

10 November 1978

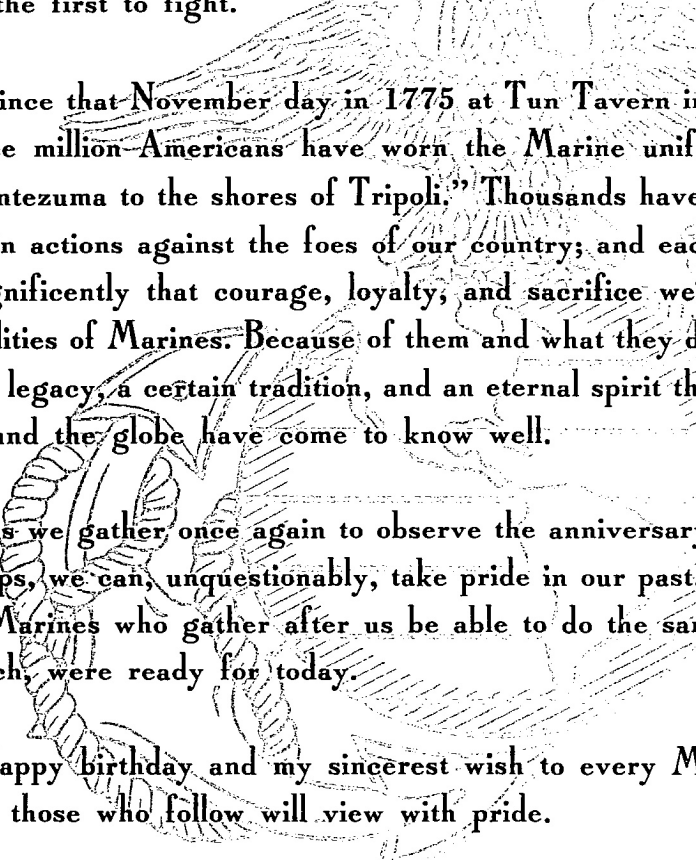
A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

The tenth of November this year marks the 203d birthday anniversary of the United States Marine Corps. Whatever the need during more than two centuries, Marines have responded whenever the call came. We were ready to be the first to fight.

Since that November day in 1775 at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, well over three million Americans have worn the Marine uniform "from the Halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli." Thousands have been wounded and killed in actions against the foes of our country; and each generation has shown magnificently that courage, loyalty, and sacrifice were, indeed, very special qualities of Marines. Because of them and what they did, we have today a certain legacy, a certain tradition, and an eternal spirit that friends and foes alike around the globe have come to know well.

As we gather once again to observe the anniversary of the founding of our Corps, we can, unquestionably, take pride in our past. May those generations of Marines who gather after us be able to do the same—because we, on our watch, were ready for today.

Happy birthday and my sincerest wish to every Marine for a 204th year that those who follow will view with pride.



Louis H. Wilson

LOUIS H. WILSON
General, U. S. Marine Corps