



HEADQUARTERS U.S. MARINE CORPS

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20380

COMMANDANT'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - 10 NOVEMBER 1965

Today, 10 November 1965, we commemorate the 190th anniversary of the founding of our Corps, and pause momentarily to reflect on the glories of the past while celebrating another year of service to our Country.

From its humble beginning in 1775, the Corps has grown in stature until, throughout the world, the word "Marine" has come to connote that which is finest in the profession of arms. This high regard was dearly purchased for today's Marine by those Marines who preceded us. The cost was unfaltering dedication to Corps and Country; resolute execution of every mission; uncomplaining service "in every clime and place," from the inferno of Lieutenant O'Bannon's North African desert to the rain forest of Major Waller's Samar. Ultimately, the cost was tens of thousands of Marine lives given in action.

Our obligation to Marines past—to keep these traditions untarnished—is not easily discharged. However, today's Marine continues to display the same qualities of courage, dedication, and fidelity which have been Marine characteristics for the 190 years of our existence. During the past year, these qualities were clearly shown in the Caribbean and are daily being demonstrated by Marines in Southeast Asia. While we cannot foresee what the future may hold for us, we do know that whatever demands are imposed, whatever mission is assigned, we will be ready. For that has been the way of Marines past; that is our way; and that is part of the heritage which we will pass to the Marines who follow us.

To all Marines everywhere—regular, reserve, retired—and to their families, I send personal greetings and best wishes on the 190th Birthday of our beloved Corps.

*Wallace M. Greene, Jr.*  
WALLACE M. GREENE, JR.

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