

**The United States Congress  
Awards Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines:  
America's first African-American's in the Marines Corps WWII**



Although, initially the Marine Corps did not think men of color would make good Marines, they became some of the finest to ever wear the eagle, globe, and anchor. The Commandant of the Marines Corps, General James F. Amos, National Black Caucus, and other political activist helped spearhead the endeavor to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines for inspiring the greatest social change in the military and in American society before the official Civil Rights Movement began in the 1950's and 60's.

On November 23, 2011 President Barack Obama and the 112<sup>th</sup> U.S. Congress passed legislation to award the Congressional Gold Medal to the Montford Point Marines of WWII. The U.S. Pentagon has compiled video documentaries of individual accounts of Black WWII Marines and their stories are now archived in the National Library Congress. The pure gold version of the Congressional Gold Medal is kept in the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C. They are venerated along with their contemporaries, the Tuskegee Airmen who are also prominent WWII heroes.

**PHOTOS OF THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL CEREMONY WASHIGNTON, D.C.  
(June 27<sup>th</sup>-28, 2012)**

