

DEPOT DISPATCH



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MCRD Museum Foundation



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**LETTER FROM THE MCRD
MUSEUM FOUNDATION
BOARD PRESIDENT**

Members, supporters, volunteers, and staff, I hope you all had a joyous holiday; however you celebrated, and an even better start to 2025. For your foundation, 2025 is an important year. Firstly, we join in our Corps-wide celebration of the 250th year since the founding of the Continental Marines. The party will span the entire year, culminating in our 250th Birthday in November. Stay tuned to our website, the Depot Dispatches and our monthly updates for news, scheduled events, and even swag opportunities. At MCRD San Diego specifically, we celebrate the early days of the depot. In 1925, one hundred years ago, the first phase of depot construction was complete, with the arcade buildings (Bldg. 1-7) as well as the five senior officer quarters completed and occupied – Quarters 1 welcoming its first occupant, two-time Medal of Honor recipient BGen Smedley Butler. For all of you history buffs, the events of that period, along with updated coverage of the last 25 of our first one hundred years, is laid out in our updated book ‘Making Marines for One Hundred Years’ the Centennial History of MCRD San Diego, which will be available in our gift shop and on-line, in March or April.

Our reason for being is to support the Command Museum, and the Depot's history programs – helping tell the story of our Corps, and MCRD San Diego specifically, to a wide audience of visitor. Several exciting and innovative concepts are being worked currently to improve the quality of support. Firstly, we are working to improve the visitor experience, with internet based self-guided tours, as well as technology enhancements for docents and staff visitor escorts. Secondly, we are looking at the entire depot in historical terms, attempting to extend that improved, or augmented visitor experience to several significant historical locations outside the museum walls. And third we continue to work to create opportunities to extend our presence virtually, to eventually be able to welcome online visitors to explore all our museum, and historic depot have to offer.

Physical improvements to the museum are under way as well. I hope you have all had a chance to see the new landscaping and seating in the front at the South side of the building. Great sponsors, primarily an incredible team from Home Depot made that happen – along with some significant sweat equity from our Executive Director, our staff, and volunteers. The next phase, also supported by Home Depot, will be a make-over of the courtyard in preparation for a future Path of Valor installation, honoring Marine Corps service and veterans from Vietnam to present day.

None of this is easy, and frankly none of it is cheap. Find a way to support, either the efforts of the foundation in an unrestricted manner, or a specific program event, or initiative that 'speaks' to you. Volunteer if you can, we always need qualified docents, as well as help with programs activities and events. And let us know how we're doing, useful, constructive guidance is always welcomed.

All the best for a great 2025 and Semper Fidelis!

