



HONOREARNED

The Official Newsletter of the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial



Volume 20, 2011

Happy Birthday United States Marine Corps!



Birthday greetings this month to the United States Marine Corps (USMC), which was founded 236 years ago on Nov. 10, 1775 in Philadelphia as naval infantry. Today, the corps is a branch of the United States Armed Forces responsible for providing power from the sea, using the mobility of the United States Navy to deliver combined-arm task forces rapidly.

The Marine Corps has served in every American armed conflict and today includes about 203,000 active duty Marines and 40,000 reserve Marines. Every year, more than 2,000 new Marine officers are commissioned, and 38,000 recruits accepted and trained. Enlisted Marines attend recruit training, known as *boot camp*, at either Marine Corps Recruit Depot San Diego or Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island. The 13-week Marine recruit training is the longest among the American military services.

GET INVOLVED

Become a [Memorial Ambassador](#)

TAKE A TOUR

View the [Virtual Memorial](#)

WATCH US GROW

Read About Our [Groundbreaking](#)

BUY A COIN

Pay tribute with the [2010 American Veterans Disabled for Life Silver Dollar](#)

DENNIS JOYNER INTERVIEW

Tune in to [Fuzzy Manning's Blog Talk show](#) on Monday, November 7 at 2:30 p.m. EST (11:30 a.m. PST) to listen to Mr. Joyner's live interview.

VFW MAGAZINE

VFW Magazine writes about the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in its October issue. Read the [full article](#).

2010 DVLMF ANNUAL REPORT

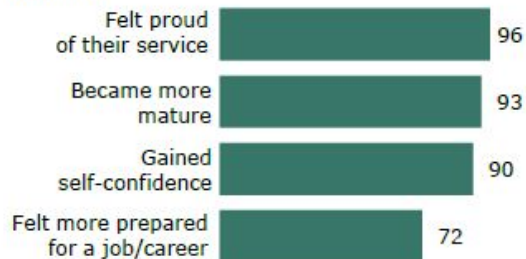
The DVLMF 2010 Annual Report is now available on our website. [Read the report](#) and learn about all the progress and exciting developments from last year.

New Survey Finds Veterans Proud of Service

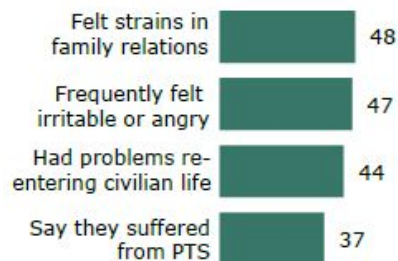
The Rewards and Burdens of Military Service

% of post-9/11 veterans saying that as a result of their military service, they ...

Rewards



Burdens



Note: Based on post-9/11 veterans, n=712.

PEW RESEARCH CENTER V/27,36,43,50²

Pew Research Center findings

The Pew Research Center recently released the findings of a comprehensive survey about veterans, noting that as the United States marks the 10th anniversary of the longest period of sustained warfare in its history, 96% of veterans of the post-9/11 era are proud of their military service.

However, their sacrifice has come at a deep cost, as nearly half (44%) report that they have had difficulty readjusting to civilian life while 37% say they have suffered from post-traumatic stress.

The research, based on surveys conducted with 1,853 veterans and 2,003 adult civilians between late July and mid-September, revealed that each group has a different view on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the value of military service and the subject of patriotism. They largely agree, however, that soldiers and their families are bearing much of the sacrifice of the two wars.

It is interesting to note that at the height of World War II, nearly 9% of the public were on active duty, while today only about one-half of 1% has been on active duty in the military.

Read more about the [survey and its key findings](#).

DID YOU KNOW?

Memorial and tribute cards in honor or memory of a loved one are available [online](#) and donations are tax-deductible. Choose from nine designs, all with the option of adding a custom message.

GARY SINISE

We are honored to have actor, director and musician Gary Sinise as the national spokesperson for the *American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial*. Gary has been traveling the country, supporting the Memorial's cause at events and conferences from coast to coast.

[\(more\)](#)



VFW Selects New Commander



Richard De Noyer, a Marine for 22 years and a veteran of Vietnam, was elected September 1 as national VFW Commander-in-Chief. A resident of Middleton, Massachusetts, the 68-year-old serves as the top official, diplomat, lobbyist and representative of the organization's 2.1 million members.

