



## A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

On behalf of all Marines, I am honored to join the Women Marines Association in commemorating the 81st anniversary of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. In celebrating anniversaries like this each year, we ensure that the future of our Corps is firmly established on the accomplishments of those who came before us. It offers us an opportunity to honor our courageous trailblazers, while we also look toward the future and determine how we can best carry our Corps' legacy onto tomorrow's battlefields.

Today, we continue that tradition of paying tribute to the courage and sacrifices of those who defend our Nation, while also commemorating the peace and progress those sacrifices have afforded us all. Though technology and pacing threats are ever evolving, the fighting spirit of Marines remains the same – a spirit of fidelity, selfless service, and sacrifice that is, and will forever be, at the heart of our Nation's success. The heritage of our Corps derives not only from our traditions and esprit de corps, but also from the skill, determination, and warfighting acumen of the Marines who have filled our ranks through the years. To the veterans present at today's gathering, you have all repeatedly answered our Nation's call and should be proud of your personal accomplishments and contributions.

Our Corps remains committed to providing the best training and equipment possible so we can always stay ahead of our adversaries. I am confident that all Marines are ready to fight tonight and will continue exceeding expectations as we rise to meet any challenge. We are deeply proud of our Corps' legacy and of the Marines serving today who are charged with carrying that legacy into the future. Your fellow Marines join you in celebrating the heritage of the Marine Corps Women's Reserve. Thank you for your service and dedication.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric M. Smith".

Eric M. Smith  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps

*Your place in USMC  
history is solidified!!  
Semper Fi  
with great respect,  
EM Smith  
CNC-3P*