



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS
OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT
WASHINGTON, D. C.

COMMANDANT'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE, 1959

To Marines in every clime and place, and to their families, I extend my warmest personal greetings and best wishes for a Merry Christmas.

In the spirit of the season, we turn our thoughts toward a fuller understanding of the real purpose of our existence and a deeper appreciation for the spiritual values contained in the Christmas story. As we recall the story of the birth of Christ, we are inspired by a vision of hope, brotherhood, and universal peace. This vision can become a reality, we know, only when the dignity and worth of the individual and freedom of mind and spirit are recognized throughout the world.

These values are dear to Americans and are cherished by men of good will everywhere. They are values that come to us as our priceless heritage from the past -- a heritage which is the result of man's ceaseless striving for freedom -- a heritage which Marines stand ready to protect.

May this Christmas of 1959 inspire every Marine, wherever he may be, to rededicate himself to Country and Corps, and to a renewed determination to defend our precious heritage.

It is my earnest hope that, for each and every one of you, this will be a joyous Christmas and that the New Year will be filled with happiness.

R. McC. PATE
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps