

National

Montford



Point

Marine Association, Inc.

Date: 1942 - 1949

Vol. No.1

HOME OF THE ORIGINAL MONTFORD POINT MARINES

www.montfordpointmarines.org

Press Release

## HALL OF FAME

2021

### Mr. Carroll Braxton

Mr. Carroll Braxton was born on July 14, 1924 in Manassas, Virginia. Before graduating from high school, he tried to enlist in the Marine Corps only to be told by a recruiter to go back to school and finish. He graduated and eventually enlist on 4 June 1943.

After completing boot camp at Camp Montford Point he was one of 32 Montford Point Marines to be assistants to the White Drill Instructors later being a Drill Instructor to other Montford Point Marines. Mr. Braxton's served through the island-hopping campaign seeing Saipan, Peleliu, Okinawa, by-passing Iwo Jima. He was discharged as a Buck Sergeant in 1946, returning to Manassas VA. to go to college and work for the government. Missing the camaraderie, he would reenlist in 1950 as a combat instructor and go into the reserves in 1955. MGySgt Braxton was one of the only 1500 Montford Pointers that stayed in the Marine Corps after a World War II high of nearly 20,000 African American Marines that served. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1980 as a Master Gunnery Sergeant from I&I Staff, Washington DC having served 28 years in the Marine Corps.

For the past decade MGySgt Braxton has been an invaluable member and ambassador for Quantico Chapter #32 and Philadelphia Chapter #1 when he visits his daughter. At 97 years old, he is perhaps our Association's greatest ambassador. Because of his incredible recall and articulate delivery, he has been called upon scores of times to represent the Association in a plethora of media events for both the civilian media and the Public Relations Division at Headquarters Marine Corps. Each and every time he represented the Association in a great and honorable manner.

The National Montford Point Marine Association Inc. received great publicity in August 2019 during the viewing of a documentary film "Montford Point Marine about MGySgt Braxton, produced by his grandson, Shane Fordham, a distinguished graduate of the Haverford School in Pennsylvania.

This Documentary Film was also chosen for viewing at the All-American Film Festival in 2019 and has garnered multiple awards for its content. This film has been viewed thousands of times on line and on Facebook.

During February 2021 Master Gunny Braxton participated in a Zoom Presentation with History High School Students and Marine Corps JROTC cadets at Bensalem High School in Pennsylvania. Even at 96 years of age he made a personal connection with these youths.

MGySgt Braxton a life member of Quantico Chapter #32, spends a considerable amount of time at his daughter's home in Philadelphia, and has been welcomed to Philadelphia Chapter #1, quickly made friends among the Chapters Montford Pointers and members. He has been called upon many times by the Philadelphia Chapter President to represent the Chapter and the Association during media events, to include the 16 February 2021 Philadelphia Tribune article about Blacks in the Marine Corps where a picture of him and his platoon at Montford Point were featured.

Originally from Manassas Virginia, MGySgt Braxton and his late wife, Celestine, a school teacher of 30 years in Prince William County Virginia, were honored in 2020 by having a middle school, "Unity Braxton Middle School" renamed in their honor for their commitment to civil rights and the community.

MGySgt Braxton is that rare Montford Pointer who not only is celebrated because of his service, but celebrates others, and is an incredible Ambassador to not only the National Montford Point Marine Association Inc. and the State of Virginia, but a remarkable citizen of the United States of America.

Because of his commitment to service, Montford Point Marines Carroll Braxton was inducted into the Nation Montford Point Marine Association Inc. Hall of Fame.

