

# Montford Point Marine Association, Inc

## A Message From the National Vice President James H. Carr

### Regarding The Congressional Gold Medal

**T**oday the Association is celebrating a major milestone and turning point in our history. The awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Original Montford Point Marines signifies the highest honor that can be bestowed upon civilians. Their tireless efforts were not in vain and this proud moment is a testament to their legacy which will live on forever. With this great achievement, and in keeping with our motto, "Working Together Works..." we have put together a planning team specifically designed to address questions and concerns leading up to the Congressional Gold Medal ceremony (Spring/Summer 2012). Because there are so many questions regarding this event we ask that you review this site and the FAQ's below. This will be the first step in preparing, for what you the member or as the family representative must do to determine eligibility and attendance. We have established a single email address [cgm@montfordpointmarines.org](mailto:cgm@montfordpointmarines.org) that is designed to go directly to our workgroup team members. As dates are established and new information becomes available it will be our pleasure to offer this service to you.

#### Congratulations.....

#### Facts:

On November 23, 2011 the President of the United States signed into law the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines. HR 2447 and S 1527 was unanimously passed through the House and Senate respectively. In pertinent part the legislation provides that **one** Gold Medal will be minted at a cost not to exceed \$30,000 at tax payer expense (paid by the government). Replica bronze medals will be minted and sold at no expense to the tax payer (no expense to the government).

The Marine Corps is planning on providing logistical and financial support to all living Montford Point Marines and one escort/caretaker/family member to attend the award ceremony. In addition, the Marine Corps is planning to pay for one bronze replica medal for all certified living Montford Point Marines. The ceremony date will be determined once the Congressional Gold Medal design has been approved through the U.S. Mint and designated internal committees. The Congressional Gold Medal award ceremony has been tentative planned and scheduled to be held in the spring/summer of 2012.

#### Frequently Asked Questions:

#### **Q- Does the Montford Point Marine have to be living to be awarded the CGM at the ceremony ?**

Yes. In order to be invited to the award ceremony and to be awarded a bronze replica CGM, the Montford Point Marine must be living.

#### **Q- If my relative is deceased can I get a CGM on their behalf ?**

Yes, replica medals will be available for purchase from the U.S. Mint web site the same day the medal is awarded. In addition, the Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., will provide a Certificate of Certification to the family of each Montford Point Marine who has pro-

#### **Q- If my Montford Point Marine family member is deceased can I attend the medal award ceremony ?**

Priority seating will go to living Montford Point Marine and one designated escort/family member/caregiver. There will be an attempt to host a live broadcast of the ceremony at alternate locations to accommodate individuals desiring to attend so everyone can witness this historic event. The Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., or the United States Marine Corps will not pay the personal expenses of those family members of deceased Montford Point Marine who wish to attend this event.

#### **Q- How do I get my relative's name added to the roster of eligible recipients for the CGM ?**

In order to be counted as an OMPM (whether living or deceased), one must provide DD214 or Discharge paperwork verifying attendance of training at Montford Point Camp from 1942-1949. Such documentation must be provided to:

#### **MPMA, Inc., National Legislative Officer**

Mr. Joseph H. Geeter III  
27 Red Tail Court Limerick, PA 19468  
Phone: 610 495 3619  
Email: [geeterj@yahoo.com](mailto:geeterj@yahoo.com)

If the requestor does not have the DD214/Discharge paper, they can request the documentation from the following website: <http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/standard-form-180.html>

#### **Or mail a request: Standard Form 180 to: National Personnel Records Center**

1 Archives Drive St. Louis, Missouri 63138

#### **Q- What does the CGM look like ?**

The medal design was delivered to the U.S. Mint by the



THE MARINES OF MONTFORD POINT





vided certifying documentation to MPMA, Inc. All costs associated with obtaining additional Certificate of Certifications and/or the bronze replica medals for living or deceased MPM's are paid for by the individual family members. The Montford Point Marine Association will give one certificate free of charge to the family and all other requests will be at a fee TBD.

**Q- If I am the family member of a living Montford Point Marine can I come to the medal award ceremony ?**

Due to limited seating, each living Montford Point Marine and one escort/family member/caregiver only will be invited to the award ceremony.

Montford Point Marines Association, Inc., National President on 1 December 2011. The U.S. Mint has many internal processes to complete prior to the final medal design approval. Due to the sensitive nature, the final medal design has not been approved for release to the public at this time. The design specifications describe the Congressional Gold Medal as a 3 inch circular medal made of bronze metal. The U.S. Mint will sell the 3 inch medal to the public for approximately \$45.00. There will also be 1 ½ inch medal sold for approximately \$11.00.