

The United States Marine Corps celebrates its 250th Anniversary

by Sgt. Brian Zwart, USMC Veteran

This year, the United States Military celebrates some very distinct birthdays. In June, the United States Army was honored in Washington D.C. with their 250th celebration with a parade and other festivities in our nation’s capital. On November 10, the United States Marine Corps gets their 250th Celebration. As a proud Marine Corps Veteran, I want to wish a very Happy Marine Corps Birthday to all my fellow Marines!

The Marine Corps has had a rich and vibrant history that has been honored and revered by countries all over the world, both friend and foe. The Marine Corps legacy began in Philadelphia in 1775, at the now infamous Tun Taven, which served as the earliest unofficial recruiting station. Seven months earlier, the American Revolution began with the Battles of Lexington and Concord, but still 8 months away from the signing of the Declaration of Independence in July, 1776. In November, 1775, the Continental Congress officially created the Continental Marines with this resolution:

“Resolved, That two battalions of Marines be raised consisting of one colonel, two lieutenant-colonels, two majors, and other officers, as usual in other regiments; that they consist of an equal number of privates with other battalions; that particular care be taken that no persons be appointed to office, or enlisted into said battalions, but such as are good seaman, or so acquainted with maritime affairs as to be able to serve to advantage by sea when required; that they be enlisted and commissioned to serve for and during the present war with great Britain and the colonies, unless dismissed by order of Congress; that they be distinguished by names of First and Second Battalions of American Marines, and that they be considered as part of the number which the Continental Army before Boston is ordered to consist of.”

The newly created Continental Marines primarily served aboard naval vessels and built a strong reputation as sharpshooters in the riggings of the ships and fought in nearly all of the naval engagements during the American Revolution. In March 1776, the Marines launched their first of many famous amphibious landings at New Providence Island in the Bahamas, when they attacked and overtook the British fort and seized the weapons and ammunition to resupply George Washington’s Army forces. The Continental Marines fought with distinction during the American Revolution and played their part in securing liberty from Great Britain. However, in 1784, following the conclusion of the Revolution and the signing of the Treaty of Paris officially ending the war a year prior, the Navy and Marine forces were disbanded by Congress.

Gone, but not forgotten, hostilities with France in the 1790s reignited the idea of a full-time Naval and Marine force. When the Navy Act of 1794 was authorized by Congress, along with six Navy frigates, Congress authorized the establishment of a new Marine force consisting of six officers and 310 enlisted men. The newly created force was reborn and was officially given the name, United States Marine Corps.

Marines have fought since then in every single war and conflict the United States has been involved in. In World War I, the Germans that fought against the Marine Corps at the Battle of Belleau Wood in 1918 gave their fierce opponents the nickname, ‘Teufel Hunden’, which means ‘Devil Dogs’; a name that has stuck to this day. From the Civil War to the present day, 297 Marines have been awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor; there are currently 8 living MOH recipients today. One of the most famous Marines to have been awarded the Medal of Honor was from World War II. John Basilone won the award after nearly single-handedly holding off an attack of a Japanese regiment against American forces in the Battle of Guadalcanal. This is his official citation:

“For extraordinary heroism and conspicuous gallantry in action against enemy Japanese forces, above and beyond the call of duty, while serving with the 1st Battalion, 7th Marines, 1st

Marine Division in the Lunga Area. Guadalcanal, Solomon Islands, on 24 and 25 October 1942. While the enemy was hammering at the Marines’ defensive positions, Sgt. Basilone, in charge of 2 sections of heavy machine guns, fought valiantly to check the savage and determined assault. In a fierce frontal attack with the Japanese blasting his guns with grenades and mortar fire, one of Sgt. Basilone’s sections, with its guncrews, was put out of action, leaving only 2 men able to carry on. Moving an extra gun into position, he placed it in action, then, under continual fire, repaired another and personally manned it, gallantly holding his line until replacements arrived. A little later, with ammunition critically low and the supply lines cut off, Sgt. Basilone, at great risk of his life and in the face of continued enemy attack, battled his way through hostile lines with urgently needed shells for his gunners, thereby contributing in large measure to the virtual annihilation of a Japanese regiment. His great personal valor and courageous initiative were in keeping with the highest traditions of the U.S. Naval Service.”

