

250 YEARS OF THE MARINE CORPS



CONTACT:

Haylee Sigafoose
Hsigafoose@susandavis.com
202-414-0799

The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (MCHF) Spotlights Iowa During Nationwide Marines Across America Program

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

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

- **[Quentin Stanerson](#) (Audubon, Iowa):** Represented the 95th district of the Iowa House of Representatives from 2013 to 2017, where he was appointed to the Local Government, State Government, Veterans Affairs, Ways and Means, and Education committees. Now serving his community as Principal of Audubon Middle-High School.
- **[Dustin Peterson](#) (Cedar Rapids, Iowa):** After serving 24 years in the Marine Corps, retiring with the rank of Master Gunnery Sergeant, Peterson now serves as Veteran Affairs Director, Linn County.
- **[Harrison Swift](#) (Ankeny, Iowa):** Program Manager for Home Base Iowa, an organization aiming to make Iowa the state of choice for veterans and their families. Previously served as Veterans Fellow in Senator Chuck Grassley's Des Moines office and founded The Northern Colorado Veterans Resource Center during a brief time in Colorado.
- **[Michael Young](#) (Des Moines, Iowa):** Current State Commander of Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Department of Iowa. Previously served as the Iowa VFW 5th District Commander and Post Commander of Beaverdale VFW Post 9172.

- **Jonas Cutler (Des Moines, Iowa)**: Assistant Director at Principal, a global financial services company headquartered in Des Moines. A law school graduate and former Veterans Administration employee. Founder of a tech donation initiative providing laptops to veterans in the Des Moines area.
- **Harold “Pie” Keller (Brooklyn, Iowa)**: WWII Marine veteran who was famously pictured in the iconic flag-raising photo on Mount Suribachi during the Battle of Iwo Jima. He was posthumously recognized in 2019 after being misidentified for decades. Harold passed away in 2017.

“The list of notable Marines from Iowa 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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