



The Black Sands

PUBLISHED BY THE IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

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Iwo Jima veteran
4th Marine Division

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A Message from the Chairman

Fellow Iwo Jima Veterans, Families and Friends,

I would like to personally thank all of you who sent me "Get Well Wishes" after I fell and broke my hip last fall. Through the wonders of modern medicine, not only has my hip been replaced, but I'm up and moving quite well. I'm not going to win any foot races, but it's a miracle what the doctors can do these days.

Our President, LtGen "Hank" Stackpole, and I attended the annual Retired General Officers symposium in Washington last month. While in DC, I took advantage of being in the area to make a call on the Japanese Ambassador, Ichiro Fujisaki, with Col Warren Wiedhahn.

The Ambassador and I have become friends and I wanted to extend my personal condolences as a result of the disastrous earthquake and tsunami that hit Japan so hard. The Ambassador appreciated our condolences and went on to apologize that the veterans and their families could not visit Iwo Jima in

March. He assured us that the Japanese government fully intended to support the 2012 Reunion of Honor.

During the symposium, I extended a personal invitation to Marine Corps Commandant, Gen Jim Amos, to join us on the Black Sands next March. He assured me, that unless something unforeseen comes up, that he fully "expected" to be there.

I want to close by saying how pleased I am with the performance of our Executive Director, Shayne Jarosz and our new Director of Communications, Ray Elliott. Ray and Shayne, along with Joyce Faulkner, have been working long and hard to bring us the first new issue of "The Black Sands," publication of the Iwo Jima Association of America. Please let them know how pleased you are with the newsletter.

Sincerely and fraternally,
LtGen Larry Snowden, USMC, (Ret.)

SNAIL MAIL VERSUS EMAIL

Should you wish in future to receive the IJAA newsletter by email versus USPS, please let us know by forwarding your email address with this request to Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org

Executive Director's Corner

Spring has sprung and summer is here. I want to take a moment and thank all of the Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) members who made this past year possible.

My first year as Executive Director was filled with a lot of possibilities and if I may say so myself, I think the entire volunteer team did a pretty good job. We were able to pull together a great Reunion and Symposium, BAR on the Beach Dedication, and a Banquet that would put a Presidential Inauguration to shame!

Who can forget Jack Lazere dancing the night away with the ladies from the Radio King Orchestra and my own 13-year-old son, Patrick, dancing with the wives of the veterans. I know that this is a night that Patrick will never forget.

With that being said, I think we can always do better. I want to make this an event that every gen-

eration of Iwo Jima Association members can enjoy and walk away from knowing that we honored those men who were unable to attend. My goals are to further develop our educational program and expand our range of topics during our Saturday Symposium.

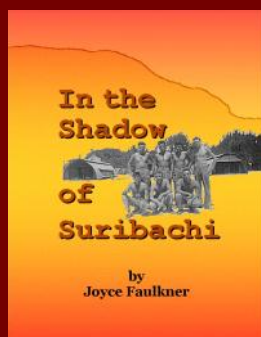
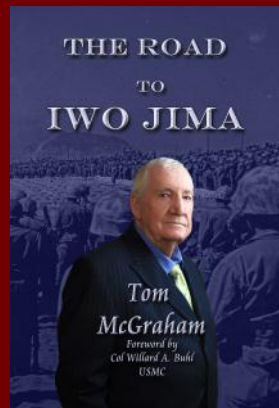
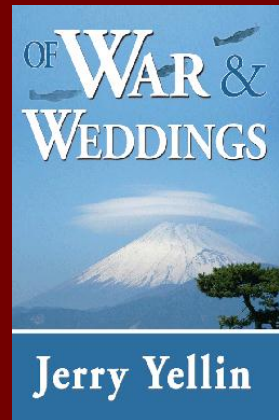
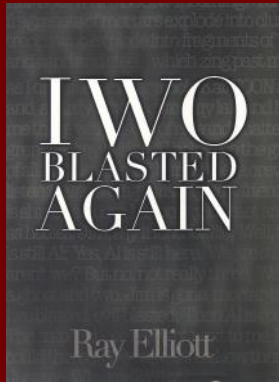
We need to entice our members into Washington, DC, in February 2012 and bring new members into the fold. As we start planning for next year's Reunion and Symposium, please do not hesitate to contact me and suggest topics of discussion.

Until we are able to meet again, sit down and share stories, and maybe even enjoy a beer together, be safe. I truly look forward to seeing you all in February.

- Shayne Jarosz

Executive Director

Director@iwojimaassociation.org



Camp Tarawa

From Scrapbook of PVT Billy Lee Plummer, USMC

IWO JIMA

Ka-zoom! Ka-zoom!
"Incoming!" I cry,
as fragments of mortars
explode into clusters of troops
who explode into fragments
of flesh and steel
which zing past my ears as
I dive like a fox for a hole.

Ka-zoom again, and
a tardy stray locates my lair
and buries me there
with pieces of rifle
and shattered grenade;
my buddy Al helps rob the grave
of all but my ears
left buried there,
forever to listen for incoming calls.

My best friend Jim is shredded now;
I sit on my helmet and grieve as he dies.
Jim, my friend for life;
Well, there is still Al;
Yes, Al is still here.
We are still three, aren't we?
But no, not really three,
Al and me,
We're a ghost and two.

Jim is gone, mortar-blasted,
Iwo blasted, evil-blasted;
Just two survive, Al and me.

Then Al is gone.

The sniper chose Al, right next to me.
How could this be? We were three;
Now there's me,
Just me.
Why me?
Why?

- Bill Madden
Easy Company, Second Battalion,
27th Marines
on Iwo Jima

The Sons and Daughters of Iwo Jima

One of my earliest memories is sitting on my father's lap, looking at a picture of grim-faced young men in front of a rocky mound, holding a white flag with a big ball on it. It made my daddy both proud and sad. For the 27 years that I knew him, whenever he was feeling blue, he told me about being a Marine, about the guys in his unit, about training in Hawaii, and about the huge armada that took them to a strange place named "Iwo." When I was ten-years old, he got very ill and the stories became graphic. I realized then that he was grieving for buddies who died before they saw their twentieth birthday. (See photo at bottom of page 2.)

It wasn't until recently that I realized how lucky I was that my dad was compelled to tell those stories over and over. Many other children of Iwo veterans found their fathers strangely quiet about this momentous event. And then there are those, like John Butler, who grew up without their dads. Yes, I was very lucky.

This spring, Dale Throneberry of Veterans Radio Network (www.veteransradio.net) contacted me about doing a radio show. He had recently read my book, *In the Shadow of Suribachi*, which was based on my dad's stories. It turns out that *his* dad was at Iwo as well. I told him about IJAA and about the effort to encourage sons and daughters of Iwo veterans to participate and keep the memories alive.

"That's it," Dale said. "Let's do a radio show on the *Sons and Daughters of Iwo Jima*."

"Done," I said, thrilled that the topic that meant so much to me was important to Dale as well.

Within a week, we put together the show. Executive Director of IJAA, Shayne Jarosz, agreed to appear and give the audience some background on the organization. Diane Kuebler—daughter of Arthur Kuebler, MM2/C, 133 Seabee Battalion, Mike Yellin—son of P51 fighter pilot, Jerry Yellin, John Butler, son of LtCol John Butler, 1st Battalion, 27th Marines, and I, daughter of Pvt Billy Lee Plummer, 1/26, spent an amiable hour with Dale Throneberry,

son of William C. Throneberry, Coast Guard, LST884. Each of us felt that the Battle of Iwo Jima not only changed our fathers' lives, but ours, too.



Evelyn Mills and Arthur Kuebler, Diane's parents shortly before their marriage—and before Iwo Jima. (Photo courtesy of Diane Kuebler.)

Diane's father never talked about his time on the island. She does remember visiting the Memorial in DC as a child—and she has a metal bracelet made on Iwo, a gift from her father to her mother. Compelled to see the places where Arthur Kuebler served, Diane researched the battle extensively and visited the site four times.



Jerry Yellin supported Marine efforts from the air.

Mike Yellin's dad, Jerry, didn't talk about Iwo much either—that is until he entered his 80s. At first, it was short images. After seeing the movie *Platoon*, Jerry was moved to tell his family about the mass graves on Iwo. Then, more stories—pictures—and ultimately several books. Just last year, Mike accompanied his father, brother and nephew to Iwo, finally seeing the island for himself. He too has

begun writing about it.

