

250 YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS



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

MCHF honors the courage and legacy of Mississippi Marines in the Corps' 250th year

TRIANGLE, Va. – The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (MCHF) today celebrates Mississippi Marines 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.

Mississippi's notable Marines include the legendary Apollo 13 pilot who guided the safe return of his crew after an onboard explosion, a Medal of Honor recipient who threw himself on a grenade, saving the life of a fellow Marine, and a football coach instilling Marine values in the next generation.

"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 Mississippi Marines have made to our nation. It's an opportunity for all residents of Mississippi 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 Mississippi ties include:

- **[Ronald Green](#), Jackson, Mississippi:** Green is the longest-serving sergeant major in Marine Corps history, holding that rank for four years and five months. During his Marine career of more than 36 years, he deployed to Somalia for Operation Restore Hope, South America for Operation United Americas, and Iraq for Operation Iraqi

Freedom. His service earned him numerous awards, including the Navy Distinguished Service Medal. After retiring, Green became an ambassador for the U.S. Chamber of Commerce Foundation's Hiring Our Heroes Program and serves on the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors' (TAPS) board of directors.

- **[Alexander Lamberth](#), Horn Lake, Mississippi:** Serving for more than two decades, Lamberth held a variety of leadership roles, including drill instructor, Officer Candidate School sergeant instructor, and Recruiting Station sergeant major. His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal, and Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Today, he continues to serve his community as a Marine instructor for the Marine Corps Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps (MCJROTC) at Horn Lake High School.
- **[Fred Haise](#), Biloxi, Mississippi:** NASA astronaut who served as the lunar module pilot on the historic Apollo 13 mission. Although the moon landing was aborted due to an onboard explosion, Haise played a critical role in bringing the crew safely home. Before joining NASA, he flew combat missions as a Marine pilot and later worked as a test pilot. After retiring from NASA, Haise served as an executive at Grumman Aerospace, now known as Northrop Grumman. He is a Presidential Medal of Freedom recipient and continues to inspire future generations through his advocacy for STEM education and space exploration.
- **[David D'Angelo](#), Madison, Mississippi:** Served four years in the Marines with deployments to Japan, Korea, and Norway. A third-generation service member, D'Angelo credits the Corps with instilling the discipline, resilience, and teamwork he now brings to the football field. After playing college football at Belhaven and earning his degree from Mississippi State, D'Angelo began coaching. Today, he's the defensive backs coach at Germantown High School, known for his intensity, mentorship, and commitment to shaping young men on and off the field.
- **[Jeremiah O'Keefe](#), Biloxi, Mississippi:** Fighter ace in World War II and recipient of the Navy Cross and Distinguished Flying Cross. After his military service, O'Keefe served in the Mississippi Legislature and as mayor of Biloxi, Mississippi, where he championed civil rights, veterans' causes, and historic preservation. A lifelong public servant and philanthropist, he helped establish museums and education initiatives across the Gulf Coast. O'Keefe passed away in 2016; he was portrayed by Tommy Lee Jones in "The Burial," a 2023 film based on his successful legal battle to hold a major corporation accountable.
- **[Kyle Carpenter](#), Flowood, Mississippi:** Medal of Honor recipient — the youngest living recipient — for heroic actions in Afghanistan in 2010. Medically retired due to combat injuries, Carpenter earned a degree in international studies from the University of South Carolina. He is now a motivational speaker, author, and advocate for resilience and mental health. His memoir, "You Are Worth It," chronicles his journey of recovery and purpose.

"The list of notable Marines from Mississippi 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 their professional lives. Submissions may be made through the [Marine250.com website](https://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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