

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS



250 

UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

1775 - 2025

Wilmington Convention Center
10 Convention Center
Wilmington, NC 28401

Nov 13, 2025



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

1stLt. Thomas Lewis

Narrator

MSgt. Samuel Powers

Cake Escort

Sgt. Matthew Moon

Cpl. Miguel Moreira

Cpl. Julian Morales

Cpl. Jose Cabrera

Ceremonial Escort

1stLt. Harrison Marchant

CWO2. Hammer Velaskewz

WO. Deshamonta

MSgt. Randy Moore

Mohammed

SSgt. Ryan Sampson

GySgt. William Doran

Cpl. Madison Mullins

Sgt. Ashley Bernalrendon

Oldest Marine

MGySgt. Richard Nelson

Youngest Marines

PFC. Blanca Geronimodomingues



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





COMMANDANT'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

Two hundred and fifty years ago, before our Nation declared its independence, a small group of men gathered in Philadelphia and formed a Corps of Marines. From that moment, our story has been bound to the story of America itself. A quarter of a millennium later, Marines remain at the center of our Nation's defense. Ready to fight, ready to win, and ready to uphold the trust placed in us since 1775.

Across centuries, Marines have fought on distant shores and in desperate battles, earning a reputation for discipline, toughness, and valor. From the Revolution to the World Wars, from Chapultepec to today's operations across the globe, every generation has proven worthy of the title Marine. They secured liberty, defended allies, and carried forward the promise of a free Nation, and a free world. We are the heirs of that legacy, and we are its stewards.

This anniversary reminds us that our standards are the foundation of our Corps. Honor, Courage, and Commitment are not abstractions, but the code that binds us to one another and to all who went before. Every Marine, in every clime and place, must hold true to these values. The conflicts ahead will demand nothing less.

I could not be prouder of the Marines I see serving today. At home, at sea, and across the globe, you carry forward our proud traditions with skill and ferocity. It is your discipline, initiative, and fighting spirit that anchor our Corps. The battles of the next 250 years will challenge us in new ways, but I have no doubt we will prevail. Happy Birthday Marines!

*Semper Fidelis,
ERIC M. SMITH
General, U.S Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps*





Colonel
Brian LaPointe
Commanding Officer
Headquarters & Support Battalion

Colonel LaPointe is a native of Westborough, Massachusetts. He attended Southern New Hampshire University in Manchester, New Hampshire, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Marketing. He completed Officer Candidates School and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant on 9 August 2002. After completing The Basic School in March 2003, he reported to 2d Combat Engineer Battalion. Colonel LaPointe then graduated from the Combat Engineer Officer Course, Marine Corps Engineer School and was assigned as Platoon Commander, Company B, 2d Combat Engineer Battalion.

During September 2004 to April 2005, Colonel LaPointe was attached to 3rd Battalion, 5th Marines and deployed to Al Fallujah, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II-2b and subsequently participated in Operation Phantom Fury (Al Fajr). Upon return from Iraq, he and his platoon were reassigned to 3rd Platoon, Company B and refitted as a MEU Platoon. In June 2006, Colonel LaPointe and his platoon deployed with Battalion Landing Team 1/8, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit (SOC) and subsequently participated in the Noncombatant Evacuation Operation to evacuate American Citizens from Beirut, Lebanon. In January 2007, he was assigned as the Company Commander, Headquarters and Service Company, 2d Combat Engineer Battalion.

During June 2007 to July 2010, Colonel LaPointe was assigned as the Inspector-Instructor, Company C, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion. During this time, he and his staff mobilized and demobilized company and platoon size elements in support of OIF, OEF, and Theater Security Cooperation Exercises. During August 2010 to May 2011, Colonel LaPointe attended Expeditionary Warfare School. During this time, he also graduated as an Operations and Tactics Instructor from the Tactical MAGTF Integration Course at the Marine Corps Tactics and Operations Group.

During June 2011 to March 2012, Colonel LaPointe was assigned as the Company Commander, Company B, 8th Engineer Support Battalion. During March to June 2012, he completed the Advisor Training Cell's Combat Advisor course as the Team Leader of an Engineer Advisor Team. In June 2012, he was assigned as the Engineer Operations Officer, Combat Logistics Regiment 2 and subsequently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 13.1.

During September 2013 to June 2014, he was assigned as the Company Commander, Engineer Support Company, 8th Engineer Support Battalion. During June 2014 to July 2015, Colonel LaPointe attended the College of Naval Command and Staff, U.S. Naval War College.

During July 2015 to July 2018, Colonel LaPointe was assigned as the Director of Instruction, Marine Corps Engineer School. During July 2018 to July 2019, he was assigned to 2d Combat Engineer Battalion where he served as the Executive Officer. In July 2019, he was transferred to the College of Distance Education and Training, Lejeune Region, where he served as the Head of the Command and Staff Blended Seminar Program. From June 2020 to June 2022, Colonel LaPointe served as the Commanding Officer, 2d Combat Engineer Battalion. During June 2022 to July 2023, Colonel LaPointe attended the US Army War College.

