

News Release

For Immediate Release

American Legion Post 177 invites community members to event Marine Corps Birthday Cake Cutting

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(DATE November 10, 2022) —American Legion Post 177 in Fairfax, VA is inviting other veterans service organizations, community service groups, local churches, youth groups and teams, and the public to participate in the organization's Marine Corps Cake Cutting Ceremony.

The event celebrates the Birthday of the Marine Corps. Honored Guest, Medal of Honor Recipient Colonel Harvey Barnum, Jr will be in attendance.

The event will be held in the upstairs ball room of American Legion Post 177, 3939 Oak St, Fairfax, VA at 4:00 pm followed by the traditional Marine keg tap in the Social Quarters downstairs.

The cake-cutting ceremony, formalized in 1952, mandates that a piece of cake goes to the oldest Marine present and he or she will pass it to the youngest Marine present. This exchange signifies the passing of tradition from generation to generation. The cake is guided to the center stage by selected Marines while the Marines' hymn plays. It is then cut with the Mameluke sword and serves as a reminder that the Corps is a band of warriors, dedicated to carrying the sword, so that our nation may live in peace.

About Harvey Barnum Jr, Medal of Honor Recipient

Harvey Curtiss Barnum Jr. (born July 21, 1940) is a former [United States Marine Corps](#) officer who received the [Medal of Honor](#) during the [Vietnam War](#). He was the fourth Marine to receive the medal for actions in Vietnam. He retired from the Marine Corps in 1989 after more than 27 years of service. Barnum served as Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Reserve Affairs from July 23, 2001 to January 20, 2009. He also served as Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy (Manpower and Reserve Affairs) from January 21 to April 30, 2009.

About The American Legion

The American Legion is the largest wartime veterans' service organization with nearly 2 million members in 12,875 posts across the nation. Chartered by Congress in 1919, The American Legion is committed to mentoring youth and sponsoring wholesome community programs, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting a strong national security and continued devotion to service members and veterans. Learn more at legion.org.