



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

COMMANDANT'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE - 10 NOVEMBER 1960

Today we celebrate the birthday of our Corps. We pay our respects to a long line of fighting men extending back to the Continental Marines who were recruited at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia in 1775. We recall their deeds with pride. We reflect upon the heritage they have given us -- a splendid tradition of indomitable spirit, high courage, and steadfast devotion.

Today, as from the beginning, our Corps is a vital element of our national strength. It is a strong bulwark of our freedom. It is old in achievement, yet it is young in its vigorous approach to its responsibilities. Its tactics, weapons, and equipment have kept pace with the nuclear age. But today, as in the beginning, its strength still lies in the individual Marine's readiness and willingness to fight -- to be the "first to fight for right and freedom."

And so today we celebrate our Corps' glorious past by dedicating ourselves with renewed vigor and enthusiasm to the challenging tasks of the future.

To all Marines throughout the world, regular and reserve, and to all Marine families on this happy occasion, the 185th birthday of our beloved Corps, I extend my personal congratulations and best wishes.

A handwritten signature in cursive ink that reads "David M. Shoup".

DAVID M. SHOUP
General, U. S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps