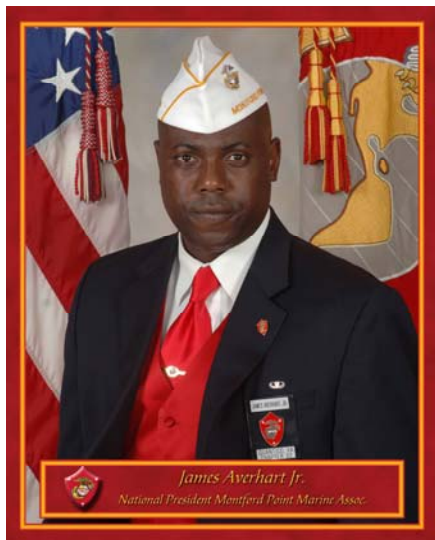


Montford Point Marine Association Inc. National Newsletter

December 2011/January 2012

"Preserving the Legacy"



Congratulations to the Montford Point Marines for being approved to be awarded the Congressional Gold Medal!

On 23 November 2011, President Obama signed into law bills S.1527 and H.R. 2447. This important legislation authorizes the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal to the **Montford Point** Marines which bestows on these trailblazers, the first African American Marines, the honor and recognition they so richly deserved. I would like to publicly thank Senator Kay Hagan (D-NC) and Congresswoman, Corrine Brown (D-FL) for introducing and sponsoring this important legislation.

Members, friends and supporters:

It is with sincere appreciation that I express my gratitude for your continuous hard work, dedication, commitment and support to the Montford Point Marines Association. This has truly been a banner year for the organization and we are looking better each and every day in our efforts to “Preserve the Legacy” of the Montford Point Marines. Our Association has continued to make progress as a united entity in an unprecedented rate towards accomplishing the goals established in my 2011 Presidential Intent and Planning Directive. You have responded more aggressively to each call to support. Again I ask you to focus on the business at hand and work toward the Association’s goals of erecting a National Monument by 2012 to memorialize the legacy forever. It is imperative that we stay engaged, stay the course, remain focused and committed to the cause. <http://www.mpmamemorial.com/video>

Nearly 70 years ago, the first African American Marine Recruit reported to train at the segregated camp called Montford Point and over 46 years ago our association became chartered and established for this cause of preservation. With that notion, I charge each of you to support and embrace the vision of your national leadership. An aggressive agenda has been set for the month’s ahead leading up to the 47th National Spring Council and National Convention in Jacksonville, North Carolina. Our actions for the next six months are crucial for further existence because what we do today will indeed affect us tomorrow.

We are focusing on amplifying our involvement on several key initiatives: the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal by the spring of 2012, membership retention/ recruitment, promotion and marketing, financial sustainment, and the Monument erection by 2012. By becoming more focused towards success in these agenda items, we are expecting the tangible results of raising the Association to National prominence.

In closing, there has been a paradigm shift allowing the Association to achieve significant milestones, which was accomplished by the hundreds of hours of volunteer service provided by each of you. It has truly been an honor and a privilege to lead this magnificent organization and work with true professionals who serve a common purpose. I cannot thank the National Officers, committees, and members enough for your support, encouragement and hard work you provide day-in and day-out.

On behalf of the MPMA, Inc., National Officers, I wish you all a Happy and Healthy New Year .

Respectfully,

Dr. James T. Averhart, Jr.
National President
Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. (MPMA, Inc.)
P.O. Box 64066
Virginia Beach, Virginia 23467
Telephone Number: (540) 288-6129

From the National Public Relations Officer;

CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL:

Chapter Presidents please continue to gather and send to Joe Geeter copies of original Montford Pointer's DD214s or discharge papers (both sides) that will document that they received training at Camp Montford Point from 1942-1949. Ideally we would like our Chapter Presidents to gather this information and forward to the National Legislative Officer (Joe Geeter).

Individuals and family members may also send *COPIES* of this information directly to Joe, who will keep a spreadsheet of items received. Please send to Joe at;

**Joseph H Geeter III
National Legislative Officer
27 Red Tail Court
Limerick, PA 19468**

Please do not send "Certified Mail" This requires me to physically go to the Post Office which is not near where I work. You can track your mail by requesting delivery confirmation

National News:

Montford Point Marine Day at Marine Barracks 8th & I Washington DC

The Commandant of the Marine Corps hosted a very successful and enjoyable weekend for over 100 living Original Montford Pointers August 25-27th. The weekend featured a private breakfast with the Commandant, an 8th and "I" evening parade in their honor and a tour of the National Museum of the Marines at Quantico. During this event Original Montford Pointers took official pictures for the media and recorded their stories on camera. We cannot thank the planning committee for this event enough. The Committee was led by National Vice President James Carr and supported by Quantico Chapter #32 Ladies Auxiliary President Dr Cladie Spears, Catrina Upshaw, PNP Joe Geeter and others.

