



Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Ribbon Cutting and Fun Run At Newly Renovated Butler Stadium

Marine Corps Marathon hosts event on March 28 at 11:30 a.m.

QUANTICO, VA- Members of the local community are invited to join military members and civilians aboard Marine Corps Base Quantico to celebrate the completion of renovations to Butler Stadium. On March 28, beginning at 12:00 p.m., the stadium will be officially reopened in a ribbon cutting ceremony featuring Marine Corps Base Quantico Commanding Officer Colonel Charles Dallachie and Marine Corps Marathon Race Director, Rick Nealis.

Following the ceremony, the brand new track will open for runners and fitness enthusiasts of all ages to enjoy. Those who complete at least one lap on the track between 12:15 p.m. and 2:00 p.m. will receive a vintage MCM mock neck shirt.

“I hope the renovations to Butler Stadium offer those aboard the base, and in the local community an additional opportunity to get fit and stay healthy,” said Rick Nealis, MCM Race Director. “The state-of-the-art track will provide a high quality surface for walkers and runners, and the new lighting system means the facility can be available earlier in the morning and later at night.”

Butler Stadium was first created by Brigadier General Smeadly Butler in the early 1920s to offer a home to the Marine Corps Base Quantico football team. With a meager budget of only \$5,000, just enough to cover the cost of concrete, Marines provided the labor for the construction using the few available trucks, picks and shovels. Materials were gathered from closed military bases. Sand and gravel were donated by local contractors. Worn steel rails were offered by the Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroads. Butler Stadium was not officially completed until after World War II and has been used for a variety of sporting events ever since.

The Marine Corps Marathon funded the latest renovation which included the addition of an all-weather track and brand new lighting and will use Butler Stadium to host several running events as part of the new Marine Corps Marathon Event Series.

Voted “Best Marathon for Families”, the Marine Corps Marathon continues a combined tradition of dedication, sportsmanship and patriotism. Since its inception, over 340,000 civilian and military runners from all walks of life have participated, deservingly earning the event its nickname “The People’s Marathon.” The 33rd Marine Corps Marathon will be held on October 26, 2008 in Arlington, VA. Registration opens online on April 30 at www.marinemarathon.com.

For media information, contact Beth Cline Johnson, Marine Corps Marathon Public Relations Coordinator at (703) 432-1165, or Elizabeth.Johnson1@usmc.mil. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement implied.