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The Marine Corps Heritage Center Story

Legacy

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THE MISSION OF THE MARINE CORPS HERITAGE CENTER IS TO CREATE A PLACE WHERE ALL MARINES, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, AND ESPECIALLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, CAN COME TO VIEW THE HISTORY OF OUR GREAT NATION THROUGH THE EYES OF MARINES.



COMMEMORATIVE COIN WILL HONOR 230TH BIRTHDAY OF CORPS, BENEFIT CAMPAIGN

BY LTGEN RON CHRISTMAS, USMC (RET), President, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation

I am pleased to report that legislation authorizing the release of a special commemorative coin celebrating the 230th Birthday of the United States Marine Corps was recently signed into law by President George W. Bush. The coin will be designed, produced and sold by the United States Mint beginning in May 2005. Through this legislation, a portion of the proceeds of the sale of the Marine Corps 230th Anniversary Commemorative Coin will be earmarked for construction of the Marine Corps Heritage Center and National Museum of the Marine Corps. As you will read below, this program will be enormously beneficial to our capital campaign.



LtGen Christmas

The Mint annually issues a limited number of commemorative coins. Authorized by Congress, commemorative coins typically celebrate and honor American people, places, historic events and institutions. Surcharges from the sales of these coins help fund a variety of organizations and projects that benefit the community. Commemorative coins are only available directly from the Mint for a limited time. In recent years, commemorative coins have honored the Bicentennial of the Lewis & Clark Expedition, the inventor Thomas Edison, the 2002 Winter Olympic Games in Salt Lake City and numerous other worthy causes.

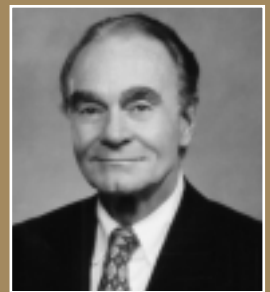
The authorizing legislation for the Marine Corps Anniversary coin enjoyed broad bipartisan support in both the House of Representatives and the Senate. Key cosponsors included Representatives John Murtha, Lane Evans, Wayne Gilchrist, Amo Houghton, Bill Janklow, John Kline and Vic Snyder; and Senators John Warner, George Allen, Michael Enzi, Zell Miller, Pat Roberts, Craig Thomas and many others from both sides of the aisle. We are indebted to these legislators

for making possible this initiative. This coin not only honors our Corps in the moment but also delivers some of the wherewithal for doing so in perpetuity through construction of the Heritage Center and National Museum.

For the Marine Corps 230th Anniversary commemoration, the coin to be struck is an exquisite silver dollar in a limited quantity. While produced as uncirculated collectibles, commemorative coins are United States legal tender backed by the government for weight and metallurgic content. Commemorative coins are marketed in several formats and at various prices dependent on whether the coin is a "proof" and how it is packaged. The coin is expected to be priced at \$37 and above, with \$10 of the sales price of each coin designated to benefit the Heritage Center and National Museum. Since commemorative coin runs usually sell out quickly, several million dollars should be generated in support of our capital campaign.

For those supporters who wish to secure this invaluable heirloom, we recommend you do so as soon as the coin is issued. Coins may be purchased at the Mint's web site, www.usmint.gov, or through mailed promotions. Future issues of Legacy will provide additional details on how to acquire the coin. Meanwhile, we are very grateful to all whose efforts have made possible this important recognition for our Corps and associated funding for the Heritage Center/National Museum campaign.

Semper Fidelis



SCHOEN MAKES \$2 MILLION LEADERSHIP GIFT

William J. Schoen has made a leadership gift of \$2 million toward construction of the Marine Corps Heritage Center and National Museum of the Marine Corps. Schoen, chairman of Health Management Associates of Naples, Florida, has been a member of the project's Founders' Group since early in 2002.

In announcing his gift, Schoen noted that "I believe strongly that the American public must learn about the contributions and sacrifices of the Corps to our freedom—not only in today's conflicts, but throughout the course of this nation's great history. Creation of the Heritage Center and National Museum will further that learning, and I am privileged to help make it happen."