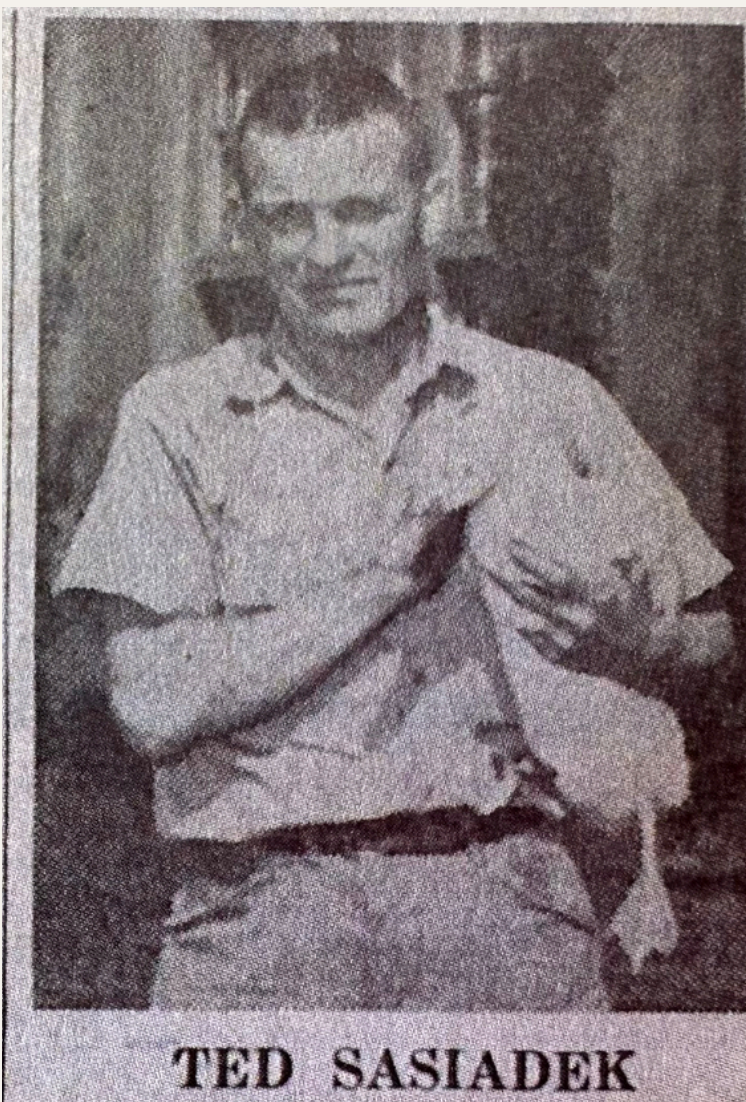
Respectfully,
Rick

Colonel, USMC (Ret)
President, MCRD San Diego Museum
Foundation



TALES OF THE DEPOT: SERGEANT SAS

WRITTEN BY RICK HUENEFELD



A legend is a traditional story sometimes regarded as historical but unauthenticated. The Marine Corps Recruit Depot has developed countless legends since its inception, and their authenticity waxes and wanes depending on the story-teller. If you went to boot camp aboard MCRD San Diego, your legends often begin and end with the infamous Drill Instructors that made your life a living hell. If you worked on the base the legends are often tied to the buildings and events that have occurred over the years.

One such legend is the story of Sgt Sas. A retired Marine, Sas worked on base as the Headquarters Custodian. He also lived in the Depot Headquarters Building. His room was a shrine to the Corps; spartan and neat, maintained with rigid discipline by the legend himself.

Many Marines have claimed to have received a guided tour of the historic abode, and countless others have retold how Sas always had a sea story to recount as he made his daily rounds of the base ensuring all was secure. His residence on base started in the late 1930s, and he is the only retired Marine to have lived in the Headquarters building.

Adam T. Sasiadek was born in 1902 in Poland. He moved to the United States at the age of 2, settling in New York with his family. He first enlisted in the Marine Corps on July 17, 1922. His Marine Corps record lists numerous bases and stations as well as multiple deployments that included service in Port Au Prince, Haiti and Manila in the early 1930s.

He was stationed on Marine Barracks at Norfolk Virginia, the Naval Ammunition Depot in Dover, New Jersey, and Marine Barracks Quantico, Virginia. Multiple assignments on ships including the USS Henderson, USS Vaga and USS Nitro also pepper his record.

Frequent movements are common among Marines of this era, and as he has various assignments, it may be assumed he was a basic infantryman of the time with a variety of duties. Sas was also in and out of Marine Base, San Diego over the years. He first arrived on base in September 1934 as a PFC in the Sixth Marines, Fleet Marine Force, one of the many units located on the base. In December of 1934 he was at Camp Kearney in San Diego County still with the 6th Marines, attached to Headquarters Company. In 1937 the Regiment traveled to Shanghai, China and PFC Sas is now a Cpl.

In the late 1930s the Marines were frequently shipped out to quell uprisings in China, Haiti and Nicaragua. The legend of Sas is birthed in this environment. In his official oral history Sas tells the interviewer that he spent a lot of time working behind the scenes, digging up dirt on the enemy, and leading a clandestine life. He tells the interviewer that he was in a lot of places, but nobody knew where he was. The US Department of Veterans Affairs lists two enlistment periods 17 July 1922 to 16 June 1927 and 16 January 1941 to 31 Dec 1952. The official muster rolls also list numerous periods of active service from 1922 through 1946.

In the 1940 Federal census Adam T. Sasiadek is a Naturalized Citizen residing at 2238 31st Street in San Diego. His occupation is listed as Nurse. Also listed at the same address are Clarence B. and Ella B. Rust. Sas is listed at the same address in the San Diego City Directory for 1941.

In July of 1941 Sas is once again on the Marine Base in San Diego attached to Base Headquarters. He serves with this unit until April 1945 when he is attached to the General Service Unit, 11th Reserve District and his final muster roll entry is October 1946 with the same unit now located at the Naval and Marine Corps Reserve Armory in Los Angeles.

