

October 4, 2006

**BIRTHDAY MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT  
OF THE MARINE CORPS LEAGUE**

Marines, Sailors and Friends of the Marine Corps -

As we gather together to celebrate the 231<sup>st</sup> Birthday of the United States Marine Corps, we pause to once again take stock of who we are and what we do as members of the Marine Corps Family.

As members of the Marine Corps League, we have a duty and obligation to continue to be the standard bearer in the veteran's community, fighting for those benefits and entitlements that were earned by commitment and sacrifice. We must also keep up the fight to ensure that our Corps continues to be the "Force of Choice" in this country's National Security arena. This next year will provide our League with some major challenges in our communities, our nation, and around the world. Let us band together and be in the forefront as leaders and not followers. Search out and take care of those Marines in your communities who are returning home. Get into the VA Hospitals, nursing homes and visit that Marine down the block. Show them that we take care of our own.

On November 10<sup>th</sup>, let us celebrate our 231<sup>st</sup> Birthday with renewed sense of zeal and commitment. Let us never forget those Marines and members of our Sister Services serving in Iraq, Afghanistan and in every clime and place around the world where their presence is needed. They make this special day possible. Let us pray for their families and for their safe return to our fold. And let us never forget our Prisoners of War and Missing in Action - they will always be remembered.

Happy Birthday Marines!!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John A. Ryan".

Jack Ryan  
National Commandant