



The Black Sands

PUBLISHED BY THE IWO JIMA ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA, INC.

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USMC (Ret.)
Iwo Jima veteran
4th Marine Division

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Iwo Jima Anniversary Reunion & Symposium 16-19 February, 2012

The Iwo Jima Association of America has scheduled the annual Iwo Jima Anniversary Reunion and Educational Symposium at the Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA, from Feb. 16-19. (See schedule, itinerary and registration forms in this issue.)

"We plan to schedule future reunions and symposia in other areas of the country," IJAA Executive Vice President Warren Wiedhahn said, "and offer a hospitality room for Iwo Jima veterans from the 3rd, 4th and 5th Marine Divisions, and the Army, Navy and Sea Bees, to have a place to gather with their buddies."

One of the highlights of the upcoming 2012 reunion is the National Museum of the Marine Corps Commemoration in Quantico on Friday, Feb. 17, followed by a wreath-laying ceremony at the Marine Corps War Memorial in Arlington.

IJAA Chairman Gen Larry Snowden has invited Gen James Mattis, commander of U.S. Central Com-

mand, to be the guest speaker at the educational seminar at noon, Saturday, at the Sheraton National Hotel and talk about the "State of the Country and Corps."

"This session is very important," Gen Snowden said, "since not only the veterans and faculty attend from the various schools, but we invite students and faculty from the various schools at Quantico to participate."

Gen Snowden has also invited either Gen James Amos, commandant of the Marine Corps, or Gen Joe Dunford, assistant commandant of the Marine Corps, to attend the annual anniversary banquet that concludes the reunion on Saturday.

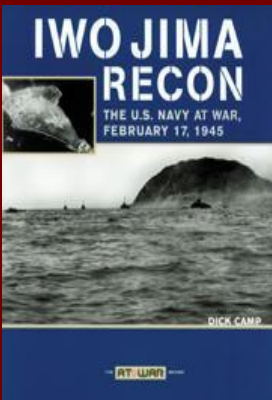
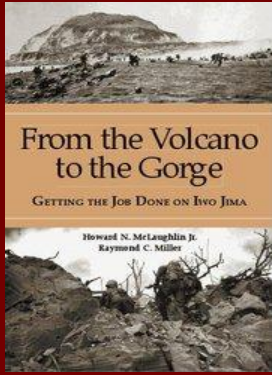
'Reunion of Honor' Tour to Guam and Iwo Jima 9-16 March 2012

The following month, from March 9-16, is Military Historical Tours'

(Continued on page 2)

SNAIL MAIL VERSUS EMAIL

Should you wish in the 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



**Robert F. Lindholm,
Sr
LtCol
USMC (Ret)**

(Continued from page 1)

exclusive annual Iwo Jima Reunion of Honor Educational and Historical Symposium on Guam and charter jet flight over to Iwo Jima for the “Reunion of Honor,” with either Gen Amos or Gen Dunford leading the way.

Because the 2011 tour was unable to include the visit to Iwo Jima as a result of the Japan earthquake and tsunami, the 2012 “Reunion of Honor” has received more interest than usual. At this point, Gen Snowden (who will be making the trip) and the MHT staff are anticipating two chartered aircraft for a total of about 240 veterans and their families. (See ad on back page.)

Both the February event in Arlington and the March trip to Iwo Jima are important aspects in preserving the meaning of Iwo Jima and the sacrifices made there. And the sons and daughters of those veterans who fought and died there are needed to help perpetuate this iconic legacy. As IJAA continues onward, and the leadership and membership are farther removed from the battle, these reunions and symposia are integral to keeping that legacy alive for future generations.

Hope to see you at one or both of these impactful events.

— Ray Elliott

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

**Robert F. Lindholm Sr.
LtCol USMC (Ret.)
1927-2011**

Former IJAA secretary Robert “Bob” F. Lindholm Sr. of Falls Church, VA, died July 23, 2011, in Fairfax, VA. He is survived by his wife of 37 years, Lois; his children Robert Jr. (Brenda), Leslie, Jo Anne, their mother Mary Ann, and Lois’ son, Matt Poe (Patricia).

