



7 October 2008

On 7 November 2008, I will host the MCCDC All-Hands Birthday Ball celebration of the 233rd anniversary of our Marine Corps, and I offer an invitation to the Marines and civilians of Quantico to join me for this event. You are welcome to extend this invitation to your families, friends, and colleagues. The guest of honor will be General Anthony C. Zinni, USMC, (Ret.), the former Commander of U.S. Central Command.

The Marine Corps Ball is a long held tradition with a special purpose – to celebrate the birth of our beloved Corps through both camaraderie and solemn reflection of extraordinary sacrifices. Celebrating together, as a command, is what Marines do. It is one of those traditions that make us unique among the services. It is why it is important for all hands to share in the time-honored traditions of our Corps.

We are returning to the Fredericksburg Exposition Center where the maximum seating is 1,300 – don't wait to get your tickets. Tickets will be sold by unit representatives until October 24th. If you have any questions or need additional information, please see your unit representative.

The Birthday Ball Committee has done an excellent job correcting the shortcomings of last year. Our contracted event location acknowledged these deficiencies refunding some of the cost and, more important, has taken measures to ensure a well-supported and executed event this year. Some of the refunds are being passed onto the younger Marines who will be paying less for tickets this year due, in part, to the commitment of the Fredericksburg Exposition Center to improve our celebration.

The Birthday Ball is the Corps' premier social function and it is important to our Marine ethos that we continue the proud tradition of celebrating the birthday of the United States Marines. Accordingly, I invite all Marines to share in our proud history and enjoy this evening with family and friends through a well planned ceremony, dinner, and dance. I look forward to seeing you at this year's celebration!

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "George J. Flynn". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

GEORGE J. FLYNN
Lieutenant General, U.S. Marine Corps
Commanding General
Marine Corps Combat Development Command