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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

October 28, 1975

Two hundred years ago a resolution of the Continental Congress called for two battalions of Marines to be raised to assist the struggling Colonies in challenging the greatest maritime power in the world. From that precarious beginning, the Marine Corps has evolved into a fighting force which has commanded history's respect and America's pride.

As Commander-in-Chief, I salute the valor, loyalty and determination that have characterized the Marine Corps since its earliest days. Strong in heart, in spirit and in arms, the Corps has gallantly defended the freedom we all cherish.

I know that I am joined by men and women across the nation in recognizing the critical importance of the Marine Corps and in wishing its members a happy two hundredth birthday.

Gerald R. Ford

