



# Marine Corps League

## Department of New York

Marines, FMF Personnel and Associate Members,

As we approach the 250<sup>th</sup> Birthday of our beloved Marine Corps, let us all raise a glass to those brave men who signed up in that riverside watering hole called Tun's Tavern in Philadelphia. They began a tradition which we have followed and from which we have come out the other side, better for it. Every young man and woman who starts the journey, questions whether they have what it takes to finish. Many but not all find within themselves what it takes, earning the title *Marine* and the Eagle, Globe, and Anchor. I hope on the morning of November 10<sup>th</sup> this year each of you wake up with a sense of pride, knowing you not only found within yourself what it took and which you still have in you today. Marines, old or young, do not need thanks for their service. Rather, Marine to Marine, I commend you for holding our traditions to the highest levels. I also ask you take a minute to remember all the active-duty Marines, especially those overseas and those standing in harm's way, in your prayers.

We can recall the battles which our nation has asked us to fight, which we did with great success, despite the searing costs to our ranks. But let us also remember the times our nation called upon us to be peacekeepers: Dominican Republic, Panama, Nicaragua, Haiti, Lebanon, Philippines, Tunisia, and the Balkans. So, although we are no longer called upon to vanquish our foes, we are still needed to help the helpless. Our mission alters but our commitment remains. Thank you to everyone who supports in Toys for Tots, Young Marines, Marine for Life, Marines helping Marines, Veterans Service Officers and Community Development Community Engagement (VAVS).

If there is a cake cutting ceremony or a Birthday Ball in your area, I encourage you to take the time and attend. I will leave you with a toast "To all the nights I don't remember, with all the friends I'll never forget." Please have a safe and joyous historic birthday celebration! You do not turn 250 years old every year!

David Wiggs  
Commandant  
Department of New York  
Marine Corps League

***ONCE A MARINE, ALWAYS A MARINE!***

<https://www.mclnewyork.net/>