



HEADQUARTERS U. S. MARINE CORPS

OFFICE OF THE COMMANDANT

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20380

31 December 1967

TO ALL THOSE WHO CLAIM THE TITLE OF UNITED STATES MARINE:

I, too, have laid proud claim to this title for the entire span of my adult life. Now the time has come for me to add the word, "Retired."

Today is D-Day. And I cross this new Line of Departure with some reluctance - yet with full confidence in the splendid formation of companions that I leave behind.

Traits of character, they say, are not items of issue. Yet there are some which seem to have been contained within the knapsack of every Marine that I have known. They are:

Patriotism - an abstract thing which cannot be seen, but which is felt, by every man who has sworn to defend our Constitution against all enemies.

Discipline - with self-respect and self-control as the primer and propellant.

Loyalty - which travels down, as well as up, the chain of command, tempering and giving strength to each link in its passing.

Hard work - which comes naturally in a fire fight, but must be practiced and applied long before contact is imminent.

Your mark is upon me. I shall carry it with me as I leave here, and for the rest of my life.

Now - I charge you with this mission: insure that our motto, "Semper Fidelis," continues to mean, "Always Faithful" - to our God; to our Country; and to our Corps. In that order.

*Wallace M. Greene, Jr.*  
WALLACE M. GREENE, JR.