

COMMANDANT'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - 10 NOVEMBER 1966

Today we pause to contemplate the exploits by which Marines--over the past 191 years--have earned for our Corps its reputation for courage and professionalism. To each of us falls the heritage of yesterday's Leathernecks and we are proud to share with them the honor of being, as our hymn recalls, "first to fight for right and freedom."

Now, in Southeast Asia and throughout the world, Marines are daily enhancing the renown of our Corps. In future years, when today's battlefields have fallen long silent, we shall recall the achievements of our own era and be thankful that we, too, were privileged to serve as Marines.

I am proud beyond words of each of you and of your families, who share the uncertainties and sacrifices of your service. On this--the 191st birthday of our beloved Corps--I express that pride by extending my warmest wishes for a very happy birthday.

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

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