

National

Montford



Point

Marine Association, Inc.

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HOME OF THE ORIGINAL MONTFORD POINT MARINES

[www.montfordpointmarines.org](http://www.montfordpointmarines.org)

Press Release

## HALL OF FAME

2021

### Mrs. Linda Sykes

In 2008 Linda Sykes took on the challenge to be the Atlanta Chapter #5 President and recruited enough members to reestablish and stand up the dormant Chapter. Linda and her members also located over 15 Montford Point Marines and brought them and their families into the Chapter.

Linda built relations and lasting partnerships with local associations and military units and the Chapter continues to participate in the following efforts:

- Dobbins Air Force Base, Annual Air Show to generate funds to support the chapter's efforts.
- Biannual maintenance of the Linwood Cemetery where Medal of Honor Sergeant Rodney Davis' gravesite is located and was in need of maintenance
- Annual Homeless Veteran Stand-down with the Atlanta Veterans Administration and 4th Marine Logistic Group Forward, 4th Recon Bravo Company.

In 2009 Linda initiated the Chapters first annual banquet with ~150 attendees and due to her relationship with public officials the Chapter received a Proclamation from the City of Atlanta.

As a result of her leadership the Chapter grew from 10 members to 50 within a year and the Chapter was named Co-Chapter of the Year at the 2009 National Convention.

In 2011 the Atlanta Chapter held the National Convention; this is also where the genesis of our National Monument began through the coordination of Linda setting up a meeting with a nephew of a Montford Point Marine and the National President. Linda also arranged a prime-time CNN interview of Ambassador Britton and the National President during the National Convention Banquet. The Atlanta Convention was the largest the Association has ever held with ~518 members and guest in attendance.

This stellar event was also the final push needed for the Congressional Gold Medal with the media awareness generated and overall attention of the Montford Point Marines.

When Linda stepped down as Chapter President in 2012, she had grown the Chapter considerably and left the new leadership financially stable.

In 2019, Linda was sought out by Atlanta Chapter members to again lead as the Chapter President and was reelected by an overwhelming majority. She assessed the Chapter and realized the Chapter Auxiliary should be her focus of effort as it was on the verge of disbanding. She utilized the leadership of the National Auxiliary and Region Vice Presidents to ensure the Atlanta Auxiliary remains relevant and continues to contribute to the Association through the Chapter.

Because of her commitment to service, Linda Sykes, was inducted into the Nation Montford Point Marine Association Inc. Hall of Fame.

