

November 10, 2020

Birth of the Corps - Philadelphia, PA

(Pennsylvania Military Museum, T. Gum, Site Admin.)



Sketch of Tun Tavern.

The Tun Tavern operated in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania from 1693 to 1781... a period of time that would see the experiment known as the United States of America gain its freedom, and respond to threats to this experiment of freedom necessitating a fighting force that had not yet been seen, and many would argue, still stands as a unique force unlike any other.

This now-famous tavern was the birthplace of the United States Marine Corps, which led to a resolution passed by the Second Continental Congress on November 10, 1775.

This resolution authorized the formation of two battalions of Marines to be used as a landing force by the Continental Navy. Not long after these battalions were stood up, the Marines began distinguishing themselves as a capable force taking rather easily to its mission.

A little more than a decade after independence was declared, the United States Navy was established, and the Marines reformed within the US Navy structure. It was during the early years of Corps history that the lore & legacy of this fighting-force blossomed.



Photo of Historical Marker.

Unfortunately in the interim years, a tragedy struck the Tavern - a fire in 1781 destroyed the Tavern. The adjacent photo of the Historical Marker marks the approximate location of the Tavern, which is located near Penn's Landing

Since 1775 the United States Marine Corps has served in every clime, answering the call abroad and at home. Their iconic dress-blue uniform, exacting degree of movement, lethality, and training only adds to their storied service to an appreciative nation.



Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. Robert Neller cuts the cake during the Headquarters Marine Corps official Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting ceremony. (Marine Corps photo by Cpl. Brian Burdett/released)

On November 10th Marines around the globe gather to celebrate, recount stories, toast to fallen friends, and to cut the cake. At each of the various ball's and parties the youngest & oldest Marine are called forward to cut the birthday cake. The first piece of cake is presented to the oldest Marine, who after taking a bite, passes it the youngest Marine symbolizing the passing of knowledge to the next generation.

Happy Birthday, Marines.