Colonel LaPointe served as the Executive Officer, II Marine Expeditionary Force Information Group from July 2023 to July 2024 and then as the AC/S G-4, 2d Marine Division from July to December 2024. In December 2024, Colonel LaPointe was assigned as the commanding Officer of Headquarters and Support Battalion, Marine Corps Installations East-Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Colonel LaPointe's personal decorations include the Meritorious Service Medal with gold stars in lieu of fourth award, the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with combat distinguishing device and gold stars in lieu of third award, the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Combat Action Ribbon. He holds a Master of Strategic Studies from the US Army War College, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College, and a Bachelor of Science in Marketing from Southern New Hampshire University.



Sergeant Major
Mario P. Fields
Retired

Sergeant Major (Ret.) Mario P. Fields honorably served in the United States Marine Corps from 1993 to 2019, leading Marines in combat and peacetime operations around the world.

He graduated from Marine Corps Recruit Training at Parris Island as an Honor Graduate and was meritoriously promoted to Lance Corporal. Additionally, he was meritoriously promoted to Sergeant and Gunnery Sergeant—the latter while serving on the Drill Field.

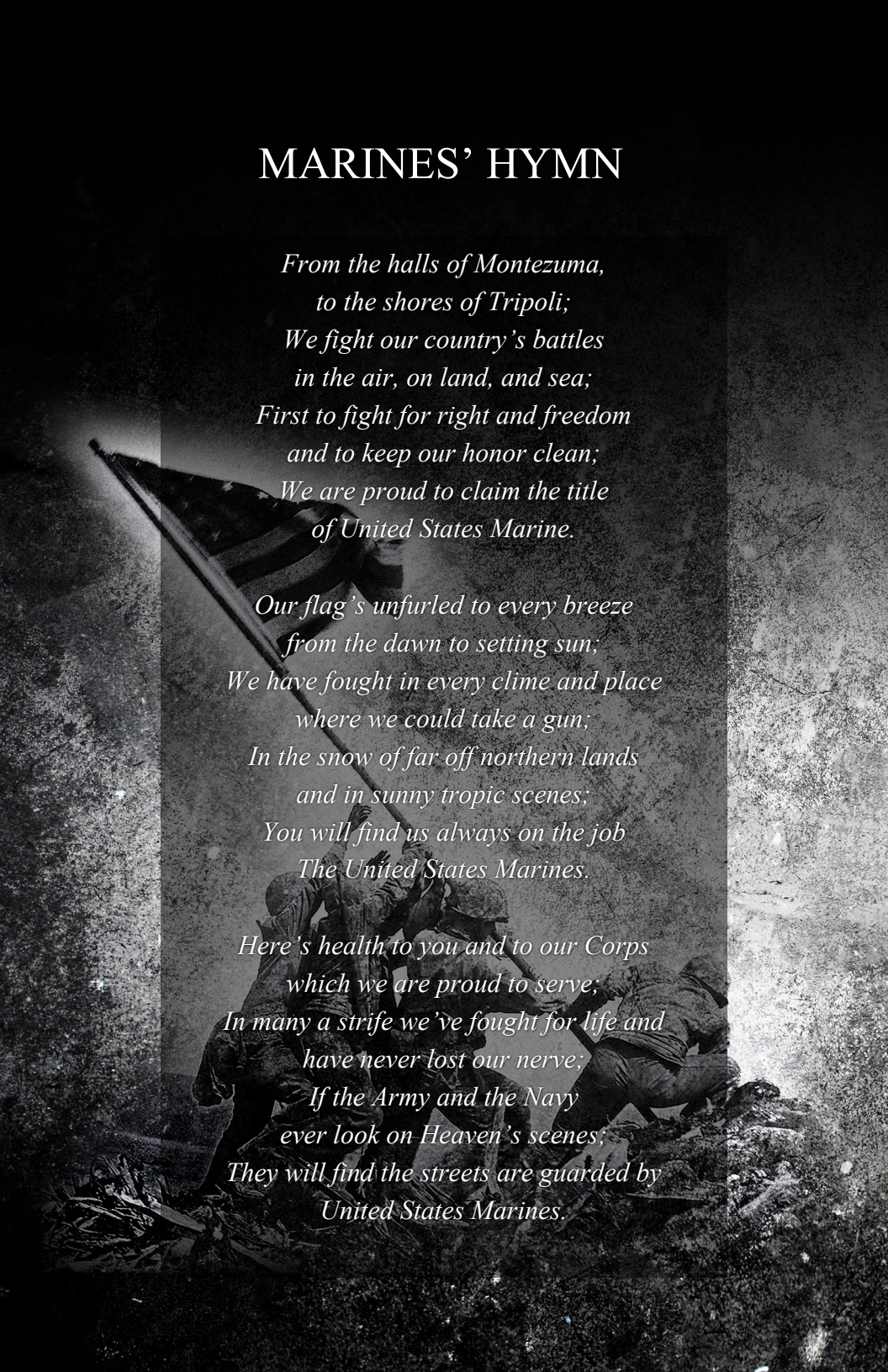
His decorations include the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal, recognizing his exceptional leadership, courage under pressure, and unwavering commitment to mission and Marines.

After retiring, SgtMaj Fields founded Still Serving, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that has donated over \$45,000 in nutritional and skill-development support to students attending Early College High Schools across Pitt County, North Carolina, through its Adopt-A-School Program.

He is also the creator and host of the “Unarmored Talk” Podcast, which has reached audiences in over 1,000 cities and 59 countries, helping people remove their armor to share real stories of resilience and personal growth.

Today, SgtMaj Fields continues to live by the belief that “service does not end when the uniform comes off.”

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.*