



MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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General Gary Thomas named chairman of Marine Corps Heritage Foundation

Retired Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps to take on Foundation Board role in 2022

Triangle, Va. (January 26, 2022) – The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation is pleased to announce the selection of General Gary Thomas, USMC (Ret) as the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation’s Board Chairman. General Thomas officially began serving in the leadership role effective January 1st, 2022.



An Austin, Texas native, General Thomas graduated from the University of Texas in 1984 with a bachelor's degree in computer science and received his commission as a Second Lieutenant through the Navy ROTC program. During his distinguished 37-year career on active duty, General Thomas commanded Marines on land, air and sea.

“My greatest privilege has always been to serve alongside the faithful men and women of the Marine Corps,” said General Thomas. “Leading the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation at a time when the stories of today’s Corps are being added to the National Museum of the Marine Corps is one of the greatest ways that I can honor the service of my fellow Marines.”

As a naval aviator, General Thomas flew the F/A-18 Hornet and later commanded Marine Fighter Attack Squadron 323 during Operation IRAQI FREEDOM. He also served as the Commanding General, 2nd

Marine Aircraft Wing (Forward) in Afghanistan. Among his many roles while serving at home, General Thomas led more than 15,000 personnel and all Marine Corps aviation units on the east coast as Commanding General of the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing. He went on to serve as Deputy Commandant for Programs and Resources, providing executive control and oversight of the Marine Corps Planning, Programming, Budgeting, Execution and Assessment resource allocation process with an annual budget of \$43 billion.

In 2018, he was named Assistant Commandant of the Marine Corps, where he oversaw the implementation of a global modernization effort affecting 220,000 Marine Corps personnel across the full range of operations, infrastructure, policy, equipment, and training.

About the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation

Dedicated to the preservation and promulgation of Marine Corps history, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation was established in 1979 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Foundation supports the historical programs of the Marine Corps in ways not possible through government funds. The Foundation provides grants and scholarships for research and the renovation, restoration, and commissioning of historical Marine Corps artifacts and landmarks. Having secured the necessary funding for the complete construction of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and Heritage Center, located in Triangle, Virginia, the Foundation's current primary mission is to provide continued leadership, strategic direction and financial oversight in supporting and expanding programs at the National Museum of the Marine Corps and beyond its walls. For more information, visit MarineHeritage.org.
