



**Dear Colonel Wilson,**

**Upon the occasion of your retirement, I extend my sincere appreciation for your dedicated service to the Corps.**

**During your career, the Marine Corps has been involved in combat, and it has been because of Marines like you that the Corps has acquitted itself so well on the battlefield. High standards of excellence in conduct and performance have long been our hallmark, and with them, a unique spirit that sets us apart. You can be proud to have been a part of that legacy and to have attained your grade in an organization such as ours.**

**In recognizing your long and dedicated service to the Corps, we cannot fail to acknowledge the contributions of your family over those many years. Long and frequent separations are a way of life for Marines, and it takes a very special kind of family to share the many hardships with us. We owe them our deepest gratitude.**

**As you leave our active ranks, go with the knowledge that your distinguished service will have a lasting influence and it has earned you a legion of friends and fellow Marines who wish you well in the coming years. The Corps is better because you served, and our Nation can stand proud because it produces Marines like you.**

**I speak for all Marines in wishing you good health and good fortune.**

**Semper Fi, Marine!**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. H. Berger". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

**David H. Berger  
General, U.S. Marine Corps  
Commandant of the Marine Corps**