

Happy **52nd** Birthday *Young Marines*



It is an honor to commemorate the 52nd year of our Young Marines Charter. Whether you assemble in large groups in formal settings or at smaller, casual gatherings, I know that each of you join me in celebrating our great organization and all that it does for our communities, our nation, and its youth.

Young Marines, your positive impact is reflected in the 650,000 volunteer hours spent in support of others and over 100,000 hours spent specifically on our drug demand reduction mission. From the black sands of Iwo Jima to the sacred soil of the Navajo Nation, the Young Marines and those who support them are serving their communities with pride and purpose. Your unwavering dedication to others stands as a beacon of hope for the future of our great nation, regardless of race, age, gender, or religion.

Let us hold to the truths on which our program was founded 52 years ago: Through Leadership, Discipline, Teamwork, and the guidance of those who understand the impact of positive mentorship and support, we will change the course of a nation. We will not be torn apart by those seeking to fracture our principles by challenging our shared Marine Corps traditions and values. We will hold fast against those who would unravel the tapestry of our vision, producing a generation of leaders determined to make a positive difference across the globe, a generation dedicated to the selfless service to others, particularly to those who have fought in the name of freedom.

With our moral compass held firm, we will stand with pride and emulate the best in our characters. Where there is a need, we will support. When others falter, we will persevere. When others refuse to act, we will engage. Be proud of your legacy, Young Marines. Wear it with pride and know that our nation is grateful for your service. Know that no matter where I am, be it in the field or at headquarters, that I have never been more proud of each and every one of you.

Happy Birthday, Young Marines!
Semper Fidelis



Col Bill Davis, USMC (Ret)
National Executive Director, Young Marines
of the Marine Corps League, Inc.