

**RESOLUTION REDEDICATING THE CHICAGO MONTFORD POINT MARINE MEMORIAL
AND HONORING TWO MONTFORD POINT MARINE VETERANS**

WHEREAS on May 23, 2024, citizens of the 6th Ward and members of the National Montford Point Marine Association Chapter 2 (Chicago) will assemble to rededicate the Montford Point memorial located in the triangle at the merger of Vincennes and Lafayette Avenues; and

WHEREAS the occasion also serves to honor the two surviving U.S. Marines who received their training at Montford Point in North Carolina. Since 1775, the United States Marine Corps has served our country in peace and war, continuing to stand as a force in readiness, prepared to serve whenever the nation calls; and

WHEREAS the Montford Point Marine Association plays a vital role in the Marine Corps Family, fostering camaraderie, support, and advocacy for veterans; and

WHEREAS on the 25th day of June 1941, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued Executive Order No. 8802, establishing fair employment practices and beginning to dismantle discrimination in the Armed Forces. African American Marines, from all states, were segregated during World War II and received basic training at Montford Point, North Carolina, from 1942 to 1949. Approximately 20,000 African American Marines received training at Montford Point, contributing significantly to the defense of our nation; and

WHEREAS the Montford Point Marine Association Chapter 2 (Chicago) was established on June 17, 1966, for the purpose of fostering and promoting veteran affairs, education, recreational and social activities, and community support. The Montford Point Marine Association stands as a beacon of support in addressing the needs of veterans and community residents, providing assistance in various forms, including benefit assistance, community resource connections, direct services, and referrals for mental health and employment; and

WHEREAS Hubert Burks, a distinguished WWII Veteran and Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, answered the call to serve his country and was drafted into the Marine Corps, commencing his service in Chicago, Illinois. Rising to the rank of Private First Class, he served in the 52nd Defense Battalion from 1944 to 1946, where he played a crucial role on a 90mm Gun Crew. While he did not engage in physical combat, PFC Burks undertook vital guard duties, including overseeing Japanese prisoners of war on Wake Island and providing security across numerous strategic locations, including the Marshall Islands, Eniwetok, Kwajalein Atoll Islands, Marianas Island, Guam, and Saipan; and

WHEREAS Hubert Burks has been an integral part of the Montford Point Marine Association Chapter 2 for an impressive 58 years, contributing his leadership, wisdom, and unwavering commitment to the well-being of fellow veterans and the broader community. His illustrious career, marked by both military and civilian accomplishments, including his service as a Postal Worker and his ownership of a roofing company for two decades, stands as a testament to the transformative power of the Marine Corps and his enduring dedication to public service; and

WHEREAS John Vanoy, a WWII Veteran and Congressional Medal of Honor Recipient, likewise answered the nation's call to duty and was drafted into the Marine Corps in Chicago, Illinois. Serving from 1943 to 1946, Mr. Vanoy attained the rank of Corporal and served in Service Supply and Guard Duty. As a Squad Leader, he played a pivotal role in ensuring the safe and efficient handling of critical ammunition and supplies. While he did not directly engage in combat, Corporal Vanoy's responsibilities were essential to the logistical support of Marine operations. He served in various locations, including Hawaii and Sasebo, and was part of the cleanup efforts in Nagasaki, Japan, following the atomic bomb's devastation; and

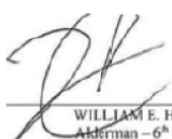
WHEREAS John Vanoy's service extended beyond his military duties, as he dedicated himself to the Montford Point Marine Association Chapter 2 for an impressive 47 years, serving as Vice President and as a member of the Finance Committee. His four decades of employment with the American Can Company further attest to his steadfast commitment to excellence and community. Mr. Vanoy's exemplary service in both military and civilian capacities embody the core values of the Marine Corps and reflects his enduring dedication to the betterment of society; and

WHEREAS the Honorable William E. Hall, Alderman of the 6th Ward, has informed this august body of the event and the honor being bestowed on these two exemplary World War II U.S. Marine veterans and outstanding citizens of this city; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that we, the mayor and the members of the City of Chicago City Council, gathered this 22nd of May 2024, do hereby salute the legacy and service of the Montford Point Marines and commend the rededication of the Montford Point memorial as a symbol of their sacrifice and dedication to our nation.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Chicago City Council extends its deepest gratitude to Mr. Hubert Burks and Mr. John Vanoy for their exemplary service in the Marine Corps and their continued dedication to the Montford Point Marine Association Chapter 2 (Chicago) and the welfare of veterans as well as the community at large, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that suitable copies of this resolution be prepared and presented to the Montford Point Marines Association Chapter 2, John Vanoy, and Hubert Burks as a token of the City of Chicago's appreciation and esteem.

_____ 
WILLIAM E. HALL
Alderman - 6th Ward