

*Semper*



*Fidelis*

RETIREMENT CEREMONY

Chief Warrant Officer 5

RAMON R. RUSSELL



Building M-104 Auditorium  
Camp Johnson, North Carolina

DECEMBER 15, 2023



## SEQUENCE OF EVENTS



*Invocation*

*National Anthem*

*Awards*

*Retirement of Marine*

*Retiring Officer Remarks*

*Remarks by Retiree*

*Anchors Aweigh*

*Marine's Hymn*

*Conclusion of Ceremony*

*Presentation of Old Glory*

## MARINE'S PRAYER



*Almighty Father whose command is overall 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 performance. Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors and to the duties, my country and the Marine 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 the courage to try again. Guide me with the light of truth and grant me wisdom by which I may understand the answers to my prayer.*

*-Amen*

## THE WATCH



*For over 26 years,  
this Marine has stood the watch.*

*While some of us were in our bunks at night,  
this Marine stood the watch.*

*While some of us were in school learning our trade,  
this Marine stood the watch.*

*Yes, even before some of us were born into this world,  
this Marine stood the watch.*

*In those early years when the clouds of war were seen brewing  
on the horizon of history,  
this Marine stood the watch.*

*Many times, he would cast an eye ashore to see his family  
standing there; needing his guidance and help; needing that  
hand to hold during those hard times,  
but he still stood the watch.*

*He stood the watch so that our families, our fellow countrymen,  
and we, could sleep soundly in safety each and every night,  
knowing that,  
this Marine stood the watch.*

*Today we are here to say...  
Marine... the watch stands relieved.  
Relieved by those you have guided, trained and led.*

*CWO5 Ramon Russell, you stand relieved...  
we have the watch.*

## THE EARLY YEARS



## WARRANT OFFICER CREED



**W**illingly render loyal services to superiors, subordinates and peers in every organization of which they are members.

**A**lways set an example in conduct, appearance and performance that will make others proud to know and work with them

**R**eliably discharge all duties with which they are confronted whether such duties are expressed or implied.

**R**eadily subordinate their personal interests and welfare to those of their organization and their subordinates.

**A**ccept responsibility at every opportunity and acknowledge full accountability for their actions.

**N**ever knowingly tolerate wrong-doing by themselves or others, whether by commission or omission, design or neglect.

**T**each other people in a way they effectively expand and perpetuate the scope of their technical competence.

**O**btain breadth of perspective and depth of understanding beyond the limits of their specific responsibility.

**F**aithfully adhere to their oath of office in all respects, upholding and defending the nation's constitution by both word and deed.

**F**orcefully take the initiative to stimulate constructive action in all areas requiring or inviting their attention.

**I**mprove themselves both physically and mentally, professionally and personally, to increase their own abilities and value of their services.

**C**ontribute their past experiences, service and knowledge to a dedicated effort for a betterment of the future.

**E**arn an ironclad reputation for the absolute integrity of their word.

**R**eflect credit and inspire confidence in themselves, the Warrant Officer Corps, the military service of the nation and the United States of America.

## THE MARINE'S 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*

*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.*



## OLD GLORY



*I am the flag of the United States of America. My name is Old Glory. I fly atop the world's tallest buildings. I stand watch in America's halls of justice. I stand guard majestically over great institutions of learning.*

*I stand guard with the greatest military power in the world. Look up and see me. I stand for peace, honor, truth and justice. I stand for freedom. I am confident; I am arrogant; I am proud. When I am flown with my fellow banners, my head is a little higher, my colors a little truer. I bow to no one. I am recognized all over the world.*

*I am worshipped. I am loved and I am feared. I have fought in every battle of every war for more than 200 years; Gettysburg, Shiloh, Appomattox, San Juan Hill, the trenches of France, the Argonne Forest, Anzio, Rome, the beaches of Normandy, Guan, Okinawa, Japan, Korea, Vietnam, in the Persian Gulf and a score of places long forgotten, by all but those who were there with me. I was there.*

*I led my Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. I followed them and watched over them. They loved me. I was on a small hill in Iwo Jima. I was dirty, battle-worn and tired, by my Marines and Sailors cheered me. And I was proud. I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of countries that I have helped set free. It does not hurt, for I have been soiled, burned, torn and trampled on the streets of my own country. And when it is by those I have served in battle with, it hurts. But I shall overcome, for I am strong. I have slipped the bonds of earth and from my vantage point on the moon; I stand watch over the uncharted new frontiers of space.*

*I have been a silent witness to all of America's finest hours. But my finest hour comes when I am torn into strips to be used as bandages for my wounded comrades on the field of battle – when I fly half mast to honor my Soldiers, my Airmen, My Sailors, my Marines, and – when I lie in the trembling arms of a grieving mother, at the graveside of her fallen son or daughter.*

*I am proud. My name is "Old Glory."  
Long may I wave, dear God, long may I wave.*

## THE LATER YEARS





CHIEF WARRANT OFFICER 5  
RAMON R. RUSSELL  
DIRECTOR / COMMANDING OFFICER

Ramon Russell was born in 1977 in Oceanside, California. He enlisted into the Marine Corps and reported to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, CA on 15 December 1997. After completing Marine Combat Training (MCT) in Camp Pendleton, CA and a short period of Recruiter's Assistance in Bakersfield, CA,

Private Russell reported to Marine Corps Service Support Schools (MCSSS), Camp Johnson, NC for the Administrative Clerk's Course, where he was promoted to Private First Class on 1 June 1998.

