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The Marine Corps Heritage Center Story

Legacy

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THE MISSION OF THE MARINE CORPS HERITAGE CENTER IS TO CREATE A PLACE WHERE ALL
MARINES, PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE, AND ESPECIALLY THE AMERICAN PEOPLE, CAN
COME TO VIEW THE HISTORY OF OUR GREAT NATION THROUGH THE EYES OF MARINES.



A crowd of thousands gathers for the National Museum dedication.
Photography Courtesy of John Harrington Photography

THOUSANDS GATHER FOR DEDICATION OF NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS

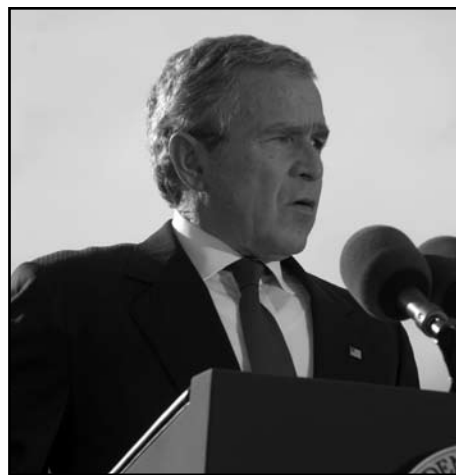
President George W. Bush led thousands of Marine veterans, family members, dignitaries and well wishers in dedicating the National Museum of the Marine Corps on 10 November 2006 at Quantico, Virginia. The ceremonies marked the completion of the first phase of development of the National Museum and Marine Corps Heritage Center and preceded its public opening.

The project, a public-private partnership of the United States Marine Corps and Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, required the raising of almost \$60 million from private sources. Since the project's inception in 1999, more than 80,000 individuals, corporations and foundations have joined together to raise the required capital construction funds.

Speaking on a flawless fall afternoon, President Bush noted "These walls pay tribute to your contributions to American freedom. These walls remind all who visit here that honor, courage, and commitment are not just words. They are core values for a way of life that puts service above self."



Project supporters gather for the ceremonies.



President George W. Bush speaks at dedication.

And these walls will keep the history of the Marine Corps alive for generations of Americans to come. This is an important place, and I thank you for supporting it."

President Bush also used the occasion to announce the awarding of the Medal of Honor to Marine Corporal Jason Dunham. Corporal Dunham was killed from injuries sustained in Iraq while on patrol near the Syrian border when he used his body to protect his fellow Marines from an insurgent grenade blast. Speaking directly to Corporal Dunham's parents, the President concluded his remarks by saying, "As long as we have Marines like Corporal Dunham, America will never fear for her liberty. And as long as we have this fine museum, America will never forget their sacrifice."

The emotional and moving tone of the ceremony was set by Jim Lehrer, anchor of PBS' News Hour with Jim Lehrer and the event's master of ceremonies. Lehrer spoke warmly about his own service in the Marine Corps and the importance of that experience to his life.

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MESSAGE FROM THE COMMANDANT

The opening of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and Marine Corps Heritage Center on 10 November 2006 will be recorded as a historic occasion in the annals of our Corps. Tens of thousands of loyal supporters—Marines, Marine families, Marine veterans, and other patriotic Americans—made that day possible through their exceptional generosity in support of our newest national treasure.

Nowhere else can one gain an appreciation for the demands put on young recruits at boot camp or grasp the tremendous sacrifices made by Marines on Pacific Island beaches during World War II, in the snow of the Chosin Reservoir during the Korean War, on Hill 881 South during the 1968 defense of Khe Sanh in Vietnam, or in the current battles of the Long War. This museum will forever tie our Nation to her magnificent Corps of Marines—informing all of the transformation captured by the adage, "Once a Marine, Always a Marine."

There is, however, still work to be done. With your continued support, it is my hope that we will ensure that this showcase of Marine history, heritage, and sacrifice takes its place as the purest tribute to the legacy of our Corps. From the somber remembrances to be enshrined in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park to the stirring stories of courage and commitment to be told in new exhibit galleries, we look to record our history completely—as seen through the eyes of Marines.

On behalf of the family of Marines—past, present and future—thank you for your collective contributions as we seek to honor the service of all Marines.

Semper Fidelis,

James T. Conway
General, U. S. Marine Corps

www.marineheritage.org

703-640-7965

Established in 1979, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to preserving and perpetuating the history and traditions of the United States Marine Corps. The Foundation sponsors diversified programs in direct support of the official Marine Corps historical programs that might not otherwise be available through government funds. For additional information, call 800-397-7585.

NEW BEQUEST PROGRAM WILL HELP SUSTAIN NATIONAL MUSEUM AND HERITAGE CENTER

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation has announced the creation of a bequest program to provide a new avenue by which supporters can help sustain the National Museum of the Marine Corps and other Foundation activities. The new initiative encourages supporters to designate the Foundation as a beneficiary of their wills, trusts and estate plans to ensure the future of the National Museum and Marine Corps Heritage Center.

The program has attracted positive early attention, with several bequest notifications already having been received. Those who provide formal notification that the Foundation is designated as their bequest beneficiary will be recognized for their commitment as members of *The 1775 Society*. 1775 Society members will receive invitations to receptions and other events, as well as recognition in Foundation publications.

Notes Ed Matricardi, Foundation Board Member and Chair of its Planned Giving Committee, "Bequests offer our supporters a simple mechanism by which they can remember and honor the legacy of Marines and the Marine

Corps while providing invaluable support for the future of this treasured institution. We are deeply grateful to all those who are stepping forward with bequest designations."

Supporters who are considering including the Foundation as a beneficiary of their wills or trusts should request literature by writing the Foundation at P. O. Box 998, Quantico, VA 22134-0998 or by calling (703) 640-7965.

For those who prefer to contact their attorneys or advisors directly, the following sample language may be reviewed with them for inclusion in wills or trusts: "I give, devise and bequeath to the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (Federal Tax ID #: 52-1147967, Quantico, VA 22134 (insert amount, percentage, nature of gift, or remainder of estate) to be used at the discretion of the Board of Directors (or for a designated purpose)."

Foundation staff and committee members are standing by to assist those interested in fulfilling their philanthropic goals. ★

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Young and old alike joined together to celebrate the opening of the National Museum.

Since its opening, the National Museum has received considerable public acclaim. The widespread media coverage of dedication included virtually unanimous approbation from the nation's cultural critics of the museum's evocative architecture and innovative interactive exhibitry. More than 300,000 individuals have visited the museum since dedication.

The project partners are now moving ahead seamlessly with a second phase of development to ensure completion of the complex versus its master plan. Forthcoming development priorities include: completion of the museum exhibits and structure so that the full chronology

of Marine history is recorded; the construction of Semper Fidelis Memorial Park as a place of remembrance for all who have gone before; the creation of educational programs emanating from the museum exhibitry to facilitate outreach; and the development of endowment funds to help sustain the National Museum in perpetuity.

Expressing his gratitude to the project's benefactors, Foundation President LtGen Ron Christmas, USMC (Ret), stated, "What has been accomplished to date is a tribute to the unfailing esprit de corps of all Marines. We are, and always will be, deeply grateful for your generosity. Thank you for your magnificent support." ★

The Marine Corps Heritage Center Story **Legacy**

Project Notes

■ We note with deep regret the passing of Brigadier General Edwin Simmons, USMC (Ret). Gen Simmons' Marine Corps service spanned 53 years: 36 in uniform and 17 as a civilian. He saw action in the Pacific theater in World War II, in Korea and in Vietnam. Having served in three major wars, Gen Simmons came to be regarded by many as "the collective memory" of the Marine Corps. In 1971, he formed the Marine Corps History and Museums Division, under whose aegis the National Museum of the Marine Corps operates today. A trained journalist, Gen Simmons also was a prolific author. His numerous works are highlighted by "The United States Marines: A History," a standard reference which remains in print today. His military awards include a Distinguished Service Medal, the Silver Star, three awards of the Legion of Merit, two awards of the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal and the Purple Heart. Our sympathies go to his survivors, including his wife of 45 years, Frances G. Bliss Simmons, four children and five grandchildren.

■ National Museum visitation since dedication has now surpassed the 300,000 mark. These excellent numbers surpass projections made during the planning process. Visitors are split roughly equally between members of the Marine Corps community and the general public. A significant increase in visitation is anticipated during the upcoming summer vacation season. We encourage all Legacy readers to visit the National Museum when traveling to the nation's capital.

■ The Foundation has launched a Corporate Affiliates Program, an annual membership fund by which companies can support our cause. We seek the recurrent participation of corporations in the defense sector and the vicinity of the National Museum. Companies participating in the new program will receive a special recognition and benefits package. Please contact Sabrina Thomas at (703) 649-2361 for more information on this new initiative.

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