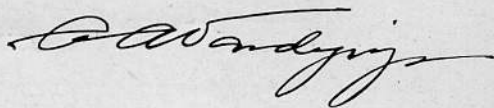


On this 172nd Anniversary of the Marine Corps we draw renewed faith and devotion for our future tasks from the example of the past. We recall that the Continental Congress created our Corps from the embattled citizenry to fill a special need and that in the intervening years it has become known as a highly specialized, thoroughly professional service. Although the United States has engaged in only seven major wars, it has called upon the Marines in almost every year of its existence. Marines have made more than 200 landings, many of them in times of relative peace. Thus it is our tradition to be prepared in either war or peace, since we have found that peace must often be enforced.

We recall also that from the sea-faring traditions of our Corps came the development of modern amphibious warfare, a major contribution to the victory in World War II. Again today we are actively revising and reorganizing our amphibious forces to take advantage of new weapons and new tactics. These peacetime tasks are fully as important as the more stirring deeds of war.

To all Marines of our regular forces, and to our comrades, the citizen Marines of the Marine Corps Reserve, I extend hearty greetings on this anniversary. All of us pledge to our nation our utmost efforts in the coming year, that our honored tradition of service may continue unbroken.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. A. Vandegrift", with a stylized, flowing script.

A. A. VANDEGRIFT
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps