

CAKE CUTTING SCRIPT

(The following are three separate and slightly different cake cutting scripts. There does not appear to be a set-in-stone script.)

EXAMPLE #1

It is customary at Marine Corps birthday celebrations worldwide to cut a traditional cake in celebration of the birth of our illustrious Corps.

The first piece of cake is given to our guest of honor,
_____.

The second to the oldest Marine present _____ he was born on _____ and enlisted in the Marine Corps on _____.

Upon receiving the second piece of cake, the oldest Marine will in turn pass it on to _____ signifying the passing of experience and knowledge from the old to the young of our Corps. _____ will then receive the third piece of cake further emphasizing the fact that we care for our young Marines before we look to our own needs. (Pause) and so it must be.

EXAMPLE #2

The Marine Corp's birthday cake-cutting ceremony is important to all Marines, as it is an annual renewal of each Marine's commitment to the Corps . . . and the Corps' commitment to our nations quest for peace and freedom worldwide.

The birthday cake is traditionally cut with the Mameluke sword, as a reminder that we are a band of warriors, committed to carrying the sword, so that our nation may live in peace. The Mameluke sword gets its name from the cross hilt and ivory grip design, similar to swords used for centuries by Ottoman warriors. The Marine Corps tradition of carrying this sword dates from Lieutenant Presley O'Bannon's assault of Derna, Tripoli, in 1805,

where he is said to have won the sword of the governor of the city.

(Pause)

As is our custom, the first piece of cake will be presented to our guest of honor.

By tradition, the second piece of cake is presented to the oldest Marine present.

Ladies and Gentlemen . . . the oldest Marine present is _____ . _____ was born _____ in _____ .

The third piece of cake is presented to the youngest Marine present.

Ladies and Gentlemen . . . The youngest Marine present is _____ . _____ was born _____ in _____ .

EXAMPLE #3

Traditionally - Regardless of location - Marines pause to observe our birthday by sharing a cake and usually, a holiday meal. A sword is used to cut the cake as a reminder that we are a band of warriors, committed to carrying the sword, so that our nation may live in peace.

The first piece of cake is presented to the Guest of Honor. The second piece is presented to the oldest Marine in the command, signifying the honor and respect accorded to experience and seniority. The oldest Marine this evening is _____ , who was born on _____ .

Symbolically, the eldest Marine present passes a piece of cake to the youngest Marine present, just as for _____ years our experienced Marines have nurtured and led young Marines that will fill our ranks and renew our Corps. The youngest Marine present this evening is _____ , who was born _____ .