First annual Reverend Clementa C. Pinckney Chaplin’s Spiritual Award Presented

Reverend James Moore, retired United States Marine Sergeant Major and Pastor of Mount Carmel Baptist Church in Dale, South Carolina, was the recipient of the first annual Reverend Clementa C. Pinckney Chaplin’s Spiritual Award. This award was presented at the Annual National Convention of the Montford Point Marine Association in Las Vegas on July 23rd 2017.

Pastor Pinckney, who was among the nine church goers murdered in Charleston, South Carolina on June 17th, 2015 at Mother Emanuel AME Church in Charleston, South Carolina. Pastor Pinckney had a long and loving connection to the Montford Point Marines.

Pastor Pinckney was named an “Honorary Leatherneck”, by the Commanding General of Marine Corps Recruit Depot Parris Island, South Carolina for his work with the Marines. Pastor Pinckney was also named an Honorary Montford Point Marine by Montford Point Marine Association National President Sam Saxton in 1998.

Pastor Pinckney participated in many Montford Point Marine events in and around the Beaufort, South Carolina area from 1996-2001, often delivering the invocation or benediction at Montford Point events. Additionally, Reverend Pinckney was constantly providing spiritual counseling to members of the Beaufort Chapter of the Montford Point Marine Association Inc.

Reverend Moore has been the Chapter Chaplain of the Beaufort Chapter since 1995 and the National Chaplain since 1999. Often not only leading the Association in prayer, but giving wise counsel to the past four National Presidents in all facets of leadership. Reverend Moore devised the incredibly moving memorial ceremony at the National Awards Banquet where all the names of the previous years deceased Montford Pointers are solemnly read and a bell sounds for each name.

The Pastor Clemente Pinckney Award will now be awarded annually to the Chapter, Region or National Chaplain who most exemplifies the spirit can do attitude of its namesake.

Congratulations to Reverend Moore for being the inaugural recipient of this prestigious award.