MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

March 18, 2008

The Honorable Brian Schweitzer
Governor of Montana
P.O. Box 200801
Helena, MT 59620-0801

Dear Governor Schweitzer:

The New Year brought exciting new developments and activities here at the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia. In January, the Foundation received a generous $5 million dollar gift to sponsor the Semper Fidelis Memorial Park Chapel which will begin construction later this year. We completed construction on a new section of Park trails and lined those pathways with 11,000 new memorial bricks, purchased by individuals and families to honor Marines of all generations. Additionally, thanks to a generous donation, a wonderful children's playground completed construction just in time for spring visitors to enjoy during their visit to the National Museum. As our growth and expansion continue, Semper Fidelis Memorial Park will always serve as a place of remembrance and reflection dedicated to the service and history of all Marines.

Thank you for the efforts of your designated liaison, Jackie Williams, who assisted in providing Marine names and contact information in Washington. As a result, on behalf of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation I was able to reach out to each Marine with the enclosed letter informing them of our progress in providing the nation with its newest national treasure. Due to your participation in this Council, we are now even closer to our goal of making sure that Marines nationwide connect to *their* National Museum and Heritage Center.

I thank and encourage you to continue this support by sending the names and contact information for Marines in your state as they become available. If you have questions about our Marine locating process in your state and throughout the nation, I hope you will contact Victoria Shapiro at (202) 414-0774 or vshapiro@susandavis.com.

As always, I encourage you to visit the National Museum of the Marine Corps. The experience is a deeply moving one, touching Marines, their families and civilians alike. The interactive exhibits and artifacts all reflect the honor, courage and commitment of the men and women who compose the nation's expeditionary force in readiness.

Thank you for your continued support of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation and the National Museum of the Marine Corps. You play an important role in making sure all Marines have the opportunity to be involved in the National Museum's development. Together, we can ensure that the American public gains a deeper understanding of their Marine Corps and views the great history of our nation in this exciting destination.

Semper Fidelis,

Ron Christmas

Ron Christmas
Lieutenant General, United States Marine Corps (Retired)
President and CEO, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation

cc: Jackie Williams