

250 YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS



CONTACT:

Sarah Henao-López
Shenaolopez@susandavis.com
202-414-0782

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

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

TRIANGLE, Va. (August 8, 2025) – The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation today celebrates Nevada Marines 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.

From a veteran who gave his life protecting students to a CEO transforming veterans' benefits, Nevada's Marines lead with unwavering courage and purpose. Their work created lasting change in classrooms, crisis centers, and communities.

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

- **[Ed Kaatz](#), Carson City, Nevada:** Named Nevada's Veteran of the Month by the Nevada Department of Veteran Services, Ed Kaatz is a proud Marine Corps veteran, member of the Marine Embassy Guard Association, and a Nuclear Weapons Officer (Keepers of the Dragon). He is recognized for his deep commitment to supporting veterans, volunteering at outreach events, assisting those in crisis, and organizing fundraisers and holiday visits to VA hospitals. In addition to his advocacy, Kaatz served as a substitute teacher at

Smith High School, where he supported students in pursuing scholarships and educational opportunities. This reflects his lifelong commitment to mentorship and service, both in and out of uniform.

- **[Michael Landsberry](#), Reno, Nevada:** Michael Landsberry, a veteran of both the U.S. Marine Corps and the Nevada Air National Guard, was a devoted math teacher at Sparks Middle School who gave his life protecting his students during a school shooting on October 21, 2013. A two-time Afghanistan veteran, he stepped between the gunman and his students and urged the shooter to stop, an act of selfless bravery that cost him his life and forever defined him as a hero.
- **[Issac Saldivar](#), Las Vegas, Nevada:** As a first-generation Mexican American and Marine Corps veteran, Isaac joined Merging Vets & Players (MVP) in 2017 during one of the most challenging periods of his life, facing the physical and emotional toll of combat, injury, and transition. Now the program coordinator of MVP Las Vegas, Isaac leads weekly sessions that help fellow veterans and athletes navigate life after service. Through his own journey of healing and renewal, he has helped hundreds of veterans rediscover purpose, overcome isolation, and build resilience through brotherhood.
- **[Joshua Smith](#), Las Vegas, Nevada:** CEO and co-founder of Veteran Benefits Guide (VBG), Josh Smith is reshaping how veterans access the disability benefits they've earned. Concerned about inefficiencies he observed while working at the Department of Veterans Affairs, he launched VBG to offer a faster, clearer path through the VA claims process. Since then, VBG has helped over 45,000 veterans nationwide, combining expert guidance with a veteran-first approach. Smith continues to lead the company with a mission to bring transparency, dignity, and results to those who've served.

"The list of notable Marines from Nevada 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 November 10, which will be marked nationwide with official cake-cutting ceremonies 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](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.



MARINEHERITAGE.ORG