In the October issue of *VFW Magazine*, De Noyer recounts his life story and rise to the top post. He says his slogan for his year as VFW Chief is "Service with Pride," which captures the sense of camaraderie and pride in service he felt while standing side-by-side with his fellow Marines. He joined VFW in 1981, Post 1012 in Medford, Massachusetts, while still on active duty. He became an All-State Post commander in 1992-93, was the state's Department commander in 2000-2001, and VFW Eastern Conference chairman in 2003-2004.

Read more about [Commander De Noyer](#).

Disabled California Vet Keeps On Giving



Kurtis Foster & Rep. Jeff Denham

McClatchy Newspapers reporter Michael Doyle recently wrote about three-time Purple Heart awardee Kurtis Foster, who last month began a two-year fellowship with the House of Representative's Wounded Warrior program.

Established in 2008, the program provides annual salaries of

BUY A COIN, BUILD A MEMORIAL



If you missed the opportunity to buy an American Veterans Disabled for Life Silver Dollar from the United States Mint, here's your chance!

For a limited time, this commemorative coin is available directly from the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation! Proceeds from every coin purchased are donated back to the DVLMF to help fund The American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial in Washington D.C.

With thousands of disabled veterans returning from current conflicts, now is the time to purchase the American Veterans Disabled for Life Silver Dollar to show your gratitude and support for our disabled veterans. At the same time, you'll be adding a family keepsake that will be enjoyed and revered for generations to come.

[Order yours today.](#)

and with less than 20 years of service, allowing them to work in House of Representatives members' district offices across the country. The fellowship also gives them a new start, doing work that hits home.

Kurtis will work as a veterans' casework specialist in the Fresno district office of Rep. Jeff Denham, R-Calif.

"My thing is, I want to be able to help the veterans, so they don't get so lost," Foster said. "I hope people understand I'm there for them."

Sometimes, Foster acknowledged, he also is better at dealing with fellow veterans than with civilians who have sat on the sidelines the past 10 years. It's a band-of-brothers sentiment that could help in his new work.

Commented Rep. Denham: "It will provide an advantage to have a wounded warrior to be able to talk to other veterans."

Read more about [Kurtis](#).

Read more about the [Wounded Warrior Program](#).

We Salute You



Actor J.R. Martinez, burned over 40 percent of his body while serving in Iraq in 2003 when he was 19 years old, has emerged as a fan favorite on this season's "Dancing with the Stars." His elegant waltz on the Oct. 3 show drew the show's longest standing ovation ever.

"I'm representing all of our vets," Martinez told *The Huffington Post*. "The thing is, a lot of our vets come home and they feel displaced, and they don't feel like their voice matters, so for me to be a spokesman and have that honor to educate America about who we are and what we are, it's like I'm doing my job. I'll never have the opportunity to go back to Iraq and serve my country, but I tell people this is my way of serving. I don't have a weapon in my hand, and I don't have a uniform on my body, but my uniform now is my scars and my weapon is my words, so I'm still serving."

PRESIDENT CLINTON RECEIVES MEMORIAL COIN

President Bill Clinton, who played an integral role in making the American Veterans Disabled for Life Memorial a reality by signing legislation in 2000 authorizing the creation of the **Memorial** in Washington, D.C., was recently presented an American Veterans Disabled for Life Silver Dollar by Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation Co-Founder and Chairman Lois Pope.



Lois Pope & President Clinton

DVLMF AND SOCIAL MEDIA

We update our Facebook and Twitter accounts daily. Be in the know about the latest happenings with the Memorial and current news impacting America's disabled veterans. Join us on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).



Following his accident, Martinez spent more than two years in the hospital, undergoing [33 surgeries in just 34 months](#), including skin grafts and tissue expansions, to repair the damage to his body.

J.R. Martinez will be a special guest at LIFE's 18th Lady In Red Gala on December 2nd in Palm Beach. Over the past 6 years, LIFE has raised over \$2,000,000 for the American Veterans Disabled For Life Memorial.

Read [more](#).

1-800-331-7590

www.avdlm.org

DONATE TODAY.
Honor Our Heroes. [Click Here](#)