John Butler's father died on Iwo. Admired by

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) **Faulkner**

his men, LtCol Butler's time on Iwo was well documented. Although John grew up without his father's physical presence, he knows him through the eyes of those who fought with him as well as from his mother and the family. Iwo Jima has always influenced John—it even played a part in who he became as an adult. John honored his father by becoming a Marine and historian. He participates in several organizations and dedicates himself to keeping the memory of the Iwo sacrifices alive.



LtCol John Butler died on Iwo Jima.



Chief Petty Officer William C. Throneberry (middle) was on LST884 which was involved on Iwo Jima. (Photo courtesy of Dale Throneberry.)

Like Arthur Kuebler, Dale Throneberry's father, who served at Iwo in LST884, never talked to Dale about the experience. As a young adult, Dale served in Vietnam. Even his status as a fellow warrior did not break the ice when it came to Iwo. However, William did leave Dale some photos from his years at sea. Dale shared many of them during the radio show.

Each of us have lived the legacy of Iwo Jima. Like Diane, I have a metal bracelet packed away somewhere. Daddy told me that it was made from a Japanese Zero. I also have his tiny brown scrapbook labeled

'USMC.' In it are pictures of his friends, Hawaiian girls, and a portrait of himself. It's unclear which are before the battle and which after. He looks very young. His nineteenth birthday was the week before D-day. He was only 5'2" according to his military records.

Like the others, I read every



Billy Lee Plummer was there all 36 days.

book and magazine article I could find on the subject. Daddy's stories were hard to hear—and I longed to understand them in context.



Photo of equipment on the beach at Iwo Jima, 1945. (Photo courtesy of Dale Throneberry.)

We've all kept our fathers' pictures and souvenirs. We've sought out other Iwo veterans and their children—determined that what our fathers did 66 years ago will not be forgotten. We are also determined to understand the inexplicable—why we are alive when so many others who might have been the sons and daughters of Iwo veterans were never born. Daddy's grief lasted until he joined his buddies in death. I look at their pictures now and I'm in awe of what these men, many of them teenagers, accomplished.

As John Butler said, "Iwo Jima has been a part of our lives too." It's framed our attitudes and molded our dreams.

If you are interested in hearing the interview on Veterans Radio Network, here's the archived recording :

<http://veteransradio.net/files/VRP022611-1.wma>



Following in his father's footsteps, Dale Throneberry served in a helicopter unit in Vietnam.

- Joyce Faulkner
JoyceKFaulkner@gmail.com

Returning WWII Souvenirs



Military collector Rex Butler (right) returns a letter to Motoki Hattori (center), grand nephew of Genichi Hattori, a first lieutenant in Japan's 10th Independent Antitank Battalion who was killed Feb. 22, 1945, on Iwo Jima.



The body of 1st Lt Genichi Hattori was never recovered from Iwo Jima. This letter written to him by his mother, Machiko Hattori, was honored upon its return many years later in Buddhist funeral rites held by the family.

"It is past midnight and I'm writing by candlelight, my son. Your wife is sitting next to me, and your child fast asleep on her lap." The soldier's mother described the status of the rest of the family; the bombing of the cities, the food shortages; and trains over-loaded with war workers, refugees, military recruits and replacements. She wished him for him the courage to do his duty and remain a strong loyal soldier at all times.

The letter was sent to her son, 1st Lt Genichi Hattori who was the executive officer under Maj Kyusan Matsushita's 10th Independent Anti-tank battalion. The unit was charged with the defense of Mt. Suribachi on Iwo Jima when the American Marines landed on Feb. 19, 1945.

According to records, his sector was the eastern side of the mountain facing Green Beach where the 28th Marines landed. Hattori never saw the flag go up on Suribachi for he was killed on Feb 22, 1945. The letter from his mother was found and taken home as a war souvenir where it surfaced 65 years later at a flea market in South Carolina, it's importance not understood.

John Puett, a member of the 5th Marine Division, brought the letter home after the war but had recently passed away. Somehow his box of World War II related memorabilia had

found their way to a flea market.

It was common for WWII Marines, soldiers and sailors to bring home souvenirs of their battles just like we all do today when we visit Niagara Falls, the Grand Canyon, or the Statue of Liberty. People like to bring home reminders of their adventures. Some of the souvenirs were postcards, some were flags or rifles. In this case, it was an unassuming letter from Iwo Jima.

Rex Butler, a military collector, was at the flea market and recognized the Iwo Jima connection and purchased the grouping of items. After finding the son of the dead Marine and returning the related correspondence to him, Rex decided to do the same for the Japanese family.

It took the cooperative efforts of a dozen selfless people both in Japan and California, but the Hattori family was located and contacted about the letter. The grand nephew of 1st Lt Hattori flew out to accept the letter at a dinner hosted by the local chamber of commerce and the City of Oceanside, CA.

The letter was taken back to Japan where Buddhist funeral rites were conducted at the temple to pray for the departed. Since no body was ever recovered, the letter was treated as the decedent's remains and prayed over. It was then given to 1st Lt Hattori's daughter Chikako, who is mentioned in the letter. She was moved to tears at reading her grandmother's handwritten letter to her father.

(Continued on page 7)

(Continued from page 6) **King**

“This letter is my treasure,” Chikako said.

Another Iwo Jima item

Coincidentally, at that very same dinner in Oceanside CA, another WWII Japanese artifact surfaced and was handed to me by Vickie Proesser (the organizer of the event). It was the Japanese Army service booklet of Private Kawasaki who had been a crewmember of a 150 mm rocket unit on Iwo Jima! He had been killed and his service record taken to the States where it, too, surfaced at a flea market. The man who bought it had heard about the return of the Iwo Jima letters and decided to give the booklet to Vickie Proesser to see if it too could be returned. (Having lived in Japan for ten years, I learned to read and write the language.)

When I got home, I examined the booklet (*Guntai Techo*) and learned quite a bit about this man. Before being sent to Iwo Jima with the 86th Field Artillery Regiment, he had already served his three years of active duty in Korea with an artillery unit. He had gone back to work at a desk job in a Naval shipyard when he was recalled and sent to Iwo with the 86th Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Battalion, 1st Company on a 150 mm mortar team.

In order to find the family of Private Kawasaki, I requested assistance from fellow WWII Pacific war historian Nobuhiro Nakamura (in Japan). He was able to find the family after an amazing sequence of phone calls and letters to various temples in Nagasaki that had maintained records after the war.

I mailed the service booklet to Kawasaki's only surviving sibling, a younger brother, Sadao Kawasaki, who was deeply

moved to see the booklet. There are no surviving photos of his brother, or anything his brother had ever owned, so the booklet became the only physical evidence that his brother had ever lived.

Q. What types of war souvenirs can be returned?

A. Anything with personal writing on it is a good candidate to be returned; flags, letters, postcards, caps, ancient swords with a capture tag or the owner's name, hats, helmets etc. Due to Japanese laws, military firearms of any type are not permitted into the country. Bayonets and NCO swords, that were machine-made, fall into this category.

Q. Is it always possible to find the family?

A. No, sometimes the family can't be located so don't get your hopes up too high. Be prepared for anything. It could take a month, it could take a year or the family might not ever be found.

Q. What is the best way to return an item?

A. Just as there are many trails that lead to the summit of Mt. Fuji, there are many ways to go about trying to return an item to Japan. One could contact the Japanese embassy, the local University's Japanese Department, the chamber of commerce in the dead soldier's hometown (if you have a friend who can read Japanese) or contact a Japanese newspaper. If you just want the item returned to the “nation of Japan” and don't care about it going directly to the family, you could mail it to the Yasukuni War shrine in Tokyo.

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7) King

Request: Please do not try and contact the family unless you are willing to let it go. There have been several unfortunate cases where the Japanese family has been contacted and the American changed his mind. This caused a great deal of heartache and bad feelings and hurt other people's legitimate attempts to return items.

Also, it is in very poor taste to ask the family to buy the item or reimburse you for your costs in acquiring it. If you are unable to freely give the item with no strings attached, perhaps it is better to keep it. If you feel the

item should stay in your family because it represents a father or grandfather's military service, then it is understandable to keep it and not even contact the family.

