



10 November 1992

**A MESSAGE FROM
THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
THE SPIRIT OF THE CORPS**

In the past year, I've had the honor of visiting some of the most famous and hallowed fields on which Marines have fought and died. I've walked the sands of Wake Island, looked on Battleship Row in Pearl Harbor, looked down on the landing beaches at Guam, and laid a wreath at Belleau Wood. I've looked in the eyes of those who fought at Guadalcanal, Iwo Jima, the Chosin Reservoir, Hue City and in Desert Storm. These momentous and humbling events—but even more so, the look in the eyes of those who carved those niches in history—cause me to pause and ask myself again—"What is it that makes Marines?"

It's not something you can touch or measure, or even explain. It's a mystique. . . a spirit. . . the spirit of the Corps.

We're Marines because we choose to be something more than just ourselves. We seek a challenge—we spend hard times away from home and family, we hope never to be second into line, and we fight and die simply because we're Marines—and our Nation calls us.

. . . That's the spirit of the Corps.

We serve with pride in those who've gone before us, those who serve beside us, and those who will follow us. We're part of an unbreakable, 217 year bond of courage, honor, comradeship, valor and pride. These are intangible things "such as regiments hand down forever."

. . . They are the spirit of the Corps.

As we celebrate the 217th year of this extraordinary band of which we are privileged to be a part, let me say simply, as I have before

. . . Stand tall, you're United States Marines!

So long as you do, the spirit of our Corps will go on forever.

Happy Birthday Marines. . .

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "C. E. Mundy Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

C. E. Mundy Jr.
General, U.S. Marine Corps