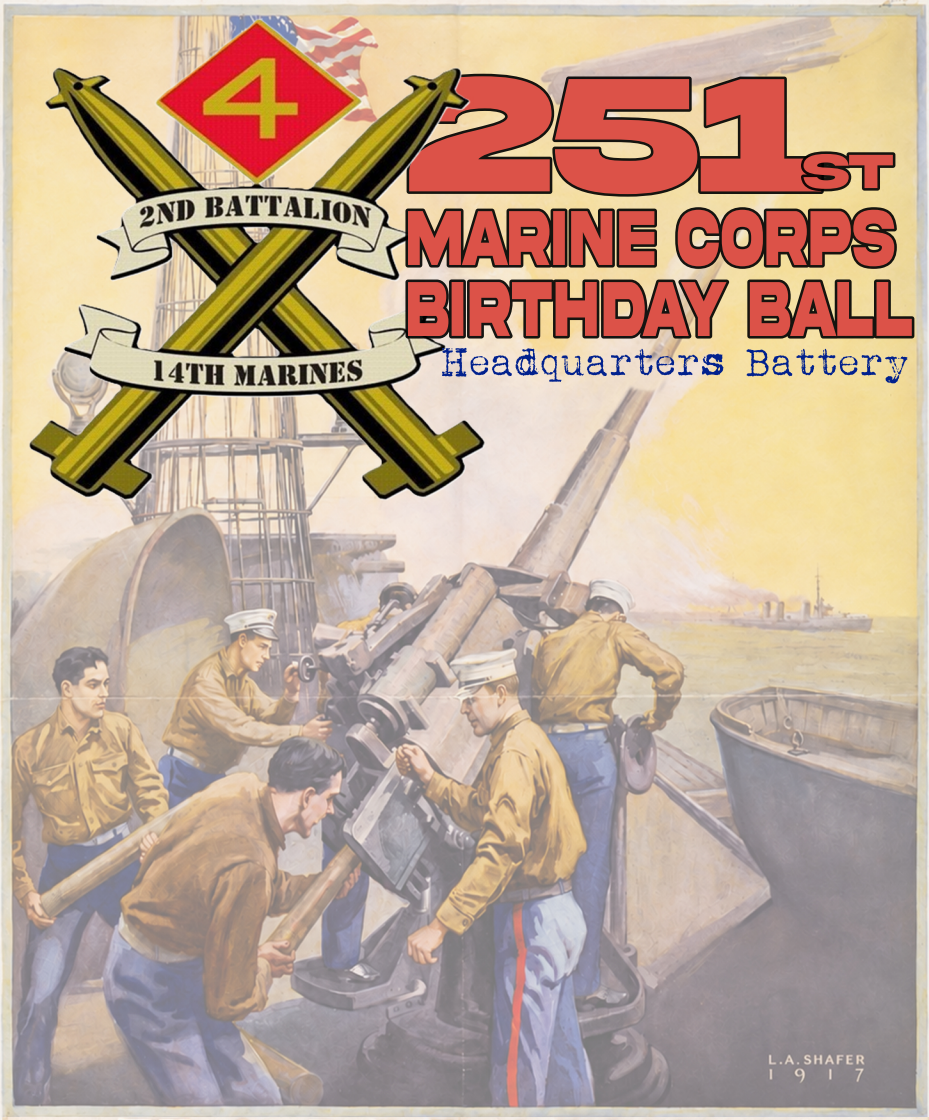


U.S. MARINES

FIRST TO FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

ENLIST AT

ARIAT ARENA, FORT WORTH TX

21 NOVEMBER 2026



SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

Cocktails & Photographs

Dinner

Invocation

Adjutants Call

Arrival of Official Party

Presentation of Colors

Cake Cutting

General Lejeune's Birthday Message

Through the Ranks of Time

Commandant's Birthday Message

Leadership Remarks

Guest of Honor Remarks

Dance



CEREMONY PARTICIPANTS

Adjutant

1stLt Markus Jackson

Narrator

Cpl Lavante Dunn

Color Guard

Sgt Daniel Padierna
Cpl Tacorian Balentine
LCpl Cody Wolfe
Cpl Shadrack Odonkor

Sword Detail

Cpl Andrew Ventura
Sgt Alonso Duke
SSgt Andrew Marshall
GySgt Joel Contreras
Cpl Jose Corona Jr.
Sgt Issac Martinez
SSgt Richard Lopez
GySgt Matthew Brady

Cake Escorts

LCpl Alexander Hoffman
PFC Jacob Herrera
LCpl John Havink
LCpl Hoang Pham

Oldest Marine: Cpl Don Graves
Youngest Marine: Pvt Hunter Wilson

Music Provided by Marine Forces Reserve Band



COLONEL JAMES KIDD

Colonel Kidd enlisted in the Marine Corps Reserves in 1992. After completing the School of Infantry, he served as a rifleman with 1st Battalion, 23rd Marines until 1996. He was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1998 and following The Basic School and the Field Artillery Officer Basic Course, he was assigned to 3d Battalion, 11th Marines. During this tour he served as a Forward Observer, Guns Platoon Commander, Battalion Logistics Officer, and Battery Executive Officer.

In December 2002, Colonel Kidd reported to the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit for duty as the Target Information Officer. During this tour he deployed twice in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM.

In 2005, Colonel Kidd attended the Expeditionary Warfare School and, upon completion he reported to 1st Battalion, 10th Marines. He commanded Charlie Battery for a deployment in support of Operation IRAQI Freedom and deployed again in support of Combined Joint Task Force- Horn of Africa.

