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Veteran Experiences Closure as he Holds Objects That Contain Powerful Memories

Museum to hold monthly History in Your Hands event for visitors who are blind or have low vision

Triangle, Va. – Last month Jason Grey, a World War II veteran with impaired vision, attended the National Museum of the Marine Corps' History in Your Hands event. Despite being legally blind, Mr. Grey was able to experience the museum as he walked through holding artifacts from different displays. He spent almost an entire hour in the World War II exhibit.

"The war was hard on me, it was hard on us all," Grey said. "Holding objects from that time brought back many painful memories of danger and loss. But it also reminded me of the brotherly bond that was formed with my fellow soldiers. In many ways being here today brought me the closure I have needed for several years now."

Marine Corps veteran and Purple Heart recipient Brian Maxwell also attended the event. "I'm so thankful for the chance to experience the museum in this way. So many museums don't take into account disabilities such as impaired vision. It's just another testament of the Marine Corps museum's dedication to preserving the legacy that is our corps." Maxwell enjoyed holding artifacts from the Vietnam war exhibit.

History in Your Hands is a program for visitors of all ages who are blind or have low vision. It is an opportunity to interact with the collections through verbal descriptions, tactile exploration of objects and other materials for artifacts that cannot be touched. Trained museum volunteers and staff lead these events.

The next event will be held on Feb. 18, 2018, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. beginning in the lobby of the museum. There is no fee for this program, but preregistration is required. To register for the monthly program, email Gwenn Adams at least one week prior to the event to secure your spot.

"This is one of my favorite events," said Gwenn Adams, Public Affairs Chief for the museum. "It is absolutely incredible to watch visitors as they interact with different exhibits. It is an event I hope we will continue hosting for years." The museum first began this program in summer of 2017.

Any questions regarding this program or the museum in general can be emailed to Gwenn Adams at gwenn.adams@usmc.edu.

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The National Museum of the Marine Corps is located at 18900 Jefferson Davis Highway in Triangle, Va., and is open 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily except Christmas Day. Admission and parking are free. For more information, please call 703 784-6107 or visit the museum's website at www.usmcmuseum.com.



18900 Jefferson Davis Highway – Triangle, VA 22172 – Phone (703) 432-1775

Feb. 3, 2018

Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin J. Walters
4003 Ocean Blue Way
Virginia Beach, Va. 23451

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Walters,

On a recent walk through grounds of the National Museum of the Marine Corps, I was amazed and humbled as I walked down the footpath surrounding the museum. My eyes focused on the thousands of bricks that line the path, engraved with names of countless men and women who dedicated their lives to serving our country. This is the truest testament of the sacrifice we work so hard to preserve and exhibit.

Semper Fidelis – Always Faithful – a phrase that U.S. Marines and their families demonstrate in every clime and place. The National Museum of the Marine Corps is dedicated to telling their story - from the warriors on the front lines to the families on the home front.

The museum's Engraved Brick Program is a way for you to honor the sacrifice and commitment of your fellow Marine or loved one. It's a way to show your pride in our Corps and say "Semper Fidelis!" to generations of Marines.

For a one-time donation to the museum, you will receive a brick engraved with a name and message of a Marine Corps hero whose legacy will live on. Your donation will allow the museum to:

- Support the operations of the museum and Heritage Foundation (open 364 days a year)
- Assist the museum's volunteer and educational programs (45 programs in 2017)
- Secure necessary funding to complete the final stages of building (scheduled for 2021)

Please donate an engraved brick today to help us preserve the honor and commitment of U.S. Marines and their families. Our museum depends on friends like you to maintain an environment where visitors can discover new objects, heal from past losses and learn about the truest form of sacrifice.

Thank you in advance for your generous gift.

Very sincerely,

Lin Ezell, M.P.A.
Director, National Museum of the Marine Corps



Heroes on the Homefront – Marine Corps Museum Speech

Specific Purpose: To inform the audience of the benefits of being a military child.

Introduction:

- I. “Where are you from?” As a military child, it’s the question that I always dread because I never know how to respond. “Um, everywhere?” is usually my go-to.
- II. How do you communicate what it’s like to move 14 times, live in 6 different states and 2 different countries?
- III. Being a part of a military family is no easy task – it takes commitment, bravery, and a whole lot of patience. But it is perhaps the most rewarding and refining lifestyle that I have had the privilege of experiencing.

Thesis: Today, I am going to share with you three of the benefits that come with being a military child: experiencing different *cultures*, learning the importance of *community*, and increased personal *confidence*.

I. First, the ability to experience different cultures

- A. Data from the Pew Research Center found that 57% of people have never lived outside of their current state. Another 38% of people have never left the place in which they were born.
- B. One of the most exciting aspects of being a military child has been getting to live in so many different cultures. This has allowed me to identify small idiosyncrasies that distinguish different countries or coasts. The most notable for me so far has been clothing.
- C. My family made a move from the East Coast to the West Coast in 2014. I remember we were invited to a social dinner at the General’s house that read, “Casual Dinner Dress.” Having just moved from Northern Virginia, my family dressed accordingly with the guys wearing jackets and the girls wearing dresses. We arrived to find all the other guests in shorts and flip flops!

II. Second, the importance of community

- A. Most of the time my family lived in base housing which meant that we got on a housing list and were simply assigned a house. We weren’t always able to choose the specific community we lived in.
- B. Not being able to choose your neighbors is no excuse for military families not to be involved in the community. Marine Corps bases are very diligent about having events that bring community together, such as:
 - a. Free events such as concerts or free pre-screenings of movies
 - b. Neighborhood ice cream socials or pool parties
 - c. Base-wide bowling or other types of sports tournaments

- C. While I didn't always to choose my neighbors, but I was encouraged to constantly be engaged in my community and helping other families in need. Because of this engagement, I now have friends to last a lifetime. In fact, when my family moved across country we didn't have to spend one night in a hotel because we had friends all along our route.

III. Third, increased amounts of confidence

- A. Commander Rick Jordan, USN. (Ret.), teacher at a San Diego high school said, "I love living close to a base because we get so many military kids at school. Let me tell you, most of the time they are some of the most confident yet respectful kids I have ever encountered in my life."
- B. Moving every one to two years forces military kids outside of their comfort zone in a couple of ways:
 - a. First, having to constantly change schools
 - b. Second, having to make completely new friends
- C. Being pushed out of your comfort zone eventually leads to confidence in new situations. While many of my friends struggled to make the move to college, I was able to embrace the new adventure because I had so much experience living in new places.

Conclusion:

- I. In conclusion, military brats know something about efficiency. We can count on each other in a way the modern American community has in many ways forgotten. It's not about the free benefits we receive, it's about belonging to something noble, whether it's "free" or whether it costs everything you've got.
- II. People often ask, "Where are you from?" For me, that question has no simple answer. But this is how I choose to answer it.
- III. I am from a place that has no geographical marker. I grew up where seeing other children crying good-bye to Mom or Dad deploying made me cry, too, because on any day that child could have been me. I am from the place where that obnoxious soldier who is swearing and covered with tattoos is also willing to die for me, even if he isn't guaranteed tuition assistance or a pension plan. I come from the place where I know first-hand that freedom isn't free at all. I am from a place where these perks are rich enough reward.
- IV. The families of those bearing the trust of freedom cannot be weak or timid. So I will proudly call myself a military brat as I embrace each culture I live in, engage in my community, and walk each day with complete confidence in the person I am becoming.



Story Idea Pitches

Print:

The National Museum of the Marine Corps is dedicated to preserving the history of the heroes who have made the United States a safe and secure country. One featured hero, Marine veteran Bennett Harven, landed on Iwo Jima in WWII. 25 years later his son, John Harven, deployed to Vietnam to honor his father's legacy. This past month John visited the museum on the anniversary of his father's death and was able to listen to a phone call recording his father had made from Iwo Jima that is featured in the WWII exhibit of the museum.

Broadcast:

Man's best friend is taking over the National Museum of the Marine Corps on Saturday June 9, 2018, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. The annual Dog Days of Summer event features a number of activities to showcase the role dogs play in the Marine Corps as well as some activities just for fun. The program includes working dog demonstrations by the U.S. State Department K9 team and the Marine Corps Base Quantico Working Dog team. There will also be a bull dog kissing booth and community organizations to offer visitors a chance to meet local rescue dogs.