Bob served in the Navy Air Corps in the South Pacific from 1944-46, including Iwo Jima.

After the war, he attended Richmond Professional Institute, now known as Virginia Commonwealth University, and graduated in 1950 with a bachelor’s degree.

During the Korean War, Bob was part of the 5th SCB officer’s training class at Quantico and was com-

missioned as a second lieutenant in the Marine Corps. Through active duty and the Reserves, Bob advanced to the rank of lieutenant colonel when he retired.

Bob volunteered and participated in many organizations including IJAA.

For 40 years, Bob served as an official at the Indianapolis 500 and other Indy races. Later, he worked as a background actor in movies and television, appearing in *Flags of Our Fathers*, *State of Play*, *National Treasure: Book of Secrets*, *Breach*, *The West Wing* and others.

Interment was at Arlington National Cemetery.

Looking for Kilroy during the 2012 IJAA Reunion & Symposium

We hope you will join us in Washington for the 2012 IJAA Reunion and Symposium for the 67th Anniversary of the Iwo Jima Campaign. While you're in the area, you may want to plan an additional day touring Washington, DC, including the US Capitol.

Please contact your senator or congressman's office and ask to arrange a tour, perhaps on the day before the reunion (Wednesday, Feb. 15, or Thursday Feb. 16). The Smithsonian museums are all free and at this time of year are generally not crowded. The Air and Space Museum on the National Mall features an art exhibit celebrating "The Centennial of Marine Corps Aviation 1912-2012" with art work by Col. H. Every Chenoweth and contemporary combat artists.

Visits to the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress are also recommended. Most federal buildings have cafeterias that are open to the public and offer reasonably priced food. You may wish to visit the National World War II Memorial and have your photo taken at your state's pillar or at the carving of the Pacific islands where you served. Be sure to ask the

park ranger about the hidden "KILROY WAS HERE" message and see if you can find it. And of course, proudly wear your WWII veteran cap!

Special features of the Sheraton National Hotel

The Sheraton National Hotel in Arlington, VA, offers a free shuttle service to and from Reagan National Airport and also to the large, full-service Pentagon City shopping mall where you can pick up the Metro to travel to the DC sites. Check at the front desk for the frequent shuttle service. Also, you may find some time to enjoy the indoor pool and health club offered at the hotel.

THE IJAA Hospitality Suite

Back by popular demand, drop by the IJAA hospitality suite for a refreshment and some quiet conversation. We all love to hear your sea stories and learn about your experiences! Hours will be posted at the registration desk.

-Diane Kuebler, IJAA Board Member
dianelynnkuebler@comcast.net

Executive Director's Corner

It is hard to believe that almost a year has gone by since February 2011. Rest assured we at the Iwo Jima Association of America have been working hard to make sure that this upcoming years symposium is better than last years! We have booked the location, we have decided on an topic for the symposium, and we have been fortunate again to have the Radio King Orchestra agree to perform for our banquet. Alas, all we need now is you!

We will once again invite the Marine Band to play some rousing patriotic standards, followed by a wonderful evening of dinner and dancing!

This year's event promises to be a memorable event. Please don't delay in getting your registration information submitted.



The Radio King Orchestra performs one of their Big Band standards.

- Shayne Jarosz
Director@IwoJimaAssociation.org

Corpsman Up!

The best loved man in the Marine Corps, or so I have been told by a few Iwo Jima veterans, isn't a Marine. He's a Navy corpsman.

Maybe it was because the corpsmen saved lives, or maybe it was because they also carried 12 bottles of Lee John Brandy joked Pharmacist Mate 2nd Class Maurice Laliberte, who was attached to the 25th Marines, 4th Division on Iwo Jima. The Marines treated the corpsmen "pretty darn good...no corpsman had to worry about digging a foxhole," Laliberte remembered, "and we always felt better being under the protection of the Marines."

The corpsmen's job was more than combat medicine. They also inspected mess halls aboard ship for sanitary conditions and oversaw field lavatories. Corpsmen were responsible for anything that had to do with the health of a Marine, and in those matters had the say over the officers.

