

250 YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS



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The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation Spotlights Indiana During Nationwide Marines Across America Program

MCHF marks the achievement of Indiana Marines as part of the Marine Corps' 250th Anniversary Celebration

TRIANGLE, Va. (May 20, 2025) – The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (MCHF) today celebrates Indiana Marines as part of the organization's yearlong *Marines Across America* program to mark the Marine Corps' 250th Anniversary. The program highlights Marines who embody the values of honor, courage, and commitment within their communities and showcases the contributions Marines make in their local communities or nationally following their active-duty service.

"Marines have always made their mark on the battlefield, but it's important to remember they've also made their mark in their hometowns and communities," said retired Marine Major General James Lukeman, President and CEO of MCHF. "As we celebrate 250 years of the Marine Corps, we honor the significant contributions that Marines in Indiana have made to our country. It's an opportunity for all residents of Indiana to commemorate this historic milestone and show their appreciation for all Marines who stand ready to protect our nation and continue to put Marine values to work in their communities and professional lives."

Notable Marines with Indiana ties include:

- [Greg Ballard](#): Greg Ballard served in the U.S. Marine Corps for 23 years, graduated with distinction from the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, served in the first Gulf War, and retired as a decorated lieutenant colonel. In 2007, Ballard was elected to the first of two terms as the mayor of Indianapolis. He chose the Indiana War Memorial for his swearing-in site to honor the armed forces. (Indianapolis, Ind.)
- [Travis Barnes](#): Travis Barnes enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2001, was selected for the elite Marine Recon and served three combat tours in Iraq with First Reconnaissance Battalion. After his military service, Barnes earned a law degree and he and his wife Hilary founded Hotel Tango Artisan Distillery in Indiana, the first service-disabled, veteran-owned distillery in the U.S. (Indianapolis, Ind.)
- [Rep. Greg Pence](#): Greg Pence served as the House of Representatives member for Indiana's 6th district for three terms, from 2019 to 2025. He served in the Marine Corps for more than five years, rising to the rank of first lieutenant. (Columbus, Ind.)

- [Carol Mutter](#): Carol Mutter became the first woman in U.S. military history to achieve a three-star rank, breaking barriers throughout her 32-year career in the Marine Corps. (Brownsburg, Ind.)
- [Joy Kitashima](#): Joy Kitashima made history as the first woman to serve as a force-level sergeant major in the United States Marine Corps, marking a groundbreaking milestone in her 28-year career. (Bloomington, Ind.)
- [Sen. Todd Young](#): Todd Young has served as a U.S. Senator for Indiana since his election in 2016. Young attended the U.S. Naval Academy and retired from the Marine Corps in 2000 with the rank of captain. (Johnson County, Ind.)
- [Shawn Keen](#): Before his career in law enforcement, Keen served four years as a U.S. Marine. In 2024, Keen was named the police chief of Westfield, Indiana, following 26 years working in the Terre Haute police department, six of those years as police chief. (Westfield, Ind.)
- [Clay Myers](#): Well-known for his portraits of rescued companion animals, Marine veteran Clay Myers is a nature photographer, videographer and animal welfare advocate. He was the photographer for the book, "Honor: Wounded Warriors and their Dogs," with a foreword from NBA Hall of Famer Bill Walton. (Kokomo, Ind.)
- [Rodney Rolland](#): In May 2024, Marine veteran Rodney Rolland was named national adjutant of The American Legion. In this role, Rolland serves as administrative head of the organization, overseeing its national headquarters and all other national offices. (Indianapolis, Ind.)
- [Scott Willis](#): A decorated U.S. Marine colonel, successful businessman, and city councilor, Scott Willis was elected mayor of Westfield in 2023. (Westfield, Ind.)

"The list of notable Marines from Indiana is impressive and showcases how they used the values and skills they learned in the Marine Corps to become leaders in their communities," said MajGen Lukeman. "Today marks a special opportunity to recognize these extraordinary men and women for their service to our nation as well as their communities."

The *Marines Across America* program continues throughout 2025, leading to the official 250th birthday of the Marine Corps on Nov. 10, which will be marked nationwide with official cake-cutting ceremonies taking place at all 50 state capitals.

Members of the public are encouraged to join the anniversary celebration and *Marines Across America* by sharing stories of Marines they know, both active and retired, who make a difference in their communities and in their professional lives. Submissions may be made through the [Marine250.com website](https://Marine250.com) or via social media using the hashtag #MarinesAcrossAmerica.

About the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation:

Dedicated to the preservation and promulgation of Marine Corps history, the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation was established in 1979 as a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Foundation supports the historical programs of the Marine Corps in ways not possible through government funds. The Foundation provides grants and scholarships for research and the renovation, restoration and commissioning of historical Marine Corps artifacts and landmarks. The Foundation secured the necessary funding for the construction of the National Museum of the Marine Corps and Heritage Center, located in Triangle, Virginia, and continues to expand programs at the National Museum of the Marine Corps and beyond its walls. For more information, visit MarineHeritage.org.



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