

112TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2447

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

OCTOBER 31, 2011

Received; read twice and referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and
Urban Affairs

AN ACT

To grant the congressional gold medal to the Montford Point
Marines.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) On June 25, 1941, President Franklin D.
4 Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802 estab-
5 lishing the Fair Employment Practices Commission
6 and opening the doors for the very first African-
7 Americans to enlist in the United States Marine
8 Corps.

9 (2) The first Black Marine recruits were
10 trained at Camp Montford Point, near the New
11 River in Jacksonville, North Carolina.

12 (3) On August 26, 1942, Howard P. Perry of
13 Charlotte, North Carolina, was the first Black pri-
14 vate to set foot on Montford Point.

15 (4) During April 1943 the first African-Amer-
16 ican Marine Drill Instructors took over as the senior
17 Drill Instructors of the eight platoons then in train-
18 ing; the 16th Platoon (Edgar R. Huff), 17th (Thom-
19 as Brokaw), 18th (Charles E. Allen), 19th (Gilbert
20 H. Johnson), 20th (Arnold R. Bostic), 21st
21 (Mortimer A. Cox), 22nd (Edgar R. Davis, Jr.), and
22 23rd (George A. Jackson).

23 (5) Black Marines of the 8th Ammunition Com-
24 pany and the 36th Depot Company landed on the is-
25 land of Iwo Jima on D-Day, February 19, 1945.

1 (6) The largest number of Black Marines to
2 serve in combat during World War II took part in
3 the seizure of Okinawa in the Ryuku Islands with
4 some 2,000 Black Marines seeing action during the
5 campaign.

6 (7) On November 10, 1945, the first African-
7 American Marine, Frederick C. Branch, was com-
8 missioned as a second lieutenant at the Marine
9 Corps Base in Quantico, Virginia.

10 (8) Overall 19,168 Blacks served in the Marine
11 Corps in World War II.

12 (9) An enterprising group of men, including
13 original Montford Pointer Master Sergeant Brooks
14 E. Gray, planned a reunion of the Men of Montford
15 Point, and on September 15, 1965, approximately
16 400 Montford Point Marines gathered at the
17 Adelphi Hotel in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, to lay
18 the foundation for the Montford Point Marine Asso-
19 ciation Inc., 16 years after the closure of Montford
20 Point as a training facility for Black recruits.

21 (10) Organized as a non-military, nonprofit en-
22 tity, the Montford Point Marine Association's main
23 mission is to preserve the legacy of the first Black
24 Marines.

1 (11) Today the Montford Point Marine Associa-
2 tion has 36 chapters throughout the United States.

3 (12) Many of these first Black Marines stayed
4 in the Marine Corps like Sergeant Major Edgar R.
5 Huff.

6 (13) Sergeant Major Huff was one of the very
7 first recruits aboard Montford Point.

8 (14) Sergeant Major Huff was also the first Af-
9 rican-American Sergeant Major and the first Afri-
10 can-American Marine to retire with 30 years of serv-
11 ice which included combat in three major wars,
12 World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam
13 War.

14 (15) During the Tet Offensive, Sergeant Major
15 Huff was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with com-
16 bat “V” for valor for saving the life of his radio op-
17 erator.

18 (16) Another original Montford Pointer who
19 saw extensive combat action in both the Korean War
20 and the Vietnam War was Sergeant Major Louis
21 Roundtree.

22 (17) Sergeant Major Roundtree was awarded
23 the Silver Star Medal, four Bronze Star Medals,
24 three Purple Hearts, and numerous other personal

1 and unit awards for his service during these con-
2 flicts.

3 (18) On April 19, 1974, Montford Point was
4 renamed Camp Johnson after legendary Montford
5 Pointer Sergeant Major Gilbert “Hashmark” John-
6 son.

7 (19) The Montford Point Marine Association
8 has several memorials in place to perpetuate the
9 memory of the first African-American Marines and
10 their accomplishments, including—

11 (A) the Montford Point Marine Association
12 Edgar R. Huff Memorial Scholarship which is
13 offered annually through the Marine Corps
14 Scholarship Foundation;

15 (B) the Montford Point Museum located
16 aboard Camp Johnson (Montford Point) in
17 Jacksonville, North Carolina;

18 (C) the Brooks Elbert Gray, Jr. Consoli-
19 dated Academic Instruction Facility named in
20 honor of original Montford Pointer and the
21 Montford Point Marine Corps Association
22 founder Master Gunnery Sergeant Gray. This
23 facility was dedicated on 15 April 2005 aboard
24 Camp Johnson, North Carolina; and

1 (D) during July of 1997 Branch Hall, a
2 building within the Officers Candidate School in
3 Quantico, Virginia, was named in honor of Cap-
4 tain Frederick Branch.

5 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

6 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the
7 House of Representatives and the President pro tempore
8 of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the
9 award, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal
10 of appropriate design in honor of the Montford Point Ma-
11 rines, collectively, in recognition of their personal sacrifice
12 and service to their country.

13 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the
14 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
15 Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the “Sec-
16 retary”) shall strike the gold medal with suitable emblems,
17 devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Sec-
18 retary.

19 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

20 Under such regulations as the Secretary may pre-
21 scribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in
22 bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2, at a price
23 sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor,
24 materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

2 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are National med-
3 als for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States
4 Code.

5 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS; PROCEEDS**
6 **OF SALE.**

7 (a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
8 authorized to be charged against the United States Mint
9 Public Enterprise Fund, an amount not to exceed \$30,000
10 to pay for the cost of the medals authorized under section
11 2.

12 (b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the
13 sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be
14 deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise
15 Fund.

Passed the House of Representatives October 25,
2011.

Attest:

KAREN L. HAAS,
Clerk.