


On this, the 182d birthday of our Corps, we take time out from our rugged and relentless training routine to pay tribute to a long line of Marines extending back through our country's history to its very origins. Whether we serve in the far flung forces with the Fleets or in the supporting forces of the shore establishments, on this memorable day we reflect with justifiable pride on the heritage passed on to us by those who have gone before — a history of selfless service to our Country, a record untarnished since the first Continental Marine was recruited at Tun Tavern in 1775.

Since that historic year, our Corps has passed through many trying periods. At times, our numbers were pitifully few, our weapons and equipment barely adequate. But even in our years of greatest austerity, we were rich in the one priceless ingredient that has ever uniquely characterized our Corps — the indomitable spirit of the United States Marine. It is this spirit that has enabled us to bear adversity without complaint; it is this spirit that has inspired us to victory over seemingly impossible odds on battlefields across the world.

It motivates every Marine — from the rawest recruit to the oldest veteran. It is intangible but nonetheless real. It is difficult to define but, as the hallmark of our Corps, it is obvious to all. It is symbolized by the battle honors, citations, battle streamers, and silver bands which give added luster to the Battle Color of the Marine Corps. It cannot be issued; no amount of money can purchase it. It is indeed the priceless ingredient which makes uncommon valor a common virtue in our beloved Corps.

With full confidence that this same indomitable spirit will continue to inspire each of us in the ensuing year, and that our record in the future, as in the past, will be one of exemplary service to Country and Corps, I extend my heartiest congratulations and best wishes to every Marine — regular and reserve — and to all Marine families on this happy occasion, the 182d birthday of the United States Marine Corps.



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