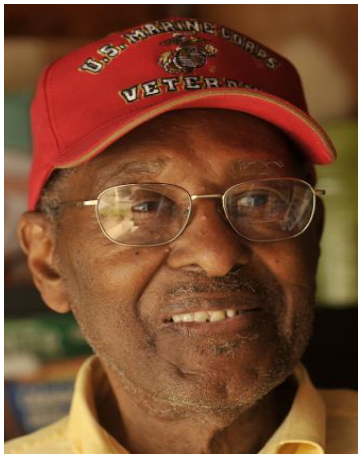
Press Release

NATIONAL MONTFORD POINT MARINE ASSOCIATION, INC.

BEREAVMENT ANNOUNCEMENT

Howard L. Williams



On Friday, March 25, 2016 Colonel Howard L. Williams (Ret) departed this life in hospice care in his home in Randallstown, MD. Howard L. Williams was affectionately called "Chappie" by many friends and acquaintances. He was born in Emporia, VA to the late Simon and Ella Dell Williams. At an early age, he was baptized along with his sister Jesse Wheatley Doswell in the Saint James Episcopal Church in Emporia, VA. (A church in which his family were founding members). He maintained an active membership in Emporia until his health declined. His sister, Jesse Wheatley Doswell preceded him in death in 2008. He is survived by his wife, Marilyn King Williams, formally of Martinsville, VA and his two sons; Michael (Heather) of Randallstown, MD and David of Washington, DC. and many loving nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Upon graduation from high school in 1942, Howard worked briefly in the Norfolk Navy Yard as a ships carpenter. In 1943, he enlisted in to the United States Marine Corps, and attended segregated boot camp training with the 123rd Platoon at Montford Point Camp, New River North Carolina. Howard was honorably discharged from the United States Marines Corp. at Montford Point Camp February 20, 1946. As a result of the G I Bill, Howard attended Virginia State University and graduated in 1950 with Bachelor's Degree in Industrial Education.

As a point of interest in 1949, Howard was commissioned a second Lieutenant in the first ROTC program at Virginia State University. Howard served in the military over 30 years in numerous assignments with Army National Guard and the Army Reserves. He retired with the rank of full Colonel as the Director for supply and Transportation in the 510th Field Depot, United States Army. Howard used his degree to launch his career in the field of education beginning with a teaching assignment in Martinsville, Virginia. Several years later, he began a long career teaching in the Baltimore City Public Schools at Harlem Park Middle, Dunbar High, and at Baltimore City College. Before retiring from the Baltimore City School Board in 1994, Howard held the position of Staff Engineer for the Maintenance on instructional equipment, Centrex Telephone System, and mailroom distribution of payroll checks and mail for 300 locations.

In June 2012, Colonel Howard L Williams (Ret) received the Congressional Gold Medal for his service in the segregated Marine Corp units known as the Montford Point Marines. The Montford Point Marines were included in many awards that were given to the 19,000 African American soldiers who served during WW II. Family will receive friends at Vaughn C. Greene Funeral Home of Randallstown. 8728 Liberty Rd. 21133 on Sunday April 3rd, 2016 from 2 to 6pm.

The Alpha Phi Alpha, Delta Lambda Chapter will honor Brother Williams with the Omega Service at 5:30 p.m. Family and friends will gather for his Homegoing Service on Monday April 4th 2016 at Epworth United Methodist Chapel 3317 St Lukes Lane, Baltimore, MD 21207. The wake will be held from 10:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. followed by the funeral service at 11:00 a.m. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the Building Fund in the name of Howard L Williams to Epworth United Methodist Chapel 3317 St Lukes Lane, Baltimore, MD 21207.

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