



10 November 1985

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Two hundred and ten years ago, the Second Continental Congress met in Philadelphia and resolved that two battalions of Marines be raised. Since then, over four million men and women have earned the right to be called MARINE!

Our illustrious history includes names such as Bladensburg, Chapultepec, Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, Chosin Reservoir, Vietnam, Lebanon, and Grenada. From 1775, courage on the battlefield has remained our most precious heritage. This special brand of courage was immortalized by five Marines and a Navy Corpsman when they raised the Stars and Stripes on Mount Suribachi during the battle for Iwo Jima. It was here the famous words . . . "Uncommon valor was a common virtue" . . . described what brave men can accomplish against formidable odds.

On this, the 210th anniversary of our founding, I ask that all Marines rededicate themselves to the hallmarks of our Corps . . . professionalism, courage, integrity, and selfless devotion to duty!

To Marines in every "clime and place" and their families, a heartfelt "Happy Birthday."

Semper Fidelis,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. X. Kelley". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

P. X. KELLEY
General, U.S. Marine Corps