Writer's note:

I helped return this WWII Japanese soldier's service booklet to the dead soldier's younger brother in Japan. Photos on my website at:

<http://www.historicalconsulting.com>

- Dan King Interpreter,
Pacific War historian/film consultant
squidninja2000@yahoo.com

Marine Corps Ring Found

I recently received a phone call asking me to help locate the owner of a Marine Corps ring found near New Braunfels, TX. Would you please include the following notice in the next newsletter:

"Found in or near the Gaudalupe River, New Braunfels, TX: an Iwo Jima Survivor Marine Corps ring engraved with the name 'Justin Tomlinson.' Owner call David Reis, (361) 779-2086, in Corpus Christi, TX, and identify your ring."

- Col Dave E. Severance, USMC, (Ret.)
E/2/28
La Jolla, CA



*View from Mount Suribachi today.
(Photo courtesy of Ray Elliott.)*



*Futatsu Rock on Iwo Jima.
(Photo courtesy of Ray Elliott.)*

Iwo Jima Reunion and Historical Symposium

15 -19 February 2012 - Arlington, VA

Annual Reunion of Honor

9 - 16 March 2012 - Guam and Iwo Jima



Iwo Jima Veterans, families and friends,

The cancellation of the annual Reunion of Honor on Iwo Jima this year was a tremendous disappointment for all of us, but especially for the veterans and their families.

However, after seeing the devastation caused by the earthquake and tsunami in Japan, we accepted it as an act of God, and prayed for the souls of those killed and missing. Therefore, it gives me a great amount of pleasure to announce that the 2012 Reunion and Symposium in February and the annual Reunion of Honor on Guam and Iwo Jima have been rescheduled.

It's interesting to note that almost 85 percent of those missing out on Iwo Jima this year, have already indicated that they are going back in 2012. Because of this built-up interest, it's imperative, that if you're contemplating going with us, that you get your advance registration in the mail. You can always cancel, for any reason, up to ninety (90) days prior to the journey, but once the limited space is gone on the Iwo Jima Charter Flight, it's gone!

For more information, continue to check the IJAA website at <http://www.iwojimaassociation.org/> or call us at 703-212-8128. You can email IJAA at Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org.

Sincerely and fraternally,

Col Warren Wiedhahn, USMC, (Ret.)
Executive Vice President of Operations
Iwo Jima Association of America
Post Office Box 680
Quantico, VA 22134
JWiedhahn@aol.com

Upcoming Reunions

19th Annual Subic Bay/Sangley Point Marines Reunion

Aug. 18-21, 2011

Lisle, IL

Contact: Bob White

Phone: 815 544-3932

Email: bobwhiteludy@aol.com

Website: www.subicbaymarines.com

11th Engineer Battalion Marine Association

Sept. 14-18, 2011

Reno, NV

Contact: Charles Luhan

Phone: 773-585-9629

A Tribute to Iwo Jima Veterans and the Marine Corps from The Radio King Orchestra



I have to admit I was a little intimidated when asked to write this article. And with intimidation come all the excuses not to write.

First of all, I'm not a journalist by any stretch of the imagination—I'm a musician. How successful will I be at writing a good article as opposed to performing a beautiful song?

Secondly, I wasn't sure how I would possibly fit it into my schedule. I struggle to get everything done as it is.

And thirdly, I have a tremendous love for our military veterans but have never really nurtured the art of writing.

Now mind you, I could come up with a lot more excuses. However, as I sat down and thought about YOU, our beloved WWII Veterans, our courageous Iwo Jima Marines, members of "The Greatest Generation," I was ashamed of my self-centeredness and insecurities about writing this piece.

What were you going through when you were called up to serve your country? Probably just following your normal routine, making a living and trying to fit in everything you thought needed attention. Encompassed among the multitude of feelings you were sorting through at the time, you may have experienced some of your own insecurities and doubts about how you would perform under the stress of war. You had to worry about being wounded or losing your life or being away from your loved ones for the duration of the war.

Here is what I've learned from listening to you: You weren't **born Marines**. You didn't grow up knowing you would have to be on the battlefield one day. And you entered that

field of battle not knowing if you would actually be able to fulfill the expectation you or your buddies had of you. You came into this world with all of the wide-eyed wonder and innocence of children.

And as you grew, your plans were similar to every other American. You wanted to fulfill the American Dream of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness by finding a job, getting married, starting a family, getting involved in your community...living YOUR life.

You didn't expect those plans to be interrupted by a World War! You may have been a student, a school teacher, a pilot, a baker, a business man, a mechanic, a salesman, a husband, a father...but you weren't a Marine. Thanks to the draft or because you enlisted on your own, you **became** a Marine. You were called to the service of your country and you served honorably. As many of you told me, "You just did it...because it was the right thing to do."

But doing the right thing meant putting important things on hold—your schooling, for instance, your marriage, your family, your job, your church or synagogue, your career, your civic responsibilities. All of these things had to move down the priority list in order for you to put your country first and fight to preserve our freedom.

What would be the impact of your absence on the people you were leaving behind? What about those loving arms if you didn't come home? What if you did nothing? You answered the call...because it was the right thing to do.

After all, going to war was something you never really imagined you would be doing let alone something you *wanted* to do. Grown-up war would be a lot different than the childhood war you used to play in the backyard

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10) **Gordon**

with your friends. Childhood war games were one thing but actual war with its real violence, its moments of terror and the loss of friends was something else.

As a Marine you were thrown into one of the fiercest battles there has ever been—a battle of life or death with no place to retreat. Not knowing in advance where your future deployment was, which battle in history you would become part of or what would be the outcome...you served...because it was the right thing to do.

After listening to you, I know now that you focused more on the reasons why you should serve your country and not the reasons that could keep you from doing so. You turned your excuses into reasons why you should. It was more than an adventure. It was an understanding of the need to stand in defense of your country.

Before it ever became a familiar slogan, you knew that "Freedom isn't free." You had your priorities straight and knew that if not protected, our freedoms could be forever gone.

We still have much to learn from you. Keep talking...keep sharing...keep hoping...keep praying that future generations will instill some of the values you lived, most important-

ly: doing the right thing because it is the right thing to do!

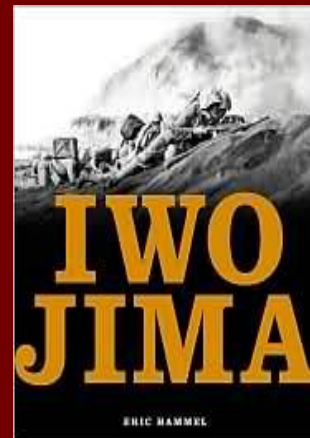
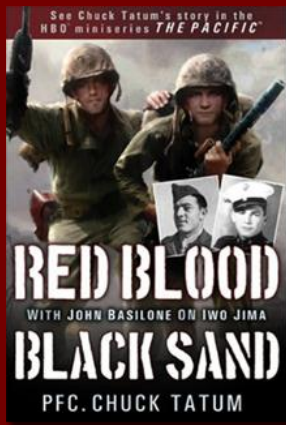
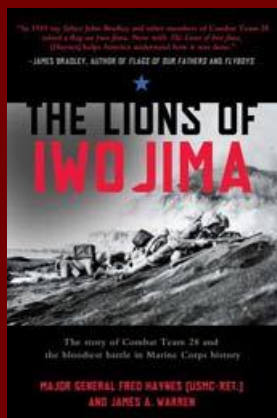
And we thank you, love you and appreciate you!

Thank you for allowing us, **Radio King Orchestra**, to entertain you at your symposium in February. We owe you so much...not ONLY for your heroism, dedication to service and preservation of our freedom but also for the extraordinary gift and legacy you, "The Greatest Generation," left us—amazing music.

We promise to pass the musical and historical torch of this timeless, lyrical, melodious, romantic and inspiring music, so that the lives of our next generations may be as enriched and blessed as ours has been performing *your* music, learning *your* history and spending time with **you**.

- Robin Gordon,
Radio King Orchestra

Editor's note: The Radio King Orchestra waived its normal fee for an evening's performance to play for the IJAA Reunion and Symposium Banquet in February.



A Day I'll Forever Remember

Recently, I had the honor of attending the Young Marines Leadership Symposium in Washington, DC. When I received the news that I would be attending I was elated. In my mind, this was a BIG deal. The symposium started on a Friday evening, so I had already planned to take that day off from school when I got an e-mail requesting Young Marine assistance at the National Museum of the Marine Corps.

