

Ed Fizer to be speaker for Park Forest Historical Society Veterans Day Program

Edwin Fizer, an honored veteran of the Montford Point Marines, the African American unit that broke the color barrier in the U.S. Marine Corps during World War II, will speak on the challenges and accomplishments of his unit for the Park Forest Historical Society program, Sunday November 11, 2012, 2:30 p.m. in the Park Forest Village Hall, 350 Victory Drive. The program is free and open to the general public.

Mr. Fizer enlisted in July 1942, as a 16 ½ year old, and was trained at Montford Point, North Carolina, a segregated Marine Corps training boot camp, on the edge of Camp Lejeune. The recruits were subjected to racial prejudice and to rigorous training above what other Marines were required to do, but persevered for the chance to serve their country and prove themselves. Nearly 20,000 African American recruits trained at Montford Point. It was only on June 27, 2012, that the Battalion and its veterans were recognized with the Congressional Gold Medal from the United States Congress for their service. Mr. Fizer served in the 51st Defense Battalion, Fleet Marine Forces in the Pacific Theater. He is an active member of the Montford Point Marine Association, Chapter 2, in Chicago, and recently went on an Honor Flight to Washington, D.C.

He has lived in Park Forest since 1968 and is a member of the Park Forest Senior Commission.

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