

2020 Birthday Message

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November 10, 1775 a Corps of Marines was created by the Continental Congress. The modern celebration of the birth of our Corps started in 1921 with the order issued by the 13th Commandant of the Marine Corps, John A. Lejeune, and has continued every year since being issued.

This year we are celebrating the 245th Anniversary of the founding of our Corps. 2020 is also like no other year before. We are in the midst of a pandemic, experiencing national conversations on race and witnessing a divisive national election. Probably the worst year that any of us could ever imagine.

On this occasion, CMC Berger and MCL National Commandant Tobin have in their Birthday Messages, provided us with leadership and guidance on the way forward as Marines. For my message, I look to the past for inspiration. The following passage is one that I found on the VA website on the Veteran's Day blog. It is from a video of a Marine Code Talker from WWII talking about his experience on Iwo Jima in 1945:

... And we should never forget what war is. War is something that nobody wants. It's bad – it's ugly. But so long as we are together, no matter what nationality you are, if you are American and love this country we all have to stick together to keep this nation strong! Our freedom and liberty mean so much, meant so much for those who never made it home.

So, it's up to us now, to keep this nation strong and prosperous.

As we celebrate our past and what the Marine Corps and Marine Corps League have achieved and what and who we are, we look to our past for the courage and the reassurance for the future. I'm confident that by working together, staying true to our core values and stepping forward like Marines, we will come out of this year stronger and more resilient than before. So, let us lift our glasses and salute our 245 years of service to our God, our Country and our Corps. Happy Birthday Marines.

Once a Marine, always a Marine. It is who we are. Semper Fidelis.