They were conducting a ceremony for the Battle of Iwo Jima veterans. Had this been any other school day, I would have had to decline; however, since I was off from school already I decided why not seize the opportunity? Little did I know how big of an impact this ceremony would have on my life.

Most Young Marines were saluting the veterans and assisting them, but I thought it would be nice to wish them all a good morning and shake their hands. I'd shaken a few hands already when I came to this one veteran. He never told me his name, but I'll never forget him.

I shook his hand, wished him a good morning and as I prepared to move on to the next veteran he grabbed my arm and asked, "Do ya got time?"

I smiled and replied, "All the time you need, Sir."

His eyes lit up as we dove into conversation. At first we talked about the battle, but soon I learned that this elderly man not only had a poem published in the Library of Congress, but also an academic paper he had written in response to one of Steven Hawking's papers.

We talked about science, we talked about art, we talked about the Marine Corps—and we talked about just life in general. Over the course of this 25-minute conversation, this gentleman went from a seemingly frail old man to a vivacious and enthusiastic source of wisdom.

In that short time, I formed a friendship with this man who resembled one of many years. I had my picture taken with him and we said our

goodbyes, as the ceremony was soon to start. The day progressed and the whole experience was extremely moving.

Motivated and inspired by the veterans, I headed to the Young Marines Leadership Symposium where I was informed that the next night we would be having dinner with the same veterans. So there we were on Saturday night; we had our alphas on and we were looking good.



Erin DeVivies (right) of the Quantico Young Marines visits with Iwo Jima veteran Ted Dougherty, D/2/27, in front of the Marine Corps Heritage Center in February 2011 as part of the 66th Iwo Jima Anniversary Reunion and Symposium hosted by the IJAA.

A few of us volunteered for a color guard, during which the President's Own played, which was extremely nerve-racking but equally exciting. After that, there were several speakers. All of which told a similar tale—the tale of the Battle of Iwo Jima.

The Battle of Iwo Jima is one that most every

(Continued on page 13)

(Continued from page 12) *DeVives*

Marine, and every Young Marine for that matter, is familiar with. The 36-day battle epitomizes the Marine Corps. Boys as young as me and men as old as my father put their lives on the line and nearly 7000 of them made that ultimate sacrifice for me to be able to sit here and write this article today.

On Feb. 19, 1945, they hit the beaches, fighting for our freedom. And there they stayed, some until the United States captured the island on March 26 and some were never able to return to the ones they loved.

To have the honor to meet and even speak to these veterans is something I'll never take for granted. To know that this elderly man who was so full of life and personality was once a 17-year-old boy with a rifle in his hand and bullets whizzing past each ear and was selfless enough to fight for ME and MY freedom is a feeling not like any other. Not to mention that he was so humble about it.

That one day of meeting those veterans, and hearing their stories has arisen in me a respect that can never be surpassed. And so I say to all who have served, and to all who shall serve: Thank you. You'll never know how much it means to me. And to the veteran whose name I wish I'd asked, you'll never know how much YOU mean to me.

- SgtMaj Erin DeVives Quantico (VA)
Young Marines
erin.devives@gmail.com

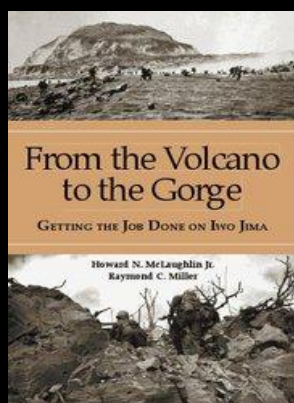
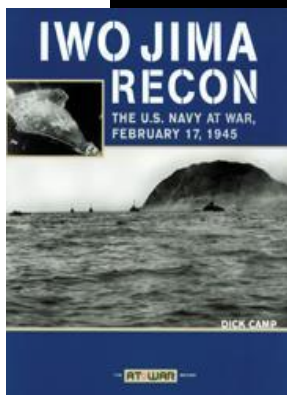
Another Japanese flag from Iwo Jima and Dan King's translation

After Ernie Petersen (HS-4-13) died, his widow, Ruth Steffens, discovered a Japanese flag among his belongings that he brought home from Iwo Jima. She would like it returned to the family, if possible. In addition to an effort being made to locate the family, Dan King translated the writing on the flag.

"The flag is signed by a lieutenant general in the upper center," Dan says. "I can make out the rank, but not the name. It is a good chance this flag was given to him when he enlisted, or was drafted, into the army. The lieutenant general might have been a family member or a family friend. He might have been retired or active duty—hard to tell at this point. It is also signed by a first lieutenant, as noted below.

"There are eight interesting writings on the flag that I was able to decipher; there are a couple more, but I can't make those out yet."

1. Prayers for Long Life, Victory in Battle. Given to Mr. Kenzo Matsuo
2. LtGen (?), then illegible patriotic saying
3. 1stLt Mimura, Sure victory for the Emperor
4. Banzai, Banzai. Tojiro (?) Nagahashi
5. Prayers for our military to be victorious
6. Prayers for Long Life, Victory in Battle.
7. Offer even seven lives for the Emperor (if one had seven lives to give, they would all be offered up in his service)
8. Offer seven lives for the Emperor (name illegible)



IJAA's 66th Iwo Jima Reunion and Symposium 'a resounding success'

Attendees of the 66th Anniversary Iwo Jima Reunion and Symposium held Feb. 17-20 in Arlington, VA, called it "a resounding success."

The Iwo Jima Association of America's annual event began with a meeting of the board, presided over by President LtGen Hank Stackpole, (USMC), Ret.

The board fully supported the appointment of Ray Elliott, current editor of *Spearhead News*, as the communications director for IJAA. Elliott, a Marine veteran, has written and published two novels about the aftermath of World War II. One of the novels, *Iwo Blasted Again*, is about an Iwo Marine wrestling with the devils of the battle in his last days. Elliott steps into the big shoes of Cy O'Brien, one of World War II's noted combat correspondents who served on Iwo Jima, and throughout his long life continued to contribute to the lore of the Marine Corps.

O'Brien was with the late MajGen Fred Haynes when he founded the Combat Veterans of Iwo Jima – the name was later changed to IJAA to include all Iwo Jima veterans. The general recently passed away and will be sorely missed, but his widow Bonnie Arnold-Haynes was named to the board to continue his legacy.

Several other board members were also named. All are Iwo Jima veterans who join the legacy members (children of Iwo veterans) appointed last year. The new members are Ira Rigger, 106th Naval Construction Battalion; Dale Quillen, 3rd War Dog Platoon; and Ivan Hammond, 5th JASCO.

Two newly registered legacy members Leonard and Fletcher Isack, whose grandfather was a 5th Division Marine lost on Iwo's Red Beach on D-Day, arrived from New Orleans and renewed their old friendship with

me and others from the 2005 Reunion of Honor tour to Iwo Jima with Military Historical Tours, the only group the Japanese government permits on the island one day a year.

Reunion events kicked off on Friday morning when attendees boarded buses for Quantico to dedicate the 5th Marine Division Association's "BAR on the Beach" monument in Semper Fidelis Memorial Park at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

Chaplain Paul Temblay gave the invocation, and the president and CEO of the Marine Corps Heritage Foundation, LtGen Ron Christmas, USMC, (Ret.), welcomed everyone.

Gen Stackpole then introduced Ivan Hammond and John Huffhines, from the 5th Marine Division Association and part of a larger group that was largely responsible for the monument's creation.

Hammond's account was particularly moving of then-Pfc Charles Waterhouse's inspiration for his painting, which the monument depicts, as he watched a lone Marine BAR man stand and take on Japanese firing from a pillbox.

Featured speaker, Gen Joseph E. Dunford Jr., assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, spoke of the importance of Iwo Jima's legacy with today's young Marine who is taking the fight to our nation's enemies in Afghanistan and around the world. His speech was followed by *The Marine Hymn*, after which the general circulated through the crowd before they assembled at the "BAR on the Beach" monument for a wreath-laying and group photo.

Friday was also Legacy Members night when the children of Iwo vets gave presenta-

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14) **Butler**

tions about their fathers' participation in the battle.

