



MPMA

Montford Point
Marine Association, Inc.



Commandant of the Marine Corps Honors the Marines of Montford Point



Press



Release

Montford Point Marines Honored at 8th & I



During the week of the 23rd thru the 26th of August, the original Montford Point Marines were hosted by the Commandant to attend a week long history gathering session that included video interviews, photos taken by Marines of HQMC combat camera, and a tour of the Museum of the Marine Corps. On 26 August 2011, The Marines of Montford Point, along with a guest audience of about 3500, the original Montford Pointers and members of the [Montford Point Marine Association](#) were treated to a well planned and presented parade at the historic [8th & I Marine Barracks](#) located in the heart of Washington DC.

The gathering of these Marines family and friends was a well orchestrated event. Montford Point Marines gathered to share artifacts and provide their oral history as well as enjoy the camaraderie that was shared by all the marines whom have trained at Montford Point.

At the breakfast hosted by the Commandant and many dignitaries, special guest and general officers, [Gen. James F. Amos](#) gave a resounding speech and vision to the honoring of those African Americans who have been trained to become Marines at the then named Camp [Mumford](#) Point to later be changed to [Montford Point](#) and is now Camp Johnson named after Gilbert H. Johnson, one of the first African American Marines to be trained and also become one of the Camps first African American Drill Instructors. Gen. Amos also asked during his speech that all have to do their part in contacting their representatives to sign on and sponsor Bills [HR2447](#) and [S1527](#) which were introduced in July and September 2011 in getting those Montford Point Marines the [Congressional Gold Medal](#) that they deserve.

PRESS RELEASE

THE HONORABLE CORRINE BROWN

THIRD CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT OF FLORIDA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 13th, 2011

CONTACT: David Simon (202) 225-0123
David.Simon@mail.house.gov

Congresswoman Corrine Brown Thrilled to Bring up Resolution Honoring Montford Point Marines

(Washington, DC) In a perfect example of bipartisanship, Congresswoman Corrine Brown was joined by 300 of her colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to cosponsor a bill to celebrate the birthday of the Marine Corps by advancing the Congressional Gold Medal Resolution for the Montford Point Marines. This Resolution will forever anchor their role in the history of our nation's great military. The bill will be scheduled for a vote on the floor of the House of Representatives in the very near future.

"As a key Member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs and the Congressional Black Caucus, I am thrilled to see this piece of legislation finally come to fruition," said the Congresswoman. "Indeed, this extraordinarily important measure honors the first black Marines with well deserved recognition. Beyond a doubt, it is a Congressional Gold Medal that is long overdue.

The Resolution, which is strongly supported by General James F. Amos, the Commandant of the Marine Corps, said that this Resolution is of extreme importance to all Marines today. "Certainly," the Congresswoman continued, "we must honor all of America's war heroes selfless service and sacrifice, and in particular, those who served at Montford Point, who are about to be officially recognized as a rich legacy of our Marine Corps. They answered our nation's call at a time when our society was deeply divided along racial lines. And as such, many of their contributions went unrecognized and many times they were not given the respect and recognition they deserved as Marines, as Americans, and as patriots. To correct this past injustice, I introduced this Resolution on their behalf, and wholeheartedly believe that it is my duty as a legislator to confer the Congressional Gold Medal on the Montford Point Marines for their Service to the United States, from WWII to the Vietnam era. God bless America."

Quarter Master:

Items are available on the [Quarter Masters Page](#) of the Website, Coin, Pen, Pins, Blankets, Patches and much more.

Membership:

Membership can now be done on the [MPMA Membership link](#) of the National web page, Sign Up today!



Website Calendar of events:

Having a fund drive, Special Event or just want to make a special announcement, have it submit to the National Web Master for publication on our [Website Calendar of Events](#).

Donations

Help support the Monument Project; we are seeking financial support from all of our friends, Family and members. Your contribution will go a long way in helping us make this dream a true reality for years to come. Please visit the [Monument website](#) or our [National Website](#) to donate. Semper Fi!

MEN OF DISTINCTION

Portraits of former Montford Point Marines, by Headquarters Marine Corps Combat Camera in Arlington, Va., Aug. 25, 2011, during a multi-day celebration of the 69th anniversary of Montford Point. Montford Point, which received the first African-Americans in the Marine Corps, was a racially segregated training facility which operated at Camp Lejeune, N.C., from 1942-1949.



Ernest A. Smith, Jr.