Laliberte was one of the rare corpsmen who landed on D-Day at Normandy and D-Day on Iwo Jima. In France he wore an armband with a red cross; on Iwo he didn't, or he would have been a target. "I carried a weapon on Iwo from the day I landed until the day I left. In Europe I didn't have a weapon," he recalled. Two different theaters of war.

Corpsmen landed with their units and immediately went to work. "When I came ashore, the first thing I heard were guys screaming, 'corpsman,'" recalled Hospital Apprentice 2nd Class Herman "Doc" Rabeck, attached to the 23rd Marines, 4th Division. Shells dropped all around as he moved from man to man. "I had 150 tags to write down what I did for the wounded, and I'd



Herman "Doc" Rabeck

snap it on to them and go to the next." He ran out of tags the first day or so.

Evacuation of the wounded was paramount and medical shore party evacuation teams began landing 30 minutes after H-Hour. Additional medical units landed as quickly as the situation on the beach permitted, initially working in small aid groups in shell craters or foxholes in the black volcanic ash.

Medical planning for the Iwo Jima campaign had begun five months before the battle. Because the terrain

offered no tactical surprise forcing the Marines to land in a frontal assault, heavy casualties were expected.



Whole blood shipment

The Navy Medical Department was prepared and provided the best equipment and personnel to save as many lives as possible — even instruct-

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4)

ing medical battalions to carry extra supplies such as an additional 50 million units of penicillin.



Evac boat

Because of advancements in battlefield medicine, more than 80 percent of Marines who were hit survived and the odds increased greatly if the wounded Marine was quickly evacuated to a field medical facility.

One such life-saving advancement was the ability to store blood products without refrigeration for up to two weeks at frontline aid stations. Up until then, an urgent need for blood would have been obtained from other Marines, hospital corpsmen and sometimes from other patients.

While corpsmen risked their lives to aid Marines, Marines risked theirs to protect their corpsmen.

Lt. Col. Paul McLellan, USMC, (Ret.) remembered losing several corpsmen while captain of G Company, 2nd Battalion, 9th Marines, 3rd Division. He tried to have one corpsman with each platoon, but at the end on Iwo Jima, he had only one corpsman for the whole company. "I was told from higher up that if I lost that one, I didn't get any more because there weren't any more," he recalled.

When the battle was over and the Marines had

reached the other end of the island, Laliber-te said that the Army would not relieve his section until they policed their area and killed the bugs.

"My assignment was to give 20 Marines those bug-spraying tanks on their backs to walk their way back to the beach and lay that stuff down...kill the bugs, dysentery or anything else," he said. "I was so mad to think that we had lived through the bugs while we were getting shot at, but the Army wanted the bugs killed."

About 2,900 medical corpsmen and 300 doctors served at Iwo Jima. Twenty-three doctors and more than 700 corpsmen were killed or wounded. Four Navy Pharmacist Mates were recognized with the Medal of Honor for heroism on Iwo Jima, two awarded posthumously.

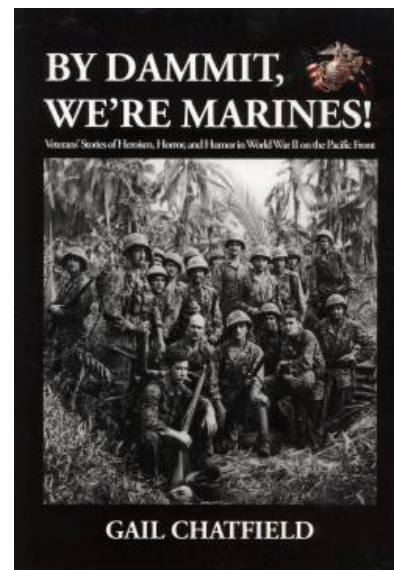
We thank our corpsmen both past and present for their selfless commitment to insuring that our Marines get the best medical care possible.

- Gail Chatfield

Author of "By Dammit, We're Marines"

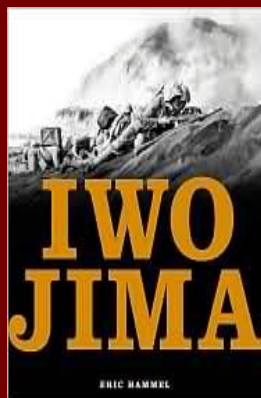


First Aid



In the Shadow of Suribachi

by
Joyce Faulkner



Mt. Suribachi — February 23, 1945



1. Robert Frazier, Carnegie, OK — Deceased
2. John B. Smith, Vick, AR — Deceased
3. Jim Morris
4. Bill Jones, Garland, TX — Deceased
5. Unknown
6. ___ Johnson, Sidney, OH
7. Leon Hodge, Marion, IN — Deceased
8. Leonard Young, OR — Deceased
9. Fred Abel (with Japanese flag draped around shoulders) — Deceased
10. Eddie Cash, IL (opening can of chow) — Deceased
11. ___ Olson — Deceased
12. French name sounding like Des Rofrey (Des Rouffet?) — Deceased
13. Ships off shore.

NOTE: Original photo taken by Raymond A. Dooly (D-2-28) with Bill Young's camera (Company "D" Drill Instructor) on top of Mt. Suribachi immediately after the "Flag Raising," February 23, 1945.

Letter from Connie Abel, daughter of Fred Abel (#9)

Enclosed is a copy of [photo on page 6] taken by (D/2/28) Marine Raymond Dooley on top of Mt. Suribachi immediately after the “Flag Raising,” Feb. 23, 1945. I was not aware of this photo until after my dad, Fred Abel (D/2/28), passed away on Feb. 23, 2006, exactly 61 years after that proud day in Marine Corps history.

Coincidentally, I was also born on Feb. 23, 1951 — “Iwo Jima Day” as Daddy always called it.

Thankfully, the photo was still in the envelope it was mailed in bearing the address of the sender, Raymond Dooley. I immediately wrote to him and his wife, Liz. They sent me a page identifying the Marines in the photo and a statement confirming the date and location the photo was taken.

Note the individual Japanese flags, one wrapped around my dad’s (#9) left arm and another worn as an apron by Jim Morris (#3).

I was thrilled when I first saw my dad in this picture. I wanted to share it with these brave men or anyone who may know them. I felt the Marine reunions would be an avenue where this might be accomplished.

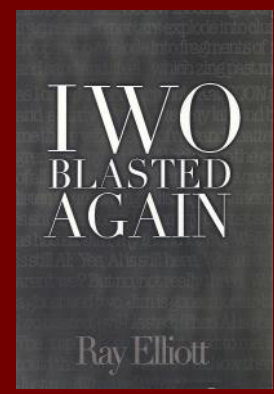
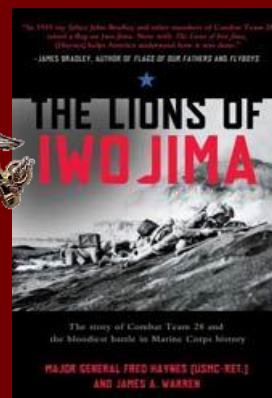
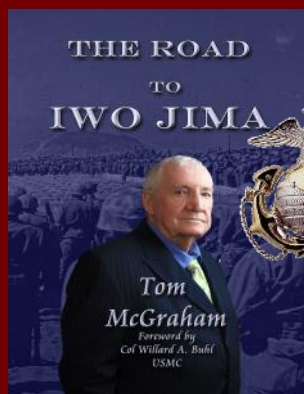
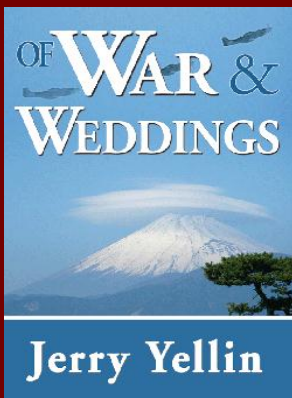
Leatherneck Magazine editor Walt Ford has accepted the photo for “future publication.” A copy is also in the Raymond Dooley collection at the Marine National Archives. It is also in the Fred Able collection along with a story I wrote and photos of my dad’s military years — recently accepted by the Marine National Archives. Our family retains the original photo given to my dad by Mr. Dooley.

I appreciate the opportunity to share this photo with the newsletter readers.

Sincerely,
Connie Abel
Fremont, CA
510 790-2944

Editor’s Note: Anyone wanting to donate letters, diaries, photos, military personnel papers regarding a Marine’s experience can contact the Marine Corps Archives at the following address:

Archives and Special Collections
Library of the Marine Corps
2040 Broadway St.
Quantico, VA 22134



Those Who Wait

It's mid-February, 1945.

I imagine her – sitting in a chair by the window.

The cold sun sinks behind the trees outside, but she does not turn on the lights. The dark holds no comfort, but it does hide her icy tears. In the gloaming, pictures of her two oldest sons sit on top of the console radio a few feet away. She leans forward and twists one of the knobs. The tubes glow. Before the announcer can say much, she turns it off again. She covers her face and rocks back and forth in her seat. Life was never easy for her – but it had been fun. Now fun tastes wrong. So does love. So does hate, for that matter. They told her to keep her routine – but that doesn't seem right either. So she sits in that chair every day – waiting.

The condolence letter from President Roosevelt made my uncle DG's death official – but not real. He didn't die in battle – he was run over by a truck somewhere far away with an unpronounceable name. They buried him where he died. There was a war to win before they could send him back to my grandmother.

Nanny's grief was still new, when her second son, my 18-year-old father, entered the war. All she knew was that he was with the Fifth Marine Division – and the Fifth Marines were engaged in a fierce fight with the Japanese on a little island called Iwo Jima. Newspapers reported heavy losses – thousands killed – many more thousands wounded. With one child dead and another in harm's way, all Nanny could do was wait – and fret.

So it is again. Anxious families display blue star flags in their windows. They check computers for emails from children who are half-a-world away in towns with unpronounceable names. They program cell phones with ringtones – and leap to answer that special one or swallow back tears when an unfamiliar tune sounds.

They remember cuddling apple-cheeked ba-

bies with gummy smiles – or chasing wobbly bicycles on first-day-without-training-wheels rides. They touch prom night pictures with the tips of their fingers and tell stories about the day their children graduated from high school or college. But, sometimes, fear taints the best memories like snow obliterating tender shoots. Will their precious boys and girls be the same when they return? Will the darkness of war blunt their sparkle? Will they come home at all? Torn between devouring and ignoring the news, they wait and wait – and wait.

Not long ago, a man who I have never met messaged to say that his son had died in Iraq. For him, the wait was over. I stared at the Instant Message, wondering what to say. Whatever the reason, however it happens — to lose a child is to lose a dream. I wanted to reach out to him, but sensed comfort wasn't appropriate. His agony was a bonfire that needed to burn itself out. He just didn't want to be alone. I waited – an anonymous node on the internet — thinking about my grandmother, sitting in her chair – waiting for her boys to come home.

-Joyce Faulkner

joycefaulkner@gmail.com



The Meaning of Iwo Jima

The fighting on Iwo Jima symbolized the role of the Marines in World War II. This epic campaign became a touchstone that forcefully demonstrated the sacrifice of Leathernecks in pursuit of victory. In military history, Iwo Jima ranks among the most demanding and costly battles ever. Of the 71,000 Americans who served there, 26,038 were killed, wounded or missing in action.

Expressed as a math equation, to conquer each one of Iwo Jima's 8 square miles of volcanic slag, 3,255 American servicemen were killed or wounded. The vast majority of these heroes were Marines, but men of every branch became casualties in the fight to capture Iwo Jima. Adding Japanese casualty figures, more than 46,000 men died or were wounded during the 36 days of this indescribable battle. Without question, Iwo Jima was beyond human comprehension in terms of the slaughter.

And still, the Marines prevailed.

For many Americans, the flag raising on Mount Suribachi became the ultimate symbol of World War II. The picture, snapped by Joe Rosenthal, didn't just show some Marines putting up a flag. It reinforced the ethos of the Marine Corps. But lost in the publicity was the grim fact that only three of the six Marines in the photo survived the battle, and only one lived to old age, and he was haunted by post-traumatic stress for the rest of his life.

