

SAVE THE DATE

DEDICATION OF THE

Marco Polo Smigliani

PURPLE HEART WAY



IN MEMORY OF
US MARINES 1/9



PRESENTED BY EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP

DATE
SATURDAY, APRIL 26, 2025

TIME
11:00AM - 12:30PM

LOCATION
ADJACENT TO VETERANS
MEMORIAL PARK
2153 OCEAN HEIGHTS AVE,
EHT, NJ 08234

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS AFTERWARD
AT THE EHT COMMUNITY CENTER
5045 ENGLISH CREEK AVENUE, EHT

(INCLEMENT WEATHER - EVENT WILL
BE HELD AT THE EHT COMMUNITY
CENTER, SAME TIME)

HONORING
MARINE CORPS VETERAN

Marco Polo Smigliani
★★★★



DEDICATED AND DRIVEN MARCO P. SMIGLIANI

Marine Corps Veteran Marco Polo Smigliani received a Purple Heart for his service during the Vietnam War. He was a crew member of SS Columbia Eagle, the first American ship to be hijacked in 150 years.

Marco Polo Smigliani was born in Italy in 1948 and later moved to Boston with his family. At 13, he became an American citizen. At 17, he joined the Merchant Marines, traveling extensively and delivering artillery to Da Nang before enlisting in the Marine Corps.

Deployed to Vietnam in 1969 as a machine gunner with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 9th Regiment ("The Walking Dead"), Smigliani participated in Operation Dewey Canyon, where his company uncovered a major North Vietnamese supply cache. On Feb. 22, he survived a deadly ambush that killed around 100 Marines. Days later, he suffered multiple wounds from shrapnel, gunfire, and an RPG blast but continued fighting. It occurred after several days, he underwent multiple surgeries and months of recovery. He was later welcomed as a war hero in his Italian hometown.

For his service, Smigliani received the Purple Heart, an honor he cherishes. In 1970, he resumed his Merchant Marine career but survived the hijacking of the SS Columbia Eagle—the first American ship hijacking in 150 years. After interrogation and rescue, he returned to work.

Smigliani later became a deputy sheriff in Florida and spent 15 years in the casino industry in Las Vegas and Atlantic City, where he met his wife. Now retired, he lives in Atlantic City and visits Italy yearly.

A dedicated advocate for Veterans, he supports Vietnam Veterans of America, the Marine Corps Scholarship Foundation, and the Atlantic County Veterans Advisory Board. "Veterans have made a commitment that nobody else in America has," he says. "They are owed greater debt and gratitude than they receive."

We honor his service.