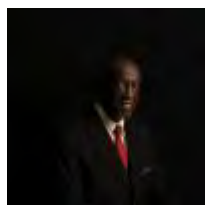
Edwin J. Fizer



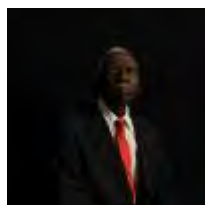
George McIvory



Oscar Culp



Joseph Kirnon



Roland Eubanks



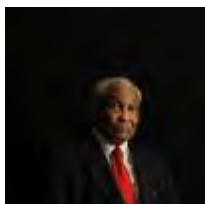
John Newton



James Sousa



Charles Spears



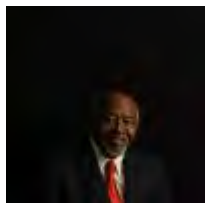
Leroy Adams



Nathaniel Tyus



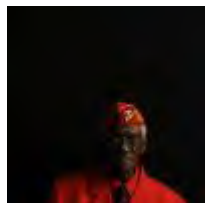
Oscar Culp



Wilburn Stewart



Charles Payne



Joseph Burrell



Roland Eubanks



Robert D. Reid



Richard H. Walker



Linwood Holland



Joseph H. Carpenter



John Brown



Earl Evans Jr.



Barnett Person Sr.



Willie Clarke



Wendell R. Ferguson



Thurman Preston



Thomas E. Cork



Theodore R. Britton



Theodore Peters



Stanley Porter



Robert Manson



Richard P. Warren



Reuben J. McNair



Nathaniel Tyus



Mitchel Key



Luther L. Goodwin



Leroy Mack



Lawrance Taylor



Lawrance Lucas



Joseph H. Smith



Johnnie Thompkins



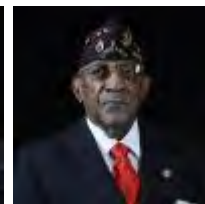
John Vanoy



James Sharpe, Jr.



J.T. Inge



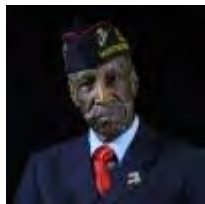
J. A. Reynolds



Harry Hamilton



Harold Phillips



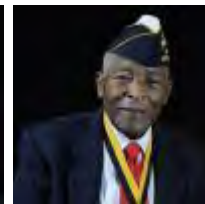
George G. Granberry, Jr



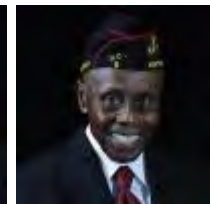
George Kidd



George Bennett



Gene Doughty



Frank Brown



Edgar Cole



David Culmer



Carrel Reavis



Braxton Carroll



Andrew Miles



Allen Williams



Alexander Edwards



Albert Willis



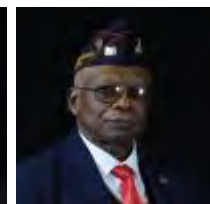
Phillip Herout



Adolphus Griffith



William "Jack" McDowell



Ernest Jackson



Stanley Costley



Blount Turner



Charles Foreman



Curtis Moore



Edward Norman



James Ferguson



Norflette Mersier



Paul Scott



EDITORIAL

Members,

This correspondence is in support of and, to reaffirm the need to make an all-out Association wide call to finish our current projects, of the Congressional Gold Medal and the Montfort Point Marine Memorial.

To succeed in reaching these important goals we are counting on a 110% commitment from each member of our association. Delivery of our goals to the community and stakeholders in a timely manner for all to observe and honor is essential. While the challenges are great, we are convinced that the association of talented and committed professionals will deliver. Each chapter is highly encouraged to help support the overall commitment in achieving our goals as set forth during our 46th annual convention held in Atlanta, Georgia.

There are many plans and unsolicited ideas that can make many of our projects come to fruition. We are only asking for a portion of your time to help us make this happen. We are only as strong as our weakest link. Our time has come to strengthen our links. Each individual of our association must, commit time to the goals, make a small personal contribution toward the monument and each Chapter must contribute a small portion of all membership fees toward the memorial.

The Montfort Point Marine Association as an organization of the members, by the members, for the Veterans; established upon the principles of freedom, equality, justice and humanity for which our veterans sacrificed their lives and fortunes deserve to be recognized.

It is our duty to support our organization and those who have fought so valiantly for our rights during an era of segregation. Like the flag, we are sworn to protect and defend it, and as such, we should help establish and support the legacy of the many that have held the American Creed before us.