A group of active-duty Marines from Henderson Hall helped set up this informal and interactive event. They remained throughout the evening, visiting and learning about Iwo Jima from talking to the Iwo vets and viewing the displays of photos, maps and a copy of the operation orders for the landing of 1/27.

I participated in the show-and-tell with a booklet history of my father's 1/27 operations orders for the battalion landing on Red Beach 2, his map and photos of him and John Basilone's machine gun platoon.

Diane Kuebler had a comprehensive display of the Seabee's contribution during the battle and after the Marines left, including her father's 31st Seabee Battalion, which was attached to the 5th Marine Division. And Kevin Jarvis had a comprehensive display from his father's role as a sergeant in the 3rd Engineer Battalion.

Another feature of the night was a pack of letters to current Marines from the 7th grade classmates of young IJAA member, Michael Scott.

The morning session on Feb.19 got underway with posting of the colors by the Young Marine Detachment from Quantico, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and an invocation.

A brief description of VA benefits was followed by Col Dick Camp's, USMC, (Ret.) informative presentation of pre D-Day operations, including naval gunfire prep fires and the underwater demolition team/recon investigation of the beaches and underwater obstacles offshore.

Col Camp was followed by MajGen Mitsuru Nodomi, military attaché for the Japanese Self Defense Force and Embassy of Japan military aide. Gen Nodomi covered the Japanese de-

fense of the island, with an emphasis on the challenge of delivering material and reinforcements ashore during the run up to D-Day.

The differences between the Japanese army and navy, which plagued Japan throughout the war, were also highlighted. Gen Nodomi introduced a representative of Nichimy Corp., which is working to find Japanese soldiers interred in mass graves.

Iwo maps were distributed so that any Iwo veterans recalling the location of any graves could indicate the location.

Patrick Mooney, a USMC Heritage Museum historian, was the final morning speaker and covered the ground battle as waged by the three Marine divisions.

BrigGen Carl E Mundy III, director of Strategy & Plans Division Headquarters Marine Corps, was the lunch speaker. Gen Mundy also thanked the Iwo vets and emphasized that the legacy of Iwo remains with today's Marine.

Following lunch, noted author Jerry Yellin, an Iwo Jima P-51 Army Air Corps pilot who had arrived early and flew fire support missions for Marines fighting just north of the airfield, gave a very personal account of his life-changing experience as a P-51 pilot on Iwo Jima. He flew 19 escort missions to Japan during his time on the island. Yellin, who had developed a deep hatred of the Japanese during the war, had a soul-changing epiphany after his son married a Japanese girl.



Past Fifth Marine Division Association president Ivan Hammond, left of wreath, speaking at the dedication ceremony and pointing back at the past Association president John Huffhines, right of wreath, who initiated the BAR on the Beach statue.

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from page 15) Butler

Next, Jim Donovan, Executive Director of the Marine Corps War Memorial Foundation, spoke about the need for repair of the Marine Corps Memorial. (He later spoke further about the foundation's efforts in the restoration process at the wreath-laying ceremony at the memorial on Feb. 23, the 66th anniversary of the flags being raised on Mt. Suribachi.)

The final session featured a panel of Iwo Jima veterans—Ira Rigger, a 106th Naval Construction Battalion Seabee who had previously served on Guam and Peleliu; George Aldren, who landed with 1/27 on Red Beach 2 and was wounded on D+2; and Dale Quillen, who served with the 3rd War Dog Platoon until called to the front as an infantry replacement.

Closing night banquet activities began with a reception during which The Marine Corps Band provided a patriotic interlude.

Gen Stackpole then introduced the guest of honor, LtGen John Kelly, USMC, commander Marine Force Reserve and Marine Forces North, who spoke passionately about the Marines of today and their tough fight against the Taliban. Although not mentioned by him, but well known to others, his son, a Marine lieutenant, had been lost recently in the fight in Afghanistan.

Gen Kelly also spoke of the Corps' need to remain amphibious. Following the dinner, he circulated throughout, visiting per-



Legacy IJAA member John Butler, son of LtCol John Butler, 1/27 Battalion commander, killed on Iwo Jima, talks with LtGen John Kelly at the banquet.

sonally with many attendees—an extraordinary and special gesture.

After the departure of the Marine Corps Band, the Radio King Orchestra swing band provided entertainment for dancing.

Special thanks to Shayne Jarosz, IJAA executive director and Fairfax, VA, high school history teacher, who put in long hours, along with Col Warren Wiedhahn and his Military Historical Tours staff.

Moving into the future, the IJAA leadership and members are united and committed to preserving the legacy of Iwo Jima that was written in blood 66 years ago.

- John Butler
IJAA Board Member
jbutler813@verizon.com



Green Beach — Then and Now

‘The Black Sands’ extends the IJAA mission

The Black Sands is a part of the Iwo Jima Association of America’s mission to help record, preserve, and perpetuate the legacy and sacrifices of those veterans who fought in that iconic battle on the black sands of Iwo Jima that is so much a part of Marine Corps history and its rich tradition.

The children and grandchildren of those veterans and other interested people are members of the association dedicated to holding reunions and symposia and taking educational trips back to the island to walk in the black sands where their forefather did so those men and their legacies are never forgotten by future generations after they themselves are gone.

IJAA (<http://www.iwojimaassociation.org/>) sponsors two educational and historical symposia annually, one in the Washington, DC, area and, in future years, at other relevant locations around the United States, and on the island of Guam. The symposium on Guam is during the tour, which includes the “Reunion of Honor” memorial services on Iwo Jima, held jointly with the Iwo Jima Association of Japan (IJAJ) and hosted by Military Historical Tours (<http://www.miltours.com/>).

Both of these symposia are designed to honor those men on both sides who sacrificed so much during the 36-day battle and to educate younger and future generations about the history of the battle in particular and World War II in general. The stateside symposium is held to coincide with the 19 February D-Day landing on Iwo Jima and the black sands. The Iwo Jima tour follows a few weeks later in mid-March.

I hope to meet many of you at one or both of the annual events and ask that you send your comments, stories, photos, etc. and encourage others interested in perpetuating the legacy of the Iwo Jima veterans to join the association in this worthwhile endeavor. You don’t have to be the relative of one who fought or died there to

come aboard. Everyone is welcome.

My connection with an Iwo Jima veteran wasn’t with a relative but started when I was five-years old. My father’s barber was Ben Correll (A/1/28) who landed on Iwo Jima and was wounded there. Until I joined the Marine Corps right out of high school, I’d never let another barber cut my hair. Ben was a voracious reader and quite a storyteller, all of which had more than a little to do with me joining the Marine Corps, teaching English and wanting to write.

When I helped carry him to his grave in the late ’70s after his heart attack, I hoped that someday I’d be able to visit Iwo Jima and walk where he had fought. That opportunity became possible on the 60th anniversary of the battle in 2005. And it was an incredible experience. Of all the places I’ve visited in the world, Iwo Jima is at the top of the list. It is truly hallowed ground.

The highlight of the tour for me was to walk Green Beach—where Ben had landed and from where he was evacuated to the USS Hocking—with John Britton, who had landed there with the 28th Marines as a young captain. John, I learned during the early part of the tour, was graduated from the high school in Urbana, IL, where I had taught English and journalism for years.

Like Ben, John was a great storyteller, and I’ve tried to preserve for posterity in my writing some of what they told me. I hope the veterans among you will share your experiences, and the rest of you will carry on the legacy by sharing the stories with us in *The Black Sands* and at the reunions and symposia.

- Ray Elliott

IJAA Communications Director
(217) 384-5820
rayelliott23@att.net

The Passing of Cy O'Brien

The first time I saw Cy O'Brien was in 2005 on the History Channel. As a history teacher, I took an interest in a documentary titled "Return to Iwo" that was being shown. Cy was being asked about returning to Iwo Jima and as he was describing his experiences, it was as if he had walked into a cathedral because Iwo Jima is Hallowed Ground.

Fast forward to 2009 when I had the fortunate opportunity to meet Cy personally on Guam. I was sitting with Cy and a group of other veterans, drinking cold beers and listening to stories. Many of the veterans expressed how much they looked forward to the "Reunion of Honor" tour each year because of the camaraderie and connection they felt with one another. It brought them so much joy, and they wanted to keep those feelings alive and share them with their loved ones.

