

## Fourth MCM Event Series Win for Virginia Runner

*Record breaking number of finishers; 2,931 to earn "Access Granted" to the 44th MCM*

**QUANTICO, VA (March 23, 2019)** – **Matt O’Neil**, 23, from Woodbridge, VA captured the title top finisher once again today crossing the Marine Corps 17.75K finish line in 1:01:21. This is O’Neil’s fourth MCM Event Series win, previously claiming the titles at the 2018 Belleau Wood 8K (27:18); 2018 Quantico 12K, where he broke the course record by nearly three minutes (40:17); and the 2018 Medal of Honor 8K (27:26).

“I’m happy to come out here and enjoy the experience. These runs are really just progressions and tune ups for the Marathon in October. I want that to be my biggest race of the year,” shares O’Neil on his top finish and “Access Granted.” O’Neil is no stranger to the MCM Awards podium and offered that his 2019 goal is to win each MCM Event Series run.



The second place male was **U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Sean Barrett**, 34, from Arlington, VA with a time of 1:02:12. Maj. Barrett has been an All-Marine Running Team member since 2007 and says, “I always enjoy coming out to these events and it was great to meet the new members of the team.” The third place male was **Evan Fallor**, 27, from Arlington, VA who completed the 11.03-mile run in 1:02:51. Fallor also placed third at the Marine Corps 17.75K in 2018.

**U.S. Marine Corps Lt. Sarah Bridges**, 27, from San Diego, CA captured the female first place finish with a time of 1:14:14. “To come out to a Marine Corps event with the Marine Corps on my chest, I wanted it really bad. It feels good,” says Lt. Bridges. “I love running hills. This was probably one of my favorite courses I’ve ever done.” She represented the All-Marine Running Team and looks forward to future running events.

The female second place finish was earned by **Alice Henley**, 30, from Oakland Park, FL with a time of 1:14:54. **Alayna Bigalbal**, 23, from Fairfax, VA crossed the finish line third with 1:15:26. Each top finisher proudly completed the 17.75K distance that commemorates the year the Marine Corps was founded (1775).

The Marine Corps 17.75K event is a highly sought after and anticipated event, as it typically sells out each year in minutes. This year marked the most finishers the event has ever seen, with 2,931 finishers topping the previous record of 2,838 in 2017. Each finisher receives “Access Granted,” the guaranteed entry to the 44th Marine Corps Marathon on October 27, 2019. Additional event highlights include:

- The All-Marine Running Team had eight representatives who competed in the event and showcased the athletics and determination of the U.S. Marine Corps. The runners included Maj. Jamie Ash (1:32:24), Maj. Sean Barrett (male second place; 1:02:12), Lt. Sarah Bridges (female first place; 1:14:05), Lt. Grace Jenkins (1:21:13), Sgt. Elize

Mckelvey (1:27:45), Lt. Peter Spinks (1:07:28), Lt. Jackie Stanley (1:29:56), and Capt. William Thompson (1:04:38).

- The event registered 728 members of the military, including 347 Marines. Marine Corps Base Quantico's Commander, Col. William C. Bentley III participated in the event. Col. Bentley shares, "The 17.75K is a terrific way to connect with the community. It showcases the best part of the Marine Corps and runners achieve their golden ticket, 'Access Granted' into the Marine Corps Marathon."
- The field of participants included runners from 42 states and two countries. Two countries were represented by Patrick Baier (1:11:50) from the United Kingdom and Chris Harding (1:50:49) and Linda Youell (2:22:55) from Canada.
- Eight runners celebrated "Access Granted" and their birthdays today. Happy birthday to Nancy Fenelon (1:44:26), Aaron Rehm (1:44:22), Krista Cronkright (1:51:448), Brendan White (2:08:59), Amanda Hackney (2:01:24), Daisy Billetdeaux (2:00:59), Alvaro Castilla (1:39:02), and Christine Stamm (2:24:12). Additionally, Rachel Shull celebrated her birthday with the Marines at the event as a volunteer.

All runners who crossed the Marine Corps 17.75K finish line today received a specially designed medal featuring the tree-lined course of Prince William Forest Park, commemorative bib, dye sublimated t-shirt and "Access Granted" to the 44th Marine Corps Marathon this fall.

All unofficial results are available at [www.marinemarathon.com](http://www.marinemarathon.com). All finishers received an email with a dedicated link with guaranteed registration for the 44th MCM. Access Granted registration must be completed by noon Eastern on Tuesday, March 26, to officially register for "The People's Marathon."

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*Marine Corps 17.75K is part of the 2019 MCM Event Series, hosted by the Marine Corps Marathon Organization. The Marine Corps 17.75K Series is sponsored by American Red Cross, America's Choice Mortgage, Beet Juice, Brooks Running, Camp Lejeune - Half Marathon, Dole, First Command, Flags of Valor, Holiday Inn Quantico, Honey Stinger, KPMG, Marines Plumbing, Mission BBQ, Navy Federal Credit Union, Pohanka Nissan, Stafford County Tourism, Two Marines Moving, Uhaul, USO Metro, VA Runner and Wegmans.*

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