



Press



Release

Passing of a Great Pioneer

Reuben J. McNair, Sr.

Gunnery Sergeant (USMC Ret)

November 4, 2015

Gunnery Sergeant Reuben McNair, a Mississippi native, joined the Corps in 1944 as one of the Nation's first African American Marines. During World War II he participated in the invasion of Peleliu and was stationed on several occupied islands in the Pacific.

A career Marine, he served in Korea during the Korean War and served in the Mediterranean.

Upon retirement in 1964, he worked for two years as a corrections officer in Washington, D. C., then became an investigator for the Government of the District of Columbia, a position he held for twenty-two years.



Reuben was known for his meticulous dress, always sharp with his Stacey Adams shoes and for his deep belief in God. He held numerous positions during his long tenure with the National Montford Point Marine Association, including Chapter President of DC-6, and has also served as the Senior Regional Vice President for the Southern Region.

His dedication to the Montford Point Marine Association led to his involvement in every major milestone of the Association. He personally lobbied for the Congressional Appropriations for the making of our historic documentary movie, narrated by Louis Gossett Jr. and also appeared in the documentary.

A staunch supporter, Reuben made personal trips to Capitol Hill to lobby for the Congressional Gold Medal and was watchfully following our Monument's progress. Reuben served as an advisory to virtually every National President over the past 40 years, and was inducted to the National Montford Point Marine Association Hall of Fame in 2000.

He was affectionately and practically known as "The Chairman of the Board" for his dress and leadership as the DC-6 Chapter Board Leader.

A long time resident in D.C. he remained active in his business Laser Art, which is a supplier of printers, copiers, and printing supplies.

Mr. McNair served faithfully as the Head Trustee and Treasury at Second New Saint Paul Baptist church for over 20 years.

Funeral arrangements are currently being made by the family and we will share that information just as soon as it becomes public.

