

10 November 1986

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

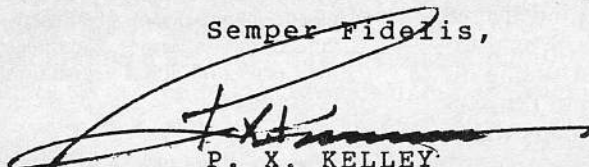
For 211 years, the cornerstone of our esprit has been a deep and abiding love of Corps and Country. To a Marine, this love knows no bounds. It is a way of life!

As we look upon the Marine Corps Color, with its many battle streamers, stars, and oak leaf clusters, it should remind us of our heritage, and the fact that we belong to the finest fighting organization in the world.

During our Corps' 212th year of service to the Republic, and my last as your Commandant, I ask all Marines to embrace those inspirational words from our hymn: "... first to fight for right and freedom and to keep our honor clean, we are proud to claim the title of United States Marine."

Happy birthday to all Marines and their families.

Semper Fidelis,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "P. X. KELLEY", is written over the typed name.

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