

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

HONORING CORPORAL CALVIN TURNER CURTIS

*Unit Colors are posted on parade field
All key personnel are in place*

- 1045 MSgt Villarreal** *All Marines and all Colors are in place.
(At Parade Rest)*
- 1050 Arrival GOH** *Cpl Curtis and family arrive.*
- 1055** *All V.I.P.s walk behind Cpl Curtis (escorted) to the reviewing area.*
- 1100 Narr** *“Please rise for the invocation and remain standing for the National Anthem.
(TBD approaches microphone)*
- 1102 TBD** *WELCOME AND OFFERS INVOCATION, “Let us pray...Amen”.
(TBD leaves)*
- 1105 Color Guard** *Goes to Carry Colors, marches in and is posted in front of reviewing area (Color Guard moves on silent command following invocation).*
- 1107 Comm** *Plays National Anthem (All Marines execute Present Arms /Order Arms automatically).*
- 1110 Color Guard** *Color Guard counter march and march to pre designated point and counter marches then goes to Order Colors (Color Guard moves on silent command following National Anthem).*
- 1112 Narr** *Ladies and gentlemen, “please be seated”.*
- 1112 Color Guard** *Color Guard goes to parade rest.*
- 1112 Narr** *“In 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed Executive Order 8802 allowing African Americans to be recruited in the Marine corps. African American recruits received basic training at Montford Point, NC (outside Camp Lejeune). Between 1942 and 1949 there were 19,168 African American recruits trained at Montford Point. Of those Marines over 13,000 served overseas during the war. Most were assigned to ammunition and Depot companies and brought ammunition and supplies to the front lines and returned wounded and dead to the transport ships.*
- In July of 1948, President Harry S. Truman issued Executive Order 9981 negating segregation and in September 1949, Montford Point was deactivated*

ending seven years of segregation. The camp was renamed Camp Johnson after SgtMaj Gilbert "Hashmark" Johnson, one of the first African Americans to join the Marine Corps. After WWII all but 1500 Montford Point Marines left the Marine Corps and resumed their civilian lives. They used the leadership and training experiences learned in the Marine Corps to integrate the wider American society. The United States did not begin to end legally sanctioned segregationist laws (Jim Crow Laws) until 1954 with the Supreme Court case of Brown v Board of Education for the City of Topeka, Kansas which ended the policy of "Separate but Equal" racial segregation of secondary schools in the United States. Many Montford Point Marines were leaders in the American civil rights movement. Their successes outside the Marine Corps are just as much a part of the Marine Corps legacy as their service within the Corps. The sacrifice of these men paved the way for other minorities and all women to be integrated into the Marine Corps. By their sacrifice Montford Point Marines engineered social and cultural change in the Marine Corps that created a lasting impact and has contributed to the success of the Marine Corps today. The Congressional Gold Medal is the highest civilian honor bestowed by congress for distinguished achievement. The President of the United States signed into law the legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines on 23 November 2011. This award recognizes the Montford Point Marines' contributions to the Marine Corps and the wider American Society".

1115 Narr

Message from CMC "I would like to congratulate the Montford Point Marines on the Congressional Gold Medal minted in their honor. This recognition is long-overdue and richly deserved. By breaking the color-barrier in 1942, the Montford Point Marines became part of the rich legacy of our Corps. They answered our nation's call despite our society being deeply divided along racial lines. As such, their contributions went largely unrecognized and many times they were not given the respect and recognition they deserved as Marines, as Americans, and as patriots. To me, they were heroic for two reasons: they fought against the enemy during World War II while they also fought for their civil rights and the respect of their fellow Americans. It is fitting that we, as Americans, honor their selfless service and sacrifice with the Congressional Gold Medal and fully embrace their storied contributions to the history of our nation at war."

1118 Narr

Ladies and gentlemen the Commanding Officer, Inspector-Instructor Staff, 4th Reconnaissance Battalion, LtCol Sotire.

1118 LtCol Sotire

Speaks in regards to the Montford Point Marines.

- 1119 SgtMaj Tolar *“Person to be Decorated and all Colors, Center, March”.*
(SgtMaj moves and retrieves the Colors).
- 1120 Cpl Curtis *Cpl Curtis takes his position behind the SgtMaj on the parade field.*
(Escort may need to assist Cpl Curtis)
- 1120 SgtMaj Tolar *“Sir , Person to be decorated is present”.*
- 1120 Narr *President Proclamation “I send greetings to all those honoring the legacy of the Montford Point Marines on their 69th anniversary. Almost seven decades ago, as our Nation was at war, more than 20,000 African American men enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. After completing arduous and segregated basic training at Montford Point Camp, many of these Marines served with distinction during a number of World War II’s bloodiest struggles. Some made the ultimate sacrifice in these battles: others continued their service in Korea and Vietnam. Despite being denied many basic rights, the Montford Point Marines committed to serve our country with selfless patriotism. Choosing to put their lives on the line, these men helped advance civil rights and influenced President Harry Truman’s decision to desegregate the Armed Forces in 1948. Embodying the Marine Corps motto of Semper Fidelis, Always Faithful, these heroes paved the way for future generations of warriors, regardless of background, to serve in the finest military the world has ever known. On behalf of a grateful Nation, I thank you for your service and for your contributions to the cause of freedom at home and around the world. May God bless our men and women in uniform, and may God bless the United States of America.”*
- 1122 Narr *Marches up and passes Congressional Gold Medal to SgtMaj Tolar.*
- 1122 SgtMaj Tolar *Passes Congressional Gold Medal to LtCol Sotire.*
- 1122 LtCol Sotire *Presents Congressional Gold Medal to Cpl Curtis.*
- 1122 Narr *Ladies and gentlemen please give a round of applause for Cpl Curtis.*
- 1123 Cpl Curtis *Speaks (Optional-- If no remarks Cpl Curtis is escorted back to reviewing area).*
- 1126 Comm *Plays Marines Hymn.*
- 1128 Narr *Ladies and gentlemen please rise for the retiring of the colors.*
- 1128 Color Guard *Goes to Carry Colors, marches back to the front of reviewing area, countermarches and march to original position and counter marches then goes to Order Colors.*
- 1130 Narr *“Ladies and gentlemen, this concludes our ceremony for Cpl Curtis and his Congressional Gold Medal, thank you for attending.”*