ROSTERS: There are still a few chapters that have not submitted an updated roster since our Atlanta convention. We cannot stress enough how important it is to submit these rosters and updates timely. We are having far too many letters returned because of incorrect addresses. Let's correct this now!

Spring Council 2012: Our Spring Council will be held April 26th-April 29th 2012 at Jacksonville, North Carolina with the 26th and 29th as travel dates. Please circle these dates on your calendar now. More detailed information on hotels and transportation from the airport will be published just as soon as they are confirmed. Please check the National website for the latest convention news. www.montfordpointmarines.com. We are asking those chapters who would like to host our future National Conventions to be prepared to professionally brief the National Executive Council at the 2012 Spring Council and the members will vote at convention 2012.

Convention 2012: Our 2012 convention will also be held in Jacksonville North Carolina. The tentative dates are August 22nd-26th with the 22nd and 26th as travel dates. We are scheduling the convention a little later in the summer than usual to avoid the family reunion period. This date coincides with the August 26, 1942 anniversary of the 1st day that Howard Perry arrived at Camp Montford Point.

Black History Month Program: February is of course Black History Month. Please continue to take advantage of invitations to have an Original Montford Pointer tell their stories to the public. Please submit any newspaper articles to our National Public Relations Officer Joe Geeter for our archives.

The **Virginia Black History Month Association** will hold their annual Black History Month event on Saturday, 25 February 2012 at the Fredericksburg Expo & Convention Center in Fredericksburg, VA. Tickets for this always sold out event will be \$70.00 each and may be purchased from Quantico Chapter #32 Ladies Auxiliary Vice President Catrina Upshaw (caupshaw@hotmail.com) The Montford Point Marine Association and select Original Montford Pointers will be honored during this event. The leadership for this committee has always provided a platform for the Montford Pointers to participate in this widely successful event. Famed actress Vivica Fox is the confirmed keynote speaker. Please visit their website at <https://www.quanticoahmcommittee.com/Dinner.html> for more details.

Queens Contest: National Special Projects Officer George Herring has sent all chapter Presidents this year's raffle tickets. Please inform your buyers that the raffle will be held during the convention. We printed the tickets early and the tickets have the wrong date for the convention. ***George Herring*** is requiring that all chapters that are running a Queen properly fill out the requisite forms and submit the required documents for the Association to recognize that you are in fact running a Queen.

Many of you have asked me over the past year what you can do to assist in our efforts to gain national attention for the Montford Pointers. ***My answer is to buy raffle tickets!!!*** These tickets sales also offset some of the travel that our National President must do to ensure America finally hears the complete story about Montford Point. In the past I have offered to fill out the stubs for those who purchase tickets from me. I first want those chapter members to purchase tickets from your chapter representative, however if you are a member at large or a supporter, I'm asking you to write a check for \$50.00 or \$100.00 to the Association for Queens Tickets and I will personally make up address labels for you.

Again this is what you can do to help the Association offset the many events that we must attend to keep our momentum going. ***Please take time and write your check today!***

Chapter Happenings:

Philadelphia #1 like many Chapters, the Philadelphia Chapter is experiencing a growth spurt because of all the press surrounding the Congressional Gold Medal. The chapter is now considering placing a bid for Convention 2015 to celebrate the Association's 50th year in the city that we were founded.

Chicago Chapter #2; Held their President's Ball on November 19th. The guest Speaker was Major General Ronald Bailey, Commanding General 1st Marine Division. The Chicago Chapter's Original Montford Pointers have been very busy telling their story to the media and receiving their much overdue honors. In attendance at this event were the Central Regional Vice President Tony Chestang and our National Treasure Charles Stallard. Chapter President Sharon Stokes is working their chapter hard to both support the monument project and to secure additional parking near their clubhouse on the South Side of Chicago

New York Chapter #3; The New York Chapter had a highly success ball again this year. Actor **John Amos** was one of the special guests there. Since our convention in Atlanta, Mr. Amos has taken a very special interest in the Montford Pointers. He and his son "KC" are in the development stages of reducing documentary films about the Montford Pointers. Mr. Amos has pledged to put on a series of his one man show and donate some of the proceeds to our National Monument Project

DC Chapter #6: Held their Marine Corps Birthday Ball on November 5th at the Sheraton hotel in Arlington, VA. Recently elected Chapter President Pat Hackbarth and her crew put on a highly successful event with Lieutenant General Walter Gaskin as the guest speaker. There were 9 original Montford Pointers in attendance as well as the National President, Dr James Averhart and the Past National President and current National Legislative Officer Joseph Geeter. The DC Chapter has served as our "Point" chapter during all the numerous media events that were held surrounding the Congressional Gold Medal. Four original Montford Pointers from DC-6 appeared on the Network News with Diane Sawyer promoting the Congressional Gold Medal. Pat has been extremely busy both bring the DC Chapter back into prominence and serving on the committee for the Congressional Gold Medal.

Los Angeles Chapter #8; continues to be engaged in a plethora of local events to include; recently awarding three scholarships totaling \$1800 to three well deserved students. Please visit the LA Chapter website for more details about these and other events.

