

# State of North Carolina

**ROY COOPER**  
GOVERNOR

**MONTFORD POINT MARINE DAY**

**2019**

**BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF NORTH CAROLINA**

## **A PROCLAMATION**

**WHEREAS**, the opportunity for African Americans to enlist and serve in the Marine Corps arose in 1942 after President Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the Executive Order 8802 to prohibit ethnic and racial discrimination in the United States Defense industry; and

**WHEREAS**, the men who enlisted completed recruit training at Montford Point, North Carolina during an era where racism and segregation was prevalent in everyday life; and

**WHEREAS**, despite discrimination and impediments approximately 20,000 African American men completed recruit training and became known as the Montford Point Marines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montford Point Marines were an integral part of the war effort and displayed valor and performance during Peleliu Battle, Iwo Jima Battle, the Chosen Reservoir Battle, Vietnam War, and more; and

**WHEREAS**, the largest contingency of these Marines served in Okinawa, Japan known as one of the most deadly and storied battles of the Second World War; and

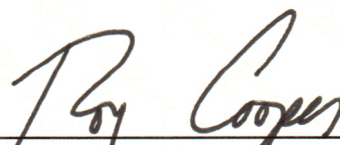
**WHEREAS**, Montford Point was decommissioned in 1949 but the legacy of the Montford Point Marines is a testament to the strength and perseverance of these troops and their families to serve our Nation even in the face of adversity and hardship; and

**WHEREAS**, Public Law 112-59 was passed by the United States Congress and signed by President Barack Obama in 2012 to award the Congressional Medal of Honor to the Montford Point Marines; and

**WHEREAS**, the Montford Point Marines Association has returned to North Carolina, and as a grateful state we welcome the 2019 Montford Point Marines Association Annual Convention;

**NOW, THEREFORE**, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 26, 2019, as **"MONTFORD POINT MARINE DAY"** in North Carolina, and commend its observance to all citizens.



  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Roy Cooper**  
Governor

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the State of North Carolina at the Capitol in Raleigh this twenty-sixth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and nineteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-third.