In 2009, Colonel Kidd was assigned to Headquarters Marine Corps, Manpower Management, Enlisted Assignments where he served as a Monitor Unit Head and Assistant Section Head. He then attended the Marine Corps Command and Staff College.

In 2012 Colonel Kidd reported to 2d Battalion, 11th Marines for duty as the Executive Officer. In 2013 he deployed to Afghanistan as the Operations Advisor for the final Afghan National Police Advisor Team in Helmand Province. Following this deployment he assumed duties as the Operations Officer for 11th Marines.

In 2015 Colonel Kidd assumed Command of 3d Battalion, 11th Marines. Following a successful command tour, he attended the Naval War College. Upon Graduation he reported to U.S Special Operations Command for duty as a CJ-5 Planner.

In 2020, Colonel Kidd deployed to Kuwait and Iraq where he served as the Chief or Operations for Operation INHERENT RESOLVE. Upon redeployment in 2021, he assumed duties as the Director of Range and Training Programs Division , Training and Education Command.

In 2022 Colonel Kidd began his final assignment as the Commanding Officer of 14th Marine Regiment, retiring in November 2024.



10 November 2026

A MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS

For 251 years, the United States Marine Corps has been our Nation's premier expeditionary force in readiness. Born from the sea and forged in the fires of conflict, Marines have fought, and won, in battles all over the world. From our first amphibious landing 250 years ago at Nassau to the volcanic sands of Iwo Jima, and from the bold invasion of Inchon to the mountains of Afghanistan, we have always marched forward with rifles in hand. The Marines who came before us paved our legacy in sweat and blood. They built a foundation of excellence and proved time and again that Marines remain ready to answer the call.

As we reflect on our proud and illustrious history and commemorate the founding of our Corps, we must take inspiration for the future. We are marching forward, as we always have, to fight and win our Nation's battles in every clime and place. We're preparing every day by innovating and evolving. Through our ingenuity, ruthless adherence to standards, and sheer grit, we continue to demonstrate the unmatched lethality of our expeditionary naval forces.

Today, the operational demand for Marines is high. At this very hour, 40,000 Marines are forward deployed and stationed around the world to secure liberty and to strike when our adversaries test our resolve. Just as always, Marines are ready to go wherever the Nation needs us, whenever it needs us.

Sergeant Major Ruiz and I could not be prouder of your dedication to upholding our legacy as America's Soldiers of the Sea. This is who we are, and we are up to the challenge. We are honored to stand beside you as we prepare for the fights ahead. Happy 251st Birthday, Marines!

Semper Fidelis,

Eric M Smith

General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps

GENERAL LEJEUNE'S BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

On November 10, 1775, a Corps of Marines was created by a resolution of the Continental Congress. Since that date many thousand men have borne the name Marine. In memory of them it is fitting that we who are Marines should commemorate the birthday of our Corps by calling to mind the glories of its long and illustrious history.

The record of our Corps is one, which will bear comparison with that of the most famous military organizations in the world's history. During 90 of the 167 years of its existence the Marine Corps has been in action against the Nation's foes. From the battle of Trenton to the Argonne, Marines have won foremost honors in war, and in the long eras of tranquility at home generation after generation of Marines have grown gray in war in both hemispheres, and in every corner of the seven seas, that our country and its citizens might enjoy peace and security.

In every battle and skirmish since the birth of our Corps Marines have acquitted themselves with the greatest distinction, winning new honors on each occasion until the term "Marine" has come to signify all that is highest in military efficiency and soldierly virtue.

This high name of distinction and soldierly repute we who are Marines today have received from those who preceded us in the corps. With it we also received from them the eternal spirit which has animated our Corps from generation to generation and has been the distinguishing mark of Marines in every age. So long as that spirit continues to flourish Marines will be found equal to every emergency in the future as they have been in the past, and the men of our Nation will regard us as worthy successors to the long line of illustrious men who have served as "Soldiers of the Sea" since the founding of the Corps.

John A. Lejeune
Major General USMC

A Marine's Prayer

Almighty Father, whose command is over all
and whose love never fails,
make me aware of Thy presence
and obedient to Thy will.
Keep me true to my best self,
guarding me against dishonesty in purpose and deed
and helping me to live so that
I can face my fellow Marines, my loved ones
and Thee without shame or fear.
Protect my family.
Give me the will to do the work of a Marine
and to accept my share of responsibilities
with vigor and enthusiasm.
Grant me the courage to be proficient
in my daily performance.
Keep me loyal and faithful to my superiors
and to the duties my country
and the Marine Corps have entrusted to me.
Make me considerate of those
committed to my leadership.
Help me to wear my uniform with dignity,
and let it remind me daily of the
traditions which I must uphold.
If I am inclined to doubt; steady my faith;
if I am tempted, make me strong to resist;
if I should miss the mark, give me courage to try again.
Guide me with the light of truth
and grant me wisdom by which I may understand
the answer to my prayer. Amen.

The Marines' Hymn

From the Halls of Montezuma,
To the shores of Tripoli;
We fight our country's battles;
In the air, on land, and sea;
First to fight for right and freedom.
And to keep our honor clean.
We are proud to claim the title.
Of United States Marine.

Our flag's unfurled to every breeze.
From dawn to setting sun;
We have fought in every clime and place.
Where we could take a gun;
In the snow of far-off Northern lands.
And in sunny tropic scenes;
You will find us always on the job.
The United States Marines.

Here's health to you and to our Corps.
Which we are proud to serve;
In many a strife we've fought for life.
And never lost our nerve;
If the Army and the Navy.
Ever look on Heaven's scenes;
They will find the streets are guarded.
By United States Marines.