



SERGEANT MAJOR OF THE MARINE CORPS

MEMORANDUM



9 June 2011

SMMC MEMO 02-11

Farewell: For the last 35 years, I have had the privilege and honor to serve as a United States Marine - one of many who have proudly worn the Eagle, Globe & Anchor while continuing the great legacy of the World's Finest Fighting Force. Today my time as an active-duty Marine comes to an end, and my wife, Liz, and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Thanks to the hard-charging, motivated Marines and Sailors who continue to defend this great Nation. Today's Warriors are living up to the great legacy left for them by those who fought in Belleau Wood, Iwo Jima, Chosin Reservoir, and Khe Sanh. When the Commandant and I visit with our veterans, the resounding message they relay to us is that today's Marines are carrying on the great Warrior spirit and they are very proud of you - and that speaks volumes when coming from our predecessors.

I'd also like to say thank you to our families. Whether it's proud parents loaning us their sons and daughters, or a spouse taking care of the home front, supporting their loved one, you are all vital to what we do. Marines and Sailors could not accomplish the mission without the strong family support at home. Our families sacrifice so much and they deserve all the respect in the world.

And I'd be remiss if I didn't thank the civilians for their support. You ensure our Marines and Sailors are equipped with everything they need to be successful, and you provide them the support needed to accomplish the mission.

While I will miss putting the uniform on every day and serving with motivating Marines and Sailors, it is time for me to move on. The Corps is overflowing with great leaders who are ready to step up and take charge and fill the billets of those of us retiring. I guarantee they will take the Corps to the next level.

As I always say, the Eagle, Globe & Anchor is branded on every Marine's heart. While I may not wear the uniform, I will always be a Marine, and will continue to be an advocate for our Corps. I wish you all the best in the future, and know you will continue to live up to the great legacy of our Corps.

Liz and I hope that we have lived up to your standards.

Semper Fidelis,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carlton W. Kent', written over a white background.

CARLTON W. KENT

16th Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps