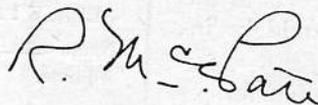


184th Anniversary

On this special day—the 184th birthday of our Corps—Marines throughout the world can reflect with pride upon our Corps' distinguished record of nearly two hundred years of service to our country. In the fighting tops of Revolutionary War ships-of-the-line, at Belleau Wood, on the coral beaches of the Pacific, on the frozen mountains of North Korea, and more recently on the beaches of Lebanon—at these and scores of other places this record was established by the timely and effective actions of the Corps in time of emergency. The record rests upon the deeds, devotion, and valor of a long line of Marines extending back through time of war and through time of peace to the first recruits who joined the Corps at Tun Tavern in 1775.

We take pride in record of the past—a record that is woven inextricably into the fabric of our country's history. But pride in the past is not enough. We must draw inspiration from the past to meet the challenge of today, the challenge to keep abreast of rapid technological developments, the challenge to be ever-ready to resist aggression in today's tense world. Even more than in the past, we must constantly strive to improve our weapons and techniques. Even more than in the past, we must adhere to our rugged training program. Even more than in the past, we must foster and maintain the splendid spirit that has always animated our Corps—the indomitable spirit that has led Marine units to distinguish themselves on the field of battle. For today, as in the past, the readiness of our Corps rests upon the readiness and the esprit de corps of each and every Marine, officer and enlisted, Regular and Reserve.

With full confidence that the years ahead will be ones of progress and accomplishment, I extend my warmest personal regards and every good wish to all Marines and to their families on this important occasion, the 184th birthday of our beloved Corps.



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