The flag raising is an iconic image instantly familiar, even to people with no knowledge of World War II. But, at least in my opinion, the true symbols of Iwo Jima were much quieter places. They were not on the top of Mount Suribachi, but down below, not far from the black sand beaches where American fighting men first set foot on this piece of hell on a morning like no other in February 1945. The cemeteries that sprung up even as the fighting raged, served not just as collecting

spots for the dead, but as powerful and sobering reminders to the Marines who were left behind and to the American people.



A Marine stands at the grave of GySgt John M. Basilone, killed in action on D-Day at Iwo Jima on 19 February 1945. (USMC Photo)

Each of the thousands of graves were not just a marker, but a life cut short, with buddies left behind, and families who would never really share in the joy of homecoming and victory. As weary survivors of battle were pulled off the line, they made their way alone and in groups to visit their friends. Standing at the graves of their friends and comrades, many must have been awe-struck that so

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9) ***Meaning of Iwo Jima***

many other graves surrounded those of men they knew.

Iwo Jima was an equal opportunity killer of Marines. Among the dead were high-ranking officers, Medal of Honor Marines, buck privates, Navy Corpsmen and Seabees, infantrymen, tankers, cooks, runners, staff officers and clerks. They were a cross section of the best America had to offer in 1945. Although almost all wanted to live, many ultimately had no say in the matter. They died from shellfire, sniper bullets, antitank rounds, machine gun fire, edged weapon attacks and a thousand other ways. This was not just death in an individual sense, but on a machine-age scale that took advantage of every bit of technology to kill.

There was little glory to be found on the hellish wastes of Iwo Jima, but honor could be found everywhere one chose to risk a look under the rain of fire that fell there in 1945. It was the quiet honor of a Marine who strapped

on his pack and loaded a rifle, even though all his buddies were dead and he knew he would soon join them. It was the honor of a runner with a critical message to get back across a piece of fire-swept ground where two guys had already gotten hit trying to cross it. It was the rifleman with a fusillade of machine gun fire ahead and no one else to do the job.

That honor still echoes across time, if you listen closely for it. Staunch and determined, not wanting to die, but ready nonetheless, the Marines wrote their own place in history. Each paragraph was the inscription on a cross or Star of David. So many stories, so many chapters. Can you hear them?

- Mark Flowers

Reprinted with permission of Mark Flowers, editor of the Emerald Empire Detachment #917 Marine Corps League newsletter, February 2011.



The Spirit of Iwo Jima, honoring the Marines of the 5th Amphibious Corps who conquered this critical objective of World War II. (USMC Photo)

Reflections on a Veteran

My best friend is graduating this weekend at the age of 18. I am so close to her that I feel like the two years separating us are only on paper and do not really exist. It is almost impossible for me to imagine that nearly 65 years ago, young men her age, and even younger were preparing to land on far-off islands to fight a war that had inspired them so much that they left their families and educations behind. One such person was Cpl. Jim Kelly of the 5th Marine Division who, among other things, was present for every moment of the Iwo Jima battle.

As I interviewed Mr. Kelly, I could barely open my mouth to ask the next question because I was so taken aback. I have known him for many years as a kind and humorous man who belonged to the Marine Corps League in our town. It struck me that this man quietly walked among us, enjoying a relatively simple life, yet he had such an incredible story.

He told me many things – some shocking, some funny, some heartbreaking ... and some haunting. He recounted all of this in a very relaxed and accepting way, but he seemed angered and disillusioned at the lack of appreciation and awareness that my generation has for those who have served our country. He believes we are disconnected from what he and his fellow servicemen went through because this history – his history – is taught as an impersonal and distant event. I understood what Mr. Kelly meant because anything I ever learned about Iwo Jima in school was from a brief description at the end of a World War II chapter in my history book. It was merely information to memorize temporarily in order to score well on the next test. There is a completely different side of the story – the reality – that isn't written in a textbook.

I believe this troubles Mr. Kelly because we are the young people for whom he was fighting, for our freedom to attend school and to receive a quality education, which is the key to achieving any dream a person can imagine.

WWII veterans are now 85 to 90 years old, and they will not be around forever. They have endless stories to share with us that will teach my generation the kind of lessons that can never be printed in a history book. The owners of these invaluable lessons are all around us. All they need is someone to truly listen to their wisdom, appreciate their dedication, and exhibit the qualities they fought to uphold so many years ago.

"Think what we built for you," Mr. Kelly said, "and don't take it for granted."

In a couple of years, it will be me who will be graduating at the age of 18. I will begin life anew, independent in a world filled with possibilities, filled with dreams that I have the freedom to realize because of the selfless service of men like Mr. Kelly. I will begin this new life with a dedication to uphold honor and justice, and a determination to make the world a better place for future generations. By following the example set by these veterans, I will have the inspiration to work toward great things, perhaps things great enough for a high-school student to want to interview me when I am 90 years old.



Eighty-nine-year old Iwo Jima Vet Jim Kelly receives a plaque and Jessica Elliott receives a certificate and \$100 savings bond at the Sept. 14 Constitution Day Ceremony at the Richard J. Daley Plaza in Chicago, hosted by Secretary of State Jesse White, a 101st Airborne veteran.

Reflections on a Veteran

Growing up surrounded by veterans certainly has impacted my life in a number of ways. I have a greater appreciation for the sacrifices made by veterans. Their willingness to serve their country allows me to have the freedom that I do today.

In a civilian's eyes, veterans are the definition of heroes. Their courage and determination allow us to pursue our dreams and achieve our goals because of the rights they have defended. In a veteran's eyes, however, it is only a matter of right and wrong. The right thing to do is to honor their country.

Being raised to have the utmost respect for those who serve, I can't imagine my life if not for veterans. I've learned to show my gratitude openly and often. My interview with Tom Henderson, a World War II veteran, only reinforced those beliefs.

I have known Mr. Henderson for many years now, but in this interview I saw another, deeper side of him, full of memories of the war, reflections and appreciation of fellow veterans. It was meaningful to me to know what experiences he has had and to see how much he, and other veterans, have given to their communities and their country.

In times of war, the general population's feeling is shock. Everything changes in the world around us, and there is confusion and hesitation. Veterans take initiative and respond. There are no doubts, no regrets. The responsibility to respect and, therefore, defend this country is clear.

Every night, I am able to go to sleep knowing that I am safe and at home. However, for these veterans who were miles away from home, every day was a day of survival. They always had to be ready and do what they were told to do promptly. I can't imagine the kind of pressure and fear they must have felt in that kind of situation. Just hearing about it made me thankful for my life and what is so often taken for granted.

Constantly depending on others fighting alongside of them, strong friendships are formed. One story that specifically stood out for me during the interview was about a close friend of Mr.

Henderson's. His buddy had accidentally shot himself and was buried. His body was then exhumed and moved twice. Mr. Henderson and some others who served with him did not know where their friend's final resting place was. After research was done many years later, the gravesite was finally located. Simply knowing where his friend's grave was located was enough to bring closure and peace to a painful memory.

After being so brave and honorable, they return home. Glad to be reunited with family and friends, but also struggling to find jobs to support themselves. Although they may be home, the repercussions and aftermath from the war leave shortages of just about everything. Through all of the conflicts following the war, their service doesn't stop when the war does, but rather continues through organizations such as the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. A night doesn't go by when they don't think of an event or a memory from all those years ago, far away from home.

I was particularly impressed by Mr. Henderson's great sense of respect for his country, his community, and the people around him.



Eighty-seven-year old Tom Henderson, a tail gunner in a WWII dive bomber, receives a plaque and Caitlin Elliott receives a certificate and \$100 Savings Bond at the Sept. 14 Constitution Day Ceremony at the Richard J. Daley Plaza in Chicago, hosted by Secretary of State Jesse White, a 101st Airborne veteran.

The two preceeding essays each received 1st Place in the state in the Illinois Center for the Book's "Reflections on a Veteran" Essay competition (<http://www.illinoiscenterforthebook.org/projects>) — Jessica (a high school sophomore then) in grades high school category, and Caitlin (an 8th grader then) in the middle school category. It's the first time sisters have independently placed 1st in the program. Here they are below, reading their essays at the Sept. 14 Constitution Day Ceremony at the Richard J. Daley Plaza in Chicago, hosted by Secretary of State Jesse White, a 101st Airborne veteran.



