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## Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James F. Amos to honor WWII Black U.S. Marines

The Montford Point Marines of Detroit proudly announces the confirmation of the Commandant of the Marine Corps General James Amos as guest of honor at the Montford Point Marine Association's 46th National Convention in Atlanta on July 30. The 35th Commandant of the United States Marine Corps Gen James F. Amos has accepted invitation to be keynote speaker to be accompanied by the Marine Corps Silent Drill Team.

The Montford Point Marine Association is the parent organization formed in 1965 by MGySgt Brooks E. Gray approximately 20 years after WWII to commemorate the service of Black Marines during WWII, who initially trained between 1942-1949 at Camp Montford Point, MCB Camp Lejeune, N.C.

Additionally, Marine Corps Commandant Gen. James Amos will host Congressionally approved (Senate Resolution 587) Montford Point Marine Day on August 26 at the Evening Parade at Marine Corps Barracks 8th & I Street, Washington, D.C located just southeast of the White House. The Montford Point Marines achieved distinction as America's First Black United States Marines after President Franklin Delano Roosevelt passed Executive Order 8802 that allowed Blacks to serve in the Marine Corps after being banned from recruitment for over 167 years. Their brave and heroic service is being nationally recognized, specifically for their participation during WWII in the Pacific War theatre

including Iwo Jima, Okinawa, Saipan, Peleliu, Ellice Island, Marshall Islands, Guam, Tinian, Eniwetok, and the Mariana Islands. But many Black Marines never received the recognition they deserved. However, Time magazine war correspondent Robert Sherrod, serving in the central Pacific during WWII, wrote that "African-American Marines that entered into armed combat for the first time in the Battle of Saipan (Pacific D-Day, June 15, 1944) earned a 4.0 combat performance ranking, the highest performing rating given by the U.S. Navy at Annapolis. Currently, legislation is being introduced to award the Montford Point Marines the Congressional Gold Medal."

Robert Middleton, president of the Detroit chapter of the Montford Point Marines and National Bylaws chairman, expressed his excitement about these historically epic developments stating, "The Montford Point Marines earned their place in history decades ago and should now get the overdue recognition that they richly deserve." Many of these WWII Black Marines were recruited from the Detroit area and other Michigan cities.

For further information, please contact Robert Middleton, president, Montford Point Marine Association Detroit, at (313) 300-1065 or email: [rmiddleton@hotmail.com](mailto:rmiddleton@hotmail.com).

