



Gen P. X. Kelley

## Letter to MCA Members:

Fellow Members of the Marine Corps Association:

On 1 July 1983, I leave my post as President of our Marine Corps Association. I do this with much regret, however, because I have enjoyed the opportunity to participate in the management of this fine organization of Marines—past, present and future. As Commandant I become your Honorary President, and I look forward to continuing my relationship as the MCA continues to grow and provide increased professional and personal benefits to Marines and their families.

The Association has come a long way, and we will continue to look for methods of enhancing its value. To do so, we need the support, ideas and active membership of all Marines.

In passing the presidency to General J.K. Davis, I am pleased to say that our Association is on a steady course. Another year has gone by without raising our

dues. The opportunity to receive your choice of *Leatherneck* or the *Marine Corps Gazette* for dues of \$7 (enlisted) or \$10 (officers) per year is well within the means of all Marines.

During the past year an attractive and beneficial change was made to our bylaws. Dependent children of members may now join the Association in their own right—from age 15 until they are no longer dependents—and they may remain members for as long as they desire. This means that they can take advantage of all applicable MCA programs. For example, they may insure in our life insurance program and enjoy the financial advantages of excellent group term coverage at very modest rates.

Remember, to “lock in” this lifetime opportunity to share in present and future benefits of our Association, your children must exercise their option to become members prior to losing their dependency. An excellent way to do this is to have them join the life insurance program, whereby their premiums include membership dues.

The Group Annuity Plan, available to all insured members, is currently paying 10% tax-deferred interest, guaranteed through this year. The plan provides an excellent way to combine the relatively low cost of decreasing group term life insurance with a means of accumulating savings at a competitive interest rate. We now have nearly 9½ million dollars in the plan, and it is steadily growing.

Our group health care program is growing by leaps and bounds as more members and their families are realizing the value of having supplemental health insurance to cover the gaps not provided by CHAMPUS or MEDICARE. In the last year we have experienced 40% growth in the number of our enrollees. If you anticipate the need to utilize CHAMPUS or MEDICARE, you should look into supplemental insurance to determine if it would be in your financial interest.

I encourage all career Marines to read both the *Gazette* and *Leatherneck*. The *Gazette* is an excellent way to stay abreast of developments in the Corps, and to give your views on proposals being made for the future. I particularly recommend *Leatherneck* to young Marines, both officer and enlisted, to become better acquainted with the posts, stations and training programs which may be available to them.

If you are not presently utilizing our MCA Bookservice, you are missing a good thing. Broadening your knowledge through professional reading is imperative, and our Bookservice can be of great assistance to you. Nearly any book currently in print may be obtained for you, and MCA members and subscribers to our magazines enjoy a discount on most books.

The MCA awards program provides a valuable service. Honor graduate awards are given to nearly all graduating classes of formal schools and training programs. Again this year, the Association has made substantial financial contributions to the Command and Staff College Foundation and the Marine Corps Historical Foundation in furtherance of their efforts to enhance professional education and to preserve Marine Corps history for future generations. Contributions have also been made to the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation and the Marine Military Academy.

I firmly believe that all Marines—regular, reserve, active, inactive, retired or former—will enjoy and benefit from membership in the MCA. Help us to further strengthen the professional association of the Marine Corps by encouraging your fellow Marines to join us.

In addition to thanking you for your support during my tenure, I want to express my appreciation to our Board of Governors who give generously of their time without compensation. Their dedication and expertise have been most helpful.

For those who would like to review it, the annual audit report by G.P. Graham and Company of Arlington, Va., is available at the Association's offices in Quantico.

With warmest best wishes to all members, present and future, I am

Respectfully,

P.X. Kelley  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
President, MCA

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