



HAPPY 236th BIRTHDAY, MARINE

November 10, 1775

236 Years of Faithful Service

November 10, 2011

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My most heartfelt greetings, Marine,

When tracing the history of the United States of America from our colorful, but testy beginning, right up to the present, it's seems clear that President Reagan's famous quote about the Marine Corps was quite appropriate. He stated the fact that, "Some people spend an entire lifetime wondering if they've made a difference. The Marines don't have that problem." Although his remark was primarily a compliment to we Marines on active duty, the same concept extends to many Marines who, even in civilian life, have governed their lives with our Corps' traditional values of honor, duty, and commitment.

The orderly conduct of the world around us seems to be crumbling-indeed even here in our own country. As our value system, which made America head and shoulders the greatest country on earth is being maliciously and rapidly eroded, there is a small contingent of true Americans-the few, the proud-still resisting the political and social mayhem that has befallen our great nation. Most of them, with whom I enjoy a personal acquaintanceship, are Marines who have returned to civilian life. However, realizing that once a

Marine, always a Marine, we still instinctively stand-fast and subscribe to one of the Corps' credos, "Surrender is not an option". With that in mind, we all took an oath to "defend our country against all enemies, domestic or foreign". Our release from active duty didn't relieve us of that responsibility. In a sense, we're still manning the wall, with our brothers on active duty.

In the Corps, we realized that from the boot private to the Commandant, Marines are conditioned to assume leadership, when required to take action. So, today, as we rightfully congratulate each other for who we are and for our accomplishments, let's be mindful of our esprit de corps. Our work isn't done, yet. Our country, The United States of America, is in threatening turmoil. Unjustifiable social upheavals; the insidious invasion from foreign lands forcing their malignant influence on the American people; and putridly corrupt and ignorant politics are all playing a part in crumbling the very foundation and shredding the fiber of the American principles that had made us a sustainable nation for the past 236 years. Those ideals, described as the America way of Life, are now calling for a "few good men", who still have pride and confidence in themselves and in their country to advance and be recognized. As our responsibility, we are encumbered to do so. If we don't, either as individuals or as a team, The United States of America will eventually, within our lifetime, revert to the same type of governance and social order that our founding fathers, at great cost, fought to separate from over two hundred years ago. Throughout the years, many of our comrades-in-arms have died to preserve the independence and other rights of our American citizenry. We in turn, risked life and limb to preserve those

same principles. In doing so, we saw many of our brothers pay the supreme price to keep us a government of the people, for the people, by the people.

Today, we are plagued by many challenges--a few of which are mentioned above--which threaten to destroy the great nation that we once were and that we dearly loved and took pride in. It is virtually impossible to affectively address those cancers as long as we have a permissive government at local, state, and federal levels that condone and, in fact, aid and abet the conduct of that disruptive, self-serving, detrimental segment of our population clamoring for their own personal gains at our expense. Many of those politicians and other officials would deceptively tell us that their maligned practices are for the good of the American People, in the communities where they serve. It should be abundantly clear, by now, that they've been misinformed and they're not telling the truth. So, today as we toast our Corps, on our birthday, let's do it with the firm resolve that we'll do everything in our power to restore our country, The United States of America, to its former glory, order, and honor. America's survival, as a truly just and sane republic is at stake.

May peace and tranquility prevail on all your decks, your gun ports remain closed, although your cannon are fully loaded and ready for immediate action.

Here's to you and our Corps, with my very best regards,

Semper Fi,

Mike Taurasi