



10 NOVEMBER 1981

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

For 206 years no challenge has been too great for our proud Corps. Our forebears stood ready to pick up the gauntlet during peace or war, at home or abroad, ashore or afloat. Each challenge has been met with determination, discipline, courage and esprit, qualities which have become the hallmark of our Corps. This legacy provides the standard for all who now claim the title Marine.

As soldiers of the sea we reflect the maritime heritage of our nation, a heritage seldom more evident than it is today. Events of the recent past illustrate that when again confrontation comes, our national response may well be from the sea. Around the globe, Marines are on watch, ready to answer the call.

We should take this opportunity to pause and reflect on our past, to remember the sacrifices of earlier Marines—this we owe to them. Let us then reaffirm our commitment to those values and virtues which distinguish us as Marines. The people of our nation expect it; the strength and security of our nation demand it; and the future of our beloved Marine Corps depends on it.

Happy birthday and best wishes to all Marines, their families and their friends, on this the 206th anniversary of the founding of our Corps.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R.H. Barrow". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

R.H. Barrow
General, U.S. Marine Corps