

# Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.

National Office



MONTFORD POINT MARINE ASSOCIATION, INC.

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<http://montfordpointmarines.com>

<http://mpma-atlanta.com>

<http://mpmanyc.com>

<http://mpma28.com>

<http://mpmachicagochapter2.org>

<http://montforpoint32.org>

<http://louisvillechapter22.com>



There are several events the National Level and the local chapters are involved in during the year. If you are interested in participating, circle below and tell us how you would like to participate.

Journal/Advertising, Member Recruitment,  
Youth Program, Veterans Groups  
Annual Dinner, Communications,  
Ways & Means and Community Groups



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# THE LEGACY OF MONTFORD POINT

It was 1941 months before the attack on Pear Harbor .The United States was still un-bloodied by the horror gripping Europe and the Pacific, times were tense. It was against this backdrop, the urging of First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt and threatened by activist A. Phillip Randolph march on Washington that the 25th President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed what was to be known as Executive Order 8002. It established the Fair Employment Practice Commission which prohibited racial discrimination by any government agency. With that stroke of the pen, FDR officially opened to the Negro one of America's most celebrated all white bastions: THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS.

The integration of the Marines marked the beginning of the end, for the officially sanctioned segregation in America. Recruiting was to begin on June 1, 1942. The basic instructions were sent out in a letter from the Commandant on May 15th. This letter set a quota of 200 recruits each from the Eastern and Central Divisions, while the Southern was to furnish 500 of the initial 900 recruits. These men were to be citizens between 17 and 29 years of age, and they were to meet the existing standards for enlistment within the Marine Corps. They were to be enlisted in Class III © status, Marine Corps Reserve and assigned to inactive duty in General Service Unit of their Reserve District. Both the service record book and the enlistment contracts were stamped "COLORED". On August 18, 1942, Headquarters and Service Battery of the 51st Composite Defense Battalion was activated at Montford Point North Carolina.

The first African American recruit to arrive at the camp was Howard P. Perry of Charlotte, North Carolina. He arrived on August 26th, and was later joined by 119 other privates who began recruit training in September. Over the next two years Montford Point would be the training site for the 51st and 52nd Defense Battalions. From July 1942 through the end of the war, 20,000 African American men were trained at Montford Point and inducted into the Marine Corps. In late May 1943, the recruit battalion's field sergeant major and the last white drill instructor 1st Sgt Robert W. Colwell was transferred and replaced by Sgt Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson from Mount Hebron, Alabama.

From the time Sgt Johnson took his post Black NCO's conducted the entire recruit training at Montford Point. Of the 19,168 African Americans who served in the Marine Corps during WWII, 12,738 went overseas in the defense battalions, combat support companies, or as stewards. These Marines served with valor at Peleliu, Iwo Jima, Guam, Ellice Islands, Marshall Islands, Guadalcanal, Okinawa, Saipan, Tinian, Mariana Island and other campaign stops.

Those who remained in the United States performed numerous duties as stewards at various headquarters; staff members at Montford Point; service troops at supply depots in Philadelphia, Norfolk, or the Naval Ammunition Depot at McAlester, Oklahoma.

One thing is certain, the post WWII Marine Corps could never return to the racial policy of 1940. African Americans continued to serve in segregated units until the fall of 1949 when an executive order from President Harry S. Truman established a policy of full integration. From Montford Point to Iwo Jima, Camp Lejeune to Korea, Viet Nam to Beirut, from Grenada to Panama, Desert Storm to Kosovo, Mogadishu, Iraq and Afghanistan, African Americans and other Marines of color have served proudly and with honor.

Since 1775, the United States Marine Corps has served our country in peace and war. Today, the Marine Corps still serves the nations as a force in readiness, prepared to serve whenever the national interest requires. The Montford Point Marine Association (MPMA) is proud to be a thriving part of the Marine Corps Family.

I certify that I have been a member of the United States Armed Forces for more than 90 days, and I have received a honorable discharge at the time of my separation from duty. By signing this application, I agree to provide proof of my discharge upon request.

Applicant Signature:

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Meetings are held on a monthly basis**  
**Check with the local chapter for details or the Contact Us link**  
**on the national website.**

Membership is open to all Veterans and members of all branches of the Armed Forces, regardless of race, creed, or natural origin.

Last Name, \_\_\_\_\_ First Name, \_\_\_\_\_ MI \_\_\_\_\_ DOB \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ Branch of Svc, \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address, \_\_\_\_\_ City, \_\_\_\_\_ State, \_\_\_\_\_ Zip, \_\_\_\_\_  
Ph# ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax, \_\_\_\_\_ Email, \_\_\_\_\_ Yrs Served, 19/20 \_\_\_\_\_ to 19 / 20 \_\_\_\_\_ (Active/Resv)  
Emergency or Alternate Contact: Last Name, \_\_\_\_\_ First Name, \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address, \_\_\_\_\_ City, \_\_\_\_\_ State, \_\_\_\_\_ Zip, \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ I hereby apply for membership in the Montford Point Marine Association, Inc. as a member at large and enclose \$25.00 for a one year membership.

Members at large have no direct affiliation with chapters, and may join any chapter in their location Go to web site contact us page to locate your local chapter numbers and contact are also located on this page. (www.montfordpointmarines.com) Membership card will be issue upon receipt of full payment.

**Life Membership is available as follows;**

Up to age 29 \$300 / Age 30-39 \$275 / Age 40-59 \$200 over 60 is \$150.00

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