

Commandant's Birthday Message

November 10, 1962



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



On this day we pause briefly in our assigned duties to pay tribute to all those who have held the name Marine. We reflect on the chronicle of their achievements and remember the places where our heritage was born and fostered. We recall the beaches and jungles, deserts and mountains and the sky overhead where they made their countless sacrifices. The names of these places are a page in the roll call of our Nation's glory - New Providence, Belleau Woods, Wake, Tarawa, Korea. These and fifteen score more are the taproots of our legacy and they are anchored deep in the history of our country.

We, who have chosen to be their sentinels, well know that what we guard is nearly 200 years of courage and loyalty, of unbeatable spirit and devotion to Country and Corps.

Today, as in the past, our strength is in our readiness and willingness to carry out any mission assigned - upholding the high standards of those who have gone before. Let us then face the future, guided by the steadfast devotion and singleness of purpose, that has made the name, United States Marine a proud and honored one.

To all Marines throughout the world, and to all Marine families, on the 187th birthday of our beloved Corps, I extend my heartiest congratulations and my very 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