



DEDICATION
MARINE CORPS
WAR MEMORIAL

NOVEMBER 10, 1924



ARLINGTON, VIRGINIA

FOREWORD

Since the days of our country's birth,
men of the United States Marine Corps have taken
up arms to protect the freedoms
which today light a troubled world with hope.
To these Marines together with their comrades
in arms of the other services who fell fighting
with them, this Memorial is humbly dedicated.
In the providence of God, it shall remain
forever a monument to courage and valor
for generations yet unborn.

ORDER OF EVENTS

CONCERT

United States Marine Corps Band

ARRIVAL OF OFFICIAL PARTY

CHAIRMAN OF THE DAY

*Hon. Robert B. Anderson
Deputy Secretary of Defense*

INVOCATION

*Rear Admiral E. B. Harp, jr.,
ChC, USN*

REMARKS

Chairman of the Day

REMARKS

*Col. J. W. Moreau, USMC (Ret.)
President, Marine Corps War
Memorial Foundation, Inc.*

*Hon. Orme Lweis
Assistant Secretary
of the Interior*

*Gen. Lemuel C. Shepherd, jr
Commandant, United States
Marine Corps*

FLAG RISING

REMARKS

*Mr. Felix de Weldon
Sculptor*

DEDICATORY ADDRESS

IN MEMORIAM

Rabbi Garson Goodman, ChC, USN

TAPS

BENEDICTION

Father Paul Redmond, ChC, USN

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STORY OF THE MEMORIAL

Nearly a decade ago, a nation of free people traditionally opposed to war was thrilled and cheered by a war photograph. But this was no mere picture of mighty armadas, massive assaults or vanquished enemies. It was, instead, a scene far more magnificent – a picture of six grimy, tired, disheveled men – far from home and the comforts of home – struggling to raise their flag on enemy soil... a flag which would announce to all who could see that one more step had been taken in the long march to victory and peace.

It seemed almost predestined that this great photograph, taken in a fleeting second by Mr. Joseph Rosenthal, should serve as the inspiration for physical reproduction.

Even as a war-weary nation was drawing new determination from this symbol of American spirit, Mr. Felix de Weldon was purposefully working to create a scale model of this perfect scene. Upon its completion, he turned immediately to the task of creating, in life-sized glory, his interpretation of America on the March. This creation was the symbol for the Treasury Department's Seventh War Loan – and it was at this time that dedicated friends of the Marine Corps determined this scene should be again reproduced, but this time in heroic proportions, proportions which could do ample justice to the magnificence of the scene which had inspired it.

It was not an easy task, nor a task to be accomplished with what might be termed speed. It was a task which required the engineering as well as the great artistic skill of the sculptor. Bit by bit, piece by piece, the statue was modeled in clay – molded in plaster- and cast in plaster.

Steel framework had to be constructed to support the huge figures, framework which structurally resembled the bone structure of human bodies. Slowly, carefully, week by week and month by month, the work went painstakingly along until that day three years ago when the entire statue, in plaster, was completed. Then it was carefully disassembled and take in 108 pieces, to the Bedi-Rassy Art Foundry to be cast in bronze by artesians practicing a skill centuries old.

In September of the year of Nineteen Fifty-Four, the completed statue was brought to its permanent site and assembled.

Here it stands, rising majestically on a promontory overlooking our nation's capital – joining other Memorials to other men who have made this nation great.

It stands, somber against the sky, as a monument not only to those who, as proud Marines, have given their lives to their country; it is also a monument to all men who have cherished country above life – men whose sacrifices have made it possible for us, today, to say reverently

“We are a free people”



MARINE CORPS WAR MEMORIAL FOUNDATION



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The consummation of the Memorial and its surroundings was not the sole work of one person but of many thousands. To those people who gave so freely of their time, their money and encouragement, the members of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation offer their sincere appreciation. For, without their help and inspiration, this Memorial and all that it stands for could never have been conceived or completed.