Private First Class Russell reported to 3d Assault Amphibian Battalion, 1st Marine Division on 6 July 1998, where he served as the Directives Control Point Clerk, Awards and Fitness Reports Clerk, Classified Material Control Center Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) and the Files and Directives Clerk. He was promoted to Lance Corporal (Meritoriously) on 2 September 1998. After being promoted to Corporal on 1 February 2000, he attended and graduated from Corporal's Course in Camp Pendleton, CA on 9 August 2000. Corporal Russell was promoted to the rank of Sergeant (Meritoriously) on 2 August 2001.

During October 2001, Sergeant Russell executed orders to the Pentagon for duty with the Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources Department, where he served as an Administrative Clerk and Security NCO. On 1 January 2005, Sergeant Russell was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. From February to March 2005, Staff Sergeant Russell attended the Advanced Personnel Administration Course at MCSSS, Camp Johnson, NC, where he graduated with honors.

On 30 July 2005 Staff Sergeant Russell reported to Marine Wing Support Squadron 374, Marine Wing Support Group 37, 3rd Marine Aircraft Wing, Twenty-nine Palms, CA for duty as the Administrative and Legal Chief. He participated in predeployment training at Weapons and Tactics Instructors Course in Yuma, AZ later that year and deployed to Al Taqqadum, Iraq from February to September 2006 in support of OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF). He attended the SNCO Career Course in Camp Pendleton, CA from January-February 2007 and the Legal Officers Course in San Diego, CA from July-August 2007, where he graduated with honors. In late 2007 he was selected for Gunnery Sergeant and accepted to the Warrant Officer program.

In January 2008, Staff Sergeant Russell reported to The Basic School, Quantico, VA for the Warrant Officer Basic Course (WOBC), where he was promoted to Warrant Officer on 1 February 2008. He graduated WOBC with honors for receiving the Major J. K. Wells Land Navigation Award. Warrant Officer Russell then reported to MCSSS, Camp Johnson, NC to attend the Personnel Officer's Course during June 2008.



Warrant Officer Russell reported to Headquarters Battalion, Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, NC for duty at the Installation Personnel Administration Center (IPAC) as the Assistant Officer-In-Charge (OIC), Permanent Change of Station and Temporary Additional Duty Sections in June 2008. In May 2009 he changed primary duties to serve as the OIC, Post Deployments Section and was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 2 on 1 August 2009.

In July 2010 he reported for temporary duty with 8th Marines Regiment as the Personnel Officer, Regimental Combat Team - 8. In October 2010 he attended predeployment training in Yuma, AZ, where he assumed the additional duties as the Adjutant and deployed to Camp Delaram II, Afghanistan from January 2011 to January 2012 in support of OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (OEF). During this deployment, he assumed the collateral responsibilities as the OIC of the Interpreter Program for RCT-8. He attended the Manpower Officer Course in March of 2012.

In April 2012, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Russell reported to U.S. Marine Corps Forces, South in Doral, FL for service as the Personnel Officer. As the only O1XX officer on the staff, he served in the additional capacity as the Lead G-1 Action Officer for all exercises, contingency and operational planning and execution. He was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 3 on 1 December 2013.

During July 2016, Chief Warrant Officer 3 Russell assumed the role as the Deputy Branch Head, Integrated Applications Branch, Manpower Information Systems Support Activity (MISSA), Kansas City, MO. He was promoted to Chief Warrant Officer 4 on 1 March 2018. During this period, he served in the additional capacity as a Team Lead for three software development teams, where he facilitated the development the Marine Corps' mid-tier manpower and pay systems.

In May 2019, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Russell reported for duty as the Personnel Officer, 6th Marine Corps District, MCRD Parris Island, SC. On 18 September 2021, Chief Warrant Officer 4 Russell reported to his current position Commanding Officer, Alpha Company and Director, Regional Personnel Administration Center, MCIEAST-MCB Camp Lejeune, NC. He was promoted to his current rank of Chief Warrant Officer 5 on 1 October 2021.

Chief Warrant Officer 5 Russell's personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal (with two gold stars), the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal (with one gold star), the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (with 3 gold stars), the Good Conduct Medal (with 2 bronze stars) and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal. He lives in Holly Ridge, NC with his wife Sarah. The two of them have three children, daughters Katelyn and Cecilia, and son Tristan.