

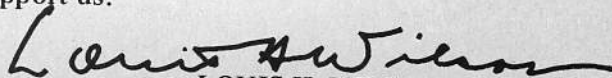
10 November 1976

This November we again join together to celebrate the birthday anniversary of our United States Marine Corps. Marines throughout the globe will recall our founding in Philadelphia and the two hundred and one intervening years. It is a time-tested tradition, a proud tradition, a good tradition.

And it is altogether fitting and proper to pass the Corps in review, remembering that being always faithful—whether on or off the battlefield—has borne and will continue to bear a price. But this two hundred and first year is unique. We have entered a third century of service to our nation.

This year, then, I ask each Marine not to look back on our distinguished march into history, but instead to look ahead to what must be a renewal of our commitment to solid readiness for new service to America; a real determination for true quality within our ranks; and a solemn resolve to carry out fully our own individual responsibilities. These resolutions, too, will bear a price. Yet, with such a forward spirit based upon rededication and seasoned with sound leadership, everyone of us will continue to be worthy of the title Marine. We can afford no less. In the tradition of the two centuries past, it is our obligation to so earmark the beginning of our third century. And I think it is a magnificent opportunity. Let's quicken the pace and see to it.

Happy birthday and may God give his choicest blessing to each Marine, and families and friends who so ably support us.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Louis H. Wilson", written in a cursive, flowing style.

LOUIS H. WILSON

General, U. S. Marine Corps