

PRESS



RELEASE

Berevemenent Announcement

Mr. James R. Carter

November 8, 1921 - February 17, 2017



"It is my sad but honored duty to report the passing of one of our heroes. MSgt James Rudolph "Rudy" Carter left this life on February 17, 2017. Rudy was born on November 8th, 1921, he was 95. Rudy was and always will be, a Montford Point Marine. Rudy was the last living Montford Pointer who attained all of his rank on Montford Point Camp and did it within three years! Rudy has been a part of the Montford Point Marine Association since its inception in 1965 and up to recent years, rarely missed a convention. I have had the pleasure and honor of knowing Rudy for nearly 30 years and he has been a constant mentor and friend since the date we met. Rudy was a plank holder or original member of the Tidewater, VA Chapter and served in numerous positions over the years to include Chapter President. During some of the not so good times of that Chapter, Rudy would be the sole member at the conventions and Spring Councils. He thought it was important to attend so his voice

could be heard when it came to his legacy. Rudy was a part of the very first Documentary film about "The Marines of Montford Point" that was sponsored by the Marine Corps in 1997. Rudy made hundreds of appearances at events, TV shows and radio stations during his tenure with the Association. He also was featured in a number of print media. Rudy was inducted into the Montford Point Marine Hall of Fame in 2012, appropriately just a few months after the Congressional Gold Medal was awarded.

It was Rudy Carter that called me in 2007 when I was then National President. Rudy had just seen President George Bush award the Tuskegee Airmen the Congressional Gold Medal and although he fully knew that they deserved it, to him it was another reminder that the Nation and for a while, many Marines, didn't even know the Montford Point Marines existed. That's when Rudy called me and asked me what I was going to do about it as the National President. I confidently told him that I was going to get the Congressional Gold Medal for him and the Montford Point Marines in his lifetime. I had no idea how I was going to get that done but I did know that I made a promise to a Montford Point Marine and as former US Congresswoman Corrine Brown always told me during the entire 5 year journey that, "Failure was not an option". Rudy was my total inspiration each and every time I went to Washington DC to lobby the US Congress for the Medal. In fact, it was Rudy Carter that introduced me to Original Montford Point Marine, LtCol Joseph Carpenter in 1995 because he thought we should know each other. It was none other than Colonel Carpenter that made the vast majority of the trips to the US Capital and the Congressional Black Caucus with me over the years to start and finish the process of the Congressional Gold Medal. His impact on both our Association and my life are more far reaching than can ever be put in a press release, let's just say he was a force for this Association.

Rudy was very aware of how fortunate he was to live long enough to see the fruits of his work. He lived to see the Congressional Gold Medal, the launching of the Ship, the USNS Montford Point and, although in declining health, attend the opening ceremonies of the National Monument in Jacksonville in July of 2016. I had the good fortune to talk to him a few times last week when he was in the hospital and after he came home to pass peacefully in his home with his loving wife by his side.

Funeral arrangements are being finalized and will go out in an email to all of the Association Leadership list once they are known. Notes of Condolence may be sent to his widow, Mrs. Celestine Carter at 1108 Mary Peake Blvd, Hampton Virginia 23666-4550.

Rest in peace Marine, we have the watch now."/

Joseph H. Geeter III
MPMA National Public Relations and Legislative Officer