

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
BIRTHDAY BALL

247
YEARS

A historical black and white photograph of Marines raising the American flag on Iwo Jima, overlaid with large white text. The image shows several Marines in combat gear working together to hoist a flag on a rocky, debris-strewn hill. The background is a hazy, overcast sky. The text '247 YEARS' is superimposed in a large, white, serif font, with the '247' being significantly larger than the word 'YEARS'. The entire graphic is set against a dark red background at the top and bottom of the page.

1st Maintenance Battalion
Pechanga Resort Casino
11 NOVEMBER 2022



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Cocktails & Photographs

Commandant's Birthday Message

Invocation

Adjutant's Call

Arrival of Official Party

Presentation of Colors

Cake Cutting

General Lejeune's Birthday Message

Commanding Officer's Remarks

Guest of Honor's Remarks

Dinner & Dance





CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

Adjutant

1stLt Christian E. Mattessich

Narrator

Cpl Spencer C. Woods

Color Guard

Sgt Blake W. Inderlied
Cpl Sven E. Johnson

Cpl Wellington A. Bailey
LCpl Brent A. Dumke

Sword Detail

Maj Yuliya Omarov

Maj John C. Piluso

Capt Kevin J. Ayres

Capt Marco A. Nunez

CWO2 Matthew A. Sidell

WO Michael P. Miracle

2ndLt Mary C. West

1stLt Jeremy M. Jones

GySgt Nathan J. Thompson

GySgt Hendrick Calderon

SSgt Joshua T. Painter

SSgt Kenny S. Plair

Sgt Michelle De La Hoz

Sgt Ralph M. Boscacci

Cpl Julie A. Ruizvincente

Cpl McAndrew Dufanal

Cake Escorts

Cpl Thomas G. Beckford

LCpl Diego M. CortezRuiz

LCpl Hunter W. Fitts

LCpl Andrew T. Heineman

Oldest Marine

CWO3 Travis G. Hill

Youngest Marine

LCpl Casey Gomezorozco

Music provided by Band

The First Marine Division Brass

Quintet under the direction of Sgt McKenna





GENERAL LEJEUNE'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

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 167 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 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.

John Lejeune
Lieutenant General
U.S. Marine Corps





10 November 2022

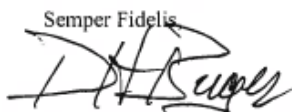
A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

70 years ago, Army Major General Frank E. Lowe was quoted as saying, "The safest place in Korea was right behind a platoon of Marines. Lord, how they could fight." That testimonial rings as true now as it did then, and will remain so tomorrow. As we celebrate the 247th anniversary of our Corps' founding, we reflect on nearly two and a half centuries of exceptional prowess, while also taking objective stock of where we are today and how we will prepare for future battlefields. Our birthday provides us a chance to focus on the one thing common to our success in the past, present, and future: the individual Marine. Victories are not won because of technology or equipment, but because of our Marines.

Since 1775, Marines have fought courageously and tenaciously in every conflict our country has faced. Through the Revolution, the Spanish-American War, World Wars in Europe and the Pacific, conflicts in Korea and Vietnam, and operations in the Middle East, Marines consistently earned a reputation as the world's elite fighting force. We inherit and take pride in this reputation, evolved over time by Marines acquitting themselves with honor and distinction on every battlefield in every clime and place. Battlefields change, and Marines have always adapted to the environment and the changing character of war – but the reason we fight and win is immutable. It's the individual warfighters, and their love for each other, that makes our Corps as formidable a force today as it has been for the past 247 years. It's our ethos and our unapologetic resolve to be the most capable and lethal fighting force that sets us apart from the rest.

Current events around the world remind us that peace is not guaranteed. While we are justifiably proud of our past and pay tribute to the remarkable warfighters who came before us, we understand that the stories of yesterday cannot secure our freedom tomorrow. We must be ready to respond when our Nation calls. It falls on Marines who are in uniform today to write the next chapter of our Corps. The solemn responsibility of maintaining our illustrious warfighting legacy rests upon your shoulders. I know that you are up to that task. The battlefields of tomorrow are uncertain. The future characteristics of warfare are uncertain. But one thing is certain – wherever Marines are called, they will fight and win – today, tomorrow, and into the future.

