



# National

# Montford Point



# Marine Association, Inc.

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HOME OF THE ORIGINAL MONTFORD POINT MARINES

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Press Release

## OBITUARY ANNOUNCEMENT

Original Montford Point Marine

# Mr. William T. Burton

July 22, 1925 - February 13, 2021

Mr. William Thomas Burton was born on July 22, 1925. Mr. Burton's father depended on him with the farm because of his meticulous work ethics. Mr. Burton enlisted into the United States Marine Corps June 14, 1944 in Raleigh, NC. Mr. Burton trained at the segregated, camp named Montford Point Camp in Jacksonville, NC. Mr. Burton was no stranger to hard work Upon completion of Basic Training he furthered his military education as a Cook, Ammunition and Field Communications. Mr. Burton served in the Asiatic Pacific Area from November 27, 1944 - June 28, 1946. He participated in Operations against Japanese enemy forces landing on Okinawa on D-Day plus 3 with the 1st Marine Corps Division on April 1, 1945 - June 21, 1945 serving in the position of ammunition and communications specialist which led to him being promoted to the rank of Corporal. Corporal Burton was honorably discharged on from USMC July 9, 1946.



Mr. Burton would continue his generosity by working outside his job description in running errands for those who were unable. He provided maintenance assistance when needed without receiving any compensation. His hard working ethics led to his employment there for over forty years.

On October 23, 2011, Past President Barack Obama signed the law to award all Montford Point Marines the Congressional Gold Medal in recognition of their personal sacrifice and service to their country during WWII. There were only 20,000 that

trained at the Montford Point Camp and Mr. Burton was one of them.

Mr. William T. Burton was presented with the "Montford Point Marines Certificate of Recognition" signed by the United States Marine Corps 37th Commandant General Robert Neller in September 2017.

In 1947, Mr. Burton owned his on farm and became self employed by selling cows, chickens, corn and tobacco. For over 20 years, Mr. Burton's generosity and compassion was noteworthy. Mr. Burton would not profit a lot due to his generosity to his neighbors and community. He was known for giving away a lot of his harvest to his neighbors to ensure their families had food.

Mr. William T Burton resided in Durham, NC. He was a lifetime member of the National Montford Point Marine Association where he volunteered his time by making specials appearances. He mentored youth by sharing how he did not allow his lack of education sway him from providing for his family

In 1970, Mr. Burton worked for Mr. Sprunt Hill where he worked as a grounds-keeper for Croosdale Golf Course and provided services for the elderly in the Senior Citizen Community.

Mr. Burton and his late wife Mary are the proud parents of daughters Dorothy (deceased) and Ernestine and two sons, Bobbie and Ronnie. The Burtons' enjoy three Grandchildren, six-GreatGrandchildren and one Great-Great Grandchild.

