

Traditions

It's been a long three months, but I'm finally there;
It was just yesterday they started calling me Marine.
I earned my Eagle Globe and Anchor, a symbol of the Corps.
I learned about traditions, and how they've served us well.
You see them in our uniforms, and all throughout the Corps.

It starts with the emblem a story all Marines have learned.
The Globe stands for service given all around the world,
The anchor fouled with a rope was taken from the Navy
And dates back to the revolution.

An eagle with wings spread wide sits proudly on the top.
But here's a little twist most people don't know;
It's not a Bald Eagle, the symbol of our nation,
But a Crested Eagle found throughout the world.
The eagle holds a streamer with these two famous words
"Semper Fidelis", to us it's just "Semper Fi".
The meaning is in the translation,
"Always Faithful", that says it all -
To God, our Country and most of all our Corps.

I learned about a quatrefoil and why it served us well.
It's a unique design embroidered a top an officer's cover,
Which most people call a hat.
The quatrefoil came from the revolutionary war,
When we fought from riggings high above the ship
We could tell our officers when we saw their covers from above.

Our uniform is different not just a piece of cloth,
For there's tradition sewn with every stitch.
Our uniform is the only service uniform with the colors of our Flag:
Red is for our sacrifice which many Marines have made,
White stands for the honor you see throughout the Corps,
Blue stands for the bravery shown in every battle.

Our blouse design was taken from the army many years ago,
We added Navy buttons and a collar made of leather
Some refer to us as leathernecks.

The Dress sword our Officers carry has a story too,
Called a Mameluke sword it was given by a Sheik
For our first battle won on foreign shores,
We honor it in our Hymn "The Shores of Tripoli."

Our traditions will always follow us,
Through the battles we're sent to fight and through our later years.
When you hear our hymn, you'll always see us standing,
For we learned our traditions well
And will always carry the title United States Marine.