



## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On 10 November 1775, the Second Continental Congress resolved to raise two battalions of Continental Marines, marking the birth of our United States Marine Corps. As Marines, we are proud of our history and the tradition of honoring those who came before us. Each November, Marines the world over celebrate the birth of our Corps – from the small towns of this great Nation, to the battle fields of Afghanistan and Iraq, Marines will pause, reflect, and pay homage to our long and illustrious legacy.

The Marine Corps plays a vital role in the armed forces' effort to protect and preserve the American way of life. Our continued success requires us to draw from the strengths of our past while we anticipate and overcome 21st century challenges. While we retain the ability to fight effectively across the full spectrum of conflict, fighting and winning the Global War on Terror remains our top priority. At the center of all of this is the 21st century Marine, who exudes the Corps' tradition of warrior excellence and is today more capable than ever—well trained, well equipped, and well led.

Today, Marines around the globe continue to demonstrate the same sense of honor, courage, and commitment as those who answered that first call to arms two hundred and thirty years ago. Today—and everyday—we share the fellowship of valor, each of us filled with unbridled pride and a commitment to excellence.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "M. W. Hagee". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

M. W. Hagee  
General, U.S. Marine Corps