In 2010 at the annual Symposium in Washington, DC, Cy and I sat down again and caught up with what was happening in each other's lives. What totally surprised me was that Cy was asking me about my sons and even remembered their names! I was flattered that he remembered.

Cy and I became closer as the weeks passed and before I knew it, I was escorting him to a local Target store to help him purchase a new TV and VCR. This was the first time that I really saw Cy in his element! He charmed a young 19-year-old female cashier like no one else could.

This young lady looked like she was having a really bad day, but when Cy commented on how beautiful she was the girl melted. The smile on this young lady's face was priceless. I would venture to say that in the time that I got really close to Cy, everyone melted. You could see the wisdom in his eyes, the caring gentle manner in which he carefully asked questions, and how intrigued he was to hear your responses.

When he asked how you were doing, he was ready to listen!

Before he passed away, my son, Patrick, had an opportunity to spend a considerable amount of time with Cy. I am proud to say that Pat loved going to Cy's house for visits. Patrick is one of the lucky ones because at 13-years old, he understands that the world is a better place because of Cy O'Brien. I feel like I hit the lottery by having the opportunity to become friends with a man that I refer to as one of my heroes.

Cyril J. O'Brien passed away January 31, 2011. He was 92-years old. He will be deeply missed by everyone that knew him! God Bless you, Cy!

- Shayne Jarosz
Executive Director,
Iwo Jima Association of America
Director@iwojimaassociation.org



Cy & Pat



Iwo Jima Vet Featured in CNN story

Iwo Jima veteran Marty Connor, HQ-1-26, is featured in a CNN story, "Bridging the Pacific," shown internationally and on the news organization's website as part of its World's Untold Stories series. For the last 40 years, Connor has been reuniting war souvenirs with surviving relatives of dead enemy soldiers. See <http://www.cnn.com/CNNI/Programs/untoldstories>.

Photos shared from H&S Co., 26th Marines

These photos were among several taken at the third and last forward command post for the regiment close to the northern end of Iwo Jima. By then the fighting, though intense in certain areas in the northern part of the island, was winding down to the point where we were preparing to leave the island. We were ordered back aboard ship soon after these pictures were taken.

-- SSgt Hank House
Williston, Vt.



Back row, left to right: Lt Corley, Cpl Johnson, Pfc Helm, Unknown, Lt Marshall (Japanese interpreter), Capt Harris, Pfc Lamb. Front row, left to right: SSgt Chet Smith (combat correspondent), Unknown, Sgt Macer, Cpl Scheutzel, Cpl E.T. Hansen, Cpl Hutt, Sgt Okada (a Japanese-American Japanese interpret-



Pictured left to right are Warrant Officer Homer King, Capt Harris, Lt Corley and SSgt Chet Smith.



Warrant Officer Homer King is in the T-shirt, but the others in this photo have not been identified.



Fifth Marine Division, Cemetery V

IJAA Attends 235th Marine Corps Birthday

Representatives of IJAA attended the 235th Marine Corps Birthday Ball on Nov. 6, 2010, at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA. The ball was sponsored by the Henderson Hall Marines, located at nearby Fort Myers (the military reservation located adjacent to Arlington Cemetery).

The theme for this event was "From Iwo Jima to Afghanistan." In attendance to represent IJAA were LtCol Bob Lindholm, USMC, (Ret.) and wife Lois; Shayne Jarosz, IJAA executive director, and wife Nancy; Diane Kuebler, IJAA board member; Ellie Bertrand, Military Historical Tours nurse who has accompanied many Iwo Jima veterans on visits to Iwo; and IJAA Doug Meny, IJAA treasurer, and wife Dee.

Col Roarke L. Anderson, commanding officer of Headquarters & Service Battalion, Headquarters Marine Corps, Henderson Hall, had extended an invitation to IJAA to attend, given its educational mission to preserve and perpetuate the legacy of Iwo Jima.

Col Roarke stopped by to individually chat with each of the IJAA attendees to discuss possibilities of how Henderson Hall Marines can assist in IJAA's mission going forward and to also expressed that it was great to have an organization like IJAA joining the Marines in their birthday celebration.

Highlights of the night included meeting and talking with Col Roarke's father, retired Marine Sgt Neville Anderson, who is a Okinawa WWII veteran, viewing the traditional annual cake-cutting ceremony, where the first slice was given to the oldest Marine present, IJAA's own Bob Lindholm, who gave this slice of cake to the youngest Marine symbolizing the passing of experience and wisdom to a brand

new generation of Marines, hearing the messages of Keynote Speaker, the former White House Press Secretary Dana Perino, who discussed her many experiences working with President George W. Bush, and enjoying for the remainder of the night performances by the United Service Organization's "Liberty Bells" musical trio who sang the National Anthem during the presentation of the colors and inspired all throughout the night by singing 1940-era songs.

IJAA attendees remarked how energizing being a part of this event was for everyone. Jarosz said, "I thought Col Anderson did an incredible job hosting this Ball. This was the first Marine Corps Ball I have been to since I was a young Marine in 1984."

In viewing the video and in-person messages presented during the course of this evening, we all experienced an increased understanding of the high standard of professionalism that Marines hold themselves accountable, which includes continuing to look toward and upholding the standards and example set by Iwo Jima veterans.

This was an extremely well organized and inspiring event, which made us proud to be Americans. Oorah, Henderson Hall Marines! Thanks for inviting us to your celebration. We look forward to continuing to pursue working together perpetuating the Legacy of Iwo Jima in the decades ahead.

- Doug Meny
IJAA Treasurer
dmeny@tampabay.rr.com

Looking for information about Sgt Anthony Fraley, 5th Motor

I am looking for anyone who possibly was in the 5th Motor Transport Battalion in 1945 that might have known my Father, Sgt Anthony Fraley, who was in the H & S company, "Service Troops," Company "A," 5th Motor Transport Battalion, 5th Marine Division, Fleet Marine Forces-Pacific Theater. He was at Camp Tarawa (I have pictures of his some training there)... But they do not mention the details of his exact participation at Iwo Jima. He did not talk about it much. My Mom said he was in the 2nd wave that hit the beach on Feb 19, 1945. I just would love to know more about his experience.

Thank you so much for your time... I just wondered how to get this message out to others who might remember him.

- Debbie Fraley Roth
debbieroth1a@verizon.net

A FLAG FLOWN IN YOUR HONOR

The USS Constitution, berthed in the Charlestown Navy Yard (Boston) and the oldest commissioned ship in the United States Navy, is proud to fly your flag for your special occasion.

According to information from the website, the following criteria must be met:

- ⇒ All flags are required to have metal rings to allow the flag to be hoisted. Flags without the metal rings cannot be flown. Each flag that is flown will be accompanied by a personalized certificate signed by the commanding officer.

The required information to have a certificate made follows:

- ⇒ Name, rank and warfare designation of the individual the flag is being flown for.
- ⇒ The occasion for which the flag is flown (reenlistment, retirement, birthday...).
- ⇒ Specific date the flag is to be flown.
- ⇒ A detailed return address.
- ⇒ A detailed point of contact, including phone number.

Attach a USPS delivery confirmation slip (PS Form 152) in order to track your package. Example:

WHO: PFC John Doe, USMC, Iwo Jima veteran E/2/28

OCCASION: 90th birthday celebration

WHEN: August 15, 2011, the day flag is to be flown

Mail flags and request to:

USS Constitution Bldg.

5 Charlestown Navy Yard,

Charlestown, MA 02129

- Diane Keubler
IJAA Board Member
dianelynnkeubler@comcast.net

**Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc.
Minutes of Board Meeting – 4 June 2011
Sheraton National Hotel, Arlington, Virginia**

I. Call to Order

The Board of Directors meeting of the Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc. was called to order at 0920 on 4 June 2011, in Arlington, Virginia, by Executive Vice President Warren Wiedhahn.

II. Roll Call

Present: Chairman LtGen Larry Snowden, President LtGen Hank Stackpole, Executive Vice President Warren Wiedhahn, Executive Director Shayne Jarosz, Communications Director Ray Elliott, Bonnie Haynes, Bill Rockey, Ivan Hammond and Ira Rigger.

Absent: Treasurer Doug Meny, Diane Kuebler, John Butler and Dale Quillen.

Guests: Nancy Rea Brown was introduced and a motion was made by Bonnie Haynes to consent to Nancy Brown taking on the role of Acting Recording Secretary for the Board meeting. The motion was seconded and passed.

