

Secretary of the Navy Message to the Fleet on the 25th Anniversary of the Beirut Bombing

Twenty-five years ago today, at approximately 0620 local time in Beirut, suicide bombers attacked American peacekeepers in their barracks at Beirut international airport. 241 American servicemen were killed in the attack, including 220 marines. Today we pause to remember the service of those taken from us on 23 October 1983, and honor the spirit of those who stood in harms way.

After the attack on our brave marines, the American people mourned the loss of our heroes, but we did not lose our resolve. On this solemn day of remembrance, let us pay tribute to the brave marines who lost their lives on that tragic day, those who have served since and in particular, all those who serve in harms way today - in Iraq, in Afghanistan, and in hot spots around the world. Let the spirit of our marines define our resolve as we meet the challenges before us - Semper Fi.

The Honorable Donald C. Winter, secretary of the Navy.