



State of North Carolina

ROY COOPER
GOVERNOR

MONTFORD POINT MARINE DAY

2023

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 Executive Order 8802 to prohibit ethnic and racial discrimination in the United States Defense industry; and

WHEREAS, the men who enlisted completed their recruit training at Montford Point, North Carolina during an era when 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, and more; and

WHEREAS, the largest contingency of these Marines served in Okinawa, Japan, the site of 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 National Montford Point Marine Association has returned to North Carolina, and as a grateful state we welcome the 58th Montford Point Marine Association Annual Convention;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, ROY COOPER, Governor of the State of North Carolina, do hereby proclaim August 25, 2023, 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-fourth day of August in the year of our Lord two thousand and twenty-three and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and forty-eighth.