

Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.

“WE WANTED TO PROVE THAT WE WERE JUST AS GOOD AN INFANTRY MAN AS ANYBODY ELSE.”

-GENE DOUGHTY, MONTFORD POINT MARINE



THEIR TRANSFORMATION AT MONTFORD POINT TRANSFORMED THE MARINE CORPS.

Today, African Americans are represented in every Branch of Service, rank and Military Occupational Specialty (MOS). The Marine Corps encourages students attending, or planning to attend, Historically Black Colleges and Universities to apply for the Frederick C. Branch Leadership Scholarship. The Scholarship has been developed in honor of Frederick C. Branch, the first African American Marine Officer who also was a Montford Point Marine.



“We must continue to champion the cause for the preservation of the legacy. For this is not just Black history, or Marine Corps History. This is American History, and the World should know.”

- Dr. James T. Averhart Jr., National President of MPMA, Inc.

Through perseverance, the Montford Point Marines helped open the door for all Americans to earn the title “Marine.” regardless of race, creed, color, national origin or gender. To learn more about the United States Marines and The Marines of Montford Point and their place in History, visit the links contained on the bottom panels of this brochure.



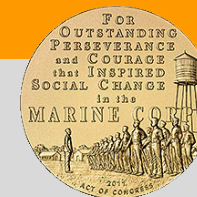
A LEGACY OF HONOR



COURAGE



COMMITMENT



MONTFORD POINT MARINES



THE MARINE CORPS HAS ALWAYS FOUGHT FOR FREEDOM, BUT NOT ALL AMERICANS WERE GRANTED THE FREEDOM TO SERVE IN THE MARINE CORPS.

In 1941, America was a deeply divided nation segregated along racial lines. As African Americans fought for greater equality. President Franklin Roosevelt signed the Fair Employment Act barring discrimination in all federal agencies based on “race, creed, color or national origin.” In response, the Marine Corps created a separate training facility in an isolated area of Camp Lejeune called Montford Point.



Montford Point Marines broke through racial barriers to desegregate the United States Marine Corps. However, the legacy of their honor, courage and commitment extends far beyond that accomplishment. The Montford Point Marines played a critical role in some of our nation’s greatest battles, defending our freedoms and ultimately, transforming the face of the Marine Corps forever.

MONTFORD POINT MARINES PLAYED CRITICAL ROLES DURING SOME OF OUR NATION’S GREATEST BATTLES.



“MY DRILL INSTRUCTOR, HE WAS THE ONE THAT TOLD US THAT IF YOUR GOING TO BE A BLACK MARINE, YOU’RE GOING TO HAVE TO BE BETTER THAN ANYONE ELSE. BETTER.”

-ROBERT REID, MONTFORD POINT MARINE



Between 1942 and 1949, approximately 20,000 African-American recruits were trained at Montford Point Camp. Though their training was segregated, they went through the same demanding process as all other recruits, ultimately earning the title “Marine.” In 1949, Montford Point was decommissioned as a recruit training camp. From then on, African-American Marines were trained at Marines Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island or San Diego in integrated platoons.

African-American Marines had to fight to be assigned to infantry units. Proving their worth, time and time again, they eventually won that right and were instrumental in supporting the war effort in the pacific, including at the battle of Iwo Jima.

Sergeant Major Gilbert H. “Hashmark” Johnson, a Montford Point Drill Instructor and a member of the 52nd Defense Battalion in WWII, asked that African-American Marines, who were exempt from combat patrols, be assigned to the front lines. Once approved, he personally led 25 combat patrols. In 1974, Montford Point was renamed Camp Johnson in his honor.

The war in Korea was the first time that integrated Marine units were tested in combat. Once African-American Marines were given the chance to prove themselves, it became impossible to deny that they were just as capable and deserving of the title “Marine” as all other Marines.