After the war, Sas is once again on Marine Base San Diego only now he is a civilian. He first appears in the base newspaper, The Chevron, in a March 11, 1949 article. The article includes a photo of Sas walking around base with a pet duck. His occupation is listed as Administration Building Custodian. In October 1954 the Chevron notes that Sas, Custodian of the Depot Headquarters Building, has been named the First Top Civilian on base by the Depot Commander.

Sas continues to make news with a Leatherneck magazine article in October 1957. The Leatherneck article includes a photo of Sas and his squared away quarters on base. In October 1959 the Chevron has a photo of Sas noting that he "Spars To Keep In Shape." In 1959 Sgt Adam T. Sasiadek, USMC Retired, reviewed the Depot parade with BGen James L. Day, Deputy Assistant Depot Commander. The legend ends with this final listing that seems to be the retirement from his civilian job on base. Records of his death, and his final resting place have yet to be uncovered.

Historic places are often defined by their physical spaces; sweeping vistas dotted with grand architecture created by renown masters. The Marine Corps Recruit Depot is one of those places. The buildings and archways, balconies and miles of corridors are stately. The grinder is worn from the countless boots that have traversed it. When the wind blows, the walls seem to echo with the voices that have inhabited them. Sgt Sas is one of those voices, and his legend lives on in each of us.



TUN TAVERN TUESDAY, MARINE CORPS REUNION NOVEMBER 5, 2024

Tun Tavern Tuesday went off with a twist this time around. The theme as “Marine Corps Reunion” in celebration of the Marine Corps Birthday. Marines, veterans, and their families came together in the Visitor Reception Center of the Command Museum to celebrate.

Nothing Bundt Cakes provided the cake, while SWS Gifts gave out their samples of bourbon. C4 Energy once again provided beverages and guests enjoyed the photo booth and opportunity to talk about how they are grateful for their time with the Marine Corps.

Tun Tavern Tuesday is a recurring social event, with a Marine Corps historical or cultural theme, that connects veterans with active-duty Marines and their families to decrease isolation and increase social support. These gatherings help combat depression, PTSD, as well as reduces suicidal ideation and behavior. Tun Tavern Tuesdays are kid friendly events that include free food, live music, and family games. Hosting the event at the Command Museum facilitates a focus on shared culture and traditions, military history, and esprit de corps. Moreover, everyone has an opportunity to tour the Command Museum. Be on the lookout for the next Tun Tavern Tuesday!

JOIN US FOR OUR NEXT TUN TAVERN TUESDAY IN 2025



Jherry Babida from SWS Gifts talked to Marines while handing out samples of his bourbon



C4 Energy hydrated the crowd with its energy drinks



Kues family enjoying the photo booth at TTT



YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM

THE YOUTH EDUCATION PROGRAM SEEKS TO EDUCATE THE YOUTH WITH AGE APPROPRIATE LEARNING AND EXPOSURE TO OUR RICH HISTORY AND TRADITIONS

The Kindergarten class of Dewey Elementary School was given a unique and educational opportunity to visit the MCRD San Diego Command Museum. During this experience, the students participated in a scavenger hunt, led by our Marketing Director, in search of the Foundation's mascot, Corporal Belleau. As they explored the museum's broad exhibits, they discovered Corporal Belleau carefully placed alongside important artifacts. With each artifact highlighting significant historical value to the Marine Corps. For many of the students, this experience held particular meaning, as they are military dependents with parents and family members actively serving in the armed forces.





In partnership with the MCCC Family Liaison team, the Foundation's goal was to provide these children with a deeper understanding of the sacrifices their family members make in service to our country. By engaging with the museum's artifacts, the children were able to visually connect with the history of the Marine Corps and gain insight into the challenges and commitments that shape their loved ones' roles in the military.

This visit not only introduced the children to the rich history and traditions of the Marine Corps, but it also fostered a greater appreciation for the significance of military service. Through this experience, we aimed to illustrate the reasons behind the absences of their family members from important life events, and to provide the students with a tangible sense of the larger purpose behind their sacrifices. By exploring the exhibits, the children gained a deeper understanding of the values that guide the Marine Corps and the meaningful contributions their families are making to ensure the security and well-being of the nation.



MCRD MUSEUM FOUNDATION QUARTERLY BREAKFAST



Bob Lehman, Executive Director of the SD Museum Council

On January 14, 2025, The MCRD Museum Foundation hosted their second Quarterly Breakfast of the year with Bob Lehman as their guest speaker. Bob Lehman is a Marine combat veteran having served in the Persian Gulf War based out of Camp Pendleton. He attended recruiting school here at MCRD before finishing his career as a Marine recruiter in Chicago.

