

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS  
BIRTHDAY BALL

249  
YEARS



*Marine Corps Base Quantico  
Security Battalion Ball*



# SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

*Cocktails & Photographs*

*Invocation*

*Adjutants Call*

*Arrival of Official Party*

*Presentation of Colors*

*Cake Cutting*

*General Lejeune's Birthday Message*

*Commandant's Birthday Message*

*Commanding Officer's Remarks*

*Guest of Honor Remarks*

*Dinner & Dance*





# CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

## *Adjutant*

*Captain Satia A. Jackson*

## *Narrator*

*Corporal Cameron J. Arbeiter*

## *Color Guard*

*Sergeant Abrianna Rodriguez*

*Corporal Jessenia A. Lazo*

*Corporal Drew E. Wilcock*

*Corporal Manrique Sanchez Jr*

## *Sword Detail*

*Major Ethan Willings*

*First Lieutenant Cameron Edwards*

*Gunnery Sergeant Kingsley Nwosu*

*Staff Sergeant Anthony Quinones*

*Sergeant Alexa Paco*

*Corporal Sabina Schulz*

*Captain Peter J. Spinks*

*Chief Warrant Officer Ridley*

*Gunny Sergeant Cameron Cooley*

*Staff Sergeant Montecalvo*

*Sergeant Jesse J. Cobos*

*Corporal Brandon Manifold*

## *Cake Escorts*

*Sergeant Savannah K. Whidden*

*Corporal Uriel A. Sanchez*

*Sergeant Cristian Hernandez,*

*Corporal Andrew N. Borjacuevas*

## *Oldest Marine*

*Lieutenant Colonel Rhonda C. Martin*

## *Youngest Marines*

*Lance Corporal Faith Smith*

*Music provided by MCB Quantico Band*





## 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 2024

## 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,

General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps



Chief of Staff Under Secretary of the Navy  
Robin C. Fortner  
Sergeant Major Retired



Robin Fortner is currently the Chief of Staff to the Under Secretary of the Navy, Mr. Thomas J. Mancinelli. She serves as the Principal Advisor to Mr. Mancinelli advising on business operations, performance management, and risk management within the Department of the Navy. Prior to her current assignment, Ms. Fortner was the President and CEO of RCFortner Enterprises, LLC., an Executive Coach and Professional Speaker. She retired from the United States Marine Corps in October 2022 with 30 years of military service.

Robin has held a variety of billets throughout her career and earned the highest enlisted rank of Sergeant Major. Her last duty assignment was the Senior Enlisted Advisor to the Commander of Marine Corps Systems Command in Quantico, Virginia. She led a diverse workforce of Marines and Civilians directly responsible for mission accomplishment in Marine Corps ground, weaponry, and information technology systems. She advised General/Flag Officers and Senior Executive Service Leaders on matters directly affecting the acquisition life cycle of equipment in support of Marines and Sailors operating in the Fleet Marine Force.

Robin has served in every element of the Marine Air Ground Task Force (MAGTF). She began her career within the Supply Logistics Field, where she held every position to include Supply Chief and Supply Analyst for Major Subordinate Commands. Outside of her Military Occupational Specialty (MOS), she also served in billets such as Military Police, Contract Specialist, Primary Marksmanship Instructor, Drill Instructor, Anti-Terrorism Force Protection Officer, and the Director of Staff Non-Commissioned Officer Academy, directly responsible for the formal education and professional development of Marine Corps Leaders assigned with the Second Marine Expeditionary Force.

As a combat veteran, having deployed to both Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, Robin has an extensive operational knowledge set and experience, coupled with leadership and her passion to teach, lead, and mentor. Her expertise is sought after and has been instrumental in influencing institutional policies and procedures. She was hand selected to serve as the Sergeant Major for the historic unit testing the integration of women into combat roles. This cultural shift in talent management has paved the way for modern changes to the standardization of all combat roles across the Department of Defense.

Still serving, Robin is a Board Member for the Marine Corps Association and Foundation, Valor Run, Youth Impact Program and an Adjunct Member with the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation. Robin continues to advocate for Veterans and have been on advisory panels for the 11th Secretary of Veteran Affairs. She holds a Dual Masters of Arts degrees in Leadership and Management and Human Resource Management from Webster University, and a Bachelor Degree in Intelligence Studies from American Military University. She is currently pursuing her Doctorate of Strategic Leadership from Liberty University.

*A very special thank you  
to our event sponsor.*



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# *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 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.*

