Message from the Honorable Richard V. Spencer
Secretary of the Navy
242\textsuperscript{nd} USMC Birthday - VIDEO
Pentagon, Arlington VA
26 October 2017

For 242 years – as the Corps has grown from two battalions in November of 1775 to the force we
know today – United States Marines have set the standard for military excellence in the air, on
land and at sea.

As we take time to look to our past, we can find inspiration in the legacy that the Marines who
have gone before us have forged. As we look to our future, we must measure ourselves against –
and build upon – that sacred legacy.

I am confident that today’s Marine will be able to measure up because of the professionalism,
discipline and strength of warrior spirit that is ingrained into our beloved Corps.

My wife Polly and I are forever grateful for all that you, your families and your loved ones do for
our Country. Happy Birthday Marines – God bless you and God bless the United States Marine
Corps.