

250 YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS



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

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

TRIANGLE, Va. (April 23, 2025) – The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (MCHF) today celebrates Marines of California 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 California have made to our country. It's an opportunity for all residents of California 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 California ties include:

- [Donald Bren](#): After earning a degree in economics and business administration from the University of Washington, Donald Bren served as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. He later became chairman and owner of major real estate development corporation the Irvine Company. (Los Angeles, Calif.)
- [Johnnie B "Dusty" Baker Jr.](#): Dusty Baker served in the Marine Corps Reserve as a motor transport mechanic from 1968 to 1974. He went on to a legendary career in Major League Baseball, earning accolades both as a player and manager, including being named Manager of the Year multiple times with the San Francisco Giants and winning a World Series with the Houston Astros. (Riverside, Calif.)
- [Adam Driver](#): Adam Driver is a former U.S. Marine who served with the 1st Battalion, 1st Marines before being medically discharged due to an injury. He later

became an acclaimed actor, known worldwide for his roles in films including Star Wars, Marriage Story and BlackkKlansman. Driver also founded Arts in the Armed Forces, a nonprofit that brought high-quality theater programming to service members and veterans before closing in 2023. (San Diego, Calif.)

- [Mayor Jamey Federico](#): Mayor Jamey Federico was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps in 1996. He served nearly 22 years on active duty as an infantry officer and later as an AH-1Z Cobra attack helicopter pilot, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 2017. He was elected to the Dana Point City Council in 2018. (Dana Point, Calif.)
- [Jodie M. Grenier](#): Jodie Grenier served with the 1st Marine Division as an intelligence analyst during Operation Iraqi Freedom I and II. She is currently CEO of the Foundation for Women Warriors and has testified before Congress on women veterans issues. She has been honored with multiple business and leadership awards including the L.A. Times Business Visionaries award. (San Diego, Calif.)
- [Tim Matheson](#): Known for his acting career, including roles in “Animal House” and “The West Wing,” Tim Matheson served in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, attaining the rank of lance corporal. Matheson has since become a director of TV shows and movies including episodes from Person of Interest and Lucifer. (Glendale, Calif.)
- [Staff Sergeant Reckless](#) (1948 – May 13, 1968): Sgt. Reckless was a decorated war horse that served with the U.S. Marine Corps during the Korean War, carrying ammunition and evacuating wounded Marines under enemy fire, even completing 51 solo trips carrying a total of 386 recoilless rounds (over 9,000 pounds) and covering over 35 miles in a single day during the Battle for Outpost Vegas. Reckless was retired with full military honors, awarded two Purple Hearts, and lived for the rest of her life at Marine Corps Base Camp Pendleton until her death and burial there in 1968. She is memorialized with a life-size statue at the National Museum of the Marine Corps in Quantico, Virginia.
- [Francisco Roman Jr.](#): Francisco Roman Jr., a San Diego Police Department sergeant, was awarded the Purple Heart in January 2024 for injuries he sustained as a U.S. Marine in Iraq's Anbar province in 2005. Despite being wounded by an improvised explosive device while leading a quick-reaction force, he continued to lead and regroup his unit. Years later, he survived three gunshot wounds during a police response activity in San Diego. (San Diego, Calif.)
- [Anthony Swofford](#): Anthony Swofford served in a U.S. Marine Corps Surveillance and Target Acquisition/Scout-Sniper platoon during the Gulf War and is well-known for his memoir, “Jarhead,” which recounts his experiences in the military and was adapted into film. (Fairfield, Calif.)
- [Frederick W. Sturckow](#): Frederick “Rick” Sturckow, a retired U.S. Marine Corps colonel, flew 41 combat missions during Operation Desert Storm. He later became a NASA astronaut, piloting and commanding multiple space shuttle missions, including serving as a pilot for the first International Space Station assembly mission in 1998. (La Mesa, Calif.)

“The list of notable Marines from California 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](http://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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