

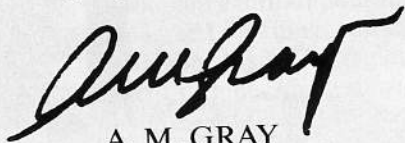
10 November 1987

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

This day, the 10th of November, is much more than just the anniversary of our beloved Corps. It is a celebration to commemorate the many achievements of our proud forefathers and to rededicate ourselves to the honor and privilege of bearing the title "United States Marine."

In the 212 years of our Corps, Marines have often been called upon to make great sacrifices in defense of democracy. Our predecessors have left us a legacy of honor, military virtue, and supreme courage in combat. But it is now up to us to continue to strive for that operational excellence necessary to win on the modern battlefield of today. This is our charter. Our Nation expects no less.

So as we gather together this year to celebrate our birthday, let us all reflect on those ideals which have made our Corps the "best of the best" for over two centuries. Whether your ceremony is large or small, the message remains the same. We are Marines, "the few and the proud," and we will do whatever needs to be done to maintain the sacred trust of the American people. Happy birthday, Marines!

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. M. Gray".

A. M. GRAY
General, U.S. Marine Corps