III. Approval of Minutes from Last Meeting

The Minutes were read and minor corrections were incorporated. A motion was made by LtGen Hank Stackpole to approve the Minutes, as amended, and seconded. The Minutes were approved “as amended.”

IV. Reports

The Treasurer’s Report was read by Shayne Jarosz. Bonnie Haynes made a motion to approve the Report. The motion was seconded and passed.

V. Old Business

The Board decided to expand by three additional members. Ivan Hammond (Iwo Vet 5th Mar Div), Ira Rigger (Iwo Vet Sea Bees) and Dale Quillen (Iwo Vet 3d Mar Div) were all nominated to serve on the Board and accepted their positions.

Col. Wiedhahn reported that the 2011 Reunion of Honor Tour to Iwo Jima was cancelled due to the devastating earthquake that hit Japan. A back-up plan was put into place and Shayne Jarosz escorted the group to Saipan where they were able to tour the island battlefields; on Guam others went scuba diving and deep-sea fishing. Continental Airlines refunded the monies for the Iwo Jima portion of the trip. People can donate money back to the Association, they can roll it forward to next year’s Reunion of Honor or they can receive a refund.

Col. Wiedhahn reported that the 2012 Reunion of Honor tour to Iwo Jima will go forward and promises to be a special trip. LtGen Snowden reported that the Ambassador of Japan stated that he

would personally try to join the tour next year.

Shayne Jarosz followed-up on the 2011 Reunion and Symposium stating that IJAA is still waiting to receive a check from the Sheraton National for IJAA's portion of the rooms. He also reported that the Armed Forces Reunion ("AFR") is paid in full.

Shayne Jarosz reported that the 2012 Reunion and Symposium plans are well underway. February 15 -21, 2012 dates have been reserved. A contract has been signed with the Sheraton National. The Sheraton will be proposing menu items for the Symposium and Banquet shortly. IJAA will not be hiring AFR to handle registration next year. A group of volunteers will be formed to handle the registration responsibilities and weekend activities. Negotiations are taking place to contract Radio King Orchestra ("RKO") for the 2012 Symposium. We are hopeful that RKO will donate their services to this historic event.

Shayne Jarosz reported that magnetic calendars were distributed last year to IJAA members. 60 new members have joined IJAA in the past year.

Shayne Jarosz reported that the website is being updated to be more user friendly.

Ray Elliott suggested putting the IJAA newsletter on the website. The Board discussed coming up with a logo for the newsletter and posting a notice in the newsletter so members could be involved in the process. Kudos was given to Ray for a great job on putting together the Guam/Iwo Jima/Saipan 2011 Booklet.

VI. New Business

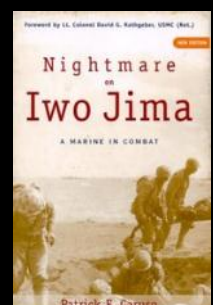
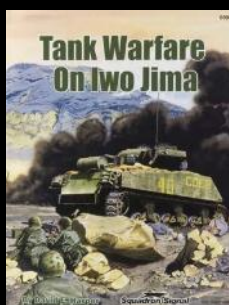
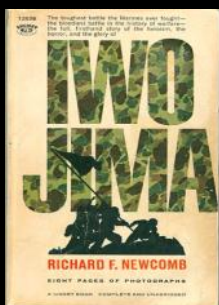
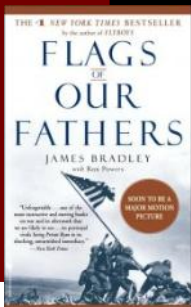
Bob Lindholm submitted a request to be excused from his duty as Secretary of the Board. A motion was made by Ira Rigger to accept Bob's resignation and seconded. The Board thanks Bob for his integral service to the organization and are hopeful that he will remain involved in the success of the Association.

Moving the 2013 Reunion and Symposium to a different location was discussed. Suggested locations include San Diego, San Francisco, New Orleans and San Antonio.

LtGen Hank Stackpole made a motion that a Membership Committee be formed. Bonnie Haynes seconded the motion and the motion passed. Bonnie Haynes and Ira Rigger volunteered to be on this committee.

Bill Rockey volunteered to review the current mission statement and recommend changes, if any are considered necessary.

VII. Adjournment



Membership Application

Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc.

Post Office Box 680
Quantico, VA 22134
(703) 212-8128 Fax: (703) 590-1292
Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org www.IwoJimaAssociation.org

Join us as we preserve and perpetuate the history of the Battle of Iwo Jima!

Should you prefer the convenience of renewing your dues or providing an additional contribution to IJAA on-line via PayPal, please logon to www.IwoJimaAssociation.org and click "Join Our Association".

IJAA Membership Application Form (and Renewal/Additional Contributions)

Membership is open to both veterans of the *Battle of Iwo Jima* (all services, ground, air and sea) and to all those who desire to help perpetuate the memory of the sacrifices made by all the veterans of the battle ensuring that, long after the last *Iwo Jima Veteran* has gone, future generations will remember *Iwo Jima*. I hereby make application for (or renewing) membership in the Iwo Jima Association of America, Inc. (IJAA) or provide for an additional contribution. **Dues are \$25.00** and are payable by February 19th. (Membership is free to all Medal of Honor recipients, former POWs, and Gold Star Mothers & Fathers of any conflict).

Please return the following information (by mail or email) to Executive Director, IJAA

☐ I would like to pay by check. Please make your check payable to the *Iwo Jima Association of America*.

☐ I would like to pay by credit card (Charges on your bill will appear as *Military Historical Tours*).

☐ I would like to make a further donation of _____ to IJAA.

Please charge \$ _____ to my: _____ VISA _____ MasterCard

Name (as it appears on card): _____

Signature: _____

Credit Card Number _____ Expiration Date _____

3 Digit Security Code _____

Last Name _____ First _____ Middle _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone _____ E-mail _____

Interest (veteran, family of veteran, friend, historian, etc.)

CALL TO ARMS!

IJAA wants to hear your suggestions and thoughts on future newsletter content and how IJAA might better serve you in the future. Write to us at IJAA, PO Box 680, Quantico, VA 22134 or email us at Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org

Reunion and Educational Symposium

IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA
FEBRUARY 16-19, 2012
ARLINGTON AND QUANTICO, VIRGINIA

Thursday, February 16

2:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
6:00pm - 8:00pm Welcome Reception

Friday, February 17

7:30am - 8:00am Reunion Registration Open
8:30am - 4:30pm NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS
COMMEMORATION and DEDICATION
8:30am Board Bus for National Museum of the
Marine Corps
2:30pm Board Bus for Wreath Laying Ceremony at
Marine Corps War Memorial
5:00pm - 6:00pm Reunion Registration Open
6:00pm - 8:00pm No Host Cocktail Reception and "Show & Tell"

Saturday, February 18

8:30am - 3:30pm Symposium and Panel Discussion
9:30am - 11:30am LADIES TOUR OF THE HOME OF THE
COMMANDANT OF THE MARINE CORPS
12:00pm - 1:00pm Symposium Lunch with Guest Speaker
6:00pm - 7:00pm Cash Bar Reception
7:00pm - 9:30pm Official Anniversary Banquet

Sunday, February 19

Farewells and Departures

CANCELLATION AND REFUND POLICY FOR ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC.

For attendees canceling reunion activities prior to the cut-off date, Armed Forces Reunions, Inc. (AFR) shall process a full refund less the non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). Attendees canceling reunion activities after the cut-off date will be refunded to the fullest extent that AFR's vendor commitments and guarantees will allow, less the group registration fee (\$15 per person) and non-refundable AFR registration fee (\$10 per person). **Cancellations will only be taken Monday through Friday from 9:00am until 5:00pm Eastern Standard Time, excluding holidays.** Please call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion. Canceling your hotel reservation does not cancel your reunion activities. Each must be cancelled separately.

