



## **MASTER GUNNERY SERGEANT JOSEPH H. GEETER III UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS RETIRED**

A native of Chicago, Illinois, Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt) Geeter enlisted in the Marine Corps in January 1976. Private Geeter received his recruit training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, San Diego, California followed by Basic Logistics School at Del Mar, Camp Pendleton, California, graduating as the class honor graduate.

During his first enlistment Lance Corporal Geeter served in all three active Marine Divisions, earning meritorious promotion to Corporal in November 1978.

In March 1981 Sergeant Geeter was assigned to Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS), Beaufort, SC, serving as a Logistics man and participating in the NATO exercise Ocean Venture '82.

During July 1983 Staff Sergeant (SSgt) Geeter transferred to Okinawa, Japan, his second far east tour, serving as the Assistant Group Logistics Chief and Platoon Sergeant, Headquarters and Service Company, 3d Force Service Support Group (FSSG).

In July 1984 SSgt Geeter was reassigned to MCAS, Beaufort for a second tour. Serving as the Logistics Chief, Marine Air Control Squadron Five, he participated in numerous field exercises to include WTI 2-85 in Yuma, Arizona and Operation Bold Eagle in Venice, Florida. During this tour SSgt Geeter volunteered much of his off duty time teaching first graders math and general studies at Davis Elementary School in Beaufort County.

In February 1987, Gunnery Sergeant (GySgt select) Geeter volunteered for recruiting duty and was assigned to the Ninth Marine Corps Recruiting District, Recruiting Station Chicago where he was named FY89 **Ninth District Rural Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of the year** and

recipient of the first annual 3d Marine Division Association's award for sustain superior recruiting achievement.

Transferred to Okinawa for a third tour in June 1990, GySgt Geeter served as the Plans and Deployments Chief, 3d FSSG. During March 1991, GySgt Geeter deployed to the Republic of the Philippines and served as the Operations Chief and Detachment Gunnery Sergeant for Combat Service Support Detachment-35 in support of MAGTF 4-90.

In July 1991 GySgt Geeter assumed duties as the Depot Logistics Chief, MCRD, San Diego, and was promoted to Master Sergeant in April 1994.

During July 1994 Master Sergeant (MSgt) Geeter transferred to Okinawa for a fourth tour and served as the Logistics Chief, Tactical Exercise Control Group, 3d Surveillance Reconnaissance and Intelligence Group, III MEF. During this tour MSgt Geeter participated in Cobra Gold '95 in the Kingdom of Thailand.

MSgt Geeter reported to MCAS Beaufort in July 1995 and served as the Logistics Chief for Marine Air Control Squadron Two. In September 1995 he deployed with his unit to Yuma, Arizona to participate in WTI 2-95. From September-December 1996 MSgt Geeter attended the Equal Opportunity Advisor's Course at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute (DEOMI), Patrick Air Force Base, Florida. Master Sergeant Geeter was promoted Master Gunnery Sergeant (MGySgt) on 1 April, 1999 and served as the Equal Opportunity Advisor to the Air Station Commanding Officer aboard MCAS, Beaufort, SC until his retirement on 30 June 2001.

During August 1996 MGySgt Geeter was named as an "**OUTSTANDING YOUNG MAN OF AMERICA**" by the Outstanding Young Americans committee. MGySgt Geeter received this distinction again in June 1998.

In March 1998, MGySgt Geeter was named to "**PINNACLE**" a National Honor Society for non-traditional college students for his past community involvement and academic achievements of a then 3.65 Grade Point Average during his senior year at Park College.

In July 1998, MGySgt Geeter received a **Special President's Award** from the National President of the Montford Point Marine Association for his work with the Beaufort Chapter of that group. During July 1999, MGySgt Geeter was the recipient of the **James Calendar Award** for his continued work on a national level for the Montford Point Marine Association.

In April 1999, MGySgt Geeter was named the recipient of the prestigious **NAACP Roy Wilkins Renown Service Award** for his significant contributions to the Marine Corps in the area of Equal Opportunity and Community Involvement.

MGySgt Geeter holds a Bachelors of Science Degree (Magna Cum Laude) in Management from Park College.

MGySgt Geeter's personal decorations include: Meritorious Service Medal with gold star in lieu of second award, Navy/Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal with three gold stars in lieu of second, third, and fourth awards, eight awards of the Marine Corps Good Conduct Medal and the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal.

MGySgt Geeter is currently the Corporate Employee Relations Manager in the Corporate Offices of [AmeriGas Propane](#), the nation's leading propane provider. In 2004 Joe was recognized as the Employee Campaign Chair of the Year by the Southeast Pennsylvania United Way for leading his Campaign Team to raise over \$150,000.00 for the United Way.

Joe Geeter is a member of Society for Human Resource Management; he is a lifetime member of The Montford Point Marine Association, NAACP, 1st & 3rd Marine Division Associations and the American Legion. He is a regular member of the Navy League, Marine Corps League & is a Fourth Degree Knight in the Knights of Columbus. In September 2006 Joe was selected for listing in the Metropolitan Who's Who Registry.

Joe Geeter served as the 16<sup>th</sup> **National President of the Montford Point Marine Association** from 2005-2009. The Montford Point Marine Association is a veterans group that celebrates the legacy of the first African American Marines. During the 2010 National Convention held in Fredericksburg, VA, Joe was inducted to the Hall-of-Fame for the Montford Point Marine Association. Joe is serving currently as the National Legislative Officer and the National Public relations officer for that group.

**August 1, 2010**