



As the US Marines Corps celebrates their 237th birthday today (November 10, 2012), it gives me pause to think. Those of us who are faithful watchers of the TV program NCIS, know that Gibbs quite often says “Semper Fi” and we love that. Why? Because he is saying “always faithful” and that means a great deal. A Marine pledges “Semper Fidelis.” To him this means always faithful to his God, always faithful to the Corps, always faithful to his unit and always faithful to himself. The significance of this pledge to a new recruit is not immediate but as he experiences the brotherhood of the Corps, it becomes a lifetime commitment. Thus the saying, “Once a Marine, always a Marine.”

The word that jumps out to me in all of this is the word commitment. I guess in the present day and time our members are just not willing to commit. Not everyone has the desire or the strength of character to make a lifetime commitment. Life is ever changing so commitments must follow the same pattern. We must be flexible and responsive to changing times and conditions. Each person must decide what commitment really means.

A lifetime commitment of “always faithful” requires a great deal of soul searching. But it gives one focus and direction for a meaningful and enjoyable life. A lifetime commitment gives one purpose and a reason for living. This can all so easily apply to Daughters of the Nile. As we approach our 100th birthday, why don’t we say, “always faithful?”

Always faithful to my God,
Always faithful to my country,
Always faithful to the Daughters of the Nile
Always faithful to my Temple
And always faithful to myself.



Then each of us can say, “Once a Daughter of the Nile, Always a Daughter of the Nile.” That’s what COMMITMENT is all about. How committed are YOU?

We cannot continue to lose our members, or lose our Temples. Each of us must stay the course and remain committed to our cause, to help the children in the Shrine Hospitals. That need never diminishes. We must take offices and work fund raisers. We must work on committees and participate in Units and Clubs. We must be “always faithful.”

I offer Happy Birthday wishes to the US Marines and I thank them for helping me feel their commitment. 237 years. Will we make it that long? Only if we have the same commitment a Marine has. I’m committed, how about you? Because for me, “Once a Daughter of the Nile, ALWAYS a Daughter of the Nile.”

PSQ Alyce Thomas