

Press



Release

The Passing of a Great Pioneer



JOHN MORGAN MYERS

July 22, 1926 - November 28, 2011

John Morgan Myers entered eternal rest on Monday, November 28, 2011, at McGuire Veterans Hospital in Richmond, Virginia.

He was born on July 22, 1926 to the late William and Mary Myers in Paris, Kentucky. His military career allowed him to experience many parts of the world. He resided in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

John, affectionately known as "*Gunny*" was united in holy matrimony to Arlene Davis on May 22, 1976. From this reunion he had one step son, Ronald Bernard Davis and a daughter, Angela Nicole Morgan Myers.

Gunny truly loved the Marine Corps, "he was a Marine from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet". *Gunny* loved life and lived it on his terms. He loved to help other people. He was a humble man who did not like praise. He believed helping others was what he was supposed to do. He was a self-taught man. He always said "you can go anywhere in the world if you opened up a book." *Gunny* served 30 years in the United States Marine Corps. He retired at the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant. After retirement he transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve and worked for the Job Corp in Washington, D.C. for many years.

Gunny was an original "Montford Point Marine" (Platoon #33). The "Montford Point Marines" were the first African American to enlist in the Marines in the 1940's. These men paved the way for the African Americans currently serving in the U.S. today. He served in battle during World War II in Saipan, Tarawa, Korean War and participated in several campaigns.

During his combat time he participated in the breakout from the Chosin Reservoir with the 1st Marine Division and during the highly intense conflict between the United States and Russia. He participated in the Cuban Missile crisis and further served three combat tours in Vietnam. He received numerous medals, including the Bronze Star, United Nations Korean Service Medal and World War 11 Victory Medal. He died before being awarded the Congressional Gold Medal as one of the Original Montford Point Marines. This is one of the highest honors bestowed on civilians.

Gunny is preceded in death by his parents, William and May Myers; sisters, Juanita, Glenna, Libby, Ester and Francis and a brother, Nylon.

He leaves to cherish his memories a loving wife, Arlene Myers; four daughters, Angela N. Myers of Dumfries, Virginia, Virginia Chase of Dayton, Ohio, Michelle Parker (Ramon) of Raleigh, North Carolina, Pam Haith (Charles) of Florida; one step son, Ronald B. Davis of Woodbridge,

Virginia; two sons, Kim Myers of Dayton, Ohio and Michael Anthony of Fredericksburg, Virginia; one sister, Mary Myers of Cincinnati, Ohio; one sister-in-law, Arvetta Myers of Dayton, Ohio; one brother-in-law, William W. Kendall (Helen) of Woodbridge, Virginia; many grandchildren and great grandchildren; and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins and other relatives and friends. A special thanks to Tina Williams and Annie Jane Bates for their support.

