



A Message From the Commandant of the Marine Corps

For 216 years, the word Marine has borne special meaning. To military professionals—both friend and foe—it has personified the highest in all that is associated with the profession of arms. To our countrymen, it has meant pride, discipline, and the extra measure of valor and devotion it takes to fight and win. To those in need of humanitarian assistance, it has meant a warm heart and a helping hand. And, to we privileged few who have earned the right to bear our honored title, it brings the indescribable, personal pride we feel each time we are called "Marine."

For over two centuries, Marines have been at the heart of American pride. Our great country has relied on, and has always received more from the special breed she knows as Marines. Thus, today we celebrate not only the founding of our Corps, but also our unique and close bond with the people of our Nation and its history. As our generation of Marines serves, let it be said of us, as it has of those before us, that all we ask of our country is the privilege of serving it and the honor of defending it.

So, on this special occasion, to each who wears, or has worn, the eagle, globe, and anchor, and to the families who support us, stand tall; you deserve to; you're 216 years proud. Happy birthday, Marines.

**Carl E. Mundy, Jr.
General, U.S. Marine Corps**