

Marines Note Birthday; Long History is Bright

By CHARLES E. CHAPLE
Assembleman, 46th District
 On Nov. 10, 1775, the Continental Congress of the American Colonies ordered that two battalions of marines be raised for service with the fleet. The first marines were recruited at Tun Tavern, Philadelphia, and the first Commandant of the Marine Corps was Captain Samuel Nicholas of Philadelphia. The first battle fought by the marines was an expedition against Nassau, Bahama Islands, British West Indies, in 1776. After the successful end of the American Revolution, on July 11, 1798, the Congress of the United States established the U.S. Marine Corps as a separate organization, to serve with the U. S. Navy unless ordered to serve with the U. S. Army, when ordered to do so by the President of the United States in his capacity as Commander-in-Chief, Armed Forces of the United States.

OUR MARINES have participated in all the wars, campaigns and expeditions of the United States. In most instances, the marines have been the first to land and the first to fight. They have participated in more than 400 landings on foreign shores and have served in every major action of our Navy since 1775.

The United States Marines have been called many names. They have been called "Leathernecks" because for

many years their coat collars were lined with stiff leather so that they would hold their heads up at all times. Today, the leather collar lining is not necessary because they hold up their heads in pride, in or out of uniform. This is not false pride but genuine personal pride.

The marines have been called "soldiers of the sea." This is correct because they are trained at their recruit depots to fight on land as soldiers. Also, they are trained to fight in the air and on the sea. All marines, commis-

sioned or enlisted, are given specialized training. It may be training in the operation of airplanes, landing craft, radar, rockets, missiles, tanks, trucks, quartermaster (supply) depots, fuel-and-ammunition "dumps," or musical instruments, but in spite of all their highly specialized training, they can, and often do, fight with loaded rifles, bayonets, empty rifles, belt buckles, or fists.

THE MARINES, like the soldiers of the Army and the U. S. Air Force, do not start

wars or fights, but they do the very best they can to end fights and wars begun by the enemies of the United States, domestic or foreign. Contrary to ill-founded rumors, the marines do not dislike the men of the Navy, the Coast Guard, or the U. S. Air Force. They have respect for them if they do the best they can with what they have. That is all that the marines expect of any man.

The motto of the United States Marine Corps is "Semper Fidelis" (Always Faithful). Semper Fidelis is also

the title of the official Marine Corps march, composed by John Philip Sousa when he was the leader of the U.S. Marine Corps Band in Washington, D. C. Sousa also wrote "Stars and Stripes Forever," and many other stirring marches.

More famous to the world than "Semper Fidelis" is the favorite march of the United States Marine Corps. Its official title is "The Marines Hymn." Since the opening words are "From the Halls of Montezuma to the Shores of Tripoli . . .", this march

is often called "Halls of Montezuma," or abbreviated as "Montezuma." Although normally played in 4/4 time, like any other march, it is played in 3/4 time for waltzes at the weddings of marines, and in 2/4 time as a funeral dirge for the long, slow march at half-step (a 15-inch step) on the way to the last resting place for the marines who have been called from duty on earth to duty above where "the streets of Heaven are guarded by United States Marines."

THIS MAY BE sentimental and maudlin to people whose constant question is "What's in it for me?" To the marines it is part of their "Esprit d'

Corps," which can be defined as the spirit pervading the men and women of the Corps. It is the sympathy, enthusiasm, jealous regard for the honor of the corps, and devotion to God and the United States of America.

The day following the birthday of the Marine Corps, Nov. 11, was originally called "Armistice Day" to celebrate the signing of the armistice agreement in Europe at the end of World War I. Now it is called "Veterans' Day" to honor all veterans, living and dead.

In spite of the august decisions of the Supreme Court of the United States, we can still say or sing: ". . . In God is our trust."

Rotarians To Hear Attorney

Capital punishment will be discussed at the next meeting of the Hollywood Riviera Rotary Club, Thursday.

Herbert Schwin, attorney, will be the speaker introduced by George Blair, program chairman. President Guy Brundage will open the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

Schwin, a member of the firm of Schwin and Schulman, has spoken in front of many groups against the principal of capital punishment. A graduate of USC and UCLA, he is a member of the American Society of Criminology and the American Bar Association.

Girl Scouts Honor Late Area Leader

"We hope her spirit of goodwill and unselfishness will live and grow in this tree, to inspire others in a full measure, as she did herself."

With this wish, Junior Girl Scout Troop 196 planted an Evergreen Ash in Garden a Recreation Park as a living memorial to the late Florence Belle McCallip of Torrance.

Mrs. McCallip, who died Sept. 15, was the activities chairman of Troop 196 and was also associated with Girl Scout Troop 1651.

THE 24 GIRLS of Troop 196 planted the 12-foot tree during a Scouts' Own Ceremony, an inspirational service.

They ended with this note of hope, written by Troop Leader, Mrs. Merlene Keating: "In years to come may her family and friends find solace in its presence, strength at its trunk, new hope at the tips, generosity in its shade, and under its branches gentle protection like that of a dear mother."

The Gardena troop is working on the Gypsy Badge. To fulfill some of its requirements they recently had their first cookout. Planning, shopping, cooking, and clean up were all done by the girls themselves.

THEY TREATED their leaders, Mrs. Marge Powell and Mrs. Merlene Keating, and their First-Aider, Mrs. Betty Arnold, as guests for the day.

The Scouts are gradually led to be more and more self-sufficient and will eventually control all their own Scouting activities.

Games and songs relaxed nerves tensed from the concentration of doing their jobs well, and took their minds off the disaster of forgotten desert.

As they hiked home, the girls found a good deed to do that gave the day a perfect ending. They replaced lids on resident's trash cans and lined the cans neatly at the curbs.

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