SHERATON NATIONAL HOTEL – ARLINGTON, VA
(888) 627-8210 (703) 521-1900

The Sheraton National Hotel is located at 900 S Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204. The hotel is approximately 5 miles away from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA) and 27 miles away from Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD). Call the hotel directly for accurate driving directions. The hotel is on high elevation overlooking many Washington, D.C. famous landmarks and is just blocks from the Metro, The Pentagon, Ft. Myer, and Arlington Cemetery. Downtown Washington, The Kennedy Center, Crystal City, and the National Airport are just five minutes away. Complimentary shuttle van service departs every 30 minutes to and from Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, Metro at The Pentagon, and Pentagon City Fashion Center. The hotel has handicapped accessible rooms which are based on availability. Please request these special accommodations when making your reservation. We recommend that you *reconfirm* these special requests before arriving at the hotel.

The Sheraton National has 408 deluxe guest rooms with individual climate controls; an HD TV with in-room movies, and video check-out. Rooms offer in-room coffee makers, hair dryers, and irons/ironing boards. Guests can enjoy a rooftop indoor swimming pool (9:00am-10:00pm weekdays, 9:00am-9:00pm weekends), sundeck (9:00am-10:00pm daily), and an exercise room. The exercise room features Stairmaster, LifeCycle, and weight resistance equipment. The hotel is offering complimentary parking for all reunion attendees who are registered hotel guests. There are 390 parking spaces available with a six-foot ceiling height. Check-in time is 3:00pm; check-out is 12:00 noon.

The **Potomac Restaurant**, with seating for over 200 features unique culinary creations for breakfast, lunch, and dinner from prime steak to fresh seafood and exotic desserts, we will dazzle you with the best dining experience in Washington, D.C. Open from 2pm until midnight, the **Potomac Lounge**, adjacent to the restaurant, offers an inviting and social atmosphere for lunch, dinner or light fare. Catch your favorite game or the latest news on one of two large elevated flat screen televisions or the 42" plasma television positioned behind the bar. When you feel like staying in, you can enjoy a great meal from the privacy of your room with our delectable in-room dining options 6:30am-11:00pm.

Complimentary shuttle service departs every 30 minutes from 5:00am-12:15am to and from Washington-Reagan National Airport. Go to the Ground Transportation area of the airport to catch the shuttle. SuperShuttle offers transportation from Dulles International Airport and Baltimore/Washington International Airport. Please contact them at (202) 296-6662 or (800) BLUE-VAN for more information and/or reservations. Complimentary shuttle service is also available to the Pentagon City Metro Station 5:00am-12:15am.

Oversize vehicles or RVs can park in the hotel's satellite parking lot across the street from the hotel; but if you require RV hook-ups please contact Harmony Place located on 8018 Richmond Road, Alexandria, VA 22306, which is about 8 miles from the hotel. Call (703) 360-4460 for information, reservations, and directions. There are no campgrounds in Arlington County.

Should you need to rent a wheelchair for the reunion, ScootAround rents both manual and power wheelchairs by the day and week. Please call their toll-free number at (888) 441-7575.

Vendors, Schedules, and Prices are subject to change.

CUT HERE AND MAIL TO HOTEL

IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC – HOTEL RESERVATION FORM
REUNION DATES: FEBRUARY 16-19, 2012

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

EMAIL ADDRESS (if available) _____ TELEPHONE # (____) _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ TIME _____ AM/PM DEP. DATE _____

_____ # OF ROOMS NEEDED _____ # OF PEOPLE IN ROOM _____ HANDICAP ACCESS

_____ KING BED _____ 2 DOUBLE BEDS

In the event room type requested is not available, nearest room type will be assigned.

RATE: \$105 + tax (currently 10.25%)

CUT OFF DATE: 01/17/12; Reservations received after this date will be processed on a space available basis, at the prevailing public rate.

CANCELLATION POLICY: Deposit is refundable if reservation is cancelled by 4:00pm the day prior to arrival. If guest does not check-in OR has not cancelled their reservation by 4:00pm the day prior to arrival, 1 night's room & tax will be charged to the guest's credit card.

All reservations must be guaranteed by credit card or first night's deposit, enclosed.

_____ AMEX _____ DINERS _____ VISA _____ MASTER CARD _____ DISCOVER

CREDIT CARD NUMBER _____ EXP. DATE _____

SIGNATURE (regardless of payment method) _____

Mail to: Sheraton National Hotel, 900 South Orme Street, Arlington, VA 22204 Attn: Reservations or
Please visit the online reservation website: <http://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/iwojima2012>

IWO JIMA 67th ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

Listed below is the registration cost for the Reunion and Symposium. Please enter how many people will be participating and total the amount. Send that amount payable to ARMED FORCES REUNIONS, INC. in the form of check or money order. Your cancelled check will serve as your confirmation. Returned checks will be charged a \$20 fee. You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/ijaa. All registration forms and payments must be received by mail on or before **January 17, 2012**. After that date, reservations will be accepted on a space available basis. We suggest you make a copy of this form before mailing. Please do not staple or tape your payment to this form.

Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.
322 Madison Mews
Norfolk, VA 23510
ATTN: Iwo Jima 67th Anniversary

OFFICE USE ONLY

Check # _____ Date Received _____
 Inputted _____ Nametag Completed _____

CUT-OFF DATE IS 1/17/12		Price Per	# of People	Total
TOURS				
FRIDAY: NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE MARINE CORPS COMMEMORATION and DEDICATION		\$ 35		\$
SATURDAY: LADIES TOUR OF THE HOME OF THE COMMANDANT (This tour is free; please provide the total number of people attending)			#	
MEALS				
SATURDAY: SYMPOSIUM LUNCH		\$ 33		\$
SATURDAY: BANQUET (Please select your entrée below)				
Prime Rib		\$ 52		\$
Chicken Marsala		\$ 52		\$
Mandatory Per Person Registration Fee		\$ 25		\$
Total Amount Payable to Armed Forces Reunions, Inc.				\$

PLEASE PRINT NAME

Note: Correct names and addresses are very important because of the prominent position of some of our guests. You will be required to go through metal detectors at the Museum.

FIRST _____ LAST _____ EMAIL _____

SPOUSE NAME (IF ATTENDING) _____

GUEST NAMES _____

STREET ADDRESS _____

CITY, ST, ZIP _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

DISABILITY/DIETARY RESTRICTIONS _____

(Sleeping room requirements must be conveyed by attendee directly with hotel)

MUST YOU BE LIFTED HYDRAULICALLY ONTO THE BUS WHILE SEATED IN YOUR WHEELCHAIR IN ORDER TO PARTICIPATE IN BUS TRIPS? ☐ YES ☐ NO (PLEASE NOTE THAT WE CANNOT GUARANTEE AVAILABILITY).

EMERGENCY CONTACT _____ PH. NUMBER (____) _____ - _____

ARRIVAL DATE _____ DEPARTURE DATE _____

ARE YOU STAYING AT THE HOTEL? YES ☐ NO ☐ ARE YOU FLYING? ☐ DRIVING? ☐ RV? ☐

For refunds and cancellations please refer to our policies outlined at the bottom of the reunion program. **CANCELLATIONS WILL ONLY BE TAKEN MONDAY-FRIDAY 9:00am-5:00pm EASTERN TIME (excluding holidays).** Call (757) 625-6401 to cancel reunion activities and obtain a cancellation code. Refunds processed 4-6 weeks after reunion.

You may also register online and pay by credit card at www.afr-reg.com/ijaa

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See the battlefield you always dreamed of with MHT!

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- ★ 27 Aug—8 Sep VN I Corps “Chu Lai to the DMZ”
- ★ 27 Aug—10 Sep VN “Saigon to the DMZ”
- ★ 10—18 Sep WWII 67th Anniv Battle of Peleliu
- ★ 15—25 Sep WWII Eastern Front Russia
- ★ Exclusive Tour 8 - 13 Dec WWII 70th Anniversary of Wake Island, Pearl Harbor & Guam
- ★ 6—10 Dec WWII Pearl Harbor 70th Anniversary
- ★ 11—22 Jan ‘12 WWII Return to the Philippines
- ★ 12—25 Feb ‘12 VN Hue City & Tet Offensive
- ★ 12—26 Feb ‘12 Col Wes Fox, USMC MOH Operation “Dewey Canyon” & I Corps
- ★ 9—16 Mar ‘12 67th Anniversary Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor & Guam

Just Announced 19—27 Apr ‘12
Turkey, Istanbul & Battle of Gallipoli

Coming in April ‘12 “SHUFLY” 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War

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www.IwoJimaAssociation.org

**IWO JIMA
ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICA
SUMMER 2011
NEWSLETTER**