

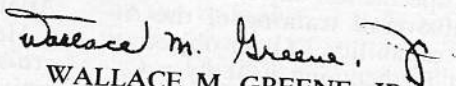
## COMMANDANT'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

Since 10 November 1775, Marines have served our country faithfully and well in war and in peace. For nearly two centuries we have fought on far-flung battlefields of the world in the cause of liberty. Today, in Southeast Asia, a new generation of Marines is helping a beleaguered people defend their freedom against aggression.

It is fitting that amidst our celebrations we pause a moment to pay tribute to the memory of those Marines who have given their lives in steaming jungles, on the cold waters, and in the vast reaches of the skies, in the defense of freedom throughout the years. Let each of us pledge, with deep and reverent resolution, to preserve and maintain those high ideals for which they fought and died.

Today, as in the past, our Nation is most fortunate in having within the Marine Corps men and women who have the high order of personal ability that modern warfare requires, and the ability to perceive a national goal of such paramount importance that they voluntarily undertake duties in which the long hours, the family separations, the risks, and the uncertainties far exceed the material rewards. Throughout the years, Marines have fostered these traditions of courage, loyalty, honor and devotion to duty—qualities which have made uncommon valor a common virtue.

To all who bear the name Marine, and to all Marine families, I extend my warmest congratulations and very best wishes on the 189th birthday of our beloved Corps.

  
WALLACE M. GREENE, JR.  
General, U. S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps