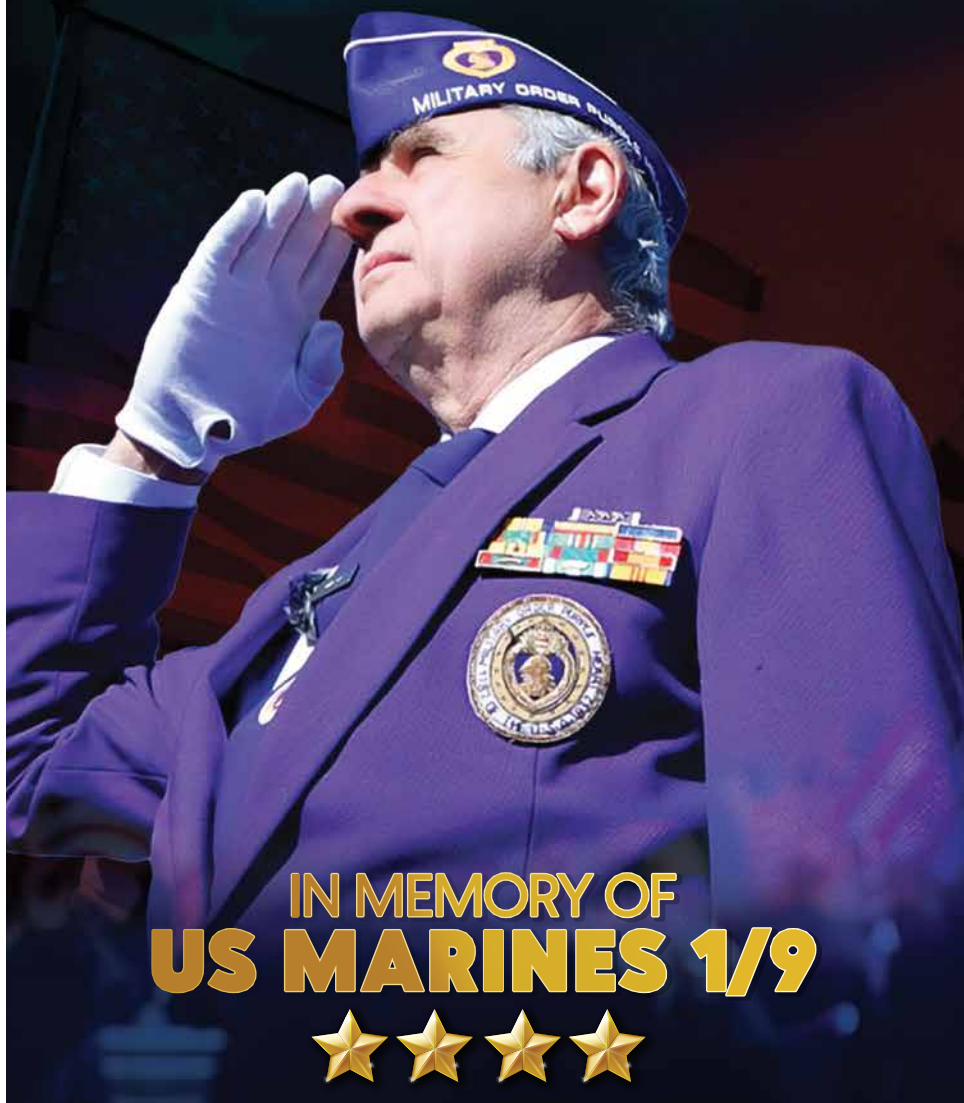


DEDICATION OF THE

Marco Polo Smigliani

PURPLE HEART WAY



IN MEMORY OF
US MARINES 1/9



Our Mission



The mission of the Military Order of the Purple Heart is to foster an environment of goodwill and camaraderie among combat wounded veterans, promote patriotism, support necessary legislative initiatives, and most importantly, provide service to all veterans and their families.

Our members are Combat Wounded Veterans who are dedicated to our country and our veteran community. We endeavor to do better for each other and by each other always. Chartered by Congress for combat wounded Veterans.

The Military Order of the Purple Heart is composed of military men and women who received the Purple Heart Medal for wounds suffered in combat or by an act of international terrorism. Although our membership is restricted to the combat wounded, we support all veterans and their families with a myriad of nation-wide programs by Chapters and Departments.

SEQUENCE OF EVENTS

MASTER OF CEREMONY *Doug Satterfield*

*** Military Helicopter fly over at 11:15 ***

1. Opening Remarks begins at 11:00 AM
2. Posting of Colors - **49th Marine Aircraft Group**
3. Pledge of Allegiance - **Randi Scheck**
4. National Anthem.- **Toni Ann Pugliese**
5. Invocation - **Fred Banner**
6. Introduction of Honored Guests - **Doug Satterfield**
7. Street Dedication & Plaque Unveiling
Mayor Laura Pfrommer, Marco Polo Smigliani
8. Honors by Last Salute - **Chuck Knutson**
9. Recognition of All Veterans
10. Recognition of Vietnam War Veterans
11. Recognition of Gold Star Mothers
12. Recognizing those who made the Dedication Possible
13. Remarks by Congressman **JEFF VAN DREW**
14. Remarks by State Senator **VINCE POLISTINA**
15. Remarks by **DENNIS LEVINSON**
16. Remarks by **EHT Mayor PFROMMER**
17. Remarks by **PAUL HODSON**
18. Remarks by **MIKE BONGIORNO**
19. Guest Speaker Introduction by **PAUL SUTTON**
20. Main Speaker Remarks **SGT MAJOR EDWARD NEAS**
21. Reading of Marco's bio by **ORLANDO RAMOS**
22. Remarks by **MARCO POLO SMIGLIANI**
23. God Bless America - **Toni Ann Pugliese**
24. Medley of Patriotic Songs - **EHT High School Band**
25. Benediction - **Lou Strugula**
26. Retiring the Colors - **49th Marine Aircraft Group**
27. Ceremony Concludes
28. Light Refreshments at the **EHT Community Center**

GUEST SPEAKER

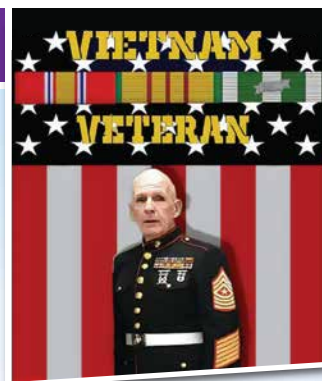
Sergeant Major Edward F. Neas, Sr. United States Marine Corps Reserve (Retired)

Highly decorated United States Marine Corps Sergeant Major (Retired) with over three decades of combined active duty and reserve service. Combat veteran of the Vietnam War with extensive leadership experience across infantry, weapons, and civil affairs operations. Proven track record in small unit tactics, sniper operations, marksmanship training, and organizational leadership. Respected for dedication, valor, and mentorship across multiple Marine units. Recipient of multiple personal and combat decorations including three Purple Hearts and the Meritorious Service Medal.

MILITARY SERVICE HISTORY United States Marine Corps

Active Duty & Reserve Service: 1966-1969, 1976-2000

Final Rank: Sergeant Major (E-9)



Active Duty Service (1966–1969)

1966: Enlisted and trained at Parris Island, SC with Platoon 121, Bravo Company, 1st Recruit Training Battalion

Completed Infantry Training, MOS 0351 (Assaultman), Camp Geiger, NC

Assigned to H&S Company, 1st Battalion, 2nd Marines, Camp Lejeune, NC (Flame-Thrower Section and 106mm Recoilless Rifle Platoon)

1967–1968: Volunteered for Vietnam; assigned to Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 1st Marines, 1st Marine Division

Served in combat at Phu Bai, Quang Tri, Con Thien, Hue City (Meritorious Promotion to Corporal), and Khe Sanh

Wounded in combat three times, received two Purple Hearts for Hue City and a third for wounds at Khe Sanh (Hill 861A)

Completed tour in Okinawa; returned to Camp Lejeune with 2nd Battalion, 6th Marines; deployed to Caribbean

Honorably discharged on May 29, 1969

EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Staten Island Community College, NY
- Orange Coast College, CA
- USMC NCO & SNCO Academies
- 1st Marine Division Scout/Sniper School
- SNCO Advanced Course
- Primary Marksmanship Instructor School

MILITARY DECORATIONS & AWARDS

Purple Heart with Two Gold Stars (3 awards)
Meritorious Service Medal
Navy & Marine Corps Commendation Medal with Gold Star
Combat Action Ribbon
Multiple Meritorious Promotions and Unit Citations

Marine Corps Reserve (1976–2000)

1976–1978: Re-enlisted with 2/25 Marines in Garden City, NY; Meritorious Promotion to Corporal; served as Scout/Sniper

1978–1988: Transferred to 2/23 Marines, Los Alamitos, CA; promoted to Sergeant, Staff Sergeant (1983), and Gunnery Sergeant (1987)

Served as Company Gunnery Sergeant in San Bernardino, CA

Completed NCO Academy, SNCO Academy, and Scout/Sniper School

1988–1993: Relocated to NJ; joined 2/25 Marines in Dover, NJ

Assigned as Weapons Platoon Sergeant, then Company Gunnery Sergeant

Activated for Operation Desert Storm (1991); attached to V MEF at Camp Pendleton

Promoted to First Sergeant (1993); completed SNCO Advanced Course and Primary Marksmanship Instructor School

1996–2000: Served as Company First Sergeant, Engineer Support Company, 4th Combat Engineer Battalion (Baltimore, MD)

Promoted to Sergeant Major (1997); assigned as Group Sergeant Major, 4th Civil Affairs Group

Retired from the Marine Corps Reserve in June 2000

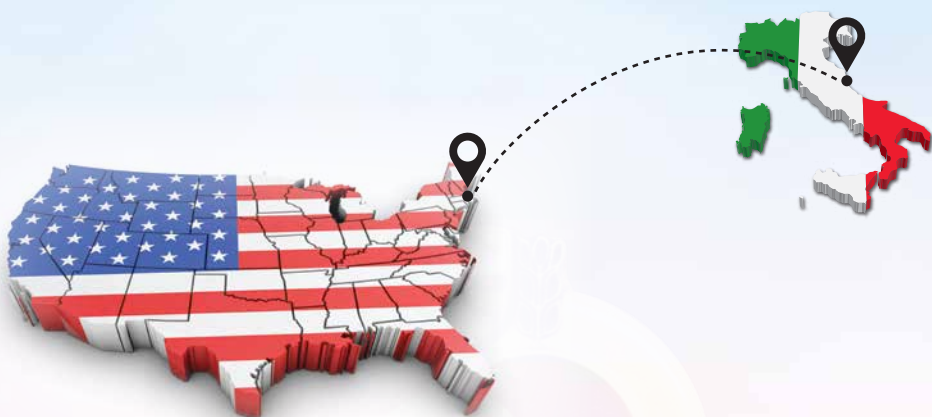
COMMUNITY & VETERANS PROGRAMS

Returned to Vietnam in 2016 and twice in 2024 as part of the Patriotic Education Program through College of the Ozarks, visiting key areas of service including Hoi An, Phu Bai, Con Thien, Hue City, and Khe Sanh

Honored participant in veteran-student exchange and Vietnam War educational efforts

Marco Polo Smigliani

AN IMMIGRANTS SON'S JOURNEY TO THE UNITED STATES



Marco Polo Smigliani

BIOGRAPHY

Service History
Vietnam War, 1961-1975

Branch of Service
Merchant Marine

Service Unit/Ship
SS Columbia Eagle

Location of Service

Boston, Massachusetts, Da Nang, Vietnam; San Francisco, California; Seattle, Washington; Thailand



Dates of Service
1967-1968

Military Status
Veteran

Dates of Service

1967-1968

Vietnam War, 1961-1975

Branch of Service

Marine Corps Service

Unit/Ship

Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

Location of Service

Parris Island, South Carolina; Dong Ha, Vietnam; Japan;
Charleston, South Carolina

Dates of Service

1968-1970 Entrance into Service

An American Veteran Advocate, born 1948 Poggiofiorito
Provincia Di Chieti, Abruzzo Italia.

1966-1968, Smigliani joined the Merchant Marines, where he traveled around the world bringing artillery to Da Nang to help the war effort. 1968-1970 Marco enlisted in the U.S. Marines, graduated machine gunner. His journey took him to Da Nang Vietnam. Smigliani went to combat in the Ashaw Valley with the 1/9 (1st Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Marine division), also known as, "The Walking Dead". Wounded five times in eleven days during his service, Smigliani was sent to Charleston Naval Hospital where he recuperated from his severe wounds before being discharged from the U.S. Marine Corps. 1970-72 Marco reenlisted in the Merchant Marines and worked on the ship, The Columbia Eagle. Hijacked on March 15, 1970, Smigliani and his crew were forced to abandon ship. Smigliani returned to Boston continuing to work with the Merchant Marines.

Years later, Smigliani became a Florida Deputy Sheriff. He then headed to Las Vegas where he worked as a casino employee for fifteen years.

Smigliani then relocated to Atlantic City. He met his wife Donna, had three children and became an entrepreneur owning Marco Polo Pizzeria.

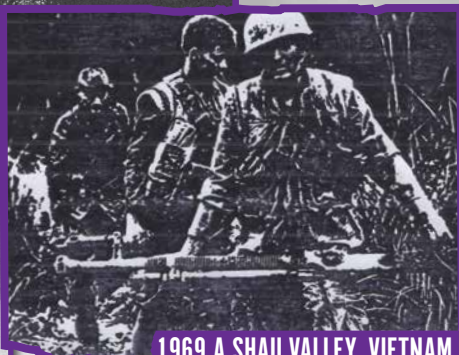
Today, Smigliani resides in Atlantic County, New Jersey. He continues to dedicate his life to his country, fellow Americans and Veterans.



1968- CAMP GEIGER
US MARINE CORPS BASE



1972 US MERCHANT MARINE



1969 A SHAU VALLEY, VIETNAM



SERVING HIS FELLOW VETERANS

MEADOWVIEW TO DEBUT WING FOR VETERANS' HEALTH CARE



Friday, December 7th, 2018
Atlantic County Veterans, their families and the public, joined the Meadowview Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center, to celebrate its new veterans wing on Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.



June 2020 - Went to Meadow View Home Honoring all the patients, along with Jaqueline Hinker (far left, VA Outreach), Cori Feinder (center, Northfield VA Counselor) and Bob Frolow (Northfield VA Benefits Coordinator)

RADIO SHOW BRINGS VETERANS GROUP TO THE MICROPHONE



CAPE MAY COUNTY OPENING NEW VA CLINIC

OCNJ Daily / Saturday, October 24, 2020



ATLANTIC COUNTY VA CLINIC



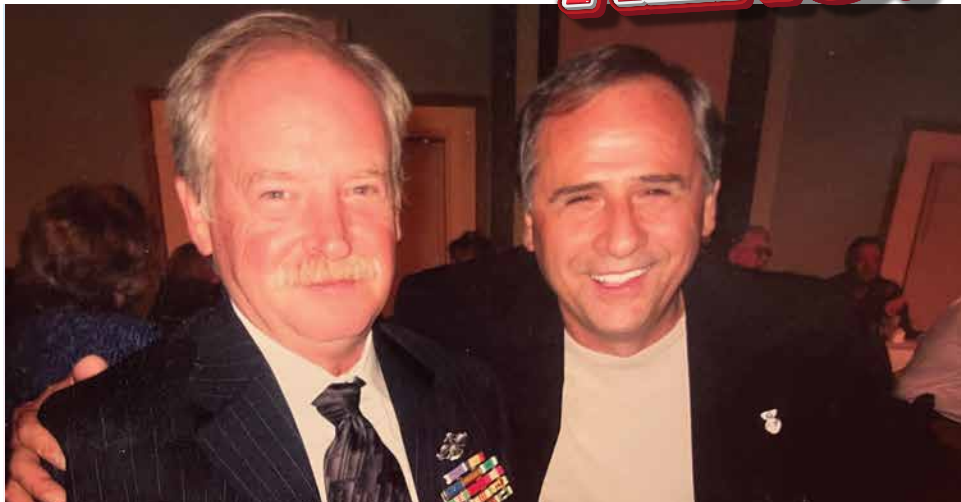
U.S. Representative Frank Lofthouse (center) joined by Dr. Michael Aichman, VNSV & Network Director, Vince Korte, Interim Assistant Director of Operations for the Wilmington VAMC, Sarah E. Smith, Nurse Manager and others during Ribbon Cutting Ceremony



CUMBERLAND COUNTY VA CLINIC OFFICIALLY OPEN IN VINELAND, NJ



WHO IS YOUR **HERO?**



Navy Corpsman Johnny Moore saved my life on March 4th, 1969,
by killing a North Vietnamese soldier (Sniper)

Warrior's welcome

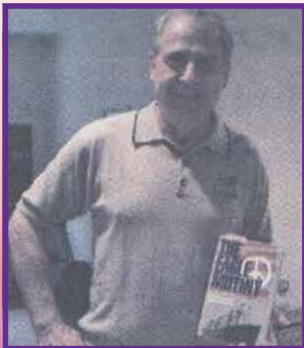


MATTHEW STRABEK / FOR THE PRESS
Veterans advocate Marco Polo Smigliani shakes hands with Sgt. 1st Class Richard Stayskal, welcoming him to Ventnor for a parade and a week's stay on Absecon Island, sponsored by Longport's American Legion post.

Injured veteran gets parade, week's vacation in Downbeach



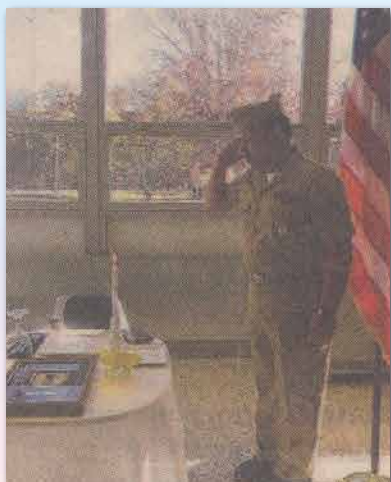
**BUMPS AND
DETOURS
ON THE ROAD
TO BECOMING
A VETERANS
ADVOCATE**



**VIETNAM VET DEDICATES
LIFE TO COMRADE IN ARMS**



EDUCATING YOUNG PATRIOTS



VETERANS HONORED AT OAKCREST HIGH SCHOOL

ACIT STUDENTS HONOR PURPLE HEART VETS WITH SIGNS



Sophomore Haidreth Yu, of May Landing, looks over display board prototypes with instructor Drew Holmes, Sgt. Mike James and Staff Sgt. Ryan Schaeffer, who judged the boards.



