



MPMA

Montford Point
Marine Association, Inc.

A Celebration and Legacy being preserved and Honored

Henry L Jackson



Press



Release

Celebrating a birthday with the few, the proud



The Marine Corps celebrates its 236th birthday. Marines and civilians from Marine Corps Logistics Base Albany and Marine Corps Logistics Command cut a cake and looked back on the history of Marines at a birthday celebration.

It was truly a celebration at the Marine Corps Logistics Base, as present and past Marines attended the ceremony to honor the evolution of the U. S. Marine Corps.

The 10th of November is a big day for Marines. It's the 236th birthday of the United States Marine Corps. "To know that I am celebrating the marine corps birthday with generations that have passed it is a huge honor and a huge blessing that I feel very privileged to be a part of," said U.S Marine Corps. Legal Services Specialist Cpl. Joanna Sudduth. Marines and civilians gathered at MCLB to celebrate a day early with a cake-cutting ceremony. They were treated to a uniform pageant to show the legacy of combat.



"As the years progress, you do see changes in styles, however we do still carry our customs and courtesies we always stay close to our values, and that is the one thing that stays with us, the uniform may change but we always stay the same internally," said Sudduth.



Present and past Marines attended the ceremony. "That is part of history, just like Montford Point is part of history now, and it is good to have those things and parade it so you can see how things went then and now," said Ret. Master Sergeant Henry L. Jackson.

Jackson was honored at the birthday ceremony. The House of Representatives recently awarded the Congressional Gold Medal to African American Marines who attended basic training at Montford Point from 1942 to 1949.

Jackson is one of those Marines. "The hard ship we endured while we were there, segregation and all that, but now we don't have to worry about that." Even though segregation was prominent when he was allowed to join the Marine Corps, he says segregation was the last thing on his mind during basic training. "They teach you discipline, you go through that training, you don't have time to be thinking about something that is not right," Jackson said.

The celebration concluded with the cutting of a very symbolic birthday cake. Jackson being the oldest Marine present shared a piece with the youngest Marine. This custom signifies the passing of traditions from one generation to the next. During World War II and shortly after, 20,000 African American Marines graduated from basic training at Montford Point, setting new records in marksmanship and physical fitness. After finishing his service in the Marine Corps, Master Sergeant Jackson enlisted in the U. S. Air Force for 22 years. He attributes his two decades of success in the Air Force to the time he spent in the Marine Corps.

Monroe Alum Shares Montford Point Marine Corps Legacy

December 5, 2011 - Monroe Comprehensive High School Albany Georgia



Marine Corpsman Henry L. Jackson, a graduate of Monroe Comprehensive High School, recently visited his alma mater to discuss his Montford Point Marine Corps experience in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Albany Civil Rights Movement. Jackson shared vivid recollections of his experiences at Montford Point, North Carolina, with the student body, faculty and staff members. In 1942, President Roosevelt established a presidential directive giving African-Americans an opportunity to be recruited into

the Marine Corps. These African-Americans, from all states, were not sent to the traditional boot camps of Parris Island, South Carolina and San Diego, California. Instead, African-American Marines were segregated, experiencing basic training at Montford Point, a facility at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina, which Jackson recalls as being “little more than a hacked-away part of forest in a corner of Camp Lejeune.” Approximately twenty thousand (20,000) African American Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949.

The U. S. House of Representatives recently awarded the nation’s highest civilian honor, the Congressional Gold Medal to Jackson and his fellow African-American Marines for their service to America. Pictured are Monroe JROTC instructors Colonel Wright and Sergeant Inman with Jackson.