<http://mpmala8.org/>

San Diego Chapter #12: also recently awarded scholarships totaling \$2,000 to two San Diego are High School seniors

St Louis Chapter #13: Will hold their 15th Annual Banquet Luncheon and Awards Ceremony on Saturday, February 11, 2012 from 2:00PM- 5:00PM at the St Louis Airport Marriott Hotel (The site of our 2009 convention). The Guest Speaker will be Major General Arnold Fields. General Fields is a long time supporter of the Montford Point Marines, he was a guest speaker at our National Convention in Jacksonville NC in 2000 and he was or Guest Speaker at Chapter events in Beaufort South Carolina. Tickets for this event are \$50.00 each and may be purchased by calling Chapter President Tony Chestang at 314-749-0782, Bob Campbell at 314-973-5725, Bob Hawthorne at 314-423-3995 and Al Parker at 314-346-4906.

Louisville #22: Will hold their annual Covington-Hagan Scholarship Ball on March 17, 2012 at the Hilton Garden Inn in Louisville, KY. Tickets are \$50.00 and may be purchased for Louisville Chapter President Charles Stallard at 502-231-0132 or 502-550-2423. The Guest Speaker for event will be Lieutenant General Willie Williams. Rooms will be available at the Hilton. Charles is still working on a discount rate. Please visit their website for all the up-to-date information at:

www.louisvillechapter22.com

Houston #20 On Friday December 16th Houston Chapter President Rob Aldridge, Leo Taylor attended the "9th Annual Holiday and Open House Reception" at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, in Houston. The purpose of the event was to honor all Minority Veterans and to also honor and recognize the Montford Point Marines. The Houston was presented as "Special Guests".

Quantico Chapter #32 Ladies Auxiliary were able to support the needs of two separate single parent mom's. Glassware, cups, silverware, linen, towels, cups; gifts for the 11 month old girl; 6-9 month clothes for the baby boy; dishware, pots and pans, toys; TVs, stereo system with speakers, play station, curio cabinet, coffee table, entertainment center, TV stand, table lamps; Full-size mattress set; dresser; dinette, living room set, and floor lamp were all donated by various people within our Chapter, Auxiliary, and Local Community Supporters

Warner Robins-Macon, GA #35 held its Annual Ball and Scholarship Fundraiser on 5 November 2011. The theme was "Then and Now". It was held at the Robins Air Force Base Officer's Club with 200 area residents and Chapter members in attendance. The event is held each year to help perpetuate the legacy, create an awareness of the Montford Point Marines and the MPMA. Our guest speaker or speakers for this year was, Original Montford Point Marine, Ambassador Theodore R. Britton, Jr. and recently appointed Major General Ronald L. Bailey, Commanding General, 1st Marine Division. Chapter #35 awarded six (\$500) scholarships to area high school seniors who have been accepted to an institution of higher learning and related to a veteran, and awarded Certificates of Recognition to two deserving area residents for their exceptional community service.

TAPS/Final Formation:

We have lost many members and supporters since our last convention. Please visit our Obit page on the website for all the information on these heroes;

<http://www.montfordpointmarines.com/Obituary%20Annoucments.html>

Chapter Presidents, please ensure that our National Chaplain has the names of all members who have passed since our last Convention in Virginia for the memorial portion of our National Banquet. Reverend Moore's contact information is in the next section of this update.

National Chaplain:

"We continue to give thanks for the many blessings that have been bestowed upon the Montford Point Marine Association during the past year and they are many! Our eyes have witnessed and our hearts have felt the enormous impact of the unveiling of history in regards to the legacy of our beloved Original Montford Point Marines. These accomplishments are the results of a lot of hard work and answered prayers by those who are at work today as well as those who have gone before.

It is unfortunate that many of our Patriots have departed this life and are unable to share in these honors. I ask that each chapter ensure that I am in possession of all names that they may be properly recognized at our National Convention.

It continues to be my hope and prayer that the blessings of God are upon Montford Point Marines everywhere and that they may prosper even as their souls prosper. As we continue to witness history being made on behalf of the legacy of our heroes, let it be the testimony of all of us that we were engaged and did the best we could for this great cause!"

Chapter Presidents and members are reminded to encourage our elder members to prepare a bio for the press and the funeral home. We often get last minute requests from the family asking about their loved one's service dates, rank, etc... Please make sure that up-to-date bio information is ready at the Chapter level. Members are reminded to report the lost of members and supporters immediately to our National Chaplain, **Reverend James Moore**. Reverend Moore may be reached at 843-846-0881 or email at: james.moore@usmc.mil

As always, please continue to check our official website for more information through the Association at www.montfordpointmarines.com or www.mpma28.com <http://www.mpmalejeune10.org> or <http://www.mpmnyc.com> or www.montfordpointchicagochapter2.org or <http://mpmalouisvillechapter22.com/>

Please continue to do all that you do to **Preserve the Legacy** of our heroes!