

MARINE CORPS INSTALLATIONS WEST-  
MARINE CORPS BASE CAMP PENDLETON &  
I MARINE EXPEDITIONARY FORCE



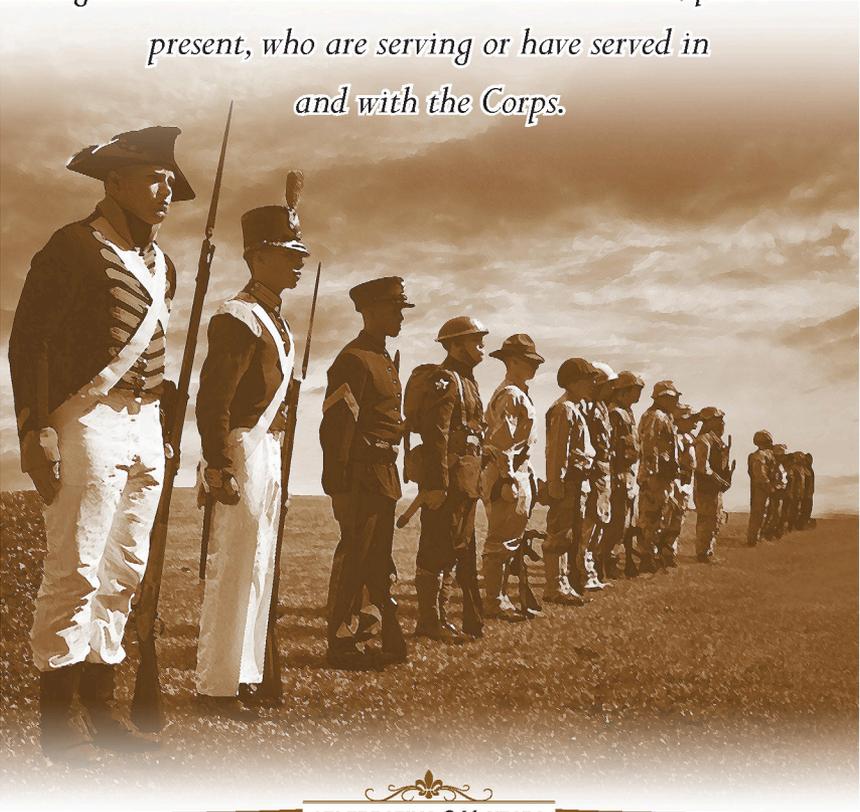
# BIRTHDAY PAGEANT

COMMEMORATING 241 YEARS OF THE  
UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

9 NOVEMBER 2016



*The Marine Corps Installations West-Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton and I Marine Expeditionary Force takes pleasure in presenting the Marine Corps Birthday Pageant in honor of the 241st Birthday of our Corps. The Marine Corps Birthday Pageant is a tribute to all Marines and Sailors, past and present, who are serving or have served in and with the Corps.*



CELEBRATING 241 YEARS

---



*Sequence of Events*

Concert by the 1st Marine Division Band

Invocation

Period Uniform Pageant

Honors

March on the Colors

National Anthem

General John A. Lejeune's Birthday Message

Commandant of the Marine Corps' Birthday Message

Cake Cutting Ceremony

Retire the Colors

Anchors Aweigh

Marines' Hymn

---



*General John A. Lejeune's  
Birthday Message*

On November 1st, 1921, John A. Lejeune, 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, directed that a reminder of the honorable service of the Corps be published by every command, to all Marines throughout the globe, on the birthday of the Corps. Since that day, Marines have continued to distinguish themselves on many battlefields and foreign shores, in war and peace. On this birthday of the Corps, therefore, in compliance with the will of the 13th Commandant, Article 38, United States Marine Corps Manual, Edition of 1921, is republished as follows:

On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name Marine. In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

The record of our Corps is one which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 146 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the Battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our Corps Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term Marine has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue. This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the Corps. With it we also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of the Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our Nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the Corps.



