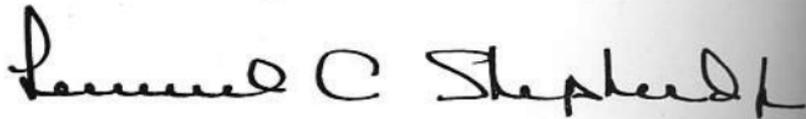


November the tenth 1952 marks the passage of another year wherein Marines have been arrayed in combat with an enemy of our nation. During this year, as has been true for almost two centuries, men of our Corps have served their country with a measure of valor and loyal devotion that has come to make the word "Marine" a symbol of courage and competent service the world over.

This service to our country—the very reason for which our Corps exists—has not been accomplished without cost. To the memory of the brave Marines who have given up their lives in the mountains and the skies of Korea during this year, we owe a deep and reverent resolution to maintain those high ideals for which they fought and died.

With the memory of their sacrifice in mind, it remains as a solemn trust for every Marine—man, woman, regular and reserve—to exert his uttermost to make and keep himself and his Corps ready to meet any challenge which may arise.

And so it is with pride in our accomplishments of the past year, and confidence in our ability to meet the demands of the year to come, that I extend to all Marines—wherever they may be—my heartiest congratulations and sincere best wishes on this, the 177th Anniversary of the founding of our beloved Corps.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.", written in dark ink.

Lemuel C. Shepherd, Jr.
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps