

# 2017 UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS PARADE SEASON



**In March 1801**, President Thomas Jefferson and the Second Commandant of the Marine Corps, Lt. Col. William Ward Burrows, made a horseback tour through the new city of Washington, D.C., looking for a proper site for the Marine Barracks and a home for the commandant. Square 927, a short walk from the Washington Navy Yard and in easy marching distance of the Capitol, was their choice.

Construction began later that year, and Burrows' successor, Lt. Col. Franklin Wharton, completed the house in 1806 and the Barracks in 1808. Still used for its original purpose, the Home of the Commandants has been home to all but the first two commandants, and is said to be the oldest, continuously occupied public building in Washington, D.C. When first built, the Georgian-Federalist style house measured 25 by 32 feet. It contained four large rooms and a central hallway on each floor, a kitchen in the basement and servant's quarters in the attic. Renovations and additions, which began in 1836, have expanded the house to 15,000 square feet, including 30 rooms not counting closets or baths. The decor has always been dictated by the personal tastes of each commandant and his family.

The Home of the Commandants was one of the few buildings not burned by the British when they sacked the Capitol in 1814. This omission by the British has given rise to several legends as to why the house was spared. One version is that Adm. Cockburn and Gen. Ross, commanding the British troops, spared it to use as their headquarters, then neglected to apply the torch upon their withdrawal. Another contends that Marines at the Battle of Bladensburg so impressed Gen. Ross that he ordered the house and the Barracks spared as a gesture of soldierly respect.

In 1916, Maj. Gen. George Barnett, the 12th commandant, approached then-acting secretary of the Navy, Franklin D. Roosevelt, with the idea of having portraits painted of all former Marine Corps commandants to document the successive changes in uniforms. The idea was approved, and today portraits of all of the commandants hang in the house, with one exception. It is also a tradition that the occupants of the house leave a gift for future occupants of the house to use. Some gifts from former commandants include fine furniture, crystal and china.

Square 927, now the block surrounded by 8th, I, 9th and G Streets SE, was entered in the National Register of Historic Places in 1972, and was then designated a National Historic Landmark by the Department of the Interior in 1976.

**Marine Barracks 8th & I**

## UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS

EVENING PARADE

MAY 19TH, 2017

**Guest of Honor**

**The Honorable John F. Kelly**  
*Secretary of Homeland Security*

**HOSTED BY**  
**GENERAL ROBERT B. NELLER**  
**COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS**











































































































