

250 YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS



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The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Spotlights Idaho During Nationwide Marines Across America Program

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

TRIANGLE, Va. – The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (MCHF) today celebrates the Marines of Idaho, as part of the organization's yearlong *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 in our nation's capital have made to our country. It's an opportunity for all residents of Idaho 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 Idaho ties include:

- **[Gary Davis](#)** – Gary Davis served in the U.S. Marine Corps for over 30 years. After retiring, he joined the Idaho Bureau of Homeland Security, where he manages grants, training, exercises, and emergency response and recovery efforts. He also serves as the District 6 Commander for the Veterans of Foreign Wars. (Twin Falls, Idaho)
- **[Jorge Hernandez](#)** – Jorge Hernandez is a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran who was wounded twice in action. Following his service, he earned a degree in business administration in 2020 and now works as an education specialist at Boise State University's Veteran Services Center, giving back to fellow veterans pursuing higher education. (Boise, Idaho)
- **[Carlos Valadez](#)** – Carlos Valadez served 13 years in the U.S. Marine Corps with deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan. He continues his military service in the Air National Guard and works as a TSA officer in Boise. Valadez supports disabled

veterans as part of Idaho Backcountry Veterans, organizing outdoor activities and fundraising events to help veterans cope with PTSD and other challenges. (Boise, Idaho)

- [Bill Heyob](#) – Bill Heyob retired from the U.S. Marine Corps after nearly a quarter century of service, achieving the rank of sergeant major. He now dedicates his time to assisting Idaho veterans through the Office of Veterans Advocacy, helping veterans navigate VA benefits, financial relief grants, military record corrections, discharge upgrades, appeals, and survivor benefits in partnership with multiple Veteran Service Organizations. (Boise, Idaho)
- [Dan Muguira](#) – Dan Muguira served as a diesel mechanic and machine gunner in the U.S. Marine Corps and was awarded the Purple Heart for his service in Iraq. After leaving the Corps, he joined the Boise Police Department and co-founded the Aaron Butler Memorial Purple Heart Run to honor fallen heroes and support the Military Order of the Purple Heart. (Eagle, Idaho)

“The list of notable Marines from Idaho is impressive and showcases how they used the values and skills they learned in the Marine Corps to become leaders in their communities,” said MajGen 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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