

# *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 dawn to setting sun.  
We've 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 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.*



*16 November 2024*



# *The 249th Annual* **MARINE**

*1775*

*2024*



# **CORPS**

# *Ball*

# *Paris Hotel Las Vegas*

*Welcome  
to the*

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*2024 Birthday Ball  
in celebration of the  
Marine Corps 249th  
birthday since its  
first founding on  
November 10, 1775*

## *The Marine's Prayer*

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*Almighty Father, whose command is over all and whose love never fails, make me aware of thy presence and obedient to thy will. Keep me true to my best self, guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed and helping me to live so that I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones and thee without shame or fear. Protect my family.*

*Give me the will to do the work of a Marine and to accept my share of responsibilities with vigor and enthusiasm. Grant me the courage to be proficient in my daily performances.*

*Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties my country and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me. Make me considerate of those committed to my leadership. Help me to wear my uniform with dignity, and let it remind me daily of the traditions which I must uphold.*

*If I am inclined to doubt, steady my faith; if I am tempted, make me strong to resist, if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answer to my prayer.*

*Amen.*

# *Sequence of Events*

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*Staff and Officer Mixer*  
1700-1800

*Cocktail Hour*  
1800 – 1855

*First Call*  
1855

*Official Ceremony*  
1900 – 2000

*Dinner*  
2000-2100

*Celebration*  
2000 - 0000



*"The more you sweat in peace, the less you bleed in war."  
-General Norman Schwarzkopf*

*"There are only two kinds of people that understand  
Marines;  
Marines and those who have met them in battle.  
Everyone else has a second-hand opinion."  
-Unknown author*



# Ball Participants

## Commanding Officer Colonel Matthew K. Mulvey

### Color Guard

Sgt Navarro, Oscar  
Cpl Egberts, Lorallie

Cpl Pereyra, Andy  
Cpl Tingling, Breanna

### Cake Escorts

Sgt Morales, Daniela  
LCpl Milord, Wislover

Cpl Venegas, Erick  
HM2 Billy Roberts

### Honor Guard

Capt McGahey, Matthew  
2nd Lt Nelson, Isabella  
GySgt Rodriguez, Andrew  
Sgt Crooks, Austin

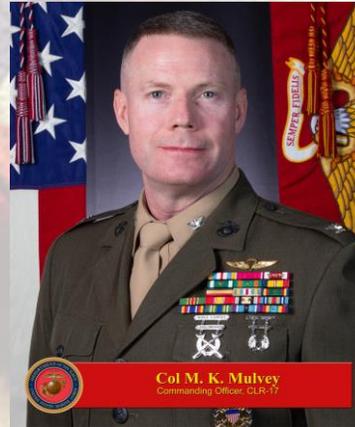
1st Lt Valerdi, Cristopher  
WO Acevedocolon, Khalil  
SSgt Diniz, Adriano  
Cpl Canezo, RalphKent

Guest of Honor.....Rear Admiral Thomas A. Donovan

Adjutant.....Capt Justin Broussard

Oldest Marine.....SgtMaj Earl D. Budd

Youngest Marine.....LCpl Dylan W. Olivarez



Colonel Mulvey is from Cherryville, North Carolina. He graduated from Fork Union Military Academy in 1995 and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy in 1999, earning a bachelor's degree in Marine Transportation, a Third Mate's Unlimited Tonnage License, and Marine Officer commission. After attending The Basic School in Quantico, VA and Logistics Officer's Course in Camp Johnson, NC he reported to Headquarters Battalion, 1st Marine Division, Camp Pendleton, CA for assignments including Maintenance Management Officer and Motor Transport Platoon Commander. Col Mulvey transferred to 1st Reconnaissance Battalion and served as Maintenance Management Officer, Motor Transport Officer, and Battalion Logistics Officer during Operation Iraq Freedom-I, Jan-Jun 2003. He was reassigned to Camp Lejeune, NC as the Logistics Current Operations Officer and Civil Affairs Officer for 4th Marine Expeditionary Brigade. He then deployed with 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit to OIF-II, from Jun 2004 to Feb 2005 and served as Security Platoon Commander and Logistics Officer for

Iraqi Security Forces in the area of operations. Following OIF-II, Col Mulvey assumed the role of S-4A and supported the 24th MEU's relief effort for Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans. He deployed for a second time with 24th MEU in 2006, highlighted by a Non-Combatant Evacuation Operation in Beirut, Lebanon. Col Mulvey then attended Expeditionary Warfare School from 2007-08 and reported to the Prepositioning Programs Section, PP&O, HQMC where he served two years before being selected as Aide-de-Camp to Deputy Commandant, PP&O. He then attended Marine Corps University's Command and Staff College 2011-12 and reported to Combat Logistics Regiment-1 as the Operations Officer. Col Mulvey assumed the billet of Executive Officer, Combat Logistics Battalion-13 and deployed for 13th MEU's Western Pacific Deployment 2013-14. Following the deployment, Col Mulvey served as Executive Officer, 1st Maintenance Battalion and Assistant Operations Officer, Expeditionary Operations Training Group, I MEF. In June 2016, Col Mulvey was assigned to NAVSUP-Weapons System Support in Philadelphia and served as an Integrated Weapon Systems Team Director. From June 2017 to June 2019, Col Mulvey commanded 3d Transportation Support Battalion in Okinawa, Japan. He attended the U.S. College of Naval Warfare from 2019-20, prior to his assignment on the Joint Staff where he served in the Logistics Directorate (J4) as Pre-positioning War Reserve Material Branch Chief and then Deputy Executive Assistant to the Chairman. Col Mulvey's most recent assignment was as Futures Branch Head (LPV), DC I&L.