10 November 2016

## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

Each year on or around 10 November, Marines gather in groups large and small to celebrate our history, honor the memory of those who have gone before us, and rekindle the bond that unites all generations of Marines. This year, we mark the 241st anniversary of our Corps - 241 years of uncommon valor, innovation, and combat excellence.

Marines, we are part of something bigger than any of us could imagine. Whether you fought in the battles of World War I, in the Pacific during World War II, in Korea or Vietnam, in Desert Shield or Desert Storm, or in the streets of Iraq and Afghanistan - or you are just starting out on your Marine Corps journey - we are all part of an elite family of warriors. For the rest of your life, the first term people use to describe you will be "Marine."

When the Continental Congress stood up two battalions of Marines in 1775, a culture of discipline, vigilance, professionalism, and military excellence was born that has characterized our Corps for nearly two and a half centuries. As Marines, we have a profound respect for our traditions and heritage, and for taking care of each other. We know we're strongest when we're together as a team. Wherever you are celebrating our Corps' birthday this year, look around at the Marines beside you and remember the bonds forged in training, in garrison, and in combat. Take this time to reconnect.

We are Marines for life. It's our responsibility, our duty, to maintain and build upon the legacy of those who have gone before us. What we do today, guided by what we've learned from past generations, will determine the future of our Corps. So as we celebrate this 241st anniversary of our Corps, we also look ahead and prepare for our next success. Take pride in carrying our legacy forward.

Happy Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

Robert B. Neller  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

CELEBRATING 241 YEARS



---



## *Cake Cutting Ceremony*

The passing of the birthday cake from the oldest Marine present to the youngest Marine present is a long-standing tradition of the Marine Corps birthday celebration that represents the handing down of our rich heritage from our Marine forebearers to those of us who have the privilege of serving today.



### *Our Oldest Marine*

MGySgt Michael Burke

Currently assigned to Security & Emergency Services Battalion,  
CID Section



### *Our Youngest Marine*

PFC Brynn A. Werner

Currently assigned to Headquarters & Support Battalion, Alpha  
Company, IPAC Command Support Section



## *The Origin of the Birthday Celebration*

All U.S. Marines are gung-ho. But, few can match the vision and total commitment of the famous 13th Commandant, Gen John A. Lejeune. In 1921 he issued Marine Corps Order No. 47, Series 1921.

Gen Lejeune's order summarized the history, mission, and tradition of the Corps. It further directed that the order be read to all Marines on 10 November of each year to honor the founding of the Marine Corps. Thereafter, 10 November became a unique day for U.S. Marines throughout the world.

Soon, some Marine commands began to not only honor the birthday, but celebrate it. In 1923 the Marine Barracks at Ft. Mifflin, Pennsylvania, staged a formal dance. The Marines at the Washington Navy Yard arranged a mock battle on the parade ground. At Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, the Marine baseball team played a Cuban team and won, 9 to 8.

The first "formal" Birthday Ball took place in Philadelphia in 1925. First class Marine Corps style, all the way! Guests included the Commandant, the Secretary of War (in 1925 the term "politically correct" didn't exist; it was Secretary of War, not Secretary of Defense), and a host of statesmen and elected officials. Prior to the ball, Gen Lejeune unveiled a memorial plaque at Tun Tavern. Then the entourage headed for the Benjamin Franklin Hotel and an evening of festivities and frolicking.

Over the years the annual Birthday Ball grew and grew, taking on a life of its own. In 1952 the Commandant, Gen Lemuel C. Shepherd Jr., formalized the cake-cutting ceremony and other traditional observances. For example, Marine Corps policy now mandates that the first piece of cake must be presented to the oldest U.S. Marine present. The second piece goes to the youngest Marine. Among the many such mandates is a solemn reading of the Commandant's birthday message to the Corps.

Like the U.S. Marine Corps itself, the annual Birthday Ball has evolved from simple origins to the polished and professional functions of today. Nonetheless, one thing remains constant, the tenth day of November! This unique holiday for warriors is a day of camaraderie, a day to honor Corps and Country. Throughout the world on 10 November, U.S. Marines celebrate the birth of their Corps -- the most loyal, most feared, most revered, and most professional fighting force the world has ever known.

