

Dear Marine Corps Marathon Finishers,

Congratulations on your accomplishment of finishing the 31st Marine Corps Marathon. The Marines appreciate your participation in the largest MCM ever, as the event is now ranked 4th in the US.

Orchestrating the marathon requires a tremendous amount of organization and planning. The water and food support on the course was in ample supply. Medical teams were fast to respond to all incidents. Spectator and volunteer presence was at an all time high. And the most important factor that we couldn't control--the weather--was fabulous for runners.

It is the primary objective of the Marine Corps Marathon to provide a safe and enjoyable event from start to finish for all runners from ribbon-breaking winners to the 14-minute pacers. We hope you achieved your goals and even set a PR. Feedback from runners and spectators is appreciated and every email is read by the staff. It is through these comments that the MCM team receives marching orders for the next year of planning. In past years, thanks to runner recommendations, the MCM staff has altered portions of the course, changed the suppliers for on-course hospitality and even redesigned the start. This is, after all, "The People's Marathon."

The MCM team has received informative comments about the pedestrian congestion in the new Finish Festival. As the National Park Service regulations required a complete redesign of the post-finish experience, the MCM created a linear egress for runners to reunite with family, retrieve baggage, enjoy entertainment and receive additional hospitality. For much of the day, runners and spectators enjoyed the Festival as it was intended; for a block of time, however, the congestion was prohibitive. As Marines pride themselves on the ability to adapt and overcome, so too will the Marine Corps Marathon. The foot-traffic problem will be eliminated for the 32nd MCM. The entire space from the finish line to the Metro will be reviewed and redesigned appropriately to ensure ease of experience for the finishers and their supporters.

I look forward to seeing you at next year's start line.

Semper Fidelis,

Rick Nealis
Director