



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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## **HCC Announces Next Presidential Lecture Series Speaker**

**WELDON, N.C.** – Halifax Community College (HCC) is proud to announce that Pink Scales, Vice President of the Triangle/Triad Chapter of the Montford Point Marines Association (MPMA), will be on campus on March 14 at 10 a.m.

Scales will be hosted by the President's office. The program will focus on the history of the Montford Point Marines, and the contributions they made to the military and this country.

"It is such a privilege to share the story of the Montford Point Marines, a history lesson that is too often overlooked," said Dr. Michael A. Elam, president of HCC. "This is a speaker no one should miss."

The MPMA is a nonprofit military veteran's organization, founded to memorialize the legacy of the first African Americans to serve in the United States Marine Corps. The first African American U.S. Marines were trained at Camp Montford Point, in Jacksonville, North Carolina, from 1942 to 1949.

Prior to Executive Order 8802, issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, African Americans were not allowed to serve in the US military. However, all of that changed on June 25, 1941.

Recruiting for the "Montford Marines" began on June 1, 1942. Thousands of African American men, eager to serve, flocked to recruiting offices. The first recruits received basic training at the segregated Camp Montford Point in Jacksonville, North Carolina. The 1,200 men in the quota were housed in prefabricated huts. By 1945, all drill instructors and many NCOs at Montford Point were African Americans.

Between 1942 and 1949, more than 20,000 men were trained at Montford Point. In July 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, which required the desegregation of the military. In 1949, Montford Point was deactivated, and new recruits were sent to Parris Island and Camp Pendleton. During the Korean War, the United States Marine Corps fully integrated.

The MPMA was created in 1965 to honor the courage and bravery of those 20,000 recruits, who served their country honorably despite great adversity.

The event is free and open to the public.

**Halifax Community College's Mission**

Halifax Community College strives to meet the diverse needs of our community by providing high-quality, accessible and affordable education and services for a rapidly changing and globally competitive marketplace.

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