



10 November 2025

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Two hundred and fifty years ago, before our Nation declared its independence, a small group of men gathered in Philadelphia and formed a Corps of Marines. From that moment, our story has been bound to the story of America itself. A quarter of a millennium later, Marines remain at the center of our Nation's defense. Ready to fight, ready to win, and ready to uphold the trust placed in us since 1775.

Across centuries, Marines have fought on distant shores and in desperate battles, earning a reputation for discipline, toughness, and valor. From the Revolution to the World Wars, from Chapultepec to today's operations across the globe, every generation has proven worthy of the title Marine. They secured liberty, defended allies, and carried forward the promise of a free Nation, and a free world. We are the heirs of that legacy, and we are its stewards.

This anniversary reminds us that our standards are the foundation of our Corps. Honor, Courage, and Commitment are not abstractions, but the code that binds us to one another and to all who went before. Every Marine, in every clime and place, must hold true to these values. The conflicts ahead will demand nothing less.

I could not be prouder of the Marines I see serving today. At home, at sea, and across the globe, you carry forward our proud traditions with skill and ferocity. It is your discipline, initiative, and fighting spirit that anchor our Corps. The battles of the next 250 years will challenge us in new ways, but I have no doubt we will prevail. Happy Birthday Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

Eric M. Smith
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps



Happy 250th Birthday, United States Marine Corps

Two and a half centuries ago, on a cold November day in 1775, a few good men answered the call to form what would become one of the most storied fighting forces the world has ever known: the United States Marine Corps. Today, as we mark the 250th Birthday of our beloved Corps, we honor that legacy of valor, sacrifice, and unshakable devotion to country.

For 250 years, Marines have stood the watch—on distant shores, in unforgiving battles, and in quiet acts of service at home. We celebrate those who have gone before us and those who wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor today. Their courage, their honor, and their unwavering commitment have forged a legacy that continues to inspire our nation.

As members of the Marine Corps League, we carry that spirit beyond the uniform. Our mission is not only to preserve the traditions of our Corps but to serve our communities, support Marines and their families, and uphold the values that make us who we are. Honor. Courage. Commitment. These are not just words—they are the foundation of a brotherhood and sisterhood that spans generations.

Today is more than a milestone. It is a living testament to the enduring spirit of the Marine Corps. The faces may change, the battlefields may shift, but the heart of a Marine remains constant—resolute, faithful, and forever *Semper Fidelis*.

To our Marines, our families, and our community—thank you for standing with us as we celebrate 250 years of service, sacrifice, and unbreakable camaraderie.

Semper Fidelis

Matthew Corwin
Commandant, First Capitol Detachment
Marine Corps League



Marines, FMF Navy Personnel, and Associate Members,

Fellow Leathernecks, Devil Dogs, and Semper Fi Guardians of the Corps' Eternal Flame, As we gather under the glow of this grand 250th Birthday Ball, I, your 66th National Commandant of the Marine Corps League, stand humbled and honored to raise my glass to you—the unbreakable backbone of our shared legacy. On November 10, 2025, we commemorate a quarter-millennium of Marine Corps excellence, forged in the crucible of 1775's Tun Tavern, where a handful of resolute souls birthed the Continental Marines. From the frozen decks of the frozen Chosin Reservoir to the sunbaked sands of Iwo Jima, from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli, our Corps has etched its name in the annals of valor, unyielding and unmatched.

Two hundred and fifty years! What a testament to the indomitable spirit that courses through our veins. We've stormed beaches, scaled cliffs, and stared down tyrants, all while embodying the ethos: Semper Fidelis. We've lost brothers and sisters in the shadow of the eagle, globe, and anchor, their sacrifices a sacred debt we honor not with words alone, but with deeds. And here, in the hallowed ranks of the Marine Corps League, we—veterans, retirees, and supporters alike—carry that torch forward. You are the living bridge between yesterday's thunder and tomorrow's triumphs. Your tireless advocacy, your mentorship of young recruits, your unswerving commitment to Toys for Tots, Wounded Warriors, and community service—these are the quiet battles that sustain our Corps' soul.

Reflect with me on the giants who paved our path: Chesty Puller charging through hellfire, Dan Daly defying death twice over, and the countless unnamed heroes whose blood stains the pages of history. Their echoes resound in our drill fields today, reminding us that a Marine is more than muscle and marksmanship; it's a mindset of selfless service, a brotherhood forged in fire. As threats evolve—from cyber shadows to great-power rivalries—our League stands vigilant, amplifying the Corps' voice in the halls of power, ensuring no Marine is forgotten, no promise left unkept.

To you, the heart of this League: Your stories fuel our fire, your resilience inspires nations. You've earned this night of revelry—don your uniforms, share your sea stories, and let the skirl of bagpipes stir the ghosts of glory. But as we toast, let us pledge anew: We will defend the Corps, uplift its families, and pass the colors to the next generation, unbroken and bold.

So, raise your glasses high, my fellow Marines! To the United States Marine Corps—250 years young, eternally fierce. To our fallen, rest easy, we've got the watch. To you, the League—Semper Fi and keep the faith!



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Marines,

As we gather to celebrate the 250th birthday of the United States Marine Corps, we are reminded of the proud legacy that unites us—a brotherhood and sisterhood forged in honor, courage, and commitment. For two and a half centuries, Marines have stood as the nation's sword and shield, answering the call wherever and whenever our country needed us most.

To our Marine Corps League members, your dedication to preserving the Marine Corps traditions does not go unnoticed. Our mission is simple:

Mission Statement

The mission of the Marine Corps League is to promote the interest and to preserve traditions of the United States Marine Corps; strengthen the fraternity of Marines and their families; serve Marines & FMF Navy personnel who wear or have worn the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor; and foster the ideals of Americanism and patriotic volunteerism.

From the hallowed grounds of Tun Tavern to the farthest reaches of the globe, your service is the foundation on which generations of Marines continue to build. You have carried our colors with unwavering pride and upheld the highest traditions of our beloved Corps.

On this historic milestone, we recognize not only our victories in battle but also the lasting impact you have made in your communities and across the world. The legacy you leave inspires new Marines to strive for excellence and to live up to the standard you set—Semper Fidelis, always faithful.

As we celebrate 250 years, we honor every Marine who has worn the uniform—past, present, and future. Thank you for your service, your enduring loyalty, and your devotion to our Corps and country.

Happy 250th Birthday, Marines! May we always remain faithful to our proud heritage and to each other.

Semper Fi!

G. Victoria McCoy
Commandant
Marine Corps League
Department of Pennsylvania