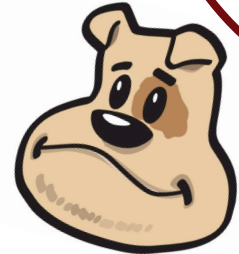


United States of the Marine Corps' Montford Point Marines



On 25 May 1942, the Commandant of the Marine Corps issued instructions to recruit the first African American citizens for service in the U.S. Marine Corps. The U.S. military did not allow blacks to fully serve with whites at the time. The first African American Marines were sent to a segregated - separate - training camp named Montford Point at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina. Prior to integration of the Marine Corps in 1949, approximately 20,000 African American Marines received basic training at Montford Point.



Museum Mascot
"Chesty"

Montford Point Marines in World War II Word Search



Montford Point
Saipan
Iwo Jima

Mariana Islands
Okinawa
Segregation

Check out our new **Montford Point Marine** exhibit inside the World War II Gallery!

Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson



- Gilbert Johnson earned the nickname "Hashmark" because he wore three diagonal service stripes on one sleeve of his uniform. The stripes represented his service prior to WWII in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Navy and were unique among the recruits training at Montford Point.
- Johnson joined the U.S. Marines when he heard that they were recruiting African Americans.
- He reported to Montford Point on 14 November 1942. He became one of the first drill instructors at Montford Point.
- In 1974, the Marine Corps renamed the Montford Point Camp as Camp Gilbert H. Johnson in honor of "Hashmark."

Did You Know?

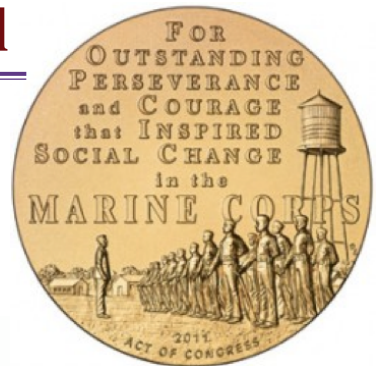
The Montford Point Marines are considered to be pioneers in the Civil Rights Movement that swept across the United States in the 1950s and 1960s.

- Interview someone who was alive in the 1960s. How were they affected? What memories do they have of the Civil Rights Movement?
- Watch interviews with Montford Point Marines:
<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fv6Knqwdepo>
- Learn about the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and how it changed the United States:
<http://www.ourdocuments.gov/doc.php?flash=true&doc=97>

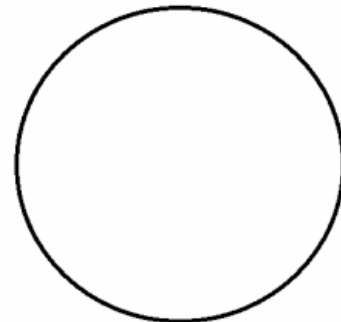


Congressional Gold Medal

On 27 June 2012, the Montford Point Marines were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor awarded as an expression of national appreciation for distinguished achievements and contributions.



Design your **own medal** for someone you think deserves to be honored! It could be for anyone you think has made a difference or helped a cause.



To learn more about the Montford Point Marines, visit:
www.mpma28.com



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