



MARINE CORPS HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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

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

TRIANGLE, Va. – The Marine Corps Heritage Foundation (MCHF) today celebrates the Marines of Alabama, as part of the organization's year-long 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 mark 250 years of the Marine Corps, we honor the profound contributions that Marines from Alabama have made to our nation. It's an opportunity for all residents of Alabama to commemorate this historic milestone and show their appreciation for past, current, and future Marines who stand ready to protect our Nation."

Among the notable Marines with Alabama ties include:

- [Lew Thomas](#), founder of Adobe House Media Production
- [Bill Greason](#), former Negro League and Major League Baseball player
- [Jamey Johnson](#), country singer
- [Capt. James Jackson](#), Birmingham's police captain
- [Rosalia Scifo](#), one of first female Marine Corps Sergeant Majors
- [Jodie Dean](#), teacher at Alabama Connections Academy
- [Coby McNeal](#), walk-on football player at the University of Alabama
- [Neil Rafferty](#), member of Alabama's House of Representatives
- [Bryan Battaglia](#), chairman of Marine Corps League for Alabama's VA
- [Leon Grove](#), CEO at Grove Financial Group

- [James Popwell](#), Founder and CEO of Flags for Vets
- Lonnie Foster, Science Teacher at Proximity Learning, Inc.
- [Paul Irwin](#), Chief of the Leeds police department
- [Jason Smith](#), Alabama National Guard Resilience and Risk Reduction Coordinator
- [Willie Williams](#), President/CEO Williams Consulting LLC
- [Dale Hathcock](#), President at Anchor Parking & Perimeter Security
- David Keller, President at Corps Digital

“The list of notable Marines from Alabama is impressive and showcases how they used the values and skills they learned in the Marine Corps to become pillars and leaders in their communities,” said Maj Gen Lukeman. “These men and women have gone and above in their service to this country, and today is an opportunity to thank them for their contributions to Alabama.”

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 across all 50 state capitols with official cake-cutting ceremonies.

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. Submissions can be made through [the Marine250.com website](https://theMarine250.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.