Happy 247th Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis


David H. Berger
General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

SERGEANT MAJOR
DAVID A. WILSON
1ST MARINE DIVISION



Sergeant Major Wilson enlisted in the Marine Corps in June 1994 and conducted Recruit Training at MCRD San Diego. Upon completion, he reported to the School of Infantry where he earned the MOS 0311 and was meritoriously promoted to Private First Class.

Upon graduation, he reported to Company K, 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines where he served as an Automatic Rifleman, Team Leader and Squad Leader. During his tour, he deployed twice to Okinawa, Japan and was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal, Corporal, and Sergeant.

In March of 1998, Sergeant Wilson reported to Drill Instructor School, MCRD San Diego and graduated first in his class. Upon graduation, he was assigned to Hotel Company, 2nd Recruit Training Battalion where he served as a Drill Instructor/Senior Drill Instructor as well as a Water Survival Instructor. During this tour he was meritoriously promoted to Staff Sergeant. Upon completion of his tour, he attended the SNCO Career Course and graduated first in his class.

Staff Sergeant Wilson reported to Lima Company, 3d Battalion, 1st Marines in August of 2001 where he served as Platoon Commander and Platoon Sergeant for 3rd Platoon and deployed to Operation Enduring Freedom as part of the 11th MEU.

Upon return, he was immediately re-deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) I. He returned to CONUS in May 2003 and was assigned as the Company Gunnery Sergeant for Lima Company. Shortly after, he was selected for the rank of Gunnery Sergeant and attended the SNCO Advanced Course where he once again graduated first in his class.

In June 2004, he deployed to Iraq a second time. During this deployment, he participated in the battle of Fallujah as part of Operation AL FAJR/PHANTOM FURY. Throughout this period, he served as Company Gunnery Sergeant and Company First Sergeant.

In December 2006, he was selected for the rank of First Sergeant and received orders to 1st Battalion, 5th Marines as the Weapons Company First Sergeant. In June 2007, he deployed with the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. In May 2009, he deployed to the Helmand Province of Afghanistan where he was assigned as the Charlie Company First Sergeant. During this tour, he participated in combat operations in the Nawa District as a part of Operation KHANJARI.

In May 2010, First Sergeant Wilson was assigned to Inspector-Instructor duty in San Jose, California. In September 2011 he attended the Senior Enlisted PME Course in Quantico, Virginia where he earned the Excellence in Speech & Writing Award. In May 2012, he was promoted to Sergeant Major and assigned as the Squadron Sergeant Major for Marine Attack Squadron (VMA) 311 in Yuma, Arizona. He again deployed to Afghanistan from April to September 2013.

In 2014, VMA-311 was recognized by the Marine Corps Aviation Association as the Marine Attack Squadron of the Year. In March 2015, Sergeant Major Wilson was assigned as the Sergeant Major of Marine Wing Support Squadron 371 and deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Inherent Resolve. In November 2015, Sergeant Major Wilson was assigned as the I Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters Group Sergeant Major. The unit was re-designated as I Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group in July 2017. In February 2018, Sergeant Major Wilson was assigned as the Sergeant Major of U.S. Marine Corps Training Command. In July 2020, Sergeant Major Wilson was assigned as the Sergeant Major of 3d Marine Aircraft Wing.

In November 2021, Sergeant Major Wilson was assigned as the Sergeant Major of 1st Marine Division, where he currently serves.

Sergeant Major Wilson's personal decorations include the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star Medal with Valor Device, Meritorious Service Medal (third award), Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (fourth award) with Valor Device, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (second award) with Valor Device, and the Combat Action Ribbon (second award).





MARINES' HYMN

*From the halls of Montezuma,
to the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles
in the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom
and to keep our honor clean;
We are proud to claim the title
of United States Marine.*

*Our flag's unfurled to every breeze
from the dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place
where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far off northern lands
and in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job
The United States Marines.*

*Here's health to you and to our Corps
which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life and
have never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy
ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded by
United States Marines.*

