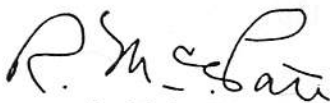


Today Marines throughout the world celebrate the 183d anniversary of our beloved Corps. Today we honor the long line of Marines who have preceded us. Today we reflect with pride upon the heritage they have bequeathed to us -- a name high in the annals of our nation's history and in military history throughout the world.

The past year has been an eventful one for the Marine Corps. On more than one occasion Marine units have been deployed on short notice to distant places. As always, the Marines were ready to move immediately, ready to perform any task assigned to them. This instant readiness is at once our responsibility and our pride. While our past accomplishments have been enviable, we must never be content to rest on our laurels. In an uneasy world threatened by ruthless aggression we must, in the years to come, not only maintain but further develop the readiness which characterizes our Corps. We must strive constantly to improve our weapons and techniques -- we must continue our rigorous and relentless training. And above all else we must cherish and keep alive the indomitable spirit that has been the hallmark of the Marine Corps since the first recruits were enlisted at Tun Tavern in 1775. I have full confidence that we will do so, that all of us will meet the challenge of the future in a manner which will add lustre to the high name we have inherited from those Marines who have gone before us.

It is therefore with real pleasure that I extend my personal congratulations and best wishes to all Marines -- throughout the world, at home and abroad, regular and reserve -- and to all Marine families on this significant occasion, the 183d birthday of the United States Marine Corps.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "R. McC. Pate". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

R. McC. PATE
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps