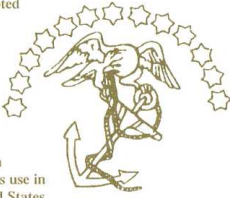


First adopted  
in 1804  
with six  
pointed  
stars,  
this is  
the  
oldest  
military  
insignia in  
continuous use in  
the United States.



# Marine Corps Heritage Foundation

[www.marineheritage.org](http://www.marineheritage.org)



Today's modern  
eagle, globe  
and anchor  
was  
approved by  
Brigadier  
General  
Commandant  
Jacob Zeilin  
in November 1868

Two hundred and thirty years ago, the Marine Corps was born in Philadelphia, Pa. The United States Marine Corps values of honor, courage and commitment have been engrained in every man and woman who has proudly served since the very beginning. These individuals joined together to form a smart, highly adaptable unit that is the tip of the U.S. military spear. Marines have helped shape our nation's history, from the moment the Corps was formed by the Continental Congress, on the shores of Tripoli striking down pirates, to battling on the sands of Iwo Jima and securing freedom in the Middle East today.

To honor and remember the proud tradition of the Marine Corps, we are building the Marine Corps Heritage Center with the National Marine Corps Museum as its centerpiece. Completion of this project will not only be a historic moment for the thousands of proud Marines who served our great nation, but it will be a gift to the American people.

The Museum will illustrate critical moments in history through the eyes of the Marines. Upon entering the Museum, visitors will be immersed in the Marine culture, from boot camp to battles in the sweltering heat of Vietnam. The Museum will be a rich educational resource for all Americans, capturing the glorious past of the Marine Corps and its role in our nation's history, while looking toward future generations.

The magnificent building that will house the history of the Marine Corps will be visible both night and day, and serve as a constant reminder of the honor, courage and commitment of each and every Marine in history. Their stories of heroism and sacrifice are truly inspirational and uniquely American. I invite all to come and experience this national treasure and see the world through the eyes of the Marines.

Semper Fidelis,

Ron Christmas  
Lieutenant General  
United States Marine Corps (Ret)  
President, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation