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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 351

Offered January 16, 2013

Commending the Marine Corps Association.

Patrons—Puller and Herring

WHEREAS, the Marine Corps Association, founded on April 25, 1913, in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by Marines of the 2d Provisional Brigade, will proudly celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2013; and

WHEREAS, Lieutenant Colonel John A. Lejeune headed the Marine Corps Association's first executive committee, and he and his fellow officers declared that the Marine Corps Association would publish the history of the Marine Corps and disseminate "... information concerning the aims, purposes and deeds of the Corps, and the interchange of ideas for the betterment and improvement of its officers and men..."; and

WHEREAS, the *Marine Corps Gazette* was introduced in March 1916 as a vehicle used to establish the Marine Corps Association as the professional organization for all Marines and to establish a venue to debate issues of importance to the Corps and disseminate military art and science to association members; and

WHEREAS, in 1976, the Leatherneck Association, publishers of *Leatherneck-Magazine of the Marines*, merged with the Marine Corps Association in a partnership that has proven beneficial to both organizations; and

WHEREAS, in 2009, the Marine Corps Association founded the Marine Corps Association Foundation in order to provide more support to professional programs for Marines, including awards (over 10,600 were provided in 2011 alone), battlefield studies, professional military education forums, and Commanders' Unit Libraries with books from the Commandant's Professional Reading List; and

WHEREAS, in June 2012, when the Montford Point Marines were being honored with the Congressional Gold Medal, it was the Marine Corps Association Foundation that stepped up to the plate and found funding so that each of those historic Marines could receive their own replica commemorative medal; and

WHEREAS, in its first year of existence, the Marine Corps Association boasted a membership of 91, and today there are nearly 80,000 members worldwide; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Corps Association and Foundation has done exemplary work for active duty, reserve, and wounded Marines, providing wounded Marines with the same programs as active and reserve Marines; and

WHEREAS, for 100 years, participation in the Marine Corps Association has supported active duty Marines—during peacetime and wartime; and

WHEREAS, the Marine Corps Association has made many contributions to the lives of Marines stationed throughout the world throughout its existence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate, the House of Delegates concurring, That the General Assembly hereby commend the Marine Corps Association on the occasion of its 100th anniversary; and, be it

RESOLVED FURTHER, That the Clerk of the Senate prepare a copy of this resolution for presentation to the Marine Corps Association as an expression of the General Assembly's congratulations and admiration for the organization's century of commitment to supporting United States Marines.

INTRODUCED

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