Today, Bob is Executive Director of the San Diego Museum Council, one of the nation's largest associations of regional museums and cultural institutions. In this role, he advocates on behalf of more than 80 museums and cultural institutions throughout San Diego County including the MCRD Museum. He is also Vice Chair of the San Diego County Arts & Culture Commission representing downtown and Balboa Park. He is also the current Chair of the regional arts advocacy group San Diego ART Matters and serves on the statewide board of Californians for the Arts.



**THE MCRD MUSEUM FOUNDATION QUARTERLY BREAKFAST
IS A FREE MEMBERS ONLY EVENT**



Bob gave a presentation on how the MCRD SD Command Museum can better integrate itself into the museum community, not only within San Diego but also extending south to Tijuana. The SD Museum Council offers numerous opportunities to raise awareness of museums within the community and has proposed increasing marketing efforts. The MCRD Command Museum will have the chance to host an experiential exhibit group that will tour the museum's exhibits and provide feedback on what the public finds most interesting, helping to promote and maintain the museum with support from the MCRD Museum Foundation. The Foundation will also work on connecting other museum members with our own to create new experiences that highlight the historic military community here in San Diego.



CELEBRATE 250 YEARS

U.S. MARINE CORPS HISTORY
Est November 10, 1775



Cpl Belleau serving as the official
Mascot of the MCRD Museum Foundation

BRIDGING GENERATIONS: PRESERVE THE PAST, CONTRIBUTE TO THE FUTURE WITH CORPORAL BELLEAU

At first glance, Cpl Belleau, the official mascot of the MCRD Museum Foundation, might seem like a spirited, loyal bulldog—a symbol of the Marine Corps' strength and pride. But to those familiar with the mission of the Foundation and the museum, Cpl Belleau is far more than just a mascot. He is a living symbol of the resilience, courage, and unbreakable bond that defines the U.S. Marine Corps.

In this mission, Cpl Belleau plays a crucial role. A constant presence at the museum, he's not just a mascot—he's a symbol of the enduring spirit of the Corps. For families of Marines, particularly children who have grown up without a parent due to deployments or training, the museum becomes a place of emotional healing. It's a space where they can see, in vivid detail, the sacrifices made on their behalf, and understand the meaning behind every missed birthday, every holiday spent apart. Cpl Belleau, with his calm and loyal demeanor, provides comfort during these visits, offering a sense of connection to the Corps and the service their loved ones have given.

He represents the unwavering support that Marines extend to their families, even when they are far from home. For recruits, Cpl Belleau is a reminder of the legacy they are about to join. As they walk through the museum's doors, he stands as a symbol of the strength and courage of those who served before them. Through the Foundation's support, the museum not only preserves history—it strengthens the bonds between generations, helping Marines and their families connect to the Corps' proud past, while inspiring them for the future. Cpl Belleau is a living link between the Corps' storied history and its bright future.

The Foundation ensures that the museum is more than just a building filled with relics. It is a living, breathing place of connection and remembrance, where families, veterans, and recruits come together to honor the sacrifices of the past and look forward to the future. Cpl Belleau stands at the heart of it all, a symbol of the values that unite us and a reminder of the legacy that will continue to inspire Marines for generations to come.

CELEBRATE 250 YEARS

2025 marks a monumental milestone in the history of the United States Marine Corps—its 250th anniversary. For two and a half centuries, the Marine Corps has stood as a beacon of courage, honor, and selfless service to the nation. This year, the MCRD Museum Foundation is proud to celebrate the Corps' rich legacy and to invite you, our valued supporters, to play an essential role in preserving that legacy for future generations.

As we look to the future and honor the Marines, Sailors, and veterans who have shaped our nation's history, we are asking for YOUR monumental support. The MCRD Museum Foundation's mission is clear: to promote the legacy of the Marine Corps through historic preservation, free educational programs, and community outreach initiatives. Your donation can help us continue to fulfill this mission, positively impacting Marines, Sailors, veterans, their families, and our nation as a whole.

Every gift—large or small—makes a meaningful difference. Whether you choose to donate to a specific project, sponsor an educational initiative, or make a general contribution, your generosity will be felt across our entire community. By supporting the MCRD Museum Foundation, you are helping us honor the legacy of the Marines and ensuring that their history will continue to inspire others for the next 250 years and beyond.



