10 November 1975

Two hundred years have marched across the pages of history since the Continental Marines first answered the call to arms. As our Corps embarks on a third century of service, it is quite fitting that we look back with gratitude for all that we have inherited. It is fitting also that we look to the challenges ahead and set our course with confidence and determination.

Today is a day for all Marines, young or old, active or retired, Reserve or Regular, to share a justifiable pride in the accomplishments of two centuries. We have made our way together in the past. We shall make our way together in the future. Marching shoulder to shoulder we shall gain in strength and readiness as we move ahead, in step and smartly.

Louis H. Wilson
General, U.S. Marine Corps