



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY  
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MEMORANDUM FOR DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY INVITEES AND ETHICS  
COUNSELORS

Subj: R. LEE ERMEY CELEBRITY EXPERIENCE

The Navy-Marine Corps Relief Society and Young Marines are co-hosting a series of fundraising events with celebrity R. Lee Ermey and Zaring · Cioffi Entertainment, LLC (ZCE), collectively called the "R. Lee Ermey Celebrity Experience" in the National Capital area September 10-12, 2004. The events include a USO-type entertainment show, called "Mail Call Live" on Friday, September 10, 2004 at Marine Corps Base, Quantico, Virginia; the "Celebrity-Amateur Golf Tournament" on Saturday, September 11, 2004 at Renditions Golf Course, Fort Washington, Maryland; "The Gunny's Ball" on Saturday, September 11, 2004 at the Madison Hotel in Washington, DC; and "Bad Golf, Good Cause!" on Sunday, September 12, 2004, at Renditions Golf Course, Fort Washington, Maryland.

"Mail Call Live," at Quantico, Maryland, and "Bad Golf, Good Cause!" at Fort Washington, Maryland are open, free of charge, to anyone with a military ID. Attendees at "Bad Golf, Good Cause" are invited as spectators only. Opportunities or benefits available to a class consisting of all uniformed military personnel, whether or not restricted on the basis of geographic considerations, are excluded from the definition of gift at 5 C.F.R. § 2635.203(b)(4). Therefore, uniformed members of the Navy and Marine Corps and their dependents may accept free attendance at "Mail Call Live" and "Bad God, Good Cause!"

The golf tournament includes several activities: a breakfast prior to golf, a golf clinic conducted by Lee Elder, a round of golf, and an awards reception following for all attendees. Anyone with a military ID may attend as a spectator free of charge and some DON members are expected to receive invitations to participate in the tournament. The approximately 250 participants will include celebrities, donors, civilian and military invitees and officials of the NMCRS and Young Marines. The estimated fair market value of participation in the tournament is \$90.

Approximately 600 people will be invited to attend "The Gunny's Ball" including members of industry, Department of Navy personnel, friends of the NMCRS and Young Marines, and members of the public. The per-person fair market value is estimated to be \$50.

It is expected that a large number of people will attend and that persons with a diversity of views or interests will be present, at the "R. Lee Ermey Celebrity Experience" events. The "Celebrity-Amateur Golf Tournament" and "The Gunny's Ball" each qualify as widely attended gatherings under 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(2). In addition, pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(ii), there is a reasonable basis for supervisors to find that the Department of the Navy's interest in having Department of Navy personnel attend these events outweighs concerns that the acceptance of the gift of free attendance from NMCRS or Young Marines may or may appear to improperly influence the employee in the performance of his or her official duties. Therefore, supervisors who consider participation by one or more of their employees to be in furtherance of an agency interest may permit personnel whose duties do not substantially affect NMCRS or Young Marines to accept free attendance, including food, refreshments and entertainment furnished to all attendees as an integral part of the events. Employees may not, however, accept travel expenses or free lodging.

Department of the Navy employees whose duties may substantially affect NMCRS or Young Marines should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 C.F.R. § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding this event from their local ethics counselor.

Because the "R. Lee Ermey Celebrity Experience" and its component events are raising funds from outside the Navy and Marine Corps communities, they are not excepted from fundraising restraints imposed by DOD 5500.7-R, Joint Ethics Regulation 3-210. Department of the Navy invitees are reminded that they are prohibited from officially participating in, endorsing, or otherwise using their official titles, positions, or authority to further this fundraising effort.

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