ACS student Tommy Ellison stands with his honored guest, Marco Polo Soudgiani, who had a distinguished career in the United States Marine Corps and was awarded four Purple

Atlantic Christian students pay tribute to visiting veterans

MARINE CORPS VISIT OAKCREST HIGH SCHOOL



ALDER AVENUE, MILLER SCHOOLS THANK VETERANS



Twelve veterans from five branches of the military arrive to answer questions from students at the Alder Avenue and Miller schools.

TWELVE VETERANS FROM FIVE BRANCHES OF THE MILITARY ARRIVE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS FROM STUDENTS AT THE ALDER AVENUE AND MILLER SCHOOLS



Submitted by Dana Davis



Members of Boy Scout Troop 389, sponsored by Atlantic Christian School, packed up 200 gift boxes filled with Boy Scout popcorn and other donated items that are being sent to U.S. troops in Afghanistan. On hand to congratulate the Scouts for their successful service project were Vietnam combat veterans Donaldis Smigilski of Egg Harbor Township and Steve Jamison of Northfield, and Karen Olson, chief school administrator of Atlantic Christian School.



MC-LEF

MARINE CORPS-LAW ENFORCEMENT FOUNDATION

Educating the children of those who sacrificed all

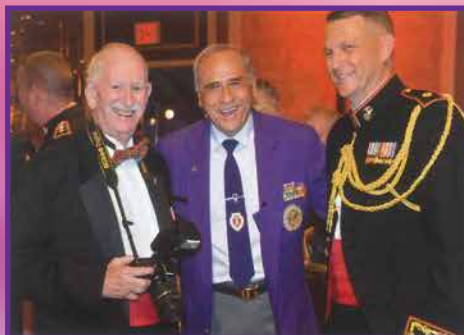


DEDICATED AND DRIVEN

MARCO P. SMIGLIANI



CMOH Robert Patterson, Committee member Marco "Polo" Smigliani and CMOH Doc Ballard.



Committee members Stan Fayer, Marco "Polo" Smigliani and Major Lucas Helms



ITALIAN IMMIGRANT, DECORATED MARINE HONORED AT VETERANS DAY CEREMONY FOR LIFETIME OF SERVICE



Smigliani was celebrated for his unwavering commitment to the veteran community.

TOWNSHIP PAUSES TO REMEMBER WHY WE FIGHT



Vietnam veteran and purple heart Recipient cpl. Marco Polo snaps a Salute to the flag during the Memorial Day ceremonies at Veteran Memorial park in Egg Harbor Township

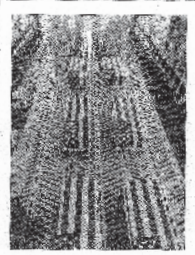


WOUNDED MARINE, HONORARY MAYOR, SAILOR: EHT MAN BORN FOR ADVENTURE



LETTERS TO Marco Polo

"TO HAVE LIVED IN COUNTRY IS DEARER
THAN THE OTHER OF RESIDENCE." A. Lincoln



"TO LEAVE THE BATTLE WITH DIGNITY HAVE 'DROPPED THE
SWORD, AND FOR HIS WOUNDS AND HIS OFFENSES' A. Lincoln

"THOSE WHO HAVE MADE THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE IN THE
LINE OF DUTY, IN THEIR SERVICE TO THIS GREAT COUNTRY
WILL BE LIVED TO ETERNITY

BETWEEN THE ONE WHO HAS BURNED HIS OWN SKIN AND BURNING
HELP THE FAMILIES WHO HAVE NOT LIVED HERE, THE MOTHER
WILL INFORM HIM THROUGH THE JUDICIAL, PROSECUTING, PAROLE
BOARDING FOR REPARATION, AARON AND OTHERS WOULD

WE NEED YOUR HELP IN Caring for the CHILDREN.

Billie A Ingram
211 Boston Ave
Egg Harbor Township NJ 08234

October 25, 2020

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to you on behalf of Marco Polo Smigiani. It is my honor and privilege to recommend dedicating a Purple Heart Way sign to be placed in Egg Harbor Township, NJ, as a tribute to his service in the United States Military. Marco Polo is a remarkable four-time Purple Heart recipient. He is also a compassionate veteran who has dedicated his life to advocating for other veterans.

Marco Polo has seen so much in his life, he grew up in the aftermath of World War II, which left parts of his village in ruins. His family later moved to America where Marco Polo became an American citizen and then served in the Merchant Marines. While in the Merchant Marines, he was a crew member of the Columbia Eagle, the first American Naval ship to be hijacked. He also served as a Marine on the front lines of Vietnam. Later Marco Polo was awarded four Purple Hearts for being wounded in action while serving in the United States Marines. Through it all he has been dedicated to giving back to our veterans.

Marco Polo not only advocates for our veterans, but also for their families. He first came into my life when my husband, Charles Richard Ingram III, a Navy Veteran, committed suicide in front of the Northfield VA Clinic. He reached out to me and helped my family through a very tragic time in our lives. Almost 5 years later, Marco Polo will still call to see how we are doing and if there is anything we need. I consider him to be a family friend. Marco Polo helped me dedicate a bench in memory of my husband and all our veterans, as well as, participating in a flag placing ceremony for Veterans of suicide. There are no words to say how grateful I am to have Marco Polo Smigiani in my life.

I feel that Marco Polo deserves this honor due to his outstanding military career in the Marines and Merchant Marines and his continuing commitment in assisting Veterans. He volunteered to protect and defend our country and continues to acknowledge that freedom is a privilege and should not be taken for granted. He stands proudly with our military.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Billie A. Ingram

Billie A Ingram



Major James E. Livingston, USMC (Ret.)
MEDAL OF HONOR
365 Cooper River Drive
Mount Pleasant, SC 29464
843-814-7966 (M)
13 February 2025

Mr. Marco Polo Smigiani
200 Mystic Drive
Egg Harbor Township, NJ 08234-6980

Dear friend Marco,

Sincere congratulations for the honor being bestowed on you, the naming of the **Marco Polo Smigiani Purple Heart Way** in the veterans park in Egg Harbor Township, NJ.

Since our acquaintance dates back more years than either of us cares to recall, particularly as it relates to our shared passion for the Marine Corps Law Enforcement Foundation, I want to congratulate you on your more than 40 years of service to and advocacy for our brother and sister veterans and their families.

As our Vietnam War veterans are so fond of saying, "Never again will one generation of veterans abandon another." Your work across the years for all veterans and their families has set the example and direction for all of us to emulate. I am honored to be your friend and am grateful for your service and dedication.

Most sincerely, and

James E. Livingston



3/2025

Marco,
You are AWESOME. Thank you for your
invaluable leadership and service for our veterans.
And thank for your partnership with our
Senate team. I so appreciate you. Truly,
Cory

Ventnor, N. J. 2 April '07

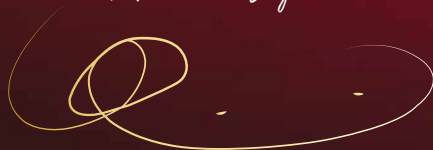
To: Marco Smigiani
(A friend to man).

Dear Advocate, the
friend of all Veterans,
you have made
your mark in both War
and Peace. Congratulations.
Sincerely,
W. Marisa W.W. II. Vet.



*“Very few of Us have the privilege to Serve our Nation
in the field of Battle, But All of Us have the
Responsability to Serve our Country”*

Marco Polo Smigliani



My Deepest Gratitude to

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP

Mayor Laura Frommer

Ray Ellis, Jr
Will Pauls
Paul W. Hodson
Paul Rosenberg

Deputy Mayor
Committeeman
Committeeman
Committeeman

PURPLE HEART WAY

COMMITTEE

Will Pauls

Suzanne Marino

Paul Sutton

Paul Hodson

Randi Scheck

Lynn Wood

Doug Satterfield

Michael Bonjorno

Marco Polo Smigliani

