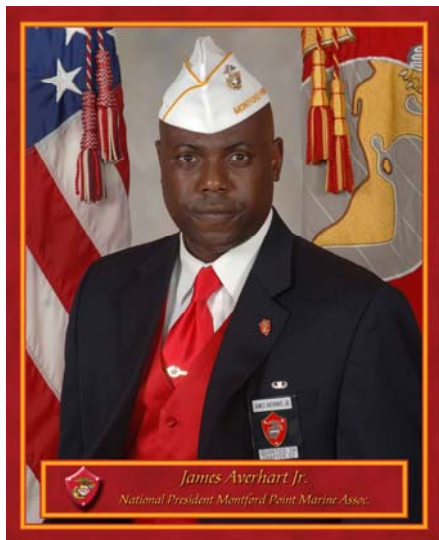


Montford Point Marine Association Inc. National Newsletter

January/February 2010

"Preserving the Legacy"



Fellow members, supporters and friends,
FROM: National President

Dear All,

As I continue to stand at the ready on behalf of the Montford Point Marines and this great association, I'm reminded from whence we came and how far we've come. Moving into the year 2010, I call on each of you to take a moment to reflect on our history as Marines and as an association.

Approximately 65 years ago, the first African American reported to train at the segregated camp called Montford Point and approximately 45 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 months ahead-leading up to the National Spring Council and National Convention. 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 points: the awarding of the Congressional Gold Medal, membership retention/recruitment, Promotion and Marketing, Financial Sustainment, Monument erection, and By-laws. By becoming more focused towards success in these agenda items, we are expectant of the tangible results of growth and increase.

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

As Always, I applaud your service and dedication to your Montford Pointers, our association, corps and country.

Semper Fidelis,

James T. Averhart, Jr.

James T. Averhart, Jr.

Chief Warrant Officer Four (Active)

National President

Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.

From the National Public Relations Officer;

Banquet to Honor the Montford Point Marines: Horseshoe Casino <http://www.horseshoe-indiana.com/casinos/caesars-indiana/hotel-casino/property-home.shtml> in Hammond, Indiana (just outside Chicago) is planning a Banquet to honor the Montford Point Marines. Horseshoe Casino did a similar Banquet for the Tuskegee Airmen earlier this year. Banquet will be held at the Casino in Hammond on February 21st 2010. We have partnered with the new Chicago South Loop Hotel <http://www.chicagosouthloophotel.com/> to provide rooms for those traveling at a cost of \$89.00 plus applicable taxes. This rate will be good from the 17th-23rd of February 2010. Please mention "Montford Point" when requesting this rate.

There are limited rooms available at this price for the hotel so please make your reservations TODAY!

The number to the South Loop is 312-225-7000. The Horseshoe Casino has agreed to provide transportation to and from the Banquet to the South Loop Hotel at no cost to our members. Transportation to and from Chicago and the cost of the hotel will be the responsibility of the members. ***We have confirmed that Lieutenant General Frank Petersen and Major General J. Gary Cooper will speak at this event.*** This is a great opportunity for members to be recognized on a large scale and we encourage all Original Montford Pointers who can attend to contact National Public Relations Officer Joe Geeter at 610-495-3619 for more details.

The cost of the Banquet will be \$35.00 each which includes the banquet and the dinner. I will pass more info on how to pay for the banquet later but wanted to get the hotel info out to you. Remember Chicago has two airports, Midway and O'Hara. Not all airlines fly into Midway (Southwest does). I would recommend Midway as the primary.

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

Joe Geeter
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

Please track our progress and make comments on this bill at; <http://www.opencongress.org/bill/111-s1695/comments>

This bill must first make it out of a Committee before it is discuss on the Senate or House Floor. Please view the attached website to learn more about the process and who is sitting on the committee that will decide if this Bill makes it to the floor. These committee members must also be the on our "who to contact list" of individuals that we need to lobby for their support. This website will help members identify committee members;
<http://www.govtrack.us/congress/bill.xpd?bill=s111-1695>

We will also need to extend the lobbying effort to all members and supporters. This newsletter does not have the space to give everyone the address of their US Senator or Representative, however, we are encouraging all members and supporters to write these individuals and mention Senate Bill 1695 in their letter. The National Office will provide a template letter that those who are computer savvy can fill in and send to your elected officials. Please "copy to" Joe Geeter on all letters and emails. There will be much more details covering this in future correspondence.

National News:

Queens Contest: By now many chapters are in full swing with the raffle ticket sales for our National Fundraiser. For those who are not familiar, the Queens Contest is our only National Fundraiser to help with our scholarship efforts and operational costs. Tickets sell for \$1.00 each or \$25.00 for a book. Chapters are required to sell a minimum of \$500.00 worth of tickets to remain in good financial standing with the Association. The Chapter Queen that sells the most tickets is crowned National Queen at our convention. Our National Special Projects Officer ***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!*** George is once again asking that chapters submit their monthly reports and to send him your reports and checks by 1 July. Chapter representatives are requested to bring their final report and all stubs to the National Convention in Fredericksburg VA.

National Awards: Each year Chapters have the opportunity to recognize those Chapter Members that go above and beyond their normal duties with Association Awards. These Awards are detailed in our National by Laws. Chapters are required to send these award recommendations to the Senior Regional Vice President, Kenny ***Crutcher*** in time for our Spring Council. The Award Committee consists of Kenny as Chair, the National Vice President, The Regional Vice Presidents and at one Past National President. Their recommendations are sent to the National President for approval. The highest award that we can bestow on an individual is membership in the Montford Point Marine Association Hall of Fame. These award recommendations are the most scrutinized. The Nominee's actions should rise head and shoulders above lower level awards and their actions should benefit the entire Association. Please ensure Hall of Fame recommendations are fully researched so that they may receive serious consideration. If there are any questions on Awards please contact Kenny Crutcher at 571-214-9653.

