

170th Anniversary Message

TO all officers and enlisted personnel, I wish to extend greetings and congratulations on the occasion of the 170th anniversary of the Marine Corps.

This anniversary marks the climax of a year in which your achievements have played a full part in the winning of victory and the gaining of the new peace. You personally, and the Marine Corps as a whole, will always have reason to look back upon this most fruitful year of service with great pride.

In observing this anniversary, let us include prayers of thanksgiving for the final triumph of the cause for which we have fought. God has truly favored the bold and stout of heart. We shall never forget the comrades who gave their lives that victory might be won. They fell going forward, driving before them in retreat forces of aggression which had sought to destroy our country and all for which it stands. We shall keep those valiant comrades alive in our memories throughout the years to come.

The Marine Corps looks to the years ahead solemnly determined to defend the peace with the same high devotion with which the armed forces have defended the nation at war. And I am confident that, in uniform or out, you will join in that determination, resolved that this new and promising peace which you have helped so much to gain shall endure.

—General A. A. Vandegrift

Commandant of the Marine Corps