

Commandant, Bonnie Shaw
Sr. Vice Commandant, Larry Samples
Jr. Vice Commandant, David Keith
Jr. Past Commandant, Jerry Myers
Judge Advocate, Jim Copeland
Adjutant, Jack Meighan



Trustee, Pat Powell
Trustee, Doug Forsythe
Trustee, Chris Shaw
Trustee, Emil Messsikomer
Paymaster, Doug Forsythe
Chaplain, Rich Corbitt III
Sergeant at Arms, Ken Weaver

January 17th, 2024

David H. Berger
Headquarters Marine Corps Commandant
Marine Barracks
Washington, D.C. 20390

Sir Commandant:

To preserve the History and Traditions of the United States Marine Corps, we honor Major Samuel Nicholas as the Father & First Commandant of the Marine Corps.

Major Samuel Nicholas was buried in an unmarked Quaker burial ground in 1790. In 1997, the Friends Historical Library located at Swarthmore College documented Samuel Nicholas burial site at their historic cemetery, 4th and Arch streets Philadelphia, just blocks from Independence Hall.

In 2013, the Cpl Brandon Hardy Chester County Marine Corps League Detachment 286 of PA, obtained permission from the Society of Friends to place a burial marker at Major Nicholas's burial site. In 2015, a resolution was passed at the Marine Corps League National Convention requiring that the Father of the Marine Corps be honored on three occasions. In 2024, the dates for those occasions are the Sunday before Memorial Day (Sunday, May 26th, 2024), Independence Day (Wednesday, July 3rd, 2024), and on the Marine Corps Birthday (Sunday, November 10th, 2024). Muster times are 1100 for Memorial Day and Independence Day at the Samuel Nicholas Memorial (Friends Meeting House at 4th and Arch Philadelphia, Pa). Muster times for the Marine Corps Birthday are 0930 mustering at 4th and Arch for the wreath laying and taps at Samuel Nicholas Memorial (Friends Meeting House at 4th and Arch).

Please accept our invitation to attend any or all these wreath-laying ceremonies. Please confirm if you plan to attend so that you can be duly recognized.

If you can attend, please contact me by May 15th, 2024 by mail (5305 Lister Court, Chester Springs, Pa 19425), telephone ([610-827-9281](tel:610-827-9281)), or via email (dforsythe007@gmail.com). We look forward to your attendance.

Semper Fidelis,
Douglas R. Forsythe
Event Chairman

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