



STATE OF DELAWARE

**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

TATNALL BUILDING, SECOND FLOOR  
MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. BOULEVARD SOUTH  
DOVER, DELAWARE 19901

**JOHN CARNEY**  
GOVERNOR

PHONE (302) 744-4101  
FAX (302) 739-2775

March 28, 2022

The Honorable Carlos Del Toro  
Secretary of the Navy  
Office of the Secretary of the Navy  
1000 Navy Pentagon, Room 4D652  
Washington, DC 20350

Dear Secretary Del Toro,

As Governor of the State of Delaware, I write to support holding the main celebrations of the 250th anniversaries of the Navy and Marine Corps in their birthplace – Philadelphia and the Delaware Valley.

As part of the Semiquincentennial of the Independence of the United States, it is important to commemorate the events that enabled and protected that independence: the creation of the American military services in 1775. On October 13, 1775, the Second Continental Congress at Independence Hall founded the Navy, whose first ship was soon commissioned on the banks of the Delaware River.

Delaware has played a role in the Navy and Marine Corps ever since. The first U.S.S. *Delaware* was built in Philadelphia and captained by John Barry, the Father of the American Navy. Delaware has long contributed to the Navy and Marine Corps, from our shipyards to our valiant soldiers, seamen, and veterans, including Commodore Jacob Jones, Commodore Thomas Macdonough, and Admiral Samuel Francis DuPont. The latest U.S.S. *Delaware* (SSN-791), commissioned in 2020, represents the First State in the Navy's modern fleet.

There is no more fitting place to celebrate the 250th birthdays of the Navy and Marine Corps than at their Delaware Valley birthplace. A group of Delaware, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey organizations and citizens have joined together as Homecoming 250 Navy Marine Corps to propose "Launching the Semiquincentennial" with two exciting and unique historic celebrations.

In October 2025, Homecoming 250 will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Navy's founding on October 13, 1775, by assembling on the Delaware River historical, replica, and active-duty

ships representing every major war in which the Navy has fought. The Delaware River is the best, and indeed only, location for this unprecedented exhibition of naval history.

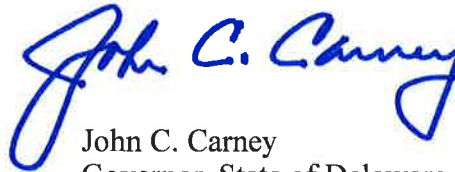
In November 2025, Homecoming 250 will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Marine Corps on November 10, 1775, by recreating Tun Tavern, the hallowed birthplace of the Corps, near its original location on the Delaware River.

These celebrations will be accompanied by ceremonies, parades, flyovers, reenactments, and exhibits at Independence Hall, Tun Tavern, and historic sites along the Delaware River. Homecoming 250 is dedicated to giving the Navy and Marines the 250th celebrations they need and deserve.

I enthusiastically support the decision made by you and Admiral Michael Gilday to hold the official Navy celebrations in the region, along the banks of the Delaware River. I urge you and General David Berger to consider the same for the Marine Corps.

This unique occasion presents an opportunity to highlight the history of our great nation and to celebrate the men and women who have selflessly served our country over the last 250 years. I hope that you will consider this proposal. On behalf of all Delawareans, we look forward to participating in these celebrations.

Sincerely,



John C. Carney  
Governor, State of Delaware

cc: Admiral Michael M. Gilday, Chief of Naval Operations  
General David H. Berger, Commandant of the Marine Corps