Iwo vet Jim Kelly & Jessica Elliott.



Tom Henderson & Caitlin Elliott.

WEST COAST IWO JIMA MEMORIAL SERVICE & BANQUET

February 16-18, 2012

CAMP PENDLETON, OCEANSIDE, CA

Veterans of the 3rd, 4th, and 5th Marine Divisions and Support Units are cordially invited to the three-day celebration commemorating the

67th ANNIVERSARY OF THE MARINES LANDING ON IWO JIMA

Scheduled events include Camp Pendleton Tour on Thursday, February 16, and MCRD Tour on Friday, February 17. Memorial service and Banquet to be held on Saturday, February 18. Guest Speaker is Lt. Col. Paul McLellan, USMC (Ret.), Navy Cross recipient for actions on Iwo Jima.

For more information or to request an invitation, contact Ticket Chairman, Gail Chatfield at gchatsan@gmail.com or telephone (858) 792-8897

**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

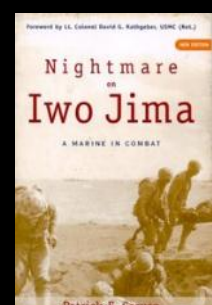
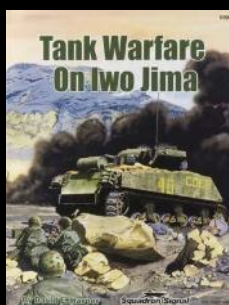
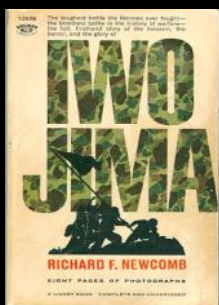
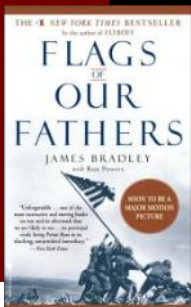
Bob Lindholm submitted a request to be excused from his duty as Secretary of the Board. A motion was made by Ira Rigger to accept Bob's resignation and seconded. The Board thanks Bob for his integral service to the organization and are hopeful that he will remain involved in the success of the Association.

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



PO Box 680, Quantico, VA, 22134

www.IwoJimaAssociation.org

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

**BELOW: CMC GEN "JIM" CONWAY & IWO VETS. RIGHT:
5TH MARDIV MEMORIAL ON MT. SURIBACHI'S SUMMIT.**



67TH IWO JIMA "REUNION OF HONOR" 9-16 MAR 2012

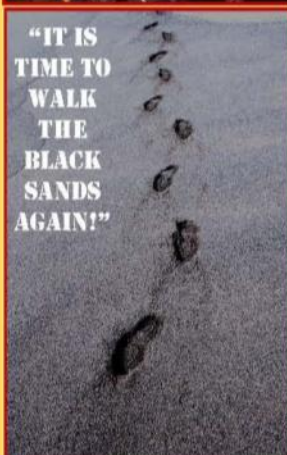
The Iwo Jima Association of America (IJAA) 67th "Reunion of Honor", the historic reunion coordinated by MHT for the IJAA will be headquartered at the Outrigger Resort Hotel on Guam. A chartered United Airline jet will take the veterans, their families, educators, & historians back to the "Black Sands" and the moving joint commemoration ceremony for the campaign's fallen warriors. As in past years, there will be an Iwo Jima Battle Symposium & Banquet on Guam before our return. Please join us for a stirring reunion with brethren & family.

**13198 CENTERPOINTE WAY, SUITE 202
WOODBIDGE, VA 22193-5285**

703-590-1295 * FAX 703-590-1292

MHTOURS@MILTLOURS.COM * WWW.MILTLOURS.COM

**"IT IS
TIME TO
WALK
THE
BLACK
SANDS
AGAIN!"**



**MILITARY
HISTORICAL TOURS, INC.**