Schoen's commitment will underwrite development and fabrication of the Korea Era Gallery, one of the three major exhibit galleries within the National Museum that will be presented to the public on opening day.

A California native, Schoen enlisted in the Marine Corps from 1953-1956. He was in Korea during the Korean Conflict and attained the rank of Sergeant. Following his service, Schoen completed his education at the University of Southern California. Highlights of his distinguished business career include service as chief executive of major companies including F&M Schaefer, Commerce National Bank and, most recently, Health Management Associates, a New York Stock Exchange company with which he has been associated since 1983. Under Schoen's leadership, HMA has demonstrated 15 years of uninterrupted earnings growth.

Reflecting on Schoen's generosity, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation president LtGen Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret) said: "Bill Schoen's leadership is enormously important to our campaign. I continue to be moved by the sacrificial generosity of so many donors, large and small, the spirit of which is exemplified by this exceptional commitment. We are deeply grateful to Bill and his wife, Sharon, for all they do."

www.marineheritage.org

703-640-7965



A recent aerial photograph shows construction underway aboard the Heritage Center site with the circular outline of the National Museum structure becoming apparent.

NATIONAL MUSEUM BEGINS TO TAKE SHAPE AS CONSTRUCTION PROCEEDS

BY BGEN GERALD MCKAY, USMC (RET), Chief Operating Officer, Marine Corps Heritage Foundation

Legacy readers will recall that a contract for construction of the National Museum of the Marine Corps was issued last April. Since then, Centex Construction, our contractor, has been hard at work aboard the Marine Corps Heritage Center site at Quantico, Virginia. Even in the few months since construction began, much progress is evident.

- Site preparation work has been completed: Trees have been felled and hauled away; roads via which heavy construction equipment enters and exits the site have been laid; utility hubs have been installed; and the National Museum footprint has been properly contoured and prepped for construction.
- The foundation has been excavated: The National Museum structure consists of a large, circular concrete form atop which an elevated glass and steel canopy will sit. Foundation excavations have been completed and concrete is now being poured.
- As the accompanying aerial photographs reveal, the circular form of the National Museum base has been poured and the basic shell of the central atrium is in place. Some 17,000 cubic yards of concrete will go into the National Museum.

With these items accomplished, the next major phase of construction relates to the raising of the building's main "mast": the 210-foot-tall, canted stainless steel beam to which the Museum's dramatic stainless steel and glass canopy will be affixed. Project supporters will

recall how the angle of the mast evokes the visual imagery of the Marine Corps War Memorial and other icons of the Corps.

Once the mast is raised, the grandeur of project architect Curtis Fentress' design concept will finally become much more tangible. Tens of thousands of drivers on nearby Interstate 95 will see a highly visible, new regional landmark take shape. All of this bodes well for public awareness of the project and consequent positive impact on our fund raising. We will continue to update you on construction in future issues of *Legacy*. ★



Workers build reinforced steel walls of the Central Gallery before concrete is poured.



Project Notes

■ MGen James Mattis, USMC, Commanding General of the 1st Marine Division, will be the featured speaker at the Foundation's sixth annual Semper Fidelis luncheon in celebration of the 229th Birthday of the Corps. Scheduled for November 10, 2004, at the Hilton Crystal City Hotel in Arlington, VA, the event price is \$75. Please call (703) 640-7965 to make your reservation.

■ **WE WANT YOUR STORIES:** Another important way to contribute to the building of the National Museum of the Marine Corps is to help us spread the word—among Marines, their families and the public. We are currently engaged in a media campaign to educate the public about the Museum, and we need your help. What does the National Museum of the Marine Corps mean to you? If you are willing to share your experience as a Marine with your community through the media, please send your stories to NMMCstories@cliffordpr.com or call 1-800-533-9063. The National Museum of the Marine Corps will honor the collective history of the Corps—please help us tell the most complete story possible. Thank you for your support.

■ As Charter Sponsors of the campaign for the Heritage Center and National Museum, *Legacy* readers receive periodic mailings seeking financial support for the project. In the months ahead, you will receive a mailing asking you to become a member of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation. Becoming a member offers numerous benefits and helps you remain close to an organization and cause that you have helped create. We ask that you respond affirmatively to this mailing.

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