

# National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc.



## HALL OF FAME HISTORY



In 1999, with Sam Saxton serving as President of the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., it was announced that a special award be created and named the Medal of Honor for those who uphold in the promotion and preserving of the legacy of Montford Point.

This was developed as a one-sided circular design 2½ inches in diameter with the raised wording of Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., arched over “Medal of Honor”. On the bottom it had raised wording of the NMPMA Motto, “Working Together Works.” In the center there were four raised logo images as described: NMPMA Logo, flanked by the inscription of the Marine Corps Motto, “Semper Fidelis”. At the lower Center half there were three-unit logos, The FMF PAC, 51st Defense Battalion and the 52nd Defense Battalion, all of which were minted on shiny gold metal, and nothing on the reverse side. Since the creation of the award there have been a total of 156 Medal of Honor award recipients.

In 2010, a proposal was presented by PNP Joseph H. Geeter, III in the proper renaming of the award as the Hall of Fame award as described in the NMPMA, Inc. by-laws.

In 2014, a proposed design by National Webmaster, Gilbert T. Taylor was presented which gave the award a much more robust look and reflected the accomplishments of the Association and its legacy. In 2021, the design proposal was agreed upon and approved by National Montford Point Marine Association President Carmen Cole.

It is with great pleasure that the newly minted Hall of Fame Medal was redesigned and meticulously reviewed. This beautifully minted medallion was constructed of an antique finish with silver raised lettering and images as described: 2½ inches in diameter, arched on the top the inscription, National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., with a colorized raised image of the NMPMA logo. Center left the NMPMA Monument, just below that the Montford Point Camp with Marines marching on the parade field with the iconic water tower in the background. To the right of the Monument is the inscription “Hall of Fame”.

On the reverse side, at the top arched is the inscription “Uncommon Valor Was a Common Virtue” coined by Chester W. Nimitz, Fleet Admiral of the U.S. Navy & Commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet during World War II at the battle of Iwo Jima which Montford Point Marines participated in. Below the inscription is the United States Marine Corps’ Emblem semicircle with seven stars that represents the seven seas. Below that is the association’s motto “Working Together Works.” Centered below the motto is inscribed “Presented to” with a 1x 1¼ inch space below to allow for the recipient’s name to be engraved. Flanked to left and right of the space for the recipient’s name are the logos of the 51st to the left and the 52nd to the right Defense Battalions that were formed at Montford Point Camp. Centered and below the recipient’s space and battalion logos is the inscription, “For promoting and preserving the legacy and history of the Montford Point Marines.” This signifies the importance why the recipient received this prestigious award. Finally, below the inscription is the colorized NMPMA, Inc. Logo and beneath that is the inscription date “1942 Montford Point Camp 1949” signifying the opening and closing of the first and only Marine Corps recruit training facility for Black Marines in Jacksonville, NC.