



A MESSAGE FROM THE ASSISTANT COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

I take great pride in extending my personal greetings to all veterans of the 1st Battalion, 5th Marines on the occasion of OUR reunion. Together we recall the hardships faced in combat and the lifelong friendships we made. Most importantly, we honor those who fought and died under the colors of 1/5. Those who gave everything so that we could be here today must be remembered.

From the wheat fields at Belleau Wood to the island hopping campaigns of World War II to Chosin to Hue and then Iraq and Afghanistan, this storied battalion has led in every way imaginable and has forged a significant part of our Corps' history. We who are members of this battalion have so much to be proud of. Our original motto was "Pride In Being Professional". While that motto was changed after Vietnam to "Make Peace or Die", we remain professional warriors and we retain the pride that can only come from serving in this battalion.

Whether you crossed the Saddam Canal and fought your way to the presidential Palace in the march up, patrolled the streets of Ramadi, or took on the Taliban in Sangin, you helped forge the most recent chapter of our history and are now one with the Marines who crossed the Perfume River and took the Citadel in Hue, and who fought through Seoul to the Chosin, or who attacked into the fire in France. We are one unit, with one purpose: to fight and win our nation's battles.

This reunion offers us an opportunity to rededicate ourselves to the premise that someone must be ready to fight and sacrifice so that others may live free. I am immensely proud to be one of you and to call myself your brother. Enjoy this reunion. You have earned it!

Semper Fidelis,

Eric M. Smith

General, U.S. Marine Corps

Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps

Thank you all
for being 1/5 !!