

Military, Law, and more ...

U.S. Marine Corps will celebrate 250th Anniversary with Marine Week Nashville ... from sports-Military page 2

ceremonies, a scavenger hunt for kids and much more. Two-hundred fifty years ago, the U.S. Marine Corps was authorized by an act of the Second Continental Congress, leading Captain Samuel Nicholas to establish the first Marine Corps recruiting headquarters at Tun Tavern in Philadelphia, Pa., on November 10, 1775. "For 250 years, Marines have fought and won our nation's battles with honor, courage, and commitment," said Col. J.J. Wilson, commander of Special Purpose Marine Air-Ground Task Force 250, the unit leading the Marine Corps' year-long commemoration. "Marine Week Nashville is more than a celebra-

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tion—it's an opportunity to showcase our warfighting excellence, give back to the communities who support us, and share the rich heritage and culture that binds generations of Marines together. We're proud to be here in Nashville as we look ahead to the next 250 years of service to our nation."

Events during Marine Week Nashville:

1. Sun, June 1: Nashville Superspeedway Cracker Barrel 400: The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, the Silent Drill Platoon and USMC equipment will all be on hand, along with commemorations dur-

ing the NASCAR Cup Series race. Fan Fest Kickoff is at 1pm.

2. Mon, June 2: The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band, the Silent Drill Platoon, and the official Marine Corps Color Guard will perform at the 'most patriotic softball game in America' – the 2025 Folds of Honor Tennessee Rock 'N Jock Celebrity Softball Game at First Horizon Park in Nashville, featuring Team Military vs. Team First Responder.

3. Mon-Wed, June 2-4:

Workout with the Marines!: The public is invited to join Marines for 'Morning PT' at Bicentennial Park each morning at 6:30 - 8am.

4. Mon-Fri, June 2-6: Daily Wreath Laying & Colors ceremonies (9am daily), as well as community engagements and public service projects, will take place across the Nashville metro area.

5. Wed, June 4: Commemoration of the U.S. Marine Corps' 250th Birthday. Public invited to a ceremony and cake-cutting at the World War II Memorial at Bicentennial Park in Nashville 10am.

6. Thu-Sun, June 5-8:

Large display of Marine Corps equipment and assets at CMA Fest outdoors at 4th Ave S. and Broadway and at the Nashville Convention Center in the heart

of Nashville. The public is invited to meet their Marines, try on gear, test their strength at a pull-up challenge, and enjoy performances by the 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band.

7. Fri, June 6: 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band performance, Official Color Guard of the Marine Corps, a flyover and USMC Pull-Up Bar challenge at the Nashville Sounds baseball game. First pitch: 6:35pm; Friday Fireworks to follow the game.

8. Sun, June 8: The 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing Band performs at CMA Fest 2025 on the Dr. Pepper Amp Stage at 11:15am.

Barrett and MARS Inc. team win U.S. Army xTech Soldier Lethality competition in support with Army’s Precision Grenadier System

From The Tactical Wire

The U.S. Army has announced that the MARS Inc, Barrett team has been selected as the winner of the xTech Soldier Lethality competition. In six months, this team of agile businesses were able to design, build, test, and demonstrate the effectiveness of a new 30mm grenade rifle system in support of the Army's Precision Grenadier System (PGS) requirement. PGS is a soldier portable, shoulder fired, semi-automatic, magazine fed, integrated armament system (weapon, ammunition, fire control) that enables rapid, precision engagements to destroy personnel targets in defilade and Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS) targets at close range. Both companies are proud to have the op-

portunity to provide this unique capability to the U.S. and allied war fighters. "For decades, Barrett has changed the battlefield with revolutionary systems like the shoulder fired semi-automatic .50 caliber Model 82 and its modern variants, as well as the MRAD MK 22 — the world's most accurate multi-caliber sniper rifle," said Bryan James, Barrett CEO. "These weapon systems are now supporting the U.S. and more than 80 allied nations around the world. With our focus now on the U.S. Army's PGS initiative, we are committed to delivering another game changing advantage: a system with Programmable Air Bursting counter defilade and Counter-UAS capabilities designed to keep our troops safe and ensure

mission success." The xTech program was an incredible demonstration of the strength and capabilities of the Barrett team to collaborate with likeminded companies to achieve what many thought unachievable in the given timeframe. As part of that journey, Barrett worked closely with

small business innovator MARS Inc to bring their technology to life, AMTEC Corp to develop an entirely new family of 30mm shoulder fired munitions, and Precision Targeting to provide a fire control system customized for the AMTEC ammunition. This new ammunition family will have the full spectrum of capabil-

ities required to achieve the US Army's mission to provide overmatch on the modern battlefield. This includes, Programmable Air Bursting High Explosive (HE), Proximity Fuzed and Point Detonating HE, as well as a Close Quarter Battle Round.

"This award highlights not only

our technical capabilities, but the power of partnership, agility, and a shared mission," said Ryan Krantz, Barrett Vice President of Business Development & Sales. "We're proud to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the U.S. Army to deliver the next leap forward in soldier lethality."

Medal of Honor Profile: Marine Corps Pfc. Jimmy W. Phipps from sports-Military 2

lery ordnance and concealed firing devices. Phipps had used up all of his explosives and blasting caps by the time he discovered a 175 mm high-explosive artillery round in a rice paddy. He decided to use a hand grenade to destroy it, but since he suspected the enemy had attached a secondary explosive device to it, he warned other Marines in the area to find cover first. As Phipps was attaching the hand grenade to a stake beside the artillery round, he quickly learned his hunch was right because the fuse of the secondary explosive device ignited. Phipps only had seconds to think. He realized that two of his platoonmates were within a few meters of him, and the imminent explosion could kill all three of them. So, Phipps did the only thing he could think of — he pulled the hand grenade into his chest and dove on top of the two enemy explosive devices, acting as a human shield for when they detonated. Phipps gave his own life to save those of his compan-

ions. Phipps' selfless devotion to duty was honored on April 20, 1970, when his family received the Medal of Honor on his behalf from Vice President Spiro T. Agnew during a White House ceremony. Twelve other Marines and two Navy hospital corpsmen also posthumously received the nation's highest medal for valor that day. Phipps is buried in Woodlawn Cemetery, Mausoleum and Mortuary in Santa Monica, California. The 18-year-old who gave his life for others has not been forgotten. In 1973, a new barracks was dedicated in Phipps' honor at Marine Corps Air Station El Toro, California, which has since closed. Two years later, a barracks at Marine Corps Base Quantico, Virginia, was dedicated to him.

This article is part of a weekly series called "Medal of Honor Monday," in which we highlight one of the more than 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients who have received the U.S. military's highest medal for valor.

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