

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Liberty Run Group
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Commemoration Ceremony to honor former Marine Veterans 26th Anniversary Of Historic 610 Mile Run To Raised Funds For Statue Of Liberty Restoration Project in 1985

A group of 18 former Marines along with special VIP guests, including Major General Richard , current Commanding General I Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward), plan to mark the 26th anniversary of the historic 610-mile relay marathon from Camp Geiger, NC to Liberty State Park, NJ, that took place in June of 1985 to raise funds and awareness for the Statue of Liberty Restoration Project.

A public ceremony commemorating the event will take place at Flag Plaza in Liberty State Park N.J. at 11:00 AM on June 25th, 2011 commemorating the time at which the Marines completed their historic trek to Liberty State Park. The event will be hosted by Sam Pesin, President of The Friends of Liberty State Park and son of the late founder of Liberty State Park, Morris Pesin. Jersey City Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy and other elected officials are expected to attend.

The run was conceived in 1984 by then Marine Veteran Corporal David English while deployed with Battalion Landing Team 3/8 in Beirut as part of the Multinational Peace Keeping Force. Starting on the morning of June 19th, 1985, the Marines ran in groups of three relay teams and finished at Liberty State Park, NJ on June 22nd, 1985.

The run was planned and coordinated by simply referring to a route highlighted on copies of a Texaco road map that was carried by each one of the three relay teams. The task was completed with the help of an additional Marine acting as “Logistics Coordinator” in lieu of today’s modern technology such as cell phones, laptops and GPS navigation technology.

After finishing, the Marines presented a donation check to Morris Pesin, who represented The Statue of Liberty-Ellis Island Centennial Commission, and then quickly returned back to Camp Geiger N.C. to begin their deployment back to the Eastern Mediterranean as part of the 22nd Marine Amphibious Unit. The event was summed up best when Morris Pesin stated, “The Marines arrived, dropped off a check and left to go save the world”.

Given the title, “Lady Liberty’s Marines” by Mr. Pesin, this will be the first time they have seen each other or been together as a group since finishing the run, but more importantly, it will be the first time that they have been officially honored for their achievement. Additionally, Guest Speaker Major General Richard Mills, Dave English, and his Marine Veteran runners will be presenting the Pesin Family with the original “Keep the Torch Lit” banner, that was used during the 1985 finish line ceremony (pictured at right and above), as a tribute to the work and dedication of Liberty State Park Founding Father Morris Pesin, who gave English the banner after the run.



Lady Liberty's Marines

Bob A. Abramson, Little Egg Harbor NJ
Ronald P. Burns, Jacksonville NC
Robert Capelli, Tampa FL
Darrell L. Combs, Tampa FL
Jay B. Cook, Holland MI
Conrad Quintyn, Bloomsburg PA
Timothy M. Dean, Rochester NY
Max A. Dominguez Jr, Eldorado AR
David L. English, Charleston SC
Christopher A. Fleming Sr., Oakdale MN
Roger E. Freeman, Easley SC
Andre Gonzalez, Jacksonville NC
James M. Jochems, Leesburg VA
Jesse W. Mason, Pineville KY
Timothy C. McDonald, Red Bank NJ
Joseph M. Montgomery Sedalia, MO
Neal E. Pascoe, Nanticoke PA
Stephen F. Sprague, Fort Mill SC



Dave English standing next to the Keep the Torch Lit banner he will give to the Pesin Family June 25th 2011

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CONTACT:

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