

“American Grit” Star to Appear at Marine Corps Historic Half

*Retired Marine to return home to join U.S. Congressman Wittman, First Lady of Virginia
For May 15 Event in Fredericksburg, VA*

QUANTICO, VA (May 6, 2016) – U.S. Marine turned reality star Ret. Gunnery Sgt. Tawanda “Tee Marie” Hanible, is rejoining the U.S. Marines to host thousands of runners at the Marine Corps Historic Half in her hometown of Fredericksburg, VA on Sunday, May 15.

Hanible, a coach on the FOX Network’s reality show “American Grit,” served 19 years in the Marine Corps before joining the television show that puts teams of contestants through military-style training while displaying their mental and physical strength.

While in the Marine Corps and stationed at Marine Corps Base Quantico, VA, Hanible ran and worked both the Marine Corps Historic Half and the Marine Corps Marathon.

On Historic Half morning, Hanible will join U.S. Congressman Rob Wittman (R-VA) and First Lady of Virginia Dorothy McAuliffe, also the mother of an active duty Marine, in welcoming runners from across the United States and other nations to run the 13.1 mile event.

The Marine Corps Historic Half start is located in Fredericksburg’s Central Park at 2281 Carl D. Silver Parkway. Opening ceremonies begin at 6:30 a.m. with the half marathon starting at 7 a.m.

In addition to her Historic Half appearance, Hanible will meet runners and attendees of the [Healthy Lifestyle Expo](#) on Saturday, May 14 starting at noon. The Expo is open free to the public. Runners of both the Marine Corps Historic Half marathon and Semper 5ive (five miler) presented by Navy Federal Credit Union, will attend the Expo throughout the weekend.

The Healthy Lifestyle Expo is open from 4 to 8 p.m. on May 13 and from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. on May 14.

Throughout her service as a U.S. Marine, Hanible accomplished many “firsts” for women in the Corps. She deployed to Iraq for the initial invasion in 2003 and was the only female to go with her unit. While deployed in support of Operation Enduring/Iraqi Freedom (OEF & OIF), she was also a single mom. Being the only female in her unit at the time, Hanible says she “developed a sense of comradery and a sense of belonging that made her decide to re-enlist in the Marine Corps.” She went on to become a Marine Corps recruiter helping to find the best-qualified recruits to join the military’s elite.



Marine Corps Historic Half continued
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In April 2011, Hanible founded “Operation Heroes Connect,” an organization that not only partners service members and veterans as mentors for at-risk youth, but also provides community outreach services throughout Washington, D.C., Maryland and Virginia. In 2012, Hanible was hand-selected to work on the Marine Corps Diversity Initiative, an initiative that played a huge role in assisting the Marine Corps in its mission of opening combat roles to women.

During 2012, Hanible also was chosen to represent her native state of Illinois at a White House dinner honoring local military leaders who deployed in support of OEF and OIF. Also that year, Hanible was featured in Newsweek Magazine’s “Heroes Edition” for her community work and selfless service both in and out of uniform.

Limited entries are available to run either the Marine Corps Historic Half marathon or Semper Five. Register at www.marinemarathon.com.

The new Semper Five (five miler) will encompass a portion of the Historic Half marathon course, including the event’s challenging climb up Hospital Hill, the exhilarating 200-foot incline located on the Mary Washington Healthcare campus.

Media interested in covering Marine Corps Historic Half Weekend can [request media credentials](#). For questions, contact Tami Faram, Marine Corps Marathon/Historic Half Public Relations Coordinator at tami.faram@usmc.mil or 703-432-1840.

The Marine Corps Historic Half hosted annually in Fredericksburg, VA, includes thousands participating in half marathon, and the Semper Five presented by Navy Federal Credit Union. Considered “the greatest half marathon in history,” the Marine Corps Historic Half boasts a course featuring landmarks dating back to our nation’s beginnings and the early homes of Presidents George Washington and James Monroe. Organized by the Marine Corps Marathon, the Historic Half is sponsored by GEICO, Select Physical Therapy, Mary Washington Healthcare, Navy Federal Credit Union and Wegmans. No federal or Marine Corps endorsement implied. #RunWithTheMarines

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