

This is a time for remembering. It is a time for detailed inspection of our heritage and a careful review of our history. We can only know who we are by being certain of who we have been.

This is the 194th anniversary of the founding of our Corps. In these long years we have compiled a proud list of old honors for old battles. But we have fresh honors too. Honors won in a long, hard war. And somehow, old battles do not seem so ancient when it is remembered that the Marines who fought them were as young as the Marines who fight in Vietnam today. Our motto, "Semper Fidelis," loses the cold air of marble inscription when applied to sacrifice on any battlefield, at any point in history.

As in years past, this anniversary finds Marines serving our country in every corner of the world. And standing four-square behind today's dedicated Marine is his predecessor in the retired ranks and his family on the home front—and in the wings and at the ready, our powerful Marine Corps Reserve.

History proves there is no old nor new. We are of one breed. We are Marines.

This is our heritage.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. F. Chapman, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

L. F. CHAPMAN, JR.  
General, United States Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps