



Phillip Herout

Phillip Herout was born June 27, 1925 in Miami, Florida, the son of Reverend Phillip B. Herout and Jane Elizabeth Herout. He was raised with six siblings Emily, Nettie, Elsie, Angie, Virginia, and Charles. Living in the Deep South, he witnessed many injustices against African Americans as well as violence and segregation. The facilities for coloreds and whites were separate and unequal. He recalled the anger that he felt knowing his parents paid taxes for facilities that they were prohibited from using such as swimming pools designated for whites only. He also experienced police brutality. He attended Booker T. Washington High School, an all-black school, where he played football. After the war broke on December 7, 1941, Mr. Herout enlisted in the Marine Corps on June 17, 1942 in Orlando, Florida. He travelled by segregated train from Miami, Florida to North Carolina where he was transported by truck to Camp Lejeune at the segregated Montford Point camp for African American soldiers. At the administration building, he was sworn in again and placed in the 6th Platoon, 51st Defense Battalion. Mr. Herout was trained on the Brownie 50 caliber machine gun. After he finished basic training, the 15th replacement came through and he was placed in the First Marine Depot. He left North Carolina and was sent to San Diego by segregated train. He arrived at the Marine Corps headquarters in San Diego where he stayed for approximately 3 weeks. During his tenure in the Marines, Blacks were mistreated by their white comrades as if they were the enemies and forced to perform

menial jobs that whites did not want. He shipped out on a liberty ship and was sent overseas to New Caledonia, from there to Guadalcanal in the Pacific theater. He was assigned to Russell Islands where he was in charge of the ammunition dump. They stored and transported ammunition which included 500 lb. to 1,000 lb. bombs and gasoline drums. Mr. Herout stayed on the island for a year and a half until one of the 500 lb. drums fell on his hand while unloading them. He was sent to the hospital in San Diego where he stayed for six months. From there, he arrived back to Miami where he was hospitalized. He was discharged September 7, 1944. Mr. Herout recalled that when the time came for Blacks to fight they did so with courage and conviction which resulted in the victory.

After being discharged from the U.S. Marines, Mr. Herout went to an orthopedic hospital for his hand. After rehabilitation he finished school in Miami and attended Bethune Cookman College where he studied mechanics. He learned that education was important to gaining a better quality of life. Upon graduation, he moved to Philadelphia, opened up a mechanic shop and worked for Arco. He met his wife in Philadelphia and had a son, who passed at the age of 11 years old from sickle cell anemia. Mr. Herout has been a member of Ebenezer Seventh Day Adventist Church, 15th and Christian Streets since 1946. He is a charter member of the Montford Point Marine Association, founded in 1965. Brooks Gray contacted him and John "Zeke" Clouser. He asked Mr. Herout, Holsey Gillis and John "Zeke" Clouser to join with the rest of the members as a union and that's how the Association began. They were the principals of the organization at that particular time in Philadelphia. Once we got together, Gray asked them to locate more brothers to attend the meeting. Since they were all together, they decided to establish a Montford Point Marine Association which began in the city of Philadelphia. Mr. Herout is a 2014 Montford Point Marine Hall of Fame inductee.

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