Col Mulvey's Military education also includes the USASOC Civil Affairs Qualification Course, the Winter Mountain Leaders Course, the Advanced Expeditionary Logistics Operations Course, and the Kenan-Flagler Business School's Advanced Program in Logistics and Technology.

Col Mulvey holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Marine Transportation from the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, a Master of Military Studies degree from the Marine Corps University, and a Master of Arts degree in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College.

Col Mulvey's personal decorations include: Defense Superior Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Combat Action Ribbon and the Navy and Marine Corps Parachutist Insignia.

Colonel Mulvey is married to Lieutenant Commander Emily Mulvey USN, they have three children Sam, Dean and Eleanor.

*Guest of Honor*  
*Rear Admiral Thomas A. Donovan*



Rear Admiral Thomas Donovan is a native of Portsmouth, Virginia. He graduated the United States Naval Academy in 1996 and earned a Master's in Defense Analysis from the Naval Post Graduate School. He began his career as a SEAL after completing Basic Underwater Demolition/SEAL training class 208 in 1996.

His operational assignments include duty as Assistant Platoon and Platoon Commander with SEAL Team THREE. At Naval Special Warfare Development Group, he served as both a mobility and assault troop commander at Naval Special Warfare Tactical and Development Squadron FOUR. He served Executive Officer and Plank Owner of TACDEVRON FIVE and Commander of TACDEVRON TWO. He served as Deputy Commander and later as Commanding Officer, Naval Special Warfare Development Group.

His staff duty assignments include service as the United States Special Operations Command Legislative Affairs Directorate, Washington D.C. and Naval Special Warfare Officer Detailer in Millington, Tennessee. He served as Deputy Operations Officer and Operations Officer at the Joint Special Operations Command, Fort Bragg North Carolina. From 2021 to 2023, he served as the Executive Officer to the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff. RDML Donovan currently serves on the Joint Staff as Deputy Director for Global Operations.



*"We owe a debt of thanks to the many selfless men and women who bled and sacrificed for the good of us all..."*  
*Sergeant Major Carlos A. Ruiz*

*Oldest Marine*



Name & Rank: SgtMaj Earl D. Budd

MOS: 8999

Age: 48

Enlistment Date: 7 Feb 1996

Years of Service: 28 yrs and 9 months

*Youngest Marine*

Name & Rank: LCpl Dylon W. Olivarez

MOS: 3521

Age: 19

Enlistment Date: 18 Jul 2023

Years of Service: 16 months



*"Old Breed? New Breed? There is not a damn bit of difference, as long as it is Marine Breed!"*  
*Lewis 'Chesty' Puller*



*A birthday message from*  
*Major General John A. Lejeune*

*On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of 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 have 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.*



*A birthday message from*  
*General Eric M. Smith*



**A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS**

For 249 years, Marines have served as our Nation's sentinels of freedom. As we celebrate our Corps' birthday this year, I encourage all Marines to reflect on our legacy forged in blood on battlefields since 1775, and to rededicate ourselves to carrying that legacy untarnished into the future. Collectively, we who wear the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor have an obligation to uphold the ideals of self-discipline, warfighting proficiency, professionalism, and personal conduct that define what it means to be a Marine. I know you are all up to the task.

Twenty years ago this month, Marines fought and won the Second Battle of Fallujah, a brutal, grinding house to house fight, whose victory ultimately paved the way for the stabilization of the Republic of Iraq. Often in Iraq there were no true front lines, and by necessity, Fallujah was a battle in which every Marine fought, demonstrating once again our cornerstone philosophy that Every Marine is a Rifleman.

Our history bears witness to Marines of all stripes picking up their rifles and fighting for Corps and Country when the call came. From Wake Island to the Chosin Reservoir to Khe Sanh to Camp Bastion, every Marine fought. Our future battles will be no different. Our rear areas will be as vulnerable as our front lines and every Marine from our infantry battalions to our aviation squadrons to our headquarters and support elements will have to stand-to when called.

Preparing for the threats of the future requires the same exceptional standards and ironclad discipline that are the hallmarks of our Corps. Twenty years ago in Fallujah, our predecessors staunchly adhered to these virtues, earned our Nation's trust, and ensured the U.S. Marine Corps would remain the most feared fighting force in the world. It is our sworn duty to uphold those standards and stay true to our Core Values of Honor, Courage, and Commitment. Though technology and equipment change, the Marine Corps' culture of excellence must not. The road ahead is far from certain, but our ethos will never change — *Every Marine a Rifleman and Everyone Fights.*

As I've said before, it is the honor of my lifetime to be a Marine and serve as your Commandant. I'm proud to stand alongside each of you, and I'm excited to see what the future holds for our Corps. When I travel to visit Marines here at home and deployed around the globe, I find absolute confidence that this generation of Marines has what it takes to uphold our Corps' legacy and prevail in any conflict we face. Happy Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

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

