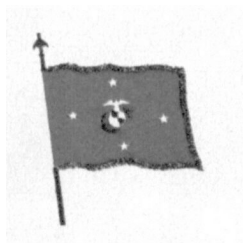


**COMMANDANT'S LETTER TO RETIREES**

Dear Fellow Marine,

Our Nation is at war—our Corps is at war—fighting a determined enemy bent on terror and domination. Your fellow Marines need your help. Our operational tempo has increased at the same time that the President has authorized the Marine Corps to grow, and it is for this reason that your Corps again needs you—not to return to active duty but to assume an active role in recruiting the next generation of Marines. This kind of help can best be provided by those who have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor, and that's why this letter is in your hands.

This important task requires the support of all Marines. You are uniquely qualified and strategically positioned to help influence the "influencers" who mentor today's youth. I ask that you, as a Marine, make a personal call to someone within your community—a teacher, a principal, a pastor, a coach—and help them to better understand the nature of our Corps.

Many of our countrymen do not understand that *Once a Marine, always a Marine* is a phrase that has stood the test of time and is a testimony to the enduring strength of our Corps. The title of Marine is a privilege earned in boot camp, steeled by service to the Nation, and carried with dignity throughout life. We live by our core values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment—both as active Marines and as quality citizens after our time in the Corps is over.

We are calling a new generation of Marines to serve. They will carry the battle tested colors of our Corps just as you once carried them—with honor and with pride. We still Make Marines, Win Battles, and Create Quality Citizens! I ask for your continued commitment to ensure this tradition endures and our proud legacy prevails.

Semper Fi, Marine!

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James T. Conway". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

James T. Conway  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps