

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 494 Session of 2011

INTRODUCED BY WHEATLEY, READSHAW, DeWEESE, GOODMAN, AUMENT, BISHOP, BRENNAN, BROWNLEE, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN, CONKLIN, DELOZIER, FREEMAN, GEIST, GEORGE, GERGELY, GODSHALL, HENNESSEY, HORNAMAN, JOHNSON, KORTZ, KULA, MAHER, MANN, MARKOSEK, McGEEHAN, MILLARD, MIRABITO, MURPHY, M. O'BRIEN, PARKER, PAYTON, PYLE, QUINN, ROCK, SAINATO, SANTONI, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, STABACK, STEVENSON, VEREB, WAGNER, TAYLOR, EVERETT, ROEBUCK AND PAYNE, NOVEMBER 1, 2011

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, NOVEMBER 1, 2011

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the Montford Point Marines, who were the first
2 African-American Marines in the United States, for receiving
3 the Congressional Gold Medal.

4 WHEREAS, Montford Point Camp was a facility set up
5 specifically for African Americans after President Roosevelt
6 desegregated the Marine Corps in 1941; and

7 WHEREAS, At Montford Point Camp and throughout the Marine
8 Corps, African-American Marines were forced to endure rampant
9 racism, such as being prohibited from visiting neighboring
10 Marine camps unless they were accompanied by a white officer and
11 being prohibited from dining with their white counterparts; and

12 WHEREAS, Roughly 19,000 African-American Marines trained at
13 Montford Point Camp at the height of World War II, and nearly
14 75% of Montford Point trainees served overseas; and

15 WHEREAS, Montford Point was deactivated in 1949 after

1 President Truman issued an executive order barring segregation;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, In 1974, Montford Point was renamed Camp Johnson
4 after one of its trainees, Sergeant Major Gilbert "Hashmark"
5 Johnson; and

6 WHEREAS, On October 25th, 2011, the Congress of the United
7 States honored the Montford Point Marines with the Congressional
8 Gold Medal with a unanimous vote; and

9 WHEREAS, The push for the congressional honors was
10 spearheaded by Commandant General James Amos, who promised that
11 the story of Montford Point will now be forever anchored in the
12 rich history of the United States Marine Corps; and

13 WHEREAS, The history of Montford Point will be taught at all
14 Marine Corps schools and training facilities from this point
15 forward; therefore be it

16 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize and
17 honor the Montford Point Marines who served their country with
18 great valor and distinction.