



**Dear MVA Members:**

In the past few years, MVA's Treasury has taken some heavy hits, starting with the Covid pandemic. In 2021 and 22, for example, we waved our members' dues due to Covid and called off our scheduled reunions in Norfolk and San Diego. No doubt about it – Covid-12 has hit us squarely in the pocketbook. We lost a lot of future revenue because of the pandemic, and we're still trying to recover.

For this reason, as MVA's Treasurer, I am asking our members to consider donating however much they feel they can afford to help bolster the organization's Treasury, which has been hit hard by recent expenses, including most recently a several thousand-dollar loss from the Norfolk reunion, due primarily to a low turnout of attendees, and high advance expenses to the Wyndham hotel for the Three-Sisters Reunion later this year. In addition, the high number of lifetime members (we have over 300) means we don't draw annual dues from those members, and this has resulted in a significant revenue loss over time.

If you are one of the 314 lifetime members currently on our roster, a donation of \$50.00 to the MVA would be very welcome and go a long way toward keeping us in the game.

Another great way to donate to the MVA is sign up your family members as MVA members, which we can now do in accordance with our latest bylaws. That's right – family members can now pay dues and join our ranks. I signed up my three daughters as lifetime members. That \$300 (in MVA's bank). Plus, I have the satisfaction of my kids keeping my legacy and my ship's – the USS Midway – alive. It's a great feeling.

I'm also asking present and past MVA annual members who haven't paid their dues for this year or maybe the past couple years, to "pony up" and help our cause. Since 2020 there has been a rash of military and civilian reunion groups that have had to fold up their tents and disband, mostly for financial reasons. I don't want the MVA to be added to that list.

Send your donations (personal check or money order) to me – Bernard (Ray) Tillery, USS Midway's Veterans Assn. Treasurer – at . . . 18940 Priceless Road; Perris, CA; 92570.

If you have any questions concerning donations, please contact me at: 806-678-0742.