



Michael John Waluk  
Northeast Division Marine Corps League

*Ductos Exemplos*

10 November 2023

Greetings Marines,

We are a special breed. We are thoroughly convinced to the point of arrogance that there is absolutely nothing we can't accomplish given the opportunity and motivation. When challenged, we rise to the occasion to achieve our goals and objectives. We do this because of our legacy.

The hard-fought battles and the victories won through the valiant and heroic efforts of our brothers and sisters in arms, both past and present. Moreover, we do this to validate the necessity for our existence and maintain the highest of standards for future generations who will one day choose a similar path.

As I stood at Independence Hall this morning and looked at the faces of those young Marines and Officers, I am again reminded that our service does not stop simply because we hang up our uniform.

Wherever we go in life, we will always seek out those like us because of our history and traditions. We may not have served together, but we are certainly bound together by having earned the right to wear the Eagle, Globe, and entwined Anchor. Whether in Parris Island, San Diego, or the hills of Quantico; we've sweat, bled, and shed tears of joy in celebration and cried tears for our losses. Nevertheless, none of this takes away from being a Marine. A title which we will always cherish. A title that will remain with us forever.

To all of you, I thank you for your service, your support, your guidance, and leadership. What you do today in our communities resonates with all who meet you, as they too are reminded of what we stand for. We live a lifetime following the values of Duty, Honor, Courage, and Commitment. A lifetime knowing that there is a purpose and pride in defending our freedoms. We do this as a constant reminder that we are and always will be MARINES!

I am thankful for having the opportunity to work beside and with the best that this country has to offer. So, please permit me to raise a glass in your honor and toast you; my brothers and sisters, on this, the occasion of our 248<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

Semper Fi Marines

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Michael John Waluk", written in a cursive style.

Michael John Waluk  
National Vice Commandant, Northeast Division