Sadly, after a state side tour to help sell war bonds, John Basilone requested to go back to war and fight with his brother Marines; He was killed shortly after during the landing on the Japanese island of Iwo Jima in 1945. He was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for his actions on Iwo Jima before he was killed. The Navy Cross is the second highest award a Marine can receive, and John Basilone is the only enlisted Marine in history to win both the Navy Cross and the Medal of Honor.

As America commemorates the 250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, take time to reflect on the freedoms that we have here in this country and the brave men and women that helped secure those freedoms. The Fruitport area is home to many Marine Corps Veterans, and I thank them for their service to our country and to our Corps. A special mention to one of my favorite Marines, Garth Miller, for guiding and inspiring me on my own Marine Corps journey.

So, on November 10, when the Marine Corps turns the ripe old age of 250, thank a veteran for their service...especially a Marine! You can even ask them to sing the Marine Corps Hymn, because I’m pretty sure they’ll know it by heart...

Semper Fidelis.

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;

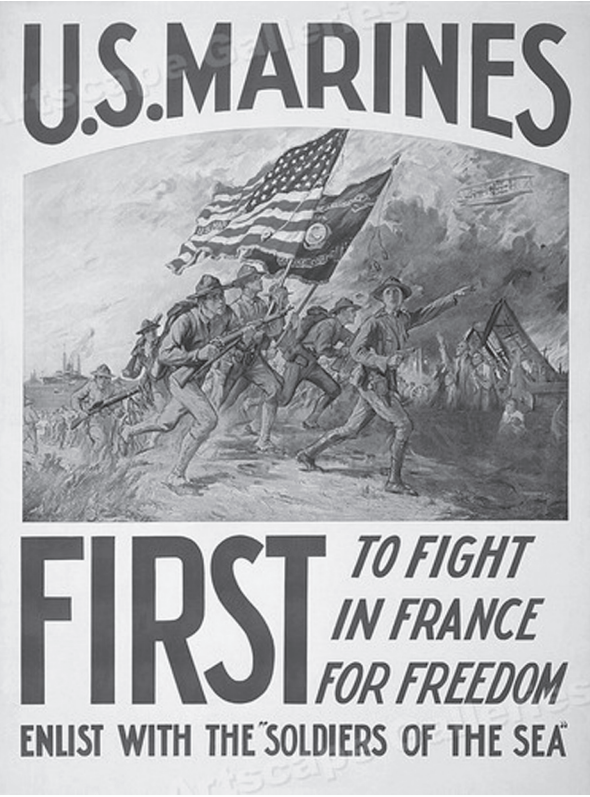
We have fought in ev’ry clime and place, Where we could take a gun;

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.

If the Army and the Navy, Ever look on Heaven’s scenes;

They will find the streets are guarded By United States Marines.



This is Steve Scalise.

As your House Majority Leader, I work hand and glove with President Trump and I love the work he and DOGE are doing for our country.

The Democrat Machine is firing on all cylinders to undermine, stonewall, and sabotage everything President Trump, and DOGE are doing to make our government more efficient and cut waste.

That’s why they’re mobilizing the courts, Deep State operatives, and Congressional Democrats to unleash a coordinated political hatchet job against the Trump Administration.

Democrats are suing him. They’re pushing for partisan investigations. They’re firing off hit piece after hit piece in the press. They’re introducing legislation to block his access. And a top Democrat even floated impeachment against Trump.

Their plan is simple:

- 1. Attack Trump and DOGE
 - 2. Drag them into court battles
 - 3. Slow them down at every turn
 - 4. Use the press to attack their work
 - 5. Unload millions to win the Midterms
 - 6. Block Trump’s ENTIRE legislative agenda
- Democrats have already pledged 50 million dollars to win the Midterm elections, take control of Congress, and exploit that power to sabotage EVERYTHING President Trump is doing to save the country. That includes the critical work of DOGE.

Baby Items Drop Off

First Congregational Church of Fruitport is a baby items drop-off site for Muskegon Pregnancy Services.

If you have items that you would like to donate, you can drop them off by the side door, under the roof, at 3212 Pontaluna Road, Fruitport.

If you have any questions, please call (231) 288-9873.

Returnable cans & bottles

First Congregational Church youth group activity fund could use your deposit cans and bottles. You can drop them off at the church (3212 Pontaluna Rd.) if you would like or you can call 231-288-9873, and someone will pick them up.