

HONORARY GRAND MARSHAL

Sergeant
Ernest “Gunny”
Napper

United States Marine Corps
(Retired)



Gunnery Sergeant Napper enlisted in The Marine Corps on March 17, 1971. After completion of Recruit Training at Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Parris Island, South Carolina and Infantry Training School at Camp Geiger, North Carolina, he was assigned to MWHS-3 at MCAS El Toro, CA. There, Private First Class Napper was assigned to the Security Guard detachment. Lance Corporal Napper was then assigned to the First Landing Support Battalion, at MCB Camp Pendleton in 1974. Lance Corporal Napper was promoted to the rank of corporal and assigned to Alpha and Bravo Companies at the First Landing Support Battalion. He served as Platoon sergeant during this tour. In June of 1975, Corporal Napper was assigned to the First Marine Brigade, Kaneohe, Hawaii and served with Brigade Service Support Group 37 seeing duty with the 3RD Combat Engineer Battalion along with Landing Support Battalion. In June of 1977, Sergeant Napper returned to Camp Pendleton and was assigned to First Detachment Support Group where he served as a Platoon Commander with Alpha company, Headquarters Service Battalion. Sergeant Napper's next assignment was with Headquarters Service Company, Military Police Battalion in July of 1978. While with the Military Police, Sergeant Napper was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant and served as a Patrol Supervisor. In February of 1980, Staff Sergeant Napper was assigned to Bravo Company, First Landing Support Battalion. During the next six years, Staff Sergeant Napper participated in operations as a Logistics Support Chief, on numerous Combat Service Support Detachments and also trained countless Marines as a Helicopter Support Team Specialist. In August of 1985, Staff Sergeant Napper was promoted to his present rank of Gunnery Sergeant. In February of 1986, Gunnery Sergeant Napper served with the Inspector-Instructor Staff, First Longshoreman Platoon in Concord, CA. In June of 1989, Gunnery Sergeant Napper reported to MCAS El Toro for Duty, with MWSS-374. In June of 1989, he was transferred to MWSSG-37 Headquarters to serve as Group Logistic Chief. In March of 1990, Gunnery Sergeant Napper returned to MWSS-374 for duty, and participated in Operations Desert Shield/Desert Storm in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, from August 1990 through March 1991. From March 1991 to April 1992, he was stationed at the El Toro Marine Base with MWSS 374 and soon retired.

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Personal awards

- Navy Achievement Medal
- Meritorious Unit Commendation
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- Good Conduct with 4 Stars
- National Defense Ribbon 1 Star
- South West Asia Medal 2 Stars
- Vietnam Humanitarian Ribbon
- Overseas Deployment Ribbon ·1 Star
- Kuwait Liberation/Saudi Arabia and Kuwait Liberation/Kuwait. 1992-2012

Disneyland Security Officer Personal Awards

- Cast Member Awards including the Disney Legacy Award, 2000-2002,
- 3 Bronze Spirit Award
- 2003 Gold Spirit Award (highest award given at that time)
- Cast Member Of The Year
- Over 2,000 Guest Compliments
- Certificate of Recognition from The US Congress for a lifetime of Honoring Veterans presented by US Congressman, Howard Berman.
- Certificate of Recognition from Los Angeles City Council for a life of dedication to Honoring Veterans. Presented by Councilman Dennis Zine's Office.
- Certificate of Recognition from The Office of Veteran Affairs of the State of CA for dedication of service to Veterans presented by Director of Veteran's Affairs State of CA, John Kraft, This presentation took place backstage, VP of Disneyland, Jon Storbeck, Managers and Security Officers, Nurses, Firemen and Guests were present.
- Certificate of Recognition from Operation Enduring Freedom, 578th Engineering Battalion, Sharana Afghanistan name placed on Wall of Honor.
- Article on Gunny written by LA DAILY NEWS columnist, Dennis McCarthy, that went viral, was featured in SEMPER FI Jan/Feb 2014 issue.
- Interviewed by an Smithsonian Museum Specialist and personal items given and now are part of the Permanent Collection of The Museum of American History of the Smithsonian History Museum Wash. DC, Interviewed by a Professor at Cal Poly San Luis Obispo.
- Received second Certificate of Recognition from The City of Los Angeles, Los Angeles City Council for effort made to have a city street renamed, JOSHUA CULLINS WAY for Fallen Warrior, Officer, Joshua Cullins, KIA 10/20/10.