

250 YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS



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The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (MCHF) Spotlights Delaware During Nationwide Marines Across America Program

MCHF marks the achievement of Delaware Marines as part of the Marine Corps' 250th Anniversary Celebration

TRIANGLE, Va. (Feb. 5, 2025) – The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (MCHF) today celebrates the Marines of Delaware, as part of the organization's year-long *Marines Across America* program to mark the Marine Corps' 250th Anniversary. The program highlights Marines who embody the values of honor, courage, and commitment within their communities and showcases the contributions Marines make in their local communities or nationally following their active-duty service.

"Marines have always made their mark on the battlefield, but it's important to remember they've also made their mark in their hometowns and communities," said retired Marine Major General James Lukeman, President and CEO of MCHF. "As we celebrate 250 years of the Marine Corps, we honor the significant contributions that Marines from Delaware have made to our nation. It's an opportunity for all residents of Delaware to commemorate this historic milestone and show their appreciation for all Marines who stand ready to protect our nation and continue to put Marine values to work in their communities and professional lives."

Notable Marines with Delaware ties include:

- **[Pedro Custodio](#), Wilmington, Delaware** – Marine veteran originally from Newark, DE, now serving as a Sergeant with the Wilmington Police Department, also named the VA's 2018 Lead Officer of the Year (Category II).
- **[Brian McGuire](#), Frankford, Delaware** – Director of the Marine Corps Human Performance Branch and athletic trainer with the NFL, where he serves as a concussion spotter for the Washington Commanders.
- **[Sgt. Brendan O'Toole](#)** – Marine veteran featured in PBS documentary *Into the Light*, where he shares his 3,600-mile journey across the country to raise awareness for mental health among veterans.
- **[Paul Hertz](#), Kent County, Delaware** – Board Member for Army Mobility Command Museum and former member of the legislative council for Kent County in 2022.

- **[Bill Farley](#), Dover, Delaware** – Commissioner of Veterans Affairs, executing commission initiative to reduce rate of veterans’ suicide, assisting veterans in crisis locate federal, state, and local resources.
- **[Brendan Whitworth](#), Wilmington, Delaware** – CEO of Anheuser-Busch, one of the most well-known beer companies in the United States, and former First Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps. He also served as an operations officer for the CIA’s counterterrorism center.

“The list of notable Marines from Delaware is impressive and showcases how they used the values and skills they learned in the Marine Corps to become leaders in their communities,” said Maj Gen Lukeman. “Today marks a special opportunity to recognize these extraordinary men and women for their service to our nation as well as their communities.”

The *Marines Across America* program continues throughout 2025, leading to the official 250th birthday of the Marine Corps on Nov. 10, which will be marked nationwide with official cake-cutting ceremonies taking place at all 50 state capitals.

Members of the public are encouraged to join the anniversary celebration and *Marines Across America* by sharing stories of Marines they know, both active and retired, who make a difference in their communities and in their professional lives. Submissions may be made through the [Marine250.com website](http://Marine250.com) or via social media using the hashtag #MarinesAcrossAmerica.

About the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation:

Dedicated to the preservation and promulgation of Marine Corps history, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation was established in 1979 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Foundation supports the historical programs of the Marine Corps in ways not possible through government funds. The Foundation provides grants and scholarships for research and the renovation, restoration and commissioning of historical Marine Corps artifacts and landmarks. The Foundation secured the necessary funding for the construction of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and Heritage Center, located in Triangle, Virginia, and continues to expand programs at the National Museum of the Marine Corps and beyond its walls. For more information, visit MarineHeritage.org.



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