ROSTERS: There are still a few chapters that have not submitted an updated roster since our 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!

MEMBERSHIP: Annual membership dues were due in September. We still have far too many members who are not current in their dues to the National HQ. Our National dues remain at only \$25.00 per year and this money is essential to having funds necessary to continue to keep the membership informed and for operating and scholarship expenses needed to run our Association.

Spring Council 2010: will be held 15-18 April 2010 in the Fredericksburg, VA area. The Quantico Chapter is the host chapter of next year's convention. Please continue to check both these updates and the National Webpage for further information.

Convention 2010: Convention 2010 will also be held in the Fredericksburg area from July 21-25th. Please mark these dates on your calendars and more information will be included on our national website and in this update soon.

Convention 2011: 2009 MPMA Chapter of the Year Atlanta was voted to host our convention in 2011. Those of us who attended the 2002 convention in Atlanta remember an efficiently ran convention with a lot of activities. We are expected the same in 2011. The Atlanta Chapter will fully brief and present their plan for 2011 at our 2010 Spring Council.

Convention 2012. We find ourselves in a great position for upcoming conventions. There has already been preliminary buzz about convention 2012 with at least 3 chapters vying for the honor. We are asking those chapters to be prepared to professionally brief the National Executive Council at the 2010 Spring Council at the members will vote at convention 2011. The contact information for our National Recording Secretary, ***Diedra Ware*** is; 443-802-4898 Cell and 703-567-7890, home. Diedra can be reached via email at diedraware@yahoo.com or diedra.ware@navy.mil. Diedra is asking all Chapters to submit (or resubmit) your chapter rosters as she continues to ensure our National Roster is up-to-date with your members.

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.

Quantico Black History Month Dinner Program: Will be held on Saturday, 27 February 2010 from 5 PM to 11 PM at the Fredericksburg Expo and Conference Center. Tickets are \$70.00 for adults and \$25.00 for children. This is the 10th year for this incredible event and Actress, Director and Producer **KIM FIELDS** will be the Keynote speaker. For tickets and additional information, please visit their website at www.quanticoahmcommittee.com or contact William "Bill" Jones at joneswe5@yahoo.com. Or contact Bill at home 540-548-1203 or at work 301-342-8263 (DSN 342). Please get your tickets early; this event sells out every year!

Chapter Happenings:

Detroit Chapter #19 will hold their annual Black History Month event on Sunday February 21st 2009. Tickets will be \$30.00 each. This event is still in the planning stage but recently elected Chapter President **Robert Middleton** wants members and supporters to mark this event on their calendars. For more information please contact Mr. Middleton at 313-300-0165.

Louisville #22 The Louisville Chapter will hold their 6th Annual Covington-Hagan Scholarship Banquet on Saturday March 20th 2010 at Mastersons from 6:00 11:00 PM Tickets for this event are \$50.00 and may be purchased from Louisville Chapter President Charles Stallard. Charles may be reached at 502-231-0132 or 502-550-2423 or by email at stallardc@bellsouth.net. Major General retired **Leo V. Williams III** will be the featured speaker

Beaufort # 9. Will hold their Black History Month Program on Saturday 6 February 2010 at the Officer's Club aboard MCAS Beaufort. Brigadier General Ron Bailey (CG MCRD San Diego, CA) will be the guest speaker and PNP Joe Geeter will be the Master of Ceremonies. Tickets are \$45.00 each. For tickets and addition information please contact Beaufort Chapter President **Elijah Abram** at 843-986-3142 or 843-228-7676.

St Louis will hold their Annual CHOSEN FEW Banquet on Saturday 30 Jan 2010 at the Airport Marriott. General Ron Bailey (Commanding General MCRD San Diego) will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$50.00 each. For tickets and additional info please call Regional VP and St Louis Chapter President **Tony Chestang** at 314-438-1076

TAPS/Final Formation:

Mr. Richard Samuel Davis Sr. Atlanta Chapter

Sunrise: April 27, 1937 / Sunset: November 13, 2009

SSgt Dale Raymond Wright Bronx NY - July 19, 1923- December 13, 2009.
Member at Large

National Chaplain: 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 Chaplin, **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.mpmanyc.com> or www.montfordpointchicagochapter2.org or <http://mpmalouisvillechapter22.com/>
Please continue to do all that you do to **Preserve the Legacy** of our heroes!

members were openly hostile, the veterans recalled. But many Marines developed a camaraderie in the camp and while serving in World War II, Korea and Vietnam. They also garnered the respect of white Marines.

Today Montford Point is long-closed as a boot camp, and the Marines are considered highly integrated. At Sunday's presentation, a white Marine stood up to point out that all Marines are brothers for life — a sentiment echoed by Charles H. Stallard, president of the Montford Point Marine Association's Louisville chapter.

Dominique Campbell, 22, who was visiting from Florida with the Job Corps, said the Montford Point Marines fought “a war within a war” battling prejudice and the enemy — and their example inspires him to consider joining the military.

Sunday afternoon, Campbell stood up and faced the aging Marines, telling them: “I'd like to thank you gentlemen for paving the way for black people to join the Marines and the Army.”

The auditorium erupted in applause.

Reporter Laura Ungar can be reached at (502) 582-7190.

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