

A Message from the Department of PA Auxiliary President as you celebrate the 248th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps...

Following the world events of the last month, America is so very fortunate to have so many special people!

People who value human life...their own and that of their family and friends

People who do not have a price at which they can be bought

People who have integrity and pride

People who are not afraid of risk

People who have opinions instead of prejudices

People who are honest

People whose ambitions are big enough to include others

People who believe that shrewdness and cunning are sometimes necessary to achieve success

People who are not afraid to go against popular opinion

People who can work together under difficult conditions to achieve success

People who are occasionally wrong but rarely admit it

People who know how to win and never accept defeat.

Does this sound like anyone you know? It sounds like an American hero to me. It sounds like a United States Marine!

Marines have pride in their traditions, in their heritage, in their accomplishments, in serving, and in belonging. Thank you, Marines, for allowing those of us in the Auxiliary to belong to your Marine Corps League Family!

Semper Fidelis...always faithful you have dedicated your lives to the Corps, your families and your country. You have saved lives, sometimes at great personal sacrifice. You have given your hearts, and sometimes your souls. You have set standards that seem unreal to others and you have done all this, at times, without recognition or thanks.

I want to tell you again this year that I, personally, am extremely grateful and thank you from the bottom of my heart for the lives you have saved, the sacrifices you have made, the standards you have set and the dedication and honor you continue to show to your families, to the Corps and to the people of this great nation.

We are “One Nation Under God” and it is encouraging following recent world events to see and hear so many of our nation’s leaders and citizens come together and support those in the world who have suffered so much during the last month. Many have participated in memorial services where God—mine, yours, and theirs--was so freely respected, prayed to and invoked.

Several years ago, I read something that touched me deeply. It is an invocation once given at a Marine Corps Birthday luncheon. This prayer was offered by Bill Black, a proud Marine, who was President of the Marine Corps Musicians Association at the time. It goes:

“O Lord, we have long known that prayers should include confession. Therefore, on behalf of the Marines and their guests here gathered, I confess their sins:

Lord, they are not in step with today’s society. They are unreasonable in clinging to old-fashioned ideas like patriotism, duty, honor and country. They hold radical ideas like believing that they are their brother’s keeper and responsible for the Marines on their flank. They have been seen standing when the colors pass, and singing the National Anthem at ballgames and drinking toasts to fallen comrades.

Not only that, they have been observed standing tall, taking charge, and wearing their hair unfashionably short. They have taken President Kennedy’s words too seriously and are overly concerned with what they can do for their country instead of what their country can do for them. They take the Pledge of Allegiance to heart and believe that their oath is to be honored.

Forgive them, Lord, for being stubborn men and women who hold fast to such old-fashioned values. After all, what more can you expect? They are Marines.

O, Lord our God, bless their misguided ideals, continue to raise up in this nation strong leaders and deliver us from “me first” managers and “don’t ask me” followers.

Be our honored guest this day. Let it be a day of laughter, good food, good drink and telling of tall tales and legends that far exceed the truth. Watch over and keep safe those who wear this nation’s uniform with special attention to their families everywhere.

Now, through this day and all the nights and days ahead, God Bless this great nation and God Bless the Corps. Amen”

MARINES,

God Bless you and your families!

God Bless the United States Marine Corps!

God Bless the Marine Corps League and Auxiliary!

And God Bless the United States of America!

Semper Fidelis Marines and Happy 248th Birthday!

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