



Robert Middleton II
National Commandant
Montford Point Marines of
America



In the intricate weave of American history, certain threads are less visible than others, often overshadowed by more prominent narratives. One lesser-known thread involves the courageous contributions of the nation's first African-American U.S. Marines during World War II. At the helm of preserving and honoring this rich history is Robert Bernard Middleton, II, the dedicated National Commandant of the Montford Point Marines of America, Inc.

Middleton's journey with the organization began with a profound respect for the legacy of these historic Marines, colloquially known as the Montford Point Marines. The organization was founded to shine a light on these "Hidden Figures" of military history, who had remained relatively unrecognized for decades following their service. This initiative not only seeks to preserve their history but also to educate the public about the significant role these Marines played during a pivotal time in America.

Established in May 1991 and achieving tax-exempt status in August 2013, the organization has grown into a formidable force in veteran advocacy. Founded by Henry L. Baul, the fifth African-American recruit into the Marines during WWII, the organization stands as a pillar in the veteran community, facilitating economic success and societal sustainability.

The organization operates under a powerful mission statement: "To educate, preserve, and promote the public interest about the little-known history of the famed Montford Point Marines, the first black fighting unit in the U.S. Marine Corps." This mission drives all of their initiatives and programs, aimed at bringing well-deserved attention and honor to these brave soldiers.

With a clear vision, the Montford Point Marines of America, Inc. focuses on assisting veterans in seamlessly reintegrating into civilian life. Their comprehensive support system helps veterans lead more productive lives, ensuring they receive due VA benefits, healthcare, and other entitlements.

Our goal is to galvanize the veteran community, offering a lifetime of support through mentoring and navigating the complexities of the VA benefits and healthcare systems," Middleton explains.

In 2012, the Montford Point Marines were nationally recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal, an honor that highlighted their historical importance and valor. This recognition was a significant milestone for the organization and for all who value the contributions of African-American soldiers in American military history.

Looking ahead, the Montford Point Marines of America, Inc. has an ambitious slate of events for 2024. "On June 23rd, we will host our 14th Annual National Heritage Military Banquet & Awards Ceremony, presenting six Congressional Gold Medals posthumously to WWII Marines," Middleton shares. Additionally, the organization plans to host a Youth Cadet Leadership Camp and a National Disaster Preparedness Month Exercise, continuing its tradition of service and leadership.

To find out more, [click here](#).

Reflecting on the journey and the impact of the organization, Middleton offers a poignant quote: "Life is the totality of answers. It is incumbent upon the student to formulate the correct questions." This sentiment encapsulates the organization's proactive and thoughtful approach to education and advocacy.

The Montford Point Marines of America, Inc. continues to be a beacon of history, service, and empowerment. Under Middleton's leadership, they are not only preserving the past but are also building a supportive community for veterans to thrive in the future. Through education, recognition, and advocacy, they ensure that the valor and sacrifices of the Montford Point Marines are remembered and honored, inspiring new generations to appreciate the depths of their national heritage.