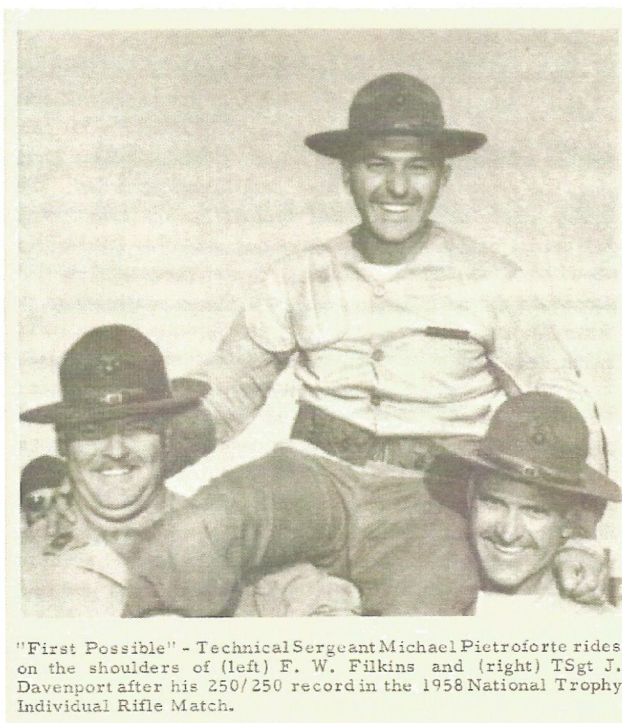
If you are an annual member of MCDSA, it is time to renew for another year or upgrade to a Life Membership. As President Danny Burke says, "Once you go Distinguished, you are Distinguished for Life, so you should be a Life Member." The Annual rate is \$15 for one year or you can upgrade to a Life Membership for \$150 if you are age 17-49; \$100 for age 50+.

IN MEMORIAM

The Marine Corps Distinguished Shooters Association (MCDSA) wishes to extend heartfelt sympathy to the loved ones and friends of our fallen comrades. We will post those who **have passed away or we have just been notified of passing away since the last issue of the Badge**. Please contact us if we have missed anyone.

MSgt Maurice L Baitx
GySgt William Brewster
GySgt R. Bowen
MSgt Clark Brule
CWO4 Greg Connor
CWO4 Sam Driggers
SgtMaj Billy C. Hall
CWO Frank A. Higginson

SgtMaj Spurgeon L Hinkle
MSgt Kernice M. Landry
1stSgt G. B. Lash
GySgt Jim R. Miller
CWO4 John K. Nagazyna
CWO4 Mike Pietroforte
MGySgt Roland E. West



"First Possible" - Technical Sergeant Michael Pietroforte rides on the shoulders of (left) F. W. Filkins and (right) TSgt J. Davenport after his 250/250 record in the 1958 National Trophy Individual Rifle Match.