

In 1775, a few good men got together . . . and the United States Marine Corps was born.

Those earliest Marines fought for the life of a struggling new nation—and for a new hope for free men. They helped cast the mold of patriotic courage and self-sacrifice which has enabled our nation to survive and to prosper.

Today, we are entrusted with their legacy . . . and the legacy of many brave Marines who have followed them. As we enter our 200th year of dedicated service, we can be no less willing to dare and to endure.

We must preserve that legacy. We will preserve it.

One goal should be uppermost: to make certain that every Marine measures up as well or better than the ones who went before him.

With pride in our past achievements, and confidence in our future ones, I send my warmest Birthday wishes to all Marines . . . our families . . . and our friends.

Godspeed, Marines!

R. P. Crushman, Jr.
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps