

United States Marine Corps

Birthday Ball

December 12, 2024



*Battalion Landing Team
1st Battalion, 5th Marines
Celebrating 249 Years*



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 & Dancing





CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

Adjutant

Second Lieutenant Sheena D. Clark

Narrator

Staff Sergeant Kelvin O. Mutsoli

Color Guard

Corporal

Caesar A. Ramirez

Corporal

Cameron S. Jarrett

Sergeant

Danny M. Clark

Sergeant

Jose M. Madrigalvilla

Sword Detail

Corporal

Nathan Aguilera

Corporal

Samuel J. Michael

Sergeant

Spencer L. Avery

Sergeant

Anfernee M. Richardson

Staff Sergeant

Henry M. Romero

Staff Sergeant

Jiaxing Lin

Gunnery Sergeant

Levy A. Vega

Gunnery Sergeant

Jose G. Lopez

Second Lieutenant

Lucas A. Schatz

First Lieutenant

Stephen J. Harr

Captain

Joseph J. Maisonville

Captain

Taylor M. Cunningham

Cake Detail

Lance Corporal

Cirenio L. Cruz

Lance Corporal

Rezner S. Davis

Corporal

Noah M. Smith

Sergeant

Jeremiah Romero

Oldest Marine

Master Gunnery Sergeant Ivan Y. Mejia

Youngest Marine

Lance Corporal Anthony C. Blackwelder





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,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric M. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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

MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT
SHAWN E. HUGHES
15TH MARINE EXPEDITIONARY UNIT, OPERATIONS CHIEF

Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes enlisted in the United States Marine Corps on 23 March 1997, and reported for recruit training to Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California. In July 1997, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported for duty to the School of Infantry-West for infantry training where he was assigned the military occupational specialty of 0331 Machine Gunner.

In September 1997, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported to his first unit, Third Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment for duty as Machine Gunner. In March of 1998, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes deployed with Battalion Landing Team 3/5, 31st Marine Expeditionary Unit as Scout Sniper Team Radio Operator. In April 1999, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes deployed to Nairobi, Kenya in support of Operation Resolute Response.

In November 2000, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported to Marine Security Force Training Company Chesapeake, Virginia for Basic Security Guard School. In January 2001, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported for duty to Marine Corps Security Force Company Europe (FASTEUR), Rota, Spain to serve as Squad Leader. Throughout the Mediterranean Sea, Europe and Africa, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes conducted numerous shipboard, pier side and site security missions in support of Operation Active Endeavor. In August 2003, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes deployed to Monrovia, Liberia in support of a US Embassy reinforcement. In March 2004, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported to Third Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment for duty as Scout Sniper Team Leader. In September 2004, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes deployed to Fallujah, Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and participated in Operation Phantom Fury/Al-Fajr. In October 2005, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes was assigned to School of Infantry West, Advanced Infantry Training Company, Scout Sniper School instructor and served as Marksmanship and Chief Instructor. In July 2008, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes was assigned to First Battalion, Fifth Marine Regiment for duty as Scout Sniper Platoon Sergeant. In March 2009, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes deployed to Nowa, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. In February 2010, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes was assigned as Platoon Commander for the Scout Sniper Platoon and deployed to Sangin, Afghanistan in 2011.

In April 2012, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported to School of Infantry West, Advanced Infantry Training Company to serve as the Staff Non-commissioned Officer in Charge, Scout Sniper School. In May 2015, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes was assigned to 1st Expeditionary Operations Training Group, Special Missions Branch as instructor/evaluator for the Sniper and Reconnaissance/Surveillance Course. In January 2016, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported to First Battalion, Fourth Marine Regiment for duty as Weapons Company Operations Chief. In October 2016, he deployed with Battalion Landing Team 1/4, 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit. In February 2017, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes served as Task Force 9.7 Operations Chief in support Operation Inherent Resolve in Northern Syria. In October 2017, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported to III Marine Expeditionary Force, III MEF Information Group, Okinawa, Japan to serve as Operations Chief. In November 2018, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes was selected to his current rank. In January 2019, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported to Second Battalion, Second Marines for duty as the Battalion Operations Chief. In July 2019, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes deployed to Okinawa, Japan in support of Unit Deployment Program 19.2.

In July 2020, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported to First Battalion, Eight Marines for duty as the Battalion Operations Chief. In February 2021, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes deployed with Battalion Landing Team 1/8, 24th Marine Expeditionary Unit. In August 2021 he supported Operation Freedom Sentential, the NEO evacuation in Kabul, Afghanistan. In January 2022, Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes reported to his current unit, 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU) for duty as 15th MEU Operations chief.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal with one gold star in lieu of second award, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal with one silver star in lieu of sixth award with two combat distinguishing devices and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal with one Gold Star.

Master Gunnery Sergeant Hughes is married to Kyp and has two children, Chance and Sierra.



THE 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.

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.”

TONIGHT'S MENU

Classic Caesar Salad

Baby romaine lettuces, butter-parmigiano croutons and Caesar dressing

Roasted Free Range Chicken

Roasted wild mushrooms, bacon-potato puree, charred Brussels sprouts, natural chicken jus

Braised Beef Short Ribs

Baby chard, roasted cipolini, confit of potatoes, tellicherry peppercorns, Madeira wine

Vegetarian Entrée

Fresh Seasonal Vegetables, Fresh Baked Rolls and Butter,
Ceremony Cake, Freshly Brewed Coffee, Decaffeinated Coffee, &
Teas



1775



2024