The Foundation's work is driven by a mission that centers on education, preservation, and outreach. Here's how your support plays a critical role in fulfilling that mission:

- **Historic Preservation:** Your donations help us acquire, restore, and conserve vital Marine Corps artifacts. From uniforms and weapons to personal letters and photos, preserving these items ensures the stories of the Marine Corps are never lost.
- **Free Educational Programs:** Through outreach programs and educational initiatives, we provide free access to the history of the Marine Corps for students, veterans, and the public. Your contributions help fund these programs, providing invaluable learning experiences that inspire and educate young minds.
- **Community Outreach:** The MCRD Museum Foundation works tirelessly to bring the history of the Marine Corps to communities across the country. Your support allows us to reach beyond the museum's walls, offering veterans and their families the opportunity to engage with the rich legacy of the Marine Corps.



Scan the code to go directly to our giving campaign webpage



AROUND THE FOUNDATION



The Home Depot Foundation generously donated supplies and volunteers from 365Connect to relandscape the Command Museum entrances

MCRD Museum Foundation



The Home Depot Foundation



AROUND THE FOUNDATION



MCRD Museum Foundation at VetFest in Escondido in celebration of Veterans Day



The Commanding General's holiday reception at the MCRD Command Museum

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MCRD MUSEUM FOUNDATION

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MCRD Museum Foundation is proud to partner with Liberty Call Distilling and SWS Gifts to help support our mission of preserving Marine Corps history and tradition. Purchase a customized whiskey bottle, and a portion of the proceeds will go directly to the Foundation's future endeavors.

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A SPONSOR?

Are you passionate about preserving the legacy of the U.S. Marine Corps and supporting those who have served? Becoming a sponsor offers you a unique opportunity to make a lasting impact. Through your partnership, you'll not only help support our fundraising events but also connect with a community that deeply values the sacrifices and stories of our Marines. You'll be invited to exclusive quarterly events, where you can engage with like-minded individuals who share your commitment to honoring this incredible history. Your support will help ensure the preservation of the Marine Corps' heritage for generations to come. To learn more about how you can make a difference, please reach out to our Marketing Director, Ashley Petters, at apetters@mcrdmhs.org.



SUPPORT THE MCRD MUSEUM FOUNDATION


Already an MCRD Museum Foundation member? Thank you for your support! Foundation memberships are a great gift to your newly graduated recruit, favorite Marine alumni, or just because. If you are already a member, consider leveling up to a LIFETIME membership.

MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES




15% Online and In-store discount for a full year & MCRD Museum foundation Coin

Leatherneck
\$35



20% Online and In-store discount for a full year & All lower tier items

Teufel Hunden
\$75



25% Online and In-store discount for a full year & All lower tier items

Chosin Few
\$150

Visit our website for a full list of benefits at all levels and how you as a member help our Marine community


www.mcrdmuseumfoundation.org

MEMBERSHIP PACKAGES



30% Online and In-store discount for a full year & All lower tier items

Flag Raisers
\$500



[Custom phrase, name, etc.]

Personalized Placard to go on our MCRD Museum Historical Society Sponsor and Donor wall displayed in the Command Museum

Plus 20% all year purchases in-store and online and all lower tier items

Lifetime Member
\$1,000

Visit our website for a full list of benefits at all levels and how you as a member help our Marine community

www.mcrdmuseumfoundation.org

MCRD MUSEUM FOUNDATION GIFT SHOP EDUCATION CENTER

The MCRD Museum Foundation Gift Shop Education Center is your place for all things military. Show off your Marine Corps pride while supporting the Foundation!

As the official retailer of the MCRD Command Museum, we strive to provide Marines, veterans, and Marine families with the BEST in Marine Corps apparel, gear, and gifts. Our collection of high quality items are sourced exclusively from USMC licensed vendors and a handful of veteran business owners. Additionally, money spent in the MRD Museum Gift Shop goes directly back to the Museum to help fund programs that serve your Marine and all our veterans.

Thank you for shopping with us!



SHOP.MCRDMHS.ORG

- Shop 24/7
- Members receive exclusive discounts
- All proceeds support the Command Museum and its programs

VISIT US ONLINE

- www.mcrdmuseumfoundation.org
- shop.mcrdmhs.org

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Photo by Corporal Sarah Grawcock, MCRD San Diego

