



8 January 2018

From: Lieutenant General Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret), President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Center House Association

To: Members and Prospective Members

Subject: CHA 2017 Annual Report

I am pleased to report that we continued to make significant progress in rejuvenating the Center House Association (CHA) in 2017 by offering our membership great events that allow us to relive the fond memories of our time at the oldest post of the Corps and to meet today's Barracks officers. This year marked the 200th anniversary of the establishment of Center House as the Officers Mess and we held a highly successful Center House Bicentennial Celebration on October 20-21, 2017. See our CHA Website for a full report of this great event. Earlier in the year, on March 31st, we conducted our annual CHA Luncheon to celebrate the Marine Barracks 216th Birthday. We also sponsored two well received professional military education (PME) presentations in support of the command's annual PME Program.

In 2018, we will continue that progress starting with our Annual CHA Luncheon in conjunction with the Marine Barracks' 217th Birthday on **Thursday, 29 March 2018** and, again, sponsor several PME Discussions throughout the year. The PMEs are conducted in the Truman Crawford Band Hall and are followed by a reception featuring our now famous Center House Ale. Watch for "**CHA Email Blasts**" to follow with dates and speakers. We will again end the year with our Annual BBQ following parade season. These are great events that I hope you will place on your calendars when the dates are posted. Also, don't forget that you can obtain tickets to the Friday Evening Parades and enjoy the Center House Mess at the conclusion of the parade when the 2018 Parade Season rolls around. Please see our web site at www.centerhouse.org to learn more our upcoming events and the benefits of membership.

We will conduct a **CHA Membership Campaign** in 2018 with a number of initiatives that we hope will increase our ranks, as well as continue to hold our very popular CHA Luncheon, Annual BBQ, PME's and other projects to enhance the Center House experience for those fortunate to serve or have served at the oldest post of the Corps. To stay in the attack, we need you to maintain your membership through payment of your annual dues and to join us at the great activities we offer our members. I also ask that you reach out to those with whom you served at the Barracks and encourage them to join CHA. Annual dues are just \$35.00 and we have added a lifetime and other membership opportunities. Of course, any additional contribution that you might wish to make, plus additional members whom you bring aboard, will ensure that 2018 is another great year for CHA. Sign up and dues payment are easy on our web site.

I hope to see you at our upcoming events. Remember, our Board of Directors meets at the Center House and you are very welcome and encouraged to attend. Our next meeting is scheduled at **0900, Saturday, 10 March 2018**. Subsequent meeting dates will be posted along with the minutes of each meeting on www.centerhouse.org.

Semper Fidelis!