We challenge each member to contact your state representative and ask them to support Bills S1527 and HR2447 for recognition of the Congressional Gold Medal. We also challenge each member to visit our website and make a small contribution via Paypal in support of the Montfort Point Marine Memorial.

We have so much work to do and many hurdles to cross we ask you all lend your support, time and effort to achieving these goals before us.

Thank you for your efforts and personal contributions..





Articles By Our Corps



8/26/2011 By Cpl. Dengrier Baez

Marine Barracks 8th & I

George Kidd, a Montford Point Marine, signs the guestbook at the conclusion of the last Friday Evening Parade of the season at Marine Barracks Washington Aug. 26, 2011. Kidd, along other original Montford Point Marines, was one of the guests of honor the event. 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. Approximately 20,000 African American Marines received basic training at Montford Point between 1942 and 1949.

WASHINGTON-Retired 1st Sgt. Barnett Person, a Montford Point Marine, tells of the struggles against discrimination that he faced in his early years in the Marine Corps Aug. 26, 2011. The first African American Marines, called the Montford Point Marines, went to recruit training at a separate location in Montford Point Camp, N.C., from 1942 to 1949. These Marines laid the groundwork for the future integration of the Marine Corps. ,

Sgt. Kuande Hall, 8/26/2011 11:14 AM



Montford Point Marine legacy

8/30/2011 **By Lance Cpl. Chelsea Flowers, Headquarters Marine Corps**

WASHINGTON — Every Marine remembers their arrival at recruit training. Marines shared feelings of fear, anxiety and doubt when faced with the challenges of boot camp. The Marines of Montford Point faced even greater obstacles than the rigorous training of the average recruit. These brave men broke through racial discrimination to become one of the few and the proud: the first African American Marines.

Commandant of the Marine Corps Gen. James F. Amos honored the surviving Montford Point Marines in a formal salute at the Marine Barracks Washington Evening Parade Aug. 26, 2011. Last year, congress declared this day as 'Montford Point Marine Day' to honor the anniversary of the first African American recruits' arrival for basic training at Montford Point, N.C., in 1942.

Today, African Americans comprise roughly 11 percent of the Marine Corps. **These Marines wouldn't be serving today without the groundwork laid by these first black Marines who enlisted and trained from 1942 to 1949.**

Edward Q. Hicks grew up in Philadelphia and arrived for basic training April 30, 1948. Like many of the early Montford Point Marines, Hicks thought he would be training at Parris Island. The realization black recruits trained **at a separate facility, although shocking to Hicks, didn't change his determination to join the Corps.**

"I guess it didn't matter because I saw we were all Marines," Hicks said.

Barnett Person, a native of Montgomery, Ala., dreamed of joining the military since he was 12. So at the age of **16, Person walked into a recruiting office and told the staff sergeant he wanted to join the 'submarines',** he said. In order to join, Person lied about his age.

"I told him I was 18," Hicks said. "I was lying like hell."

After proving eligible to join, Person arrived at Montford Point July 23, 1946 to begin his training. Person didn't care where he trained, he said. His primary concern was getting his own set of dress blues.

Person and the other recruits were loaded into a dump truck destined for Montford Point Camp, Person said. Upon arrival, they were simply dumped out of the truck like a pile of dirt. The recruits were brought into the **office of Gilbert 'Hashmark' Johnson, one of the first African Americans to enlist in the Marine Corps.**

"Hashmark stood up and he just kept going up," Person remembered of Johnson's stature. "My nerves were gone."

From that point onward, Hicks and Person said their experiences during boot camp were much like that of any other, with plenty of running, individual training sessions and homesickness. Although the early drill instructors at Montford Point were white, by the time Person and Hicks joined, their instructors were the first African American **Marines who joined in the early '40s.**

Once they completed recruit training, Person and Hicks were assigned to all black companies. African American Marines were given uniforms that were different from those worn by white Marines.

Hicks said that within the Marine Corps racism was more on an individual basis than an overall problem. In 1949, the Marine Corps integrated its forces so that black and white Marines worked and lived together. Discrimination, however, was still an issue.

The Corps was an example of how change could and would happen. "Even though the Marine Corps had integrated, the civilian world had not," Hicks said. "At some point, you've got to make a stand."

While stationed in Pennsylvania, Hicks recalled a time when a landlady refused to rent an apartment to Hicks and **his wife because they were black. Hicks, who was in uniform, turned to the lady and said, "Ma'am, I went to combat and war so that you can have your decision. That's your right and I fought for it."**

Although Person and Hicks, as well as the other early African American Marines were faced with discrimination on many occasions, Hicks said they continued to do their jobs.

"I could see that the Marine Corps was turning around," Hicks said. "It was getting better."

And things did get better as black Marines proved their abilities in combat and on the home front. Both Person and Hicks went on to have successful careers in the Corps. Person retired in 1974 as a 1st sergeant with a Silver Star and two Purple Hearts, serving in both World War II and Korea. Hicks retired as a captain with a Bronze Star and a Navy Commendation with combat valor in Korea and Vietnam.

Hicks and Person believe their story is one the younger generation should be aware of.

"They need to know the problems their forefathers went through so that they can do whatever they want," Hicks said.

Person said that in the same way the earliest Montford Point Marines made it easier for Hicks and himself, all the first African American Marines made possible the present opportunities for black Marines within the Corps.

"We showed that we could be Marines just like anyone else," Person said. "Marines need to be proud, work hard and thank the guys who went on before them."

Commandant James F. Amos is urging Congress to award the Montford Point Marines the Congressional Gold Medal, the nation's highest award given to civilians for distinguished service.

To learn more about the inspirational stories of the Montford Point Marines, visit <http://www.montfordpointmarines.com/> and <http://mpmamemorial.com/content/design>



8/26/2011 By Sgt. Kuande Hall

Headquarters Marine Corps

Retired Capt. Edward Q. Hicks recounts his early experiences in the Corps as a Montford Point Marine Aug. 26, 2011. The surviving Montford Point Marines arrived in Washington for a series of events in their honor including a formal salute by Commandant James F. Amos during the Evening Parade at Marine Barracks Washington.

Military Personnel Records

*Message from
National Liaison Officer*



News Flash

All Original Montford Pointers need to have their DD214/Proof of Service Certificate on file with **MPMA, Inc., National Legislative Officer Mr. Joseph H. Geeter III**
27 Red Tail Court
Limerick, PA 19468
610 495 3619 Hm

1. How to Obtain Standard Form 180 (SF-180) to Request Military Records

.....
If you've been discharged from military service, your personnel files are stored at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). They are the official repository for records of military personnel who have been discharged from the U.S. Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Coast Guard. Most veterans and their next-of-kin of deceased veteran can obtain **free** copies of their **DD Form 214 (Report of Separation)** and other records by [Mailing or Faxing a Standard Form SF-180](#)

2. Write a Letter to Request Records

.....
If you are not able to obtain a SF-180, you may still submit a request for military records. Requests must contain enough information to allow us to identify the record from among the more than 70 million on file at the NPRC. For example, if you are requesting an Official Military Personnel File (OMPF), please include as much of the following information as possible: 1) The veteran's complete name used while in service 2) [Service number or social security number](#) 3) Branch of service 4) Dates of service 5) Date and place of birth may also be helpful, especially if the service number is not known

If the request pertains to a record that may have been involved in the 1973 fire, also include: 1) Place of discharge 2) Last unit of assignment 3) Place of entry into the service, if known.

Please Note: Next-of-kin (*the un-remarried widow or widower, son, daughter, father, mother, brother or sister of the deceased veteran*) must provide proof of death of the veteran, such as a copy of the death certificate, a letter from the funeral home or a published obituary.

National Personnel Records Center

1 Archives Drive
St. Louis, Missouri 63138

Telephone: 314-801-0800 (Mon - Fri, 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.)

Fax: 314 801-9195

E-mail: MPR.center@nara.gov

Online Request Using **eVetRec**:

<http://www.archives.gov/veterans/military-service-records/>

Status Check: mpr.status@nara.gov

Please note: Records are accessioned into the National Archives, and become archival, **62 years after** the service member's separation from the military. This is a rolling date; hence, the current year, 2011, minus 62 years is 1949. Records with a discharge date of 1949 or prior are archival and are open to the public. Records with a discharge date of 1949 or after are non-archival and are maintained under the Federal Records Center program. Non-archival records are subject to access restrictions.



Emergency Requests and Deadlines:

If your request is urgent (e.g. upcoming surgery, funeral, etc.) and there is a deadline associated with your request, please provide this information in the "**Comments**" section of **eVetrecs** or in the "**Purpose**" section of the **SF-180** and **fax it to our Customer Service Team at (314) 801-0764**. Their goal is to complete all urgent requests within two working days. However, in some instances we can complete requests the same day if necessary. Please contact the customer service staff at (314) 801-0800 if you have questions or require same day service. Due to the large number of calls they receive at this number, hold times are often long. However, once you reach a technician they will be happy to assist you with emergency service.