

Johnny Higdon Bio
National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc
President Atlanta Chapter 5



Johnny Higdon, President of the Atlanta Chapter of the National Montford Point Marine Association, Inc., exemplifies a life dedicated to service, leadership, and community engagement. A proud veteran, Johnny's journey began in Thomasville, Georgia, and led him to an illustrious 30-year career in the U.S. Marine Corps, culminating in his role as the Installation Sergeant Major of the Marine Corps Logistics Base in Albany, Georgia. His military tenure was marked by diverse global experiences and significant leadership roles, shaping him into a dynamic leader and team-builder.

After retiring from the Marines in 2019, Johnny's desire to serve continued unabated. He founded Legacy Building Mentors Incorporated, a nonprofit focused on aiding underserved communities, and established Quez-Essential Consulting, aimed at enhancing organizational performance by advising management on effective ways to motivate and inspire the workforce. His academic achievements include a Bachelor of Science in Computer Information System Management and a master's degree in Computer and Information Security, supplemented with certifications in Disaster Recovery, Lean Six Sigma Green Belt, and Leadership Team Awareness.

Johnny's presidency of the Atlanta Chapter since 2021 has been marked by significant achievements. Under his leadership, the Chapter celebrated its first ever local Montford Point Marine Day and participated in important events like the Memorial Day wreath-laying at Heritage Park and the Lake Oconee Memorial Day Program. The Chapter's visibility was further enhanced through participation in events such as the Juneteenth Parade, Veteran Day Parade, and the Taste of Mableton Parade.

In addition to these community-oriented initiatives, Johnny has been instrumental in modernizing the Chapter. He revamped the Chapter website and automated processes such as membership, event forecasting, and sharing the Montford Point Marines' stories, featuring firsthand recollections from the Originals in the Chapter. These advancements have not only streamlined operations but also contributed to a notable increase in Chapter membership.

A highlight of his tenure is the discovery of over 12 Original Montford Point Marines in one year, leading to the posthumous awarding of 11 Congressional Gold Medals and one to a living Montford Pointer. He also orchestrated talks at local schools from elementary to high school levels educating young generations about the Montford Point Marines. The Chapter was voted Chapter of the Year in 2022 at the National Convention, a testament to Johnny's vision and leadership in elevating the Chapter to new heights. Johnny Higdon continues to be an inspiring figure, committed to ensuring that their contributions are forever remembered and celebrated.