

# Inspector Rex's History Snippet #32

## The Marines Hymn

The "**Marines Hymn**" is the official hymn of the United States Marine Corps. Authorized by the Commandant of the Marine Corps in 1929, it is the oldest official song in the [United States Armed Forces](#).

Some lyrics were popular phrases before the song was written. The line "To the shores of [Tripoli](#)" refers to the [First Barbary War](#), and specifically the [Battle of Derne](#) in 1805. After Lieutenant [Presley O'Bannon](#) and his Marines hoisted the American flag over the [Old World](#) for the first time, the phrase was added to the [flag of the United States Marine Corps](#). "The Halls of [Montezuma](#)" refers to the [Battle of Chapultepec](#) on 12/13 September 1847 during the [Mexican–American War](#), where a force of Marines stormed [Chapultepec Castle](#). Strictly, the usage "Halls of Montezuma" is factually wrong, as the building which the Marines stormed had been erected by the Spanish rulers of Mexico, more than two centuries after the Aztec Emperor [Montezuma](#) was overthrown. Rather than the "Halls of Montezuma", the halls which the Marines entered were actually those of the [Viceroys of New Spain](#).

Attribution: Wikipedia

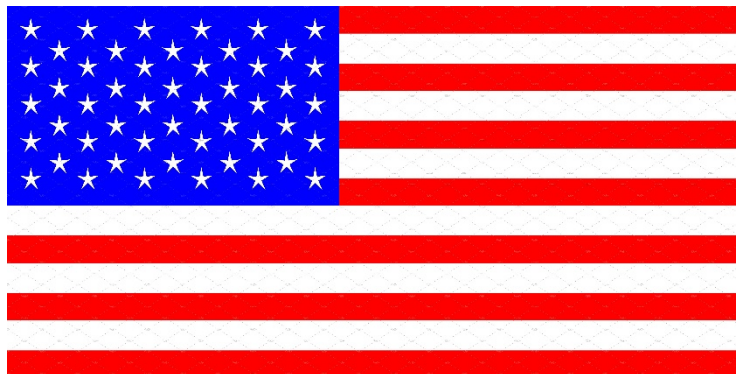
### The Lyrics

From the Halls of Montezuma  
To the shores of Tripoli  
We fight our country's battles  
In the air, on land, and sea.  
First to fight for right and freedom  
And to keep our honor clean;  
We are proud to claim the title  
Of United States Marines.  
Our flag's unfurled to every breeze  
From dawn to setting sun;  
We have fought in every clime and place  
Where we could take a gun.  
In the snow of far-off Northern lands  
And in sunny tropic scenes;  
You will find us always on the job  
The United States Marines.  
Here's health to you and to our Corps  
Which we are proud to serve;  
In many a strife we've fought for life  
And never lost our nerve.  
Army and the Navy  
Ever look on Heaven's scenes,  
They will find the streets are guarded  
By United States Marines.

Click this link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sSRIQPD6Xiw>  
(turn your volume up)

to hear the hymn.



Nicknames for the flag of the United States of America include the **Stars and Stripes**, **Old Glory**, and the **Star-Spangled Banner**.

On a field of blue in the top left-hand corner, there are 50,(5-pointed) stars comprised of 5 rows of 6 stars interlaced with 4 rows of 5 stars making a total of 50 stars corresponding to the 50 states. There are 7 red stripes interlaced with 6 white stripes corresponding to the Thirteen British Colonies who declared independence in 1776 and together formed the **United States of America**.