

250 YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS



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

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

TRIANGLE, Va. (August 12, 2025) – The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation today celebrates New Hampshire 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.

New Hampshire's Marines include a CEO focused on saving at-risk lives, the state's VFW judge advocate, an entrepreneur with the goal of addressing climate change, and two former state representatives.

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

- **Chris Peirce – Kingston, New Hampshire:** Before becoming the judge advocate for New Hampshire's Veterans of Foreign Wars outpost, Chris Peirce started his military career by enlisting in the Marine Corps in 1980 as

an artillery section chief. During his time as a Marine, Peirce was deployed to Grenada as a part of Operation Urgent Fury. More than 20 years later, he returned to combat, serving as a first sergeant with the New Hampshire National Guard in Iraq. Peirce has since focused on giving back to his state's veteran community, holding leadership roles within the New Hampshire VFW and chairing community engagements such as the Special Olympics.

- **Leon Rideout – Lancaster, New Hampshire:** A New Hampshire native, Leon Rideout enlisted in the Marine Corps in 1981, the start of a 26-year Marine career. Since retiring as a first sergeant in 2007, Rideout has served New Hampshire in a variety of roles. He spent four years as a state representative, serving as a member of the Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee. Rideout is a member of the American Legion and currently serves as the chief of staff at VFW Post 3041.
- **Rick Johnson – Hanover, New Hampshire:** After graduating from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1985, Rick Johnson joined the Marine Corps. Earning his wings in 1988, Johnson would spend the next two decades as a Marine aviator. He also served as chief of staff for two years in the Marine Corps Reserve. Johnson's career path included Inspector General for the Dept. of Defense, and leadership positions with healthcare policy and technology companies. He's currently a business development consultant and CEO of Voi Health; a healthcare and technology company focused on helping those at risk of taking their own lives. Johnson is also a war-game analyst at the U.S. Naval War College.
- **William R. Hart – Concord, New Hampshire:** A Marine Corps veteran and a graduate of Boston College Law School, William R. Hart's New Hampshire law enforcement record is vast. Starting out as a prosecutor with the Londonderry Police Department, Hart then spent four years as the attorney for Rockingham County. In 2009, he was elected to become Londonderry's chief of police, an office he held until his retirement. In 2023, Hart was nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as U.S. Marshal for the District of New Hampshire.
- **Mark Lindsley – Hinnaker, New Hampshire:** A Vietnam War veteran, Mark Lindsley retired from the Marine Corps as a master sergeant, then served as a firefighter in New Hampshire from 1974-1987. Over the next three decades he served his community as a police officer, and a New Hampshire state representative (2